

## Fieldwork issue

Industrial archaeology can be all things to all people but if you are on the organising end of it you will find, in common with almost every other pursuit, sport or pastime, that for every hundred followers there will be 10-15% who take part regularly, and 5-6% who are prepared to work, which is sad but seemingly inevitable. With an aspect of history however, continuity will only be maintained by research and recording. Coach trips, excursions, annual dinners and winter lecture series, of course have their place, but they are peripheral compared with those corner-stones of the discipline, research and recording.

In this issue of the *Bulletin* we take a brief look at how IA tackles these subjects, starting with Stephen Hughes's comment on those aspects of organised AIA recording which result in official recognition and following with examples of MSC supported schemes and those which have been sustained over long periods of time by pure dedication.

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### The Association for Industrial Archaeology's Fieldwork Awards for 1986.

This was the first year of these awards and the response has been encouraging with ten entries submitted. There was however a notable absence of entries from members of local IA societies. The judges were Keith Falconer, Michael Lewis, Amber Patrick, John Stengelhofen and Stephen Hughes, and they were unanimous in their choice of winners in both the amateur and professional categories.

The winner of the professional award was archaeologist David

Cranstone for overseeing *The Moira Furnace: A Napoleonic Blast Furnace in Leicestershire*, published by the North West Leicestershire District Council in 1985. This report, is notable on several counts. It is most emphatically not a 'dry' excavation report, it faithfully records the standing and underground remains and these are firmly placed in an historical context. The detailed archaeological recording is part of a competent, confident and easily read account in which the structural remains are 'read', for their historical meaning in an extensive interpretative discussion. Dr Marilyn Palmer's historical investigations complements the archaeological sources; and is accompanied by 1837 and 1844 inventories, included as appendices. Other technical specialists have been consulted and the monument is presented in its national context.

David Cranstone, as an informed 'digging' archaeologist specialising in industrial monuments, is helping to establish competent industrial

work alongside the accepted facets of traditional archaeology. The local council should be commended for their initiative in this publication.

The winner of the amateur award was Julian Temple for his *Industrial Archaeology of Aviation in Shropshire*, an unpublished Ironbridge Institute Diploma Dissertation. A polished and well written study in an unusual area of IA which proved to be compelling reading. It is a well-informed general introduction to the subject of aeronautical ground archaeology as opposed to other amateur, and indeed professional, entries where monuments have been examined in isolation without regard for their relative importance. The work was conceived to examine and report on surviving airfield remains and to make recommendations for their future preservation. Original plans survive for many of the structures but a few were 'one-off' designs and the overall distribution of types has been investigated and special structures individually



Moira furnace prior to restoration

surveyed. The gazetter of sites highlights those most worthy of attention.

The remaining entries for the awards all had some points to commend them. They included *The Glass Holes of Spaunton Moor* by John Hemingway and Raymond Hayes, a model report of a fieldwork project carried out in logical steps with clear conclusions. This was the runner-up in the amateur category. Runner-up in the professional class was the *Archaeological Survey and Excavation at Wheal Prosper Tin Stamps, Lanivet, Cornwall*, Gerrard and Adam Sharpe of the Cornwall Archaeological Unit. This followed Scheduled Monument Consent being given for the removal of these stamps to the Geevor Museum. It was a rescue project suffering from lack of time and manpower in the field as well as lack of time for archival and oral research. However, it was important as a controlled dig on a metal working site with the extreme rarity of stamps in situ.

Another entry from the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, *Pawton Mill, St Breock*, by R Radcliffe and J R Smith, was also hampered by lack of time and resources for archival research but was a good survey, well presented. One of the few MSC sponsored entries was the **Macclesfield Mill Survey** which covered 81 sites and was carried out for the **Macclesfield Sunday School Heritage Centre Silk Museum**.

Other entries in the amateur category, all but one of which were from full time students, included *The Shropshire Canal-Brierley Hill Terminus* by John Moore and *The Deepmoor and Cannock Watermills* by John Wilkinson. A published MA Dissertation from Laurence Ince on *The Neath Abbey Iron Company* was judged as a good business history but with the industrial archaeology section, essentially an introduction to the site. Helen Dewey's *A Study of a 19th Century Water System near Corfe Castle* describes a remarkable private waterworks system on the Dorset Cliffs.

Information sheets on the **1987 AIA Recording Awards** may be obtained from Stephen Hughes, RCAM Wales, Edleston House, Queens Road, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 2HP (0970 4381) to whom entries should also be sent by the end of the year.

