



SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded of the Annual General Meeting which will take place on Saturday 27th October 1979 at Ditchling Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Details are enclosed.

S.I.A.S. NOTES AND NEWS

The Brickmaking Survey A meeting for members involved in the Brickmaking Survey will be held on Saturday 27th October 1979 at 11.30 a.m. in Ditchling Village Hall. The Society A.G.M. is taking place in the afternoon in the same hall, and we decided to hold our meeting on the same date this year in the interests of petrol economy.

We hope that members who have attended previous meetings of the group will come along and bring the results of any work they have been able to do during the last year. Any other members who are interested, or think they might be, will be very welcome.

No separate notification of this meeting is being sent out, so please make a note of the date in your diary now.

M. BESWICK.

Jack and Jill Windmills. The Preservation Society has placed the contract for replacement of the main structural timbers with the Burgess Hill Millwrights, E. Hole and Son. At present new steps have been made and attached and the body of the mill and the windshaft supported prior to replacing the rotten corner post.

A grant of £6000 has been obtained from the Department of the Environment

The design and construction of the fan-tail carriage has been undertaken by members of S.I.A.S. and research indicates that Jill's tackle was probably a forerunner of that at Cross-in-Hand. The tackle for Jill has been designed from that of Cross-in-Hand, the castings of which will be used as patterns.

J.S.F.B.

Industrial Archaeology Trails. Mr. Blackwell has contributed to this issue an 'Industrial Archaeology Trail', a walk around a part of Brighton noting various items of industrial archaeological interest on the way. The Editor suggests that such 'Trails' be regularly included in the Newsletter and hopes that Mr. Blackwell's example will be followed by similar contributions from other members. Trails in a town would preferably be on foot but a car would be appropriate in a rural area. (A car tour around the Upper Ouse was presented by S. Farrant in Newsletter 14.). A sufficient number of Trails around East and West Sussex could perhaps lead to their eventual publication.

RECENT VISITS

The Weekend Meeting at Cobb's Mill on 28th and 29th July was very successful despite contrasting weather, hot on the Saturday and torrential rain on the Sunday. All the tasks were accomplished; the cog pit was cleaned and greased, the gas engine cleaned and greased, the gas producer de-rusted and painted, the mill race cleared and the launder painted. Mr. & Mrs. Jackson, the owners, have asked me to thank all who helped. It is hoped, with the photographs, scale drawings, and sketches that were made, to produce an article for Sussex Industrial History.

J.S.F.B.

Warbleton Area Iron-making Sites. A party of about 20 assembled on 15th September in perfect weather at Turners House, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Beswick, where Mr. Beswick has arranged a small exhibition of relevant maps, drawings and samples. Mr. Beswick then led the party to four sites in the neighbourhood describing at each location the salient features and history of the site.

The Turners Green Bloomery has been dated at about 30 A.D. and is of the same design as that found at Levisham in E. Yorkshire and at Engsbach in W. Germany.

The Priory Blast Furnace was built following the monastic dissolution (1538) by John Baker and was later operated by Pelham and Stollan. Both blast furnace and forge residue is present but there is doubt about the precise location of the forge.

Batsford Blast Furnace. Three periods of industrial activity are known - first, the early iron-age bloomery furnaces of the kettle-shaped type, then a corn water-mill dated 1318 and finally a blast furnace built by Simon Coleman before 1574 which was apparently used for gun making. The site is now being developed for other purposes.

Cralle Furnace and Forge. Marked on Budgen's map of 1724 but, according to Straker, was operating before this. Little evidence is now left.

At the conclusion of the visit the party returned to Turners House where Mrs. Beswick had prepared a delightful and most welcome tea which was very much enjoyed and appreciated by all present.

E.O.T.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Coultershaw Water Pump. The D.O.E. Area Inspector of Historic Buildings visited the site on 23rd August and expressed himself satisfied with the quality of the restoration work.

Burton Mill. Trial grinding has begun and the installation of ancillary equipment has started. Mrs. Ann Mills requests volunteers for urgent work (unskilled) in cleaning up paintwork and the shafting. Alternate Sunday mornings, starting on September 30th are suggested, but any members, or others, willing to help at any time should get in touch with Mrs. Mills, phone: Sutton (W. Sussex) 293.

West Ashling Mill. There will be a workday to make a survey of the machinery on Saturday 13th October at 10.30 a.m. Helpers are urgently needed and will any member willing to assist please get in touch with the West Sussex Secretary, Mr. A.G. Allnutt (phone: Chichester 786044). West Ashling is about 5 km west of Chichester on B 2146 2 km north of Bosham station.

