

HOSKINS AND INDUSTRY

Professor W G Hoskins, pioneer of local history and landscape history, died on 11 January 1992 at the age of 83. Few industrial archaeologists have been unaffected by the changes he wrought over fifty years in our attitudes to the past. As a reviewer once wrote, Hoskins produced 'a permanent and delightful enlargement of consciousness' about the landscape. His assertion that fieldwork could contribute to all branches of historical understanding was revolutionary; as was his work to establish the history of local communities as a legitimate subject of academic enquiry. Dr Chris Lewis of the University of London Institute of Historical Research here assesses Hoskins's treatment of industry in the context of his wider achievements.

W G Hoskins was a historian of the first importance. From posts in the universities of Leicester and Oxford, and in retirement at Exeter after 1968, he changed the ways in which both academics and the public thought of the history of England. I would single out four achievements. *The Making of the English Landscape* (1955) is the most important: a book which created landscape history as a

subject. Secondly, Hoskins's writings about Leicestershire and Devon not only made him the foremost historian of those counties, but also, through the skill with which he interwove local research and national issues, contributed to the claims of local history to be a proper academic subject. Thirdly, his book *Local History in England* (1959) brought local history before a popular audience. Finally, the BBC television series *English Landscapes* (1973) and *One Man's England* (1978) brought Hoskins himself and landscape history into the living room. To have been both at the academic cutting edge and a successful populariser was truly remarkable.

Hoskins's sympathies were with the country. A homely accent and the increasingly bucolic appearance of his later years contributed to the image of a countryman. His preferences in research were for rural topics, on which he wrote scores of articles, often radically different in approach or brilliantly penetrating, and his scholarly reputation will stand on his work as a historian of agrarian society. He believed that the common people of pre-industrial rural England embodied social values which were destroyed by industrialisation; and he lamented their loss.

It is easy to see why Hoskins is now in

danger of developing a reputation as an enemy of industry and all associated with it, from industrialists to industrial archaeologists. His obituarist in *The Times* wrote of his 'loathing of the industrial revolution' (15 January 1992). His pupil Christopher Taylor, in the annotated edition of *The Making of the English Landscape* (1988), noted an 'obvious dislike of the landscapes of industry'. There was once a saying that *The Making* has more pages about the view from Hoskins's window than the industrial revolution. However, my own opinion is that these notions trivialise Hoskins's stance towards industry.

The lie that Hoskins was anti-industry, or anti-industrial revolution, or anti-industrial archaeology can be nailed easily in either of two ways. Turn to the pioneering books on industrial archaeology: Hudson, Raistrick, Major and Buchanan all pay tribute to the inspiration derived from Hoskins's use of landscape as evidence. Or look at Hoskins's own work more carefully: his first book was *Industry, Trade and People in Exeter 1688-1800* (1935), an important account of a manufacturing centre; his book about Wigston Magna, *The Midland Peasant* (1957), deals with the growth of framework knitting; there is an enthusiastic article about 'industrial archaeology' in *Old Devon* (1966); the twelve very personal landscapes which made up *One Man's England* included four industrial ones; *The Making* gives full weight to industrial landscapes. Hoskins began his career as a historian of industry and frequently wrote about it with insight.

But did Hoskins like industry and industrial sites? His attitude often seems at best ambivalent. He was not as attracted to industrial sites as he was to others, either for serious research or to visit and describe. He wrote relatively little on industrial topics; but in a very large total output. More seriously, his two most successful popular books, *Local History in England* and *Fieldwork in Local History* (1967), deliberately ignored industry. He explained why in the preface to *Fieldwork*: industrial archaeology was still a new field, and he felt it was best treated by those technically expert in industrial processes who had acquired a knowledge of history. In effect he preferred to leave industrial archaeology to its own specialists, those who would bring to it a love and understanding as deep as his own for rural England.