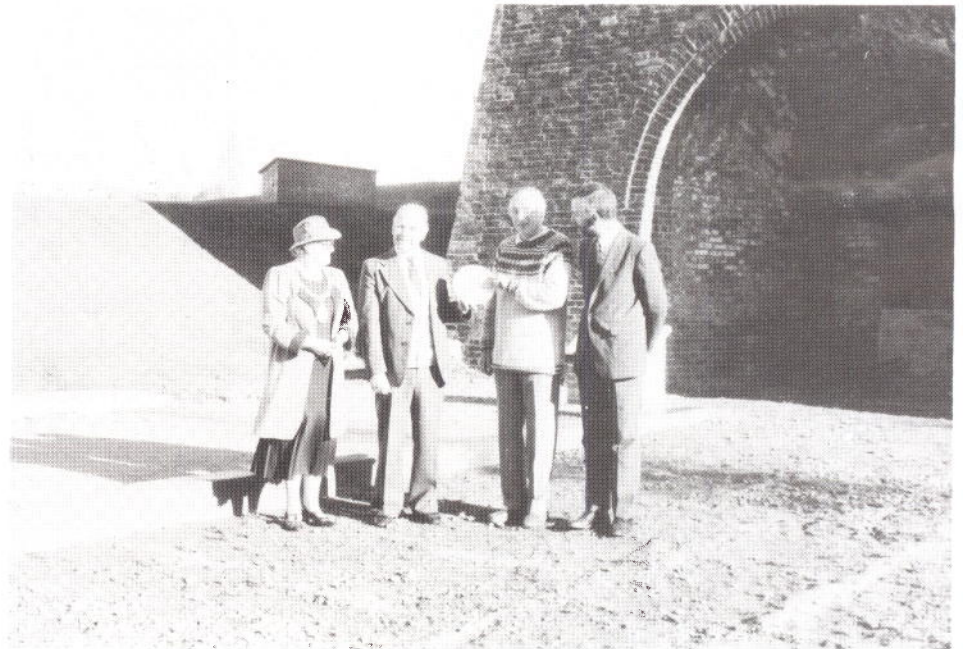
### Three Awards for Moira Furnace.

Moira Furnace in Leicestershire will be well known to many members of AIA. It was built between 1804 and 1806 in conjunction with the opening of the Ashby Canal and was intended to exploit local coal and nodular ironstone. Its promoter was Francis Rawdon Hastings, second Earl of Moira, who was deeply in



*Above* David Cranstone after receiving his award from Dr Angus Buchanan, (left) with Councillor Mrs Smith, Chairman of NWLDC and members of the Moira team. Stephen Hughes is second from the right.

*Below* Brian Waring receiving his President's Award from Bill Thompson's. Also in the picture are Councillor Smith and Tim Schadla-Hall, Deputy Director of Leicestershire Museum.



debt and hoped to recoup his fortunes by means of his collieries and ironworks as so many of his contemporaries had done. He was unlucky in this, because his coal was good domestic rather than coking coal and the ironstone was very poor. The furnace was in blast twice, from July 1806 to May 1807 and from June 1810 to January 1811. It was probably used once more, since it was not blown out correctly, but was already regarded as redundant by 1816. During the nineteenth century its blowing and casting arches served as coal stores for adjacent cottages built under the charging bridge, and consequently it survived in a remarkably intact state.

In the mid-1970s it came under threat because of the possibility of coal mining beneath the furnace, and the Leicestershire Industrial History Society carried out survey and excavation work as well as documentary research. They kept a watching brief on it until in 1981 North-West Leicestershire District Council acquired this site and proceeded to restore the furnace with the aid of an MSC scheme. It was opened to the public in May 1985 and is now in the care of a very active local group, the Friends of Moira Furnace.

David Cranstone was appointed as site archaeologist in 1984 and carried out excavation work in the casting house area and around the

blowing arches. His work has been written up in a very detailed report published by the District Council in 1985 entitled *The Moira Furnace: a Napoleonic Blast Furnace* in Leicestershire. This was submitted for consideration for the professional section in the first AIA Fieldwork and Recording Award and was awarded first prize. It is a very careful excavation report which attempts to interpret the site in both archaeological and historical terms. David was presented with his certificate in a ceremony at the Furnace during the September 1986 AIA Conference held in Loughborough.

Bill Thompson, the immediate past President of AIA, instituted the President's Award and decided in 1986 to present this to Moira Furnace. He was impressed both by the standard of interpretation on the site and by the enthusiasm and dedication of the Friends of Moira Furnace. This was their second award. The third was as runner up in the Heritage in Britain section of the British Archaeological Awards: the presentations were made at the British Museum in November 1986.

It is good to see a project sponsored by a District Council achieving such awards. North-West Leicestershire District Council are to be congratulated on their foresight in acquiring the site, in appointing an archaeological team to excavate as well as to restore the furnace and in publishing David Cranstone's work. They have also co-operated with Leicestershire Museums, who were responsible for much of the site interpretation, and with the local group who now organise the opening of the furnace during weekends in the summer. Moira Furnace is an excellent example of co-operation between a number of organisations and individuals with the purpose of conserving an important archaeological monument.

Marilyn Palmer

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AIA President Marilyn Palmer with more reasons than most to be concerned with the continuation of research and recording, being professionally employed as an historian, has recently written to all affiliated societies to find out how things were going. Of necessity the replies .. and there were twenty-six of them ... have been condensed to a few lines, but they make interesting and thought-provoking reading.

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**Gloucestershire Industrial Archaeological Society** (Amber Patrick). Malthouse, Wightfield Manor Farm, Deerhurst.

**Surrey Industrial History Group** (Alan Crocker) Recording at several levels: (i) IA guides to areas (ii) detailed guides to individual sites e.g. Chilworth gunpowder site (iii) Recording important items of machinery such as the Fourneyron turbine (iv) encouraging artists to draw important items (v) photographs, but a problem of storing and classifying slides and negatives.