PUBLICATIONS

Petworth Water Supply. Further to the article, published under the above title in the 1979 issue of "Sussex Industrial History", the following is an extract from the list of documents held by the Sussex Archaeological Society in Barbican House, Lewes (Ref. Piggott Family, Fitzhall Estate H570).

"22 June, 29 Eliz. (1587)

Counterpart of Bargain and Sale by Richard Naldret of Rudgewicke, yeoman, to John Goble, showemaker, for £44, of a messuage and garden and 3 stalles adjoining in Petworthe near to the conducte of water and market house there, the premises being Called Lockyer, which one John Lockyer had of grant of Harry Percey, lord of the honour of Petworthe, and came to John Naldrett great grandfather of the said Richard with Elynor the wife of the said John, who was daughter and heir of Harry Barckley."

The interesting point is the reference to the "conducte", which is presumably one of the water-pipes or conduits.

It should be noted, that there is a reference to a William Goble in Lord Leconsfields book, "Petworth Manor". This reference of 1592 mentions a gutter, but could really mean the conduit.

P.A.

Traditional Buildings. by J.R. Armstrong, M.B.E. 144pp. £4.95.
EP Publishing Ltd., East Ardsley, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire, WF3 2JN.

The buildings in this book are the small, old - mainly medieval - cottages, farmhouses and communal buildings which were constructed from locally found materials such as wood, stone, cob, and occasionally brick. Attention is focussed on buildings in England, Wales and Scotland that have been restored, and can easily be visited, many of them as museums. As well as maps, line drawings and a gazetteer there are over two hundred photographs.

England's Vanishing Windmills, by A.E.P. Shillingford. £7.95. Godfrey Cave Associates, London. Publishing books on windmills has become very popular recently and this one is of value for its excellent illustrations, both colour and black-and-white, many of the latter being old photographs of mills which are now derelict or have disappeared completely. After a brief history of windmilling there are sections on the structure and

machinery and on the different types of windmill - post, smock, tower, drainage, hollow post, and composite mills. After a section on the dangers of destruction by fire and storm, to which windmills have so often succumbed, there is a short gazetteer, by old counties, and a section on lost and decayed windmills, copiously illustrated with old photographs. The book finishes with a useful list of windmills open to visitors, again arranged in old counties. With 132 black-and-white photographs, 16 coloured ones and many diagrams it is unfortunate that there is no list of illustrations.

A.J.H.

Quilt Winders and Pod Shavers. By Hugh Barty-King. 208 pp. £8.95. Macdonald and James, Paulton House, 8 Sheperdess Walk, London N1 7LW.

This book, by a former member of our Society, deals with the histories of the families of craftsmen who made, and are still making, cricket bats and leather-covered cricket balls. Although the literature about cricket is probably more extensive than for any other sport, a study of the 'tools' used by the players has been almost entirely neglected; this book gives a most fascinating story from the early days of 'Cat and Dog' down to the present day. It will be more fully reviewed in the next issue of Sussex Industrial History.

E.O.T.

LECTURES, COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Chichester Museum Society Lecture 'The Raising of the Mary Rose' by Margaret Rule at the Assembly Rooms, Chichester, Tuesday, 16th October 7.30 p.m. It is a Public Lecture with an entrance fee of 75p which will go to the Mary Rose Trust.

W.E.A. Class, Chichester. 'The Industrial Revolution' 20 lectures started on 24th September on each Monday evening at 7.30 p.m. at the Bishop Otter College. The Course is given by Dr. Ray Riley, Barry Stapleton M.Sc. and Richard Hunt B.A. Fee £8.50.

'Brighton from Old Photographs'. An illustrated lecture by J.S. Gray Esq., on November 17th at 2.45 p.m. at Clermont Church Hall, Cumberland Road, Brighton.

Mr. Gray is a well-known author and broadcaster on Old Brighton and possesses a unique collection of photographs. He has promised to include many items of I.A. interest and it is hoped that many members and friends will support this lecture, the first the Society has organised.

Cumberland Road is off London Road, Brighton, at the north end of Preston Park. It is on the left side of the road travelling towards London and has Caffyn's Garage on the corner. It is close to Preston Park Railway Station.

Chichester Museum Society. 'The Roman Iron Industry of the Weald' by Mr. H. Cleere B.A. Pallant House Committee Room 7.30 p.m. on 20th November.