The subject which Hoskins most neglected was not industry, but London. It is difficult to find anything at all that he wrote about a city



Father of local and landscape history: W G Hoskins Photo: Department of English Local History, University of Leicester

which he hated cordially, apart from a few sneering words in *Provincial England* (1963). This is a clue to what made Hoskins tick: his true hostility was not to industry or London, but to modernity. When he wished, he could write superb, reckless polemic, but he never did so about the industrial revolution. Hoskins the man so disliked the twentieth century that Hoskins the historian could not write about it with dispassion: 'especially since the year 1914, every single change in the English landscape has either uglified or destroyed its meaning, or both' (*The Making*, Chapter 10). He loathed the spread of overspill housing estates, opencast mining, motorways, and large-scale farming, to name only a few of the landscape changes of his lifetime. He was simply unable to see the twentieth century as just another period which historians can approach with insight and even objectivity. More shockingly, the father of landscape history could not see that sites like the ironstone spoil-heaps of Corby are not

disfigurements of the landscape, because they are the landscape which it was his business to describe.

In a very English way, Hoskins was incurably romantic about the countryside and could be splendidly rude about industrial towns (Kidsgrove: 'dreary little colliery town'). These are not attractive traits in a serious social historian. His most withering invective was directed not against the great cities of the nineteenth century, which he thought awe-inspiring, but the bland industrial towns of the twentieth: 'one can admire ugliness on a grand scale as in the Black Country or the Potteries, and go a long way to see it . . . but the modern factories all look as though they produce cosmetics or pickles' (*Chilterns to Black Country*, p. 40).

The sheer quality of Hoskins's writing cannot be overemphasised. He wrote marvellous prose, lyrical as poetry about the Devon landscape which he had loved from childhood, forceful and clear about anywhere that caught

his attention. Many industrial landscapes and sites appealed to him: canals winding through the countryside; mature railways after 'the convulsions and brutal gashings of the rural landscape by the railway engineers have long been smoothed over and forgotten'; the 'profound melancholy beauty' of derelict tin workings in Cornwall; textile factories, 'those tremendous galaxies of light that one now sees from the Pennine Moors after sundown'.

For writing like that (and I could quote pages of description as evocative), I can forgive Hoskins his wilful neglect of London and the twentieth century. He treated industrial history with respect and knowledge, leaving its detailed exploration to specialists but always and rightly insisting that as a topic it belongs within the frame which he set for his own work, the frame defined by localities, landscapes and a social and economic history which was both human and humane.

C P Lewis

WATERWAYS IN THE BALANCE?

Threats to industrial heritage can be found in seemingly the most innocuous legislation. The British Waterways (BW) Bill 1991 is a Private Bill promoted by BW, the public body responsible for some 2,000 miles of inland waterways. The Bill was initially thought uncontroversial, but closer scrutiny highlighted many concerns for the future of the canal network and its traditional craft. Consequently, the Bill has been delayed by opposition on many fronts, both by Petitioners, and by Peers during an unprecedentedly postponed Lord's third reading debate. After many calls for further revision, the Bill passed to the Commons, where a staggering 44 Petitions await it. While BW cite increased safety as a prime function of the Bill, many feel it must be seen against BW's current aggressively commercial approach. The proposed regulatory, criminalisation and management powers are considered excessive and insufficiently balanced by rights of appeal.

BW controlled waterways are a public asset, largely set aside for recreation. Yet it was necessary to have the current Bill amended to protect channels and towpaths from new powers of disposal. The 1,800 Listed or Scheduled structures will enjoy no such protection; yet these combine with lesser features to create the historic waterways environment. Many, such as Telford's Grade I Listed 'Beech House' at Ellesmere, form part of BW's comprehensive programme of property disposal. The future of many unnavigable waterways, being restored by volunteers, also remains uncertain.

An MOT-style test is introduced for craft, including historic vessels. Such craft, built for a different role and era, would lose their historic integrity if modified to meet the proposed standards. After detailed evidence from Petitioners, traditional craft may be partially exempted, but the final jurisdiction would lie with an Appeals Panel without built-in historical expertise. Ultimately, historic vessels which did not meet required standards would be modified, removed or destroyed.

One notable amendment was accepted, within BW's new overall duty of conservation.

2 Stating that the waterways were an engineering

system, Lord Howie moved that BW should have regard to 'buildings, sites and objects of engineering interest'. Similar, limited, protection is applied to items of archaeological, architectural or historic interest. Whilst not defending

against disposal, this does give some statutory status, at least, to features of industrial archaeological importance.