**Black Country Society IA Group** (Ron Moss). Where recording IA really began! Much has been on a rescue basis, particularly the records of the chainmaking industry. More recently, an in-depth survey of the 'Cannon' factory at Deepfields, Cosely.

**Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society** (Tim Clarke). Find it difficult to organise co-operative effort in recording, although much individual work which is published in *BIAS Journal*. Have listed local lime kilns and sites where copper slag blocks used in building.

**Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society** (Ron Martin). A few dedicated members who undertake recording. Try to record in three phases (i) noting site on standard record sheet with brief description and photograph (ii) amplification with further photographs and some historical research (iii) complete measured survey. Feels that members inclined to neglect (i) and prefer doing (ii) Surveys published in *Journal* e.g recent survey of the tramway remains in Offham Chalk Pit.

**Peak District Mines Historical Society** (G.M. Rose). Are mapping the surface remains of the White Peak, using standard symbols. Information kept in 250 folders, each covering 2 grid squares and also containing 25" map of area covered. These are available for consultation.

**Staffordshire Industrial Archaeological Society** (Elaine Crabb). Undertake recording as a group, results being published in their *Journal*: the latest is a detailed survey of Colwich Brickworks.

**Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society** (Derek Manning). Regard themselves primarily as a recording group. Have sent 220 files for processing to the NMR where they are being transferred on to microfiche. Publish results in a *Journal* and have established close links with the Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

**Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Society** (Steven Worsley). A young and as yet small group, work has

mostly been confined to rescue surveys prior to demolition. Kersey maltings is the only site recorded which still survives.

**South Wiltshire Industrial Archaeology Society** (Jean Jackson). Publish a series of historical monographs which contain a variable amount of recording work e.g. the Amesbury Turnpike Trust, Floated Water Meadows in the Salisbury Area.

**Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society** (Sandy Buchanan). Surveys of individual sites published in *Bulletins* e.g. Stapley Silk Factory, Tengore Lime Kilns. Research evenings bring individuals together.

**North Western Society for Industrial Archaeology and History** (Bill Cooke) Area surveys of Garston, Princes Dock and South Docks and Edge Hill. Gazetteer of sites published, and surveys published both in *Journal* and leaflets. Individual work also undertaken.

**Nottinghamshire Industrial Archaeology Society** (Don Morley). Listing of sites in the county in districts. Also measured surveys of buildings, often on a rescue basis e.g. Blenheim Maltings. Several malting surveys carried out, also frameshops. Published in *Society Journal*.

**Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society** (Tim Smith). Despite size of membership, only small number of members will undertake recording. A recording group has been established which undertakes training: recently produced report on Coronet St. Destructor in two forms (1) brief supplement to *GLIAS Newsletter* (2) longer reports to be supplied on request to members of society. "It was felt that by this method we would keep the costs down for the Society as a whole but still produce a detailed account for those interested enough to pay for it". Often rescue surveys in a single morning, and rarely measured drawings. Current problems with *Journal* for publishing results. IA classes undertake more detailed work e.g. Regent's Canal Dock.

**Cumbrian Industrial History Society** (Rob David). Another very young group, they have already recorded Heversham Brickworks near Kendal.

**Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group** (Geoffrey Starmer). Detailed photographic surveys and meticulous checking of plans already in existence before survey work undertaken. Farm buildings, mills, footwear factories.

**Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Amenity Group** (R. Porter). Survey of structures such as lock houses: MSC team involved recently at Dauntsey.

**Northern Mine Research Society** (Mike Gill). Surface and underground survey of mine sites: material published in *British Mining* monograph series.

**NAMHO** (Mike Gill). Has produced guidelines on the surveying of mine workings and the production of underground plans and sections. The present one concentrates on underground features, but a sub-group of the Council is producing a detailed code for recording mine sites at the surface. This is partly to determine criteria for assessment when recommending sites for scheduling, listing or preservation.

**Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group** (Pam Moore). Have produced detailed gazetteers of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. In depth surveys undertaken at Brownich Farm, also survey of farm buildings.

**Manchester Region IA Society** (David George). Photographic records cross-referenced with CBA report cards. More detailed surveys e.g. Peak Forest Canal and Tramway, now deposited in Manchester Urban Studies Centre.

In the preceding examples, after the initial impetus from one or two people, the fuel (and often the funding) followed from the infectious enthusiasm of a local society or group. By definition this meant restricted (if regular) meetings and the ever present problem of shortage of money.

As has been mentioned on previous occasions, the emergence of the Manpower Services Commission, with an ability to divert government money to approved projects, gave a new dimension to preservation and investigative problems and in the vast majority of cases has since proved invaluable. When an MSC scheme combines with funding from an independent source the overall result is, predictably, most impressive, and this is certainly the case with the **Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit** and its associated **Nuffield Foundation Survey**.

At the end of 1986 the IGMU published a sixty page booklet entitled *Archaeology in Ironbridge 1985-6*. It is edited by Michael Trueman, has a Foreword by Barrie Trinder and fifteen separate chapters each concerned with a different aspect of fieldwork, research, and recording, with three appendices and twenty-eight figures

/illustrations. It followed several months after the publication of *Coalbrookdale, The Nuffield Survey First Interim Report*, a two hundred and forty page document, which is in effect a archaeological inventory of the Ironbridge Gorge area.