Chichester Museum Society and Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society. Joint meeting with Lecture on 'The Chalk Pits Museum, Amberley' by Mr. Ian Dean, Director of the Museum. Pallant House Committee Room, Chichester. 7.30 p.m. on 15th January 1980.

Practical Industrial Archaeology Course. Losehill Hall Study Centre, Castleton, Derbyshire. 16th - 18th November 1979.

Techniques of recording and interpreting evidence; field projects and survey work; use of photography. Course fee £29 (residential). Details from the Principal. Tel: Hope Valley (STD 0433) 20373.

A.I.A. Conference

A.J. Haselfoot

The Annual Conference of the A.I.A. on September 14th - 16th was held this year at Ironbridge, where the bi-centenary of the opening of the Iron Bridge itself is being celebrated. For the first time the Conference has been held in an old industrial building, Maws Tile Works at Jackfield on the opposite side of the river from Ironbridge. Maws works, which date from 1852, and the Jackfield works (1883) were famous for their production of decorative tiles. When they finally closed in 1969 the works were bought by Telford District Council and one block, including the main entrance is being restored by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. During the Conference delegates could watch the moulding of tiles and the firing of them in a small brick kiln which had been built in the courtyard.

Two pre-conference tours had been arranged, on Wednesday to Titterstone Clee Hill where there are extensive remains of quarries, with short inclined planes down to an isolated length of standard gauge railway line on a long shoulder of the hill; from the end of this a mile-long inclined plane led down to the main railway line in the valley below. A small locomotive was kept permanently on the isolated length of track on the shoulder of the hill - it must have been quite a job to get it up there!

Thursday was devoted to a long coach tour on Telford's Holyhead Road (A5) from Shrewsbury to Anglesea, noting the many toll houses, bridges, aquaduct and milestones for which he was responsible. We had excellent views of Stephenson's Britannia Tubular Bridge over the Menai Straits and were able to inspect Telford's suspension bridges over the River Conway and the Menai Straits, and also his Chirk Aquaduct on the Ellesmere Canal.

The Conference opened with a lecture by Barrie Trinder on "The Industrial Archaeology of Shropshire", followed by members' contributions at which I spoke and showed slides of the Chalk Pits Museum, Amberley. Saturday morning was devoted to demonstrations of Coracle making and the manufacture of decorative tiles and Coalport china; an documentary film was also shown featuring Mr. Eustace Rogers, the last surviving coracle maker on the Severn. On Saturday afternoon field trips were available to:- a Shropshire lead mine at Snailbeach; the Longdon-on-Tern aquaduct and a flax mill and pumping station at Shrewsbury; the Severn Valley Railway and Bewdley Museum; Ironbridge Power Station and a Waste Disposal Plant in Telford. After a very good dinner, as guests of the Telford Development Corporation, we listened to the L.T.C. Roit Memorial Lecture, an extremely good account of "The History of Preservation in Coalbrookdale" by Dr. Arthur Raistrick, who has been involved practically from the beginning of the excavation and restoration of Abraham Darby's Furnace.

Sunday morning was devoted to various discussion groups prior to the A.G.M. of the A.I.A., and on Sunday afternoon delegates could see a colourful Steam Rally at Blists Hill Museum.

During the three days of the Conference all delegates were able to visit the four museums of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust with an overall complimentary ticket provided by the Trust.

Verdict: the best conference to date and well worth attending.

Preston Brewery, Brighton.

John Blackwell.

Since my note on this brewery appeared in the October 1977 Newsletter, further information has come to light.

From the Sussex Weekly Advertiser 9th - 30th March 1792 the following notice of sale by auction "In one lot comprising:-

A complete new-built Public Brewhouse, a good yard, Counting House, Malt House, Storerooms and Cellar, a large number of casks in exceedingly good condition size 13 gallons to 15 hogheads, with every necessary brewing utensil complete for carrying on an extensive business. The above premises are built and fitted up on the most approved plan and now in full trade, situated in Preston 1½ miles from Brighton together with six well established Public Houses belonging thereto, four of which are situated in Brighton aforesaid, known by the signs of the Unicorn, the Hen and Chickens, the Dolphin and the Bell, one in Preston aforesaid known by the sign of the Blue Anchor and one other on the Cuckfield road about 8 miles from Brighton, known by the sign of Friar's Oak, all of which may be seen at any time previous to the sale by applying to the Tenants and the Brewhouse by applying at the premises to Mr. Smithers, the proprietor." ①