Paul Sillitoe



Double jeopardy: historic canal boat and Listed boatyard await the outcome of the controversial British Waterways Bill

Photo: Harry Arnold/Waterways Images

ANOTHER IA ENIGMA?

Archaeologists are often guilty of labelling excavated features as unique when they fail in some way to conform with the norm. Consider then the 'unique' winding house on remote Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, the subject of an on-going archaeological survey by the National Trust. Granite was quarried on the island by the Lundy Granite Company between 1863 and 1868. It was worked from small quarries on the east side of the island connected to a horse-drawn tramroad and an inclined plane for lowering wagons to the beach-level harbour. The incline had two sections, the upper following a slightly different alignment and separated from the lower by the surviving winding house remains (SS 1384 4509).

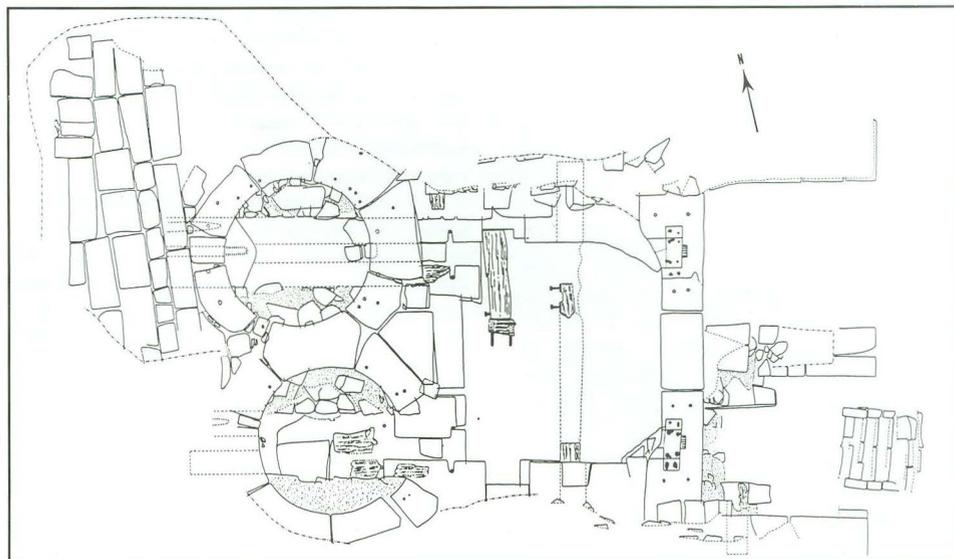
The winding house is set into a level terrace laid with granite paving. Its most striking feature is a pair of granite-lined pits, slightly offset, each 1.8m in diameter, 0.4m deep, and containing fragments of massive longitudinal timbers. Retaining bolts still project through the east ends of the timbers outside the circumference of the pits. The circular pits perch above a rectangular pit measuring 2.8m by 2.3m and 1.2m deep, also containing floor-level timbers with anchor bolts projecting from the longest sides. There are also anchor bolts set into sockets on the top surface of the east wall of this pit, indicating the former presence of cable guides. To the east of this wall the head of the lower section of the incline is centrally divided by a spine wall and, at track level in the south bay, a length of stepped granite paving was recently uncovered.

Maps show that both sections of the incline were laid with double tracks, not passing places. Various suggestions have been received about the two circular pits, that they either held cable drums or turntables, and that if the latter, then the rectangular pit held the drum and braking mechanism. There is no evidence to suggest the incline was powered, and it must be assumed it was gravity worked, but whether with a horizontal or vertical drum is not clear. Often, such structures were made by local engineers and adapted to specific requirements. This may well be the case on

Lundy, but the National Trust would be interested to hear from any reader who knows of a comparable arrangement or can explain this enigmatic structure. Please contact Gary

Marshall, The National Trust, Low Peak, Ravenscar, North Yorkshire, YO13 0NE.