In order to summarise the aims of IGMU and its associated (but entirely independent) Nuffield project, it is as well to quote from Michael Trueman's Introduction

Before 1981, archaeology in the Gorge was carried out piece-meal by a variety of practitioners. In 1978 the Institute of Industrial Archaeology was initiated as a joint venture between the University of Birmingham and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. The Institute organises research and courses to advance understanding of industrial history and archaeology and provide professional skills for recording, conserving and managing industrial monuments and collections.

In 1981, a Youth Opportunities scheme housed within the Museum was created to carry out archaeological work on Museum sites in advance of Museum development. It was replaced a year later by a Community Programme scheme, the work of which evolved to include the archaeology of the Gorge as a whole. In October 1985 an Historic Buildings Recording Team was created in response to the growing threat to standing structures from the deterioration of abandoned buildings and from modernisation. For administrative purposes the two teams now form one Community Programme scheme. It is this scheme which constitutes the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit.

Part of its brief is to define a methodology for carrying out such surveys. The work of the Unit was instrumental in setting out the need for such a project. All future work in the Gorge will benefit from its results.

The Unit has contributed significantly to the Museum's task of presenting to the public some of the historic monuments of the Industrial Revolution at one of its most influential centres. Its situation within a Museum and carrying out work which is almost entirely in a Post-Medieval, industrial context is virtually unique.

This report has a number of aims. It is intended to help team members obtain an overall view of the work in which they are involved. In doing this we hope to contribute a measure of continuity in the face of the rapid change-over of staff from which MSC teams suffer. It is also part of the Unit's formal presentation of results to the Museum, to the public and to other archaeologists. The report is not intended to be a vehicle for detailed accounts of the Unit's work, nor is it a substitute for them. It briefly summarizes work for the past year and points interested readers to more detailed reports and archives.

Michael Trueman

Both volumes are a credit to everyone concerned, our example of the illustrative material showing the kind of results obtained.

Both publications are available for consultation in the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library and copies of the IGMU report may be obtained from The Senior Supervisor, The

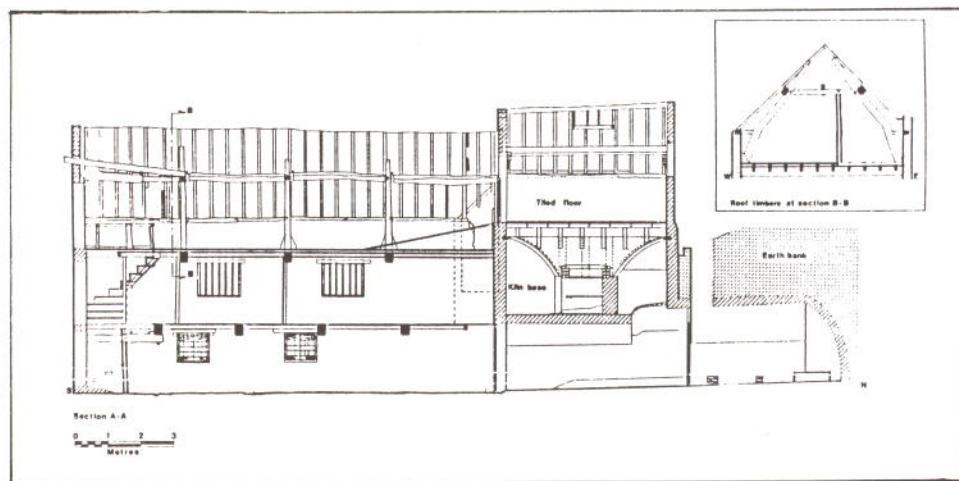


Fig 18 The Swan Inn, Ironbridge (IB86A). Main section through the malthouse and detail of the roof structure. (PY) (AJ, PY)

An important, independent project was begun in 1985 when the Nuffield Foundation agreed to fund two research fellows for a two-year project to compile an archaeological inventory of the Ironbridge Gorge, recording the results on computer.

Archaeology Unit, The Long Warehouse, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7AW. Above all they show what the combination of amateur enthusiasm, professional expertise and MSC/Nuffield Foundation funding can achieve.

Coatbridge, about nine miles east of Glasgow on the A89 road, has a long legacy of industrial excellence. In 1867 Andrew Stewart moved his Clyde Tube Works there becoming one of Britain's most successful butt-weld and lap-weld tubemakers. At the turn of the century, Andrew Lamberton had a world wide reputation as a designer and manufacturer of rolling-mills and did much to strengthen the cause of large steam-powered mills against the then trend of electrification. But earlier the famous Summerlee Ironworks had been established adjacent to the Gartsherrie branch of the Monkland Canal and went into blast in 1837. The furnaces finally shut down ninety-three years later and for fifty years remained a derelict site. It is now being developed as the **Summerlee Heritage Park**, due to open at Easter 1987 for a preview season, and as befits such a project, has started on a 'high'.