Whether a sale was effected is doubtful as nine years later another sale notice refers to Mr. Smithers (see October 1977 note). On this occasion presumably the brewery was sold as in his will date 2nd March 1833 ② Bartholomew Smithers of Preston bequeaths to his son Henry the following Public Houses, The Bear Inn, Preston; the Crown and Anchor, Preston (possibly the Blue Anchor renamed); the Dolphin, East Cliffe, Brighton; the Running Horse, King Street, Brighton; the Unicorn, North Street, Brighton; the Friars Oak, Clayton; but there is no mention of a Brewery. What is interesting about the will is that among other bequests is a sum of money to Thomas Isaacson of Ewell, Surrey. By 1839 Henry Smithers was trading with a Henry Isaacson as brewers at the North Street Brewery, Brighton. This business became Smithers and Son in 1862 until closing in 1928. Of the public houses mentioned, the Lord Nelson and the Friars Oak were Smithers houses in the 1920's and the Unicorn was a Smithers house until demolition late in the nineteenth century.

1. Reference supplied by Mr. R.F. Martin.
2. S.A.C. OR 305. I am indebted to Mr. J.H. Farrant for this reference.

Start at the Duke of York's Cinema, Preston Circus, opened in 1910, the north and south walls of which were part of Henry Longhurst's Amber Ale Malthouse; the brewery which adjoined was demolished in 1901 and the site is now covered by the fire station. Opposite on the intersection of Beaconsfield Road and Preston Road is the Stanford Arms public house built by Longhurst in 1871, a splendid building situated on a triangular plot. The Victorians knew how to make something of their street corners. Behind is the sweep of Raistricks viaduct for the Brighton to Lewes Railway opened in 1846; 400 yards long, up to 67 feet high and built allegedly in 11 months it used ten million bricks.

Cross Preston Road and continue up New England Road to a cast-iron bridge of four spans made by the Regent Foundry of Brighton. Their works were situated in North Road on the site of the present Post Office Sorting Office. Very few railway cast-iron over bridges remain as due to a bridge failure in the London area in 1891 this type of bridge was replaced. This one has been strengthened by using three rolled-steel joists. Just above is Raistricks' romanesque bridge built to carry the London to Brighton Railway in 1841 still standing in its original form of a large central arch flanked by smaller ones, although with considerable later additions to the west.

Branch right into Old Shoreham Road and walk up to Stanford Road on the right. Turn into Stanford Road and on the corner of Brigden Street are two fine wall-painted advertisements. Return and cross Old Shoreham Road; you are now in Prestonville Road under which the railway line to Hove passes in a short tunnel. This line was the first steam locomotion line opened in Sussex in 1841 a few months prior to the opening of the main London to Brighton line. The tunnel facing is unusual being of flint. Just to the North West of the tunnel stood Jill windmill which was removed over the downs to its present site at Clayton by a team of oxen about 1852. Further on in Prestonville Road note a parade of Victorian shops, particularly W.E. Kilby, Family Butcher, with a 1920's tiled shopfront marred by a plastic name fascia and Dials Shoecraft with a 1930's shopfront.

Cross the Seven Dials and go down Buckingham Place noting the varied Victorian styles of building, particularly the roof lines. This road curves into Terminus Place from where a fine view of the station roof can be obtained; note the cast iron steps running up the roof and the boundary wall chimneys. Note also the charming bow-fronted houses in Terminus Street.

The terminus building of Brighton Station is Mocatt's original without the colonnade though now sadly hidden behind late Victorian additions. On entering the station one must be impressed by the train shed now painted in its original colours, a superb expression of Victorian art and engineering. The curved train shed was erected in 1883 above the existing one so that the station remained in service throughout rebuilding. The fluted columns were cast by the Patent Shaft and Axle Tree Co. Ltd. of Wednesbury in 1882. Note the hanging clock with the L.B.S.C.R. monogram, the indicator board, allegedly from the first London Victoria station but spoilt by the recent alteration to 24 hour clock faces. The exit to the car park alongside platform 10 was the site of the bay platform for trains to the Kemp Town branch, opened 1869; note the dolphins cast in the canopy bracket supports. The car park is the site of Brighton Works,

completed by 1854, the brick pillars which supported part, having earlier been observed from New England Road.

To complete the trail catch a train to London Road Station, built in 1877, which will take you across Raistrick's Lewes line viaduct and give you some magnificent views; then walk back to Preston Circus via Ditchling Rise and Beaconsfield Road.