Gary Marshall



Lundy winding house in plan: the dashed lines show the position of longitudinal timbers

The National Trust



Lundy winding house: view across the three pits towards the incline head

Photo: The National Trust

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

The Affiliated Societies Weekend at Coalbrookdale in April took as its theme 'Conserving and Protecting the Industrial Heritage'. Following a get-together on Friday evening, the first session was devoted to explaining the roles of the national bodies—the three Royal Commissions, English Heritage, Cadw, Historic Scotland and the DoE Northern Ireland, with papers from Neil Beagrie of RCHME and Peter Wakelin of Cadw. The next contribution was highly topical. Philip Turner, Director of the Southampton Environment Centre posed the question 'Can IA be Green?', on the environmental impact of industrial archaeology. The following sessions looked at site protection. Jane Grenville of the University of York spoke about 'Listing and Scheduling—Problems and Pitfalls', and this was complemented by two case studies. Stuart Warburton related the tale of Bagworth Incline House, a listed building which was de-listed and demolished (see *Bulletin* 19.1), and Pam Moore talked about Bursledon Brickworks, a

site protected at the eleventh hour which now has a bright future. The morning's final session was devoted to an update on the AIA Database. Marilyn Palmer, Tony Yoward and Ron Martin explained their roles, and discussion was lively. On Saturday afternoon, delegates visited sites by courtesy of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. Dinner at Blists Hill was followed by an entertaining 'Patent Quiz'.

On Sunday, the first session introduced delegates to the AIA Policy Document, 'Working for the Future', and ways in which Local Societies can further industrial archaeology in the 1990s. Still on the theme of current initiatives, David Stocker of English Heritage spoke about the Monument Protection Programme's impact on industrial archaeology, and Stephen Hughes introduced the activities of TICCIH, The International Congress on the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage. The second part of the morning was taken up with a forum on industrial records', chaired by Stuart

Smith, with contributions from Kate Thompson (County Archivist for Hertfordshire) and three users of archives—Stephen Hughes, Peter Neaverson and Amber Patrick. The weekend closed with a buffet lunch.

More members than ever attended this year's weekend—why not join us next year, at Coalbrookdale from 23 to 25 April? Further details will be available shortly. In response to comments this year, we will be allowing much more time for delegates to 'confer', and a session for airing problems faced by local societies will be included. Lecture topics will include 'Getting your Research into Print', 'Health and Safety in Fieldwork' and 'The Thesaurus and Standard Recording Forms'.

Please send any comments or suggestions about ways in which the AIA could help Affiliated Societies to me at 20, Stourvale Gardens, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO5 3NE.

Pam Moore 3

PAID OFFICERS AT LAST

Council are delighted to report the appointment of two paid officers under the Ministry of National Heritage grant awarded to us in February. This grant for the year 1992/3 covers half the cost of the officers and their expenses, and the Association will be using funds provided by the Lyndhurst Trust to meet the rest. The grant may only be used to support activities in England, but it might prove possible in future to extend the work.

Michael Trueman has been appointed Sites and Monuments Officer. He obtained a first-class degree in Astronomy, but then went on to an MA in Archaeology. After posts in conventional archaeology he moved in 1985 to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit, ending as Senior Supervisor. Since 1988 he has been a Field Officer of the Lancaster University Archaeology Unit with specific responsibility for industrial archaeology. He has considerable experience in recording, excavation, and the use of a range of computers and software. He was on the AIA Council 1987/88. In addition, he owns a 100 acre farm and is renovating the farmhouse.

The other officer is Julie Williams who has been appointed Research Assistant. This is a full-time post until March 1993. Julie will be working with Marilyn Palmer in the University of Leicester where she can be contacted. She is no stranger to Leicester, where she did a degree in Archaeology and Geology and an MSc in Information Technology in Archaeology. She took a third year option in Industrial Archaeology, and for her MSc project took over from Marc Smith the grant-aided work on the industrial sites database produced for the Association.

Michael's post with the AIA is part-time (approximately 40%) and his role is to lead the work of developing a database for industrial sites and monuments and to encourage information exchange. Because of the efforts of Marilyn and the students at Leicester, supplemented by Tony Yoward, a database now exists, though it may need refinement. Fortunately the Sites and Monuments Committee has members involved in data management at

each of the three Royal Commissions who can ensure that the database is fully compatible with theirs. The function of the Association's computer record is principally to act as an agency in transfer of information between industrial archaeologists working in the field and the national records and local Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs). As it builds up, it will also be invaluable to the Sites and Monuments Officer in assessing the significance of threatened sites.