Viewing the partially excavated base of a blast furnace are Alison Cutforth (Summerlee Project) and Archaeology Supervisor Tom Ward

**Summerlee Heritage Trust** has won its first award, even before it opens to the public. The Council for British Archaeology Scotland has given it's 1987 Robertson Award to the Trust in recognition of the excavation of the 1830's Summerlee Ironworks. The complex remains of blast furnaces, heating stores and pig beds lie at the heart of the Trust's site, where a £1.6 million development programme is underway. Excavation has been carried out by a Community Programme team, who have unearthed tools, bottles and clogs, as well as surveying and recording the remains.

The award winning archaeology will be one of Summerlee's attractions when the gates open and during the summer the Trust expects to complete the reconstruction of a number of Victorian buildings, as well as opening the first section of an electric tramway. Trust Chairman, Monklands Provost Edward Cairns said, "I am very pleased that our archaeologists should achieve recognition so soon. Coatbridge was always known as the Iron Burgh, and the excavations are going back to the earliest days of the Industrial Revolution. We are delighted to have been honoured by the Robertson Award".

The Robertson Award is given in honour of Professor Anne Robertson, doyenne of Scotland's Archaeologists. She was formerly Keeper of the Cultural and Roman Collections at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow and now lives in retirement close to the Antonine Wall in Bearsden.

**1987 Open Season of The Scottish Maritime Museum.** Progress for 1987 at The Scottish Maritime Museum will see us open daily until the 18th October. Visitors will be able to walk freely around the

displays located at the Pontoons and in the Shipyard Workers Flat at Montgomery Street.

The Museum will be open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and the admission charges have not changed since 1986. Adults, pay 50p, children up to 14 pay 25p and a family with children under 14 pays £1. Our volunteer support will enable a variety of extra activities to be enjoyed. Visitors will be able to go on board vessels including a seaworthy "RNLI" lifeboat, the old Irvine harbour tug and a genuine Clyde puffer. Guided tours of our workshops and stores will also be available on occasion.

An important attraction will be tours in old motor boats around the harbour. Two vessels will be used, one is a 1900's launch 'Seamew'. The second is new to the collection this year. It is the 'Battleship' built for the 1937 Glasgow Exhibition.

During the season, building work will commence on the main exhibition hall which is being built for the Museum by Irvine Development Corporation.

**The South East Region Industrial Archaeology Conference at The Museum of London, Saturday 11 April 1987.** The theme of the conference was twentieth century industries. The keynote address was given by Kenneth Hudson on **"The Archaeology of a rapid replacement economy"**: The speaker pointed out that already some buildings put up in the 1950's were being replaced, that fifty per cent of people had never shopped in anything but a supermarket, or perhaps bought their petrol at anything but a self-service filling station.

Whilst a few prestigious factories built in the 1930's would survive (Shredded Wheat at Welwyn, Hoover at Perivale, Wrigleys at Wembley) others were now being superseded such as the Daily Express building in Fleet Street. The change in consumer habits had swept away all Burton's distinctive men's wear combined shops and billiard halls and also most of Smith's Crisp factories around the country since the post-world War Two revolution in packaging and in eating habits had considerably increased shelf life and centralised distribution. Most of these premises had a greater social than architectural significance and Industrial Archaeologists needed to both to record and to explore the background including housing schemes such as Quarry Hill Flats in Leeds and Kensall House in London. (Gaslight and Coke Co).

**D Burgess-Wise of Ford Europe** gave a talk on Automobile Archaeology. In 1907 at Paris the first retrospective exhibition of cars had been held, and subsequently Brooklands and White City gave displays. In 1924 Ford established his Museum at Dearborn, Michigan and the largest was now Auto World at Brussels housed in the former Belgian Motor show buildings and containing 800 cars. The outstanding factories had been Alexandria (Argyll cars) and the Talbot works in Ladbroke Grove (1903) five and a quarter acres in extent with fine marble decor. Here there was a test track and the firm had its own Coachbuilding shops. It was architect Kahn who introduced multi-storey re-inforced concrete buildings to the industry including one thousand buildings for the Ford Company starting with Highland

Park in 1913. A recent discovery had been some twenty years of Ford (England) archives at Dagenham.

**John King of Croydon Airport Society** has just published a book on the story of Gatwick Aerodrome and talked about the development of aerodromes around London. Although both Hendon and Hounslow Heath were used 1919-20 by early carriers such as A T and T and Instone Airlines, in March 1920 services were switched to Croydon - two grass field strips separated by Plough Lane.

In 1928 the aerodrome was developed with Admin Buildings and the famous terminal, and in 1930 Gatwick opened, changing hands in 1932 when the Circular terminal or 'bee hive' was introduced. Hillman's Airways who founded British Airports Ltd were the main users at this time. A wooden railway station was built and a pedestrian tunnel to the terminal. Unfortunately soon after the airport became waterlogged necessitating the use of Gravesend and later Heston to which British United Airways transferred (It was from Heston that Chamberlain flew to Munich). The old terminal still remains at Gatwick having been cut off from the modern facilities by a motorway.

