Dear Member

**AIA Annual Conference, Merseyside**  
**21st - 26th August 2020**

This year’s conference will be held at Hope University on the outskirts of Liverpool and is being organised by an enthusiastic local team from the Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society led by Anna Alexander and Malcolm Verity. Rooms at the College are of two types, generally good quality standard student rooms with en-suite shower and toilet enclosure in addition there are a few hotel quality double bedded rooms with bathroom containing bath with shower over in the Eden Suite. The second delegate sharing a room in the Eden suite pays only £20 more than the non-residential price. The university is close to the end of the M62 and has bus access from the centre of Liverpool and railway stations.

The programme will commence on Friday with a seminar organised by Marilyn Palmer and Mike Nevell, on the topic of “The effect of climate change on heritage sites”.

The formal conference will commence on Friday evening, with an overview lecture on the IA of Merseyside. On Saturday there will be four lectures on local IA in the morning followed, after lunch, by the presentations from and to the Association’s award winners. On Sunday evening there will be an opportunity for members’ contributions.

As is usual there will be an opportunity for members to make short contributions and early notification that delegates wish to make such contributions would be helpful and they will be taken on a first come basis. Those wishing to give a presentation should write or email to me giving the title of the presentation and brief details.

On Sunday there will be the AGM followed by the Rolt lecture. This year’s lecture will be given by Dr Cassie Newland of Bath University on the subject of “International landscapes of cable telegraphy”. On Sunday afternoon, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday there will be a choice of coach trips to sites of IA interest. The attached notes will assist delegates in making their choices. There will be an evening lecture on Monday and on Tuesday evening there will be an opportunity for members’ contributions.

As stated above the hotel quality accommodation at the college is limited. Further the Association has as is usual contracted for a certain number of rooms. Places will therefore be allocated strictly on a first come basis. Once all the places booked have been allocated it may not be possible to accept further residential places. For this reason, early booking is strongly advised.

Delegates should note the terms and conditions, which are attached.

Visits may involve walking longer distances and/or climbing into places with restricted headroom etc. Delegates, in deciding which tours to apply for, must consider their agility etc. The Association reserves the right to refuse to admit delegates should it be considered that their mobility is not consistent with the nature of the visit. All delegates are reminded that suitable clothing, including stout shoes or boots is regarded as mandatory.

Please note that this information and an online conference booking form and information is available on the AIA website - : [http://industrial-archaeology.org/conferences/annual-conference/](http://industrial-archaeology.org/conferences/annual-conference/)

John McGuinness  
(Conference secretary)