This leads to Michael's second function: to co-ordinate the Association's casework on sites and monuments. This will involve advising affiliated societies and others on listing and scheduling procedures, threatened sites, and applications to demolish or alter listed buildings. This will revive a Council post which became defunct simply because there was no volunteer with time to handle it.

All this means Michael will be wanting to establish links with affiliated societies and members in order to encourage use of IRIS (the acronym for our database—Index Record for Industrial Sites). It is important that those without computers should be able to contribute, so a form to be completed manually is also being developed. Michael will be seeking to prepare lists of people with regional or thematic expertise who would be prepared to advise in the planning process. It is hoped that there will be further grants to continue this post for at least two more years. Michael's address is High Farm, Upton, Newark, Notts NG23 5ST, ☎ 0636 812279.

Julie's experience makes her familiar with developing a recording and retrieval system for industrial archaeology, and part of her remit is to develop, in conjunction with Michael, a handbook to the database and forms. However, her main task is to develop a hierarchical classification and thesaurus of accepted terms for industrial period sites and structures, to ensure that information is consistent. Computers are not very bright (just quick) and will not therefore know that a 'brickfield' and a 'brickworks' might be the same thing. Only if there is consistency can the database be used effectively, for example to evaluate a particular site in national or regional terms. Julie would be glad to hear from anyone who is interested in classifications of terms for industrial archaeology or already utilises a database record.

Ultimately it is intended to provide a copy of the database on disc, a handbook, and a thesaurus, to individuals or groups who have access to a suitable computer. For others there will be supplies of IRIS forms, and again a handbook and thesaurus.

What do these appointments mean for the Association? At last we have the services of people who are paid and therefore able to concentrate on the needs of the Association, rather than fitting them into spare time. We have funding to deal with some of the priorities mentioned in our policy document. The grant implies that the Ministry recognises we have a useful contribution to make in a field about which they are increasingly concerned—the preservation of England's industrial heritage. However, if we are to continue to get support we must deliver the goods, and that means that individuals and affiliated societies will need to co-operate with our officers and provide information for transfer. It is in societies' own interests to do this; it is widely acknowledged

that industrial sites are poorly represented in the schedules, lists and SMRs. If that representation is increased it will be easier to defend the retention of significant sites, or at least ensure opportunities to record those which have to go. In a very real sense the Association is at the crossroads: if we are to become a force to be reckoned with in preservation we must use this grant effectively, and that can only be done with your co-operation.

David Alderton

PRESIDENT RETIRES

After three years as President of the AIA, David Alderton retires this September. David has been noted for many innovations. He has streamlined the Association's committees. He has re-arranged the work of Council Members, so as to ensure particular jobs do not suffer from officers being overloaded. He has become infamous for his regular 'Presidential Epistles' to Council Members, sent out to keep them well informed. He has also presided over important changes in the Association's national standing, with the launch of its Policy Document and increasingly valuable relations with the national heritage bodies, culminating in a grant from the Department of National Heritage. Most important of all, David has achieved the clear task he set himself at the beginning of his Presidency. At that time, he announced that by the end of his three years he wanted to ensure that the Association had some paid staff so that its growing responsibilities could be catered for effectively. To move from an entirely voluntary Council to an association supported by its own secretariat is a tall order, especially in economically difficult times. However, as David leaves the Presidency the Association has three paid assistants, largely supported by external sponsorship: Michael Trueman has become our part-time Sites and Monuments Officer co-ordinating work on the Association's Sites and Monuments Database; Julie Williams is working for six months on the thesaurus which the database will use; and Peggy Lyon has some finance to keep our membership records up to date.

Like all past-Presidents, David will be co-opted to Council to ensure a smooth handover. He will also chair the Membership Services Committee and will stand for his former role of Conference Organiser. With the Presidency falling vacant at September's AGM, David bequeaths the Association a record of rapid progress it is eager to maintain.