A D George

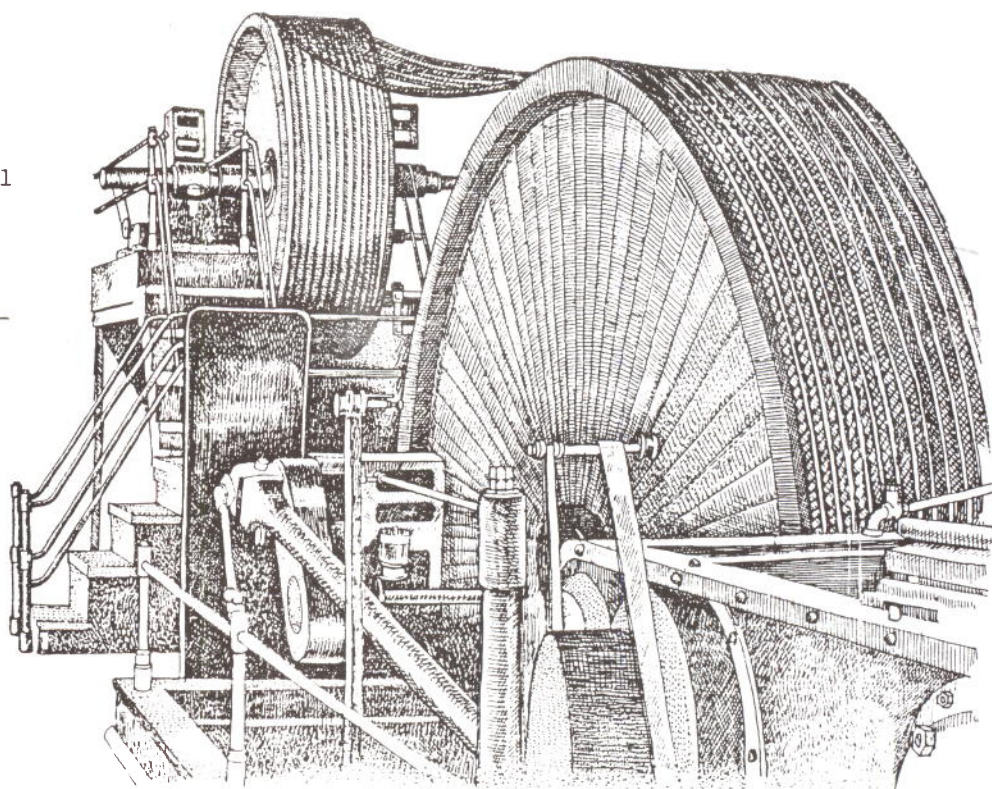
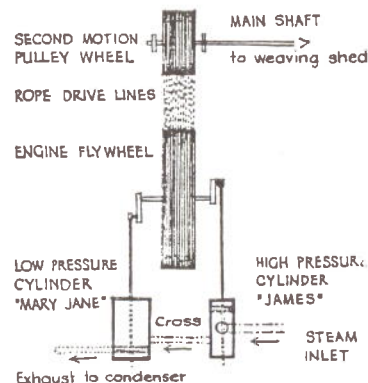
**The Telecommunications Heritage Group** was formed in December 1986 and now has 150 members who all share an interest in some aspect of telecommunications. The idea of the group, which is independent of any organisation, is to co-ordinate the activities and interests of all people interested in the study and preservation of telecommunications. In the membership there are collectors, historians and others interested in telephones, telegrams, kiosks - in fact anything to do with telecoms gone by.

The cost is a modest £3 a year to include four newsletters - the second (50 packed pages!) is just out. We are keen to recruit new members, so for a membership form please send a stamped addressed envelope to the Telecommunications Heritage Group, c/o Technology Showcase, 135 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AT

**The Bancroft Mill Engine Trust** is an independent registered charity. It was formed in 1980 to preserve the industrial heritage of the last working steam mill engine in the area. The objects are to give public exhibitions of the engine and boilerhouse in working order as they were when the mill was operating and display other machines, tools and documents relating to the weaving industry, in a working museum.

Bancroft Shed started cotton weaving in 1920 and was the last mill to be built in the town. The 600 bhp cross compound engine was built by William Roberts & Sons at Phoenix Foundry, Nelson, and drove 1,250 looms, giving continuous reliable service until the mill closed down in 1978. It is one of the few to remain in steaming condition and complete with rope drive. The engine is a cross compound Corliss valve condensing steam. Speed 68 rpm, controlled by a Porter type governor and a Lumb regulator acting on the high pressure cylinder valves' Dobson type trip gears. The flywheel is 16 feet diameter, 30 tons weight and originally had 13 cotton ropes driving the 8 feet diameter second motion pulley, 263 feet long main shaft into the weaving shed from which 19 line shafts ran at right angles to power the looms.

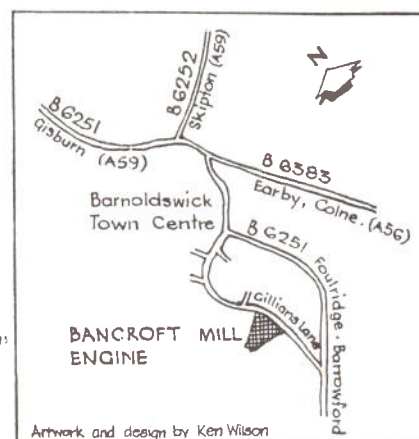
cotton weaving there in 1920. It was the last of the thirteen mills to be built in Barnoldswick. He named the high pressure cylinder after himself and gave his wife's name, Mary Jane, to the low pressure. It is not known whether the intended impression was that they were both working together, or it was his idea of their relative status.



The Cross Compound engine is so named because the cylinders and cranks are on either side of the flywheel and the steam crosses from the high to the low pressure cylinder, as compared to a Tandem Compound which is 'in line', the cylinders being one behind the other. Steam from the boiler at 160lbs per square inch is first expanded in the high pressure cylinder, and "James" turns the flywheel over. There is still some more energy in the steam so it is passed across to the low pressure cylinder "Mary Jane" and she re-uses the same steam. The exhausted steam is then piped to the condenser in the basement to be turned back into re-usable water.

**About the Mill.** James Nutter built Bancroft Mill and started

#### HOW TO GET TO BANCROFT MILL



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The official opening of the **Blist Hill Ironworks** by HRH The Prince of Wales on Friday March 6th 1987 marked the culmination of the first phase of the development of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. When it was conceived twenty years ago, the Museum set itself six major objectives: to restore the Iron Bridge, establish the Coalport china Museum, conserve Abraham Darby's Furnace at Coalbrookdale, build a Museum of Iron, excavate the Bedlam Furnaces and to create a living museum at Blists Hall which would include a working Wrought Ironworks.

Wrought iron was used by Thomas Telford for the Menai Suspension Bridge and by Brunel for the *SS Great Britain*; it is the fabric of the Eiffel Tower and of the Statue of Liberty. The manufacture of wrought iron is one of the most spectacular industrial processes, last carried out in this country



The 'backer' lifts a bloom (which is being reduced to 2½" square) during the demonstration run for Prince Charles. All the workers are ex - Walmsley and technical advice (for this caption too) was provided by Keith Gale.

by Thomas Walmsley of Bolton in 1976. The machinery from Walmsleys has been re-erected at the Blists Hill Museum, within an historic building which once formed part of the Woolwich Dockyard and the manufacture of this most adaptable of structural and decorative materials is about to start again.

The construction of the Ironworks has been the largest civil engineering project ever undertaken by a museum in Great Britain. It has been achieved through the inspiration of the late Reg Morton, first honorary Curator of the Museum, the financial support of the numerous donors, the determination of the staff, Board and Friends of the Museum and the hard work of more than four hundred

men employed by the Manpower Services Community Programme Scheme over the last five years.

**Whitchurch Silk Mill.** Members will remember Pam Moore's account of the threat posed to Whitchurch Silk Mill, one of Hampshire's finest industrial buildings. This threat of closure was lifted by the purchase of the mill, as a going concern, by the **Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust**, almost a year ago, and AIA members will be interested to hear of the progress made on the project.

The Trust formed a new Trading Company for the running of the mill, and silk production has continued, with order books full. Production using the historic machinery is inevitably slow, and this has made it necessary to concentrate on short runs and specialised designs. This

photograph them. Other interior work has included the replacement of ceilings, and the installation of modern wiring and lighting systems.

Fund-raising has been a vital part of the project and the Appeal Fund Committee headed by Lord Denning has achieved considerable success. More money is still needed however, as areas of dilapidation not foreseen have now been revealed.

What of the future? Structural work on the rear of the building will be necessary, and priority is also being given to the provision of a tourist centre and new retail shop. It is hoped that by early summer this will be open to the public, and will generate further income. Fund-raising will continue - the Fund's target has been increased from the original £100,000 to £150,000. Anyone wishing to help should send donations to the Whitchurch Silk Mill Appeal Fund, c/o Hampshire Buildings, Preservation Trust, The Castle, Winchester, Hants.

**Chancellor hits AIA.** Whilst putting money back in your pockets by cutting income tax Nigel Lawson has cut the AIA's income. The lower tax rate reduces the amount we can reclaim on deeds of covenant and we will lose 58p for each covenanted subscription. However, it will only need twelve new covenants to make up the loss.

Will you be one of the dozen? Remember, it costs you nothing.

Write now for a covenant form to Michael Messenger, 7 Cefn Carnau Road, Heath, Cardiff CF4 4LZ.



The Affiliated Societies weekend on March 21st and 22nd has now been and gone, with ten Societies represented there. We began with a social evening in the Valley Hotel, and moved on to serious business the following day in the Long Warehouse. Our President Marilyn Palmer, gave us all copies of the results of the survey she had carried out into the recording activities of affiliated societies; 26 replied, and showed a wide variety, from group to individual work and rescue recording to a planned programme. Copies of the summary are published elsewhere in this Bulletin. In discussion it was felt that voluntary groups should concentrate on recording sites which will not be saved. The difficulties of arranging group work were discussed, and the need for both expertise and equipment; it was suggested that as polys and

policy is, however, proving successful in commercial terms, and the high quality silk produced at Whitchurch is much in demand.

When HBPT purchased the mill, it was in need of major renovation, and in the past year a great deal has been achieved. The front of the building has been overhauled, with the roof reslated and the cupola releaded. For the first time in many years, the clock, installed to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo, now chimes, and is in full working order.