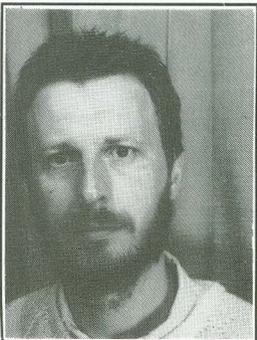
REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

All subscriptions were due for renewal on 1 July, except for those ordinary, joint or student members who joined after 1 January last. All members should have received, in early June, an individual request for renewal giving the appropriate subscription rate. If you did not, please contact the Treasurer, Michael Messenger, at 7 Cefn Carnau Road, Heath, Cardiff CF4 4LZ. If you did receive a renewal request and have not yet done anything about it, please do so soon.

The officers of the AIA are honorary, giving of their time freely for the Association's benefit, so your prompt renewal or use of direct debit is much appreciated.



Julie Williams



Michael Trueman

SMALLSMITH'S DIARY

20 June

My wife and I always welcome the visit of the postman to our humble home. Today was truly a red letter day, bringing a missive from the Editor of the national IA Review, Mr Peter Neaverson. He was prompted to write by my mention in Bulletin 19.1 of a letter from William Seers of the University of Rummidge (who, unlike Mr Neaverson, may be writing under a nom-de-plume, a habit I find reprehensible). It is such an honour to receive post from an eminent correspondent that I feel I must record his letter nearly in full:

Dear Mr Smallsmith

I can understand the concern of Mr Seers in writing his essay and I am amazed that Rummidge can possess a Department of Industrial Heritage in view of the inadequacy of its library. May I suggest he makes a transfer to a university with more adequate facilities. As Editor of Industrial Archaeology Review, the journal I presume he is referring to, may I point out, for Mr Seer's interest, that over the past 8 years, under the present Joint Editors, 16 issues have been produced and 169 books have been reviewed by 85 reviewers, of whom 65 are known authors of books. Of these reviewers, 10 acted for the previous editors. Over their 6 years production, in 18 issues, 122 books were reviewed by 50 reviewers, of whom 33 are known authors of books. We therefore have, on average, more reviewers, and more of them authors, reviewing more books than under the previous regime. Perhaps Mr Seers will compare our record with other learned journals if he has time between his journeys to locations where his source material is available.

I suggest that he notes the problems of the Book Review Editor of any journal. The foremost need is for a reviewer who will meet his promised copy date; some have been 'blacklisted' for never submitting their review at all, in spite of being authors themselves. Of necessity, since many of the books reviewed cover a limited field, specialist authors to review books are restricted and so other people, not necessarily authors, but known to be working in a given field, are contacted for reviews. Some work for the national statutory bodies and are not necessarily authors of books, but are specialists in a subject and may be authors of learned papers not referred to in a library index. Filling this inadequacy is one of the main functions of our AIA Abstracts service. Perhaps Mr Seers will find time to contribute to this since he is obviously anxious to be thought widely read; he will then be helping his successors at the University of Rummidge.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Neaverson

This is, in my opinion as a fellow writer, an exceedingly well-written letter that makes many pertinent points. I find the statistics he quotes

totally convincing, although my dear wife, who rarely minces her words, did suggest that I am easily confused by figures. She also expressed surprise that 65 worthwhile books on industrial archaeology actually exist. Mr Neaverson's remark concerning the need for reviewers who will meet copy dates struck a familiar chord. When my wife and I were editors of the 'Buttockbarn IA Journal', we had considerable problems with Bolt and Neill, who were quick in their offers to review IA publications, but exceedingly slow to deliver them. Bolt did finally submit his review of a canal history in which the poor author left some minor inaccuracies, but we couldn't print his remarks, so abusive, libelous and downright pedantic were they. Those experts who have not reviewed recently for the national journal have obviously been 'blacklisted' for similar reasons, and they should look back over their records to remind themselves of their offences and the justice of this action. Anyway, I hope William Seers is satisfied by this very full reply to his enquiry, and I look forward one day to reading a review by him.

21 June

It has been a very tiring night in the company of our friends. It all started peacefully enough in The Jolly Pigbed. Bolt was telling us of his day at Pipeclay Record Office researching a dusty notebook on 'The Lore and Legends of Ancient Pipeclay'. In it he came across a strange reference to the Pipeclay