Inside, a great deal of work was necessary, and whilst this was in progress, the chalk blocks of which the mill is constructed (covered by a brick skin) was revealed, and it was possible to

universities adopt digital equipment, their old items may be available. The fact that, for the deposition of records, there was no adequate replacement for the CBA Cards and Bath, was noted.

David Bodger, Residential Courses director at Nottingham University, gave advice on organising visits especially abroad. He suggested we should have 5 points in mind: What is the visit for? Where is it to - how far and for how long? When is it to take place? How is the group to travel? He outlined points to think about for each, emphasising the potential of air travel over road for foreign visits and the advantages of using a specialist agent who knew the area, the hotels, the likely meals arrangements and who could negotiate special rates. Adequate insurance cover should be taken, both for the group and the organisers, and the advantages of telex rather than telephone communication with hotels was pointed out. In discussion the existence of a network of B & B accommodation in holiday areas at home was noted; this could be helpful for group visits. Other useful addresses for groups are the British Universities' Accommodation Organisation, at Nottingham University; and the National Institute of Adult Education, 196 De Montfort Street, Leicester, issues a residential course handbook.

Society members were then free to visit the Ironbridge sites on courtesy tickets, for which we thank Stuart Smith. On their return Dr. Edwin Course offered us some illustrated thoughts on the value and purpose of adult groups based on his experience of running them in Southampton. He suggested that while IA in practice is the discovery, recording, preservation and restoration of sites, the educational aspect is either a byproduct or a main objective depending on the group; we are inviting members to open their eyes and encouraging them to become more developed people as a result. He outlined the different types of groups encountered as adult groups, noting that most work is done by volunteer groups whose educational composition can be very mixed. Members have been attracted by various methods including broadcasts followed by guided site visits. This method attracted 2000 people to Twyford Water Works, most of whom would not join a group but who were both educated and entertained by the open day. He noted the importance of the social aspects of adult groups and the way that as groups develop they learn other things than those which were the original objective.

We were offered an excellent dinner at the New Inn on Saturday evening, followed by the presenta-

tion of the AIA's award for recording to Mark Watson for his work on Dundee. We were pleased he was able to be with us for this, though in future it will be presented at Conference in September. There then followed a quiz, devised by myself and Marilyn, intended to entertain as well as test the teams' knowledge: Council v Affiliated Societies. The Societies won.

Sunday morning's sessions followed up points raised earlier. Details on the Awards are to be published separately by Stephen Hughes; Chris Irwin outlined the present structure of IA nationally and locally, and suggested that we needed more co-ordination between the two types as many groups only represent part of IA. He warned that AIA may attempt too much by claiming to represent equally very disparate groups, or may be in danger of a sectarian approach, and he suggested we needed a regional tier, perhaps best provided by Conferences like EMIAC, to mediate. From discussion it was clear that his suggestion for the use of a business meeting at a regional conference met with interest as a means of forging closer links between AIA and local groups, and we will follow this up.

Pam Moore outlined her questionnaire results from the Buildings Preservation Trusts to see what co-operation existed between the Trusts and local IA groups, and she outlined SUAG's very encouraging experiences with Hampshire County Council over the Twyford Waterworks Trust, and the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust over Whitchurch Silk Mill. Her talk was illustrated with slides demonstrating the extent to which such co-operation is possible. 91 Trusts were circulated, and 74 replied, of which only a minority were involved with industrial buildings or knew of an IA group. It was suggested that the AIA should develop contacts with the Trusts and encourage links with local IA groups.

On location indexes, Mary Manning described Norfolk's practice. It is a recording not a preservation society and their policy is that their work should be available to others. They maintain a central index within the Norwich Museum Service and deposit details in the local history Library. Their cards are general-purpose classification, and once a recording is made it goes to their recording officer who classifies it and checks for duplication or for error. Major sites are passed on to the editor for publication thus ensuring wider dissemination. Every item is labelled and referenced. Their records have recently been filmed on microfiche

by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and held in the County Monuments Record. Members meet monthly for longterm group survey work but individuals also pursue their own.

John Crompton contributed further ideas by showing how he maps threatened sites. He recommended co-operation with the County Archaeological Unit and the adoption of their system by societies, with the aim of getting their work on the County's general archaeological index so it will be more widely known. In discussion it was noted that a particular problem is that of devising a watertight site classification for computer use. Co-operation with official bodies was felt to be essential.

Marilyn gave details of grants for work and publication: the Lloyds Bank Scheme, the British Archaeological Awards, the Legal & General Silver Trowel Award and the British Academy Small Grants. Details will be circulated to Society secretaries.

Finally we had a talk from Mark Watson, illustrated with slides, on his work in Dundee.

Next year's Affiliated Societies' Weekend will be on **March 19th & 20th 1988**, again at Ironbridge, make a note of the date for your diaries now; we would be pleased to see representatives from societies which have not yet been able to send one.

The topics are likely to be publicity for local groups; co-operation with 'dirt' archaeologists; the AIA's work in connection with endangered sites; structures nationally and locally in IA; and whatever else you suggest. Write to me with your ideas and concerns.

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## AIA Bulletin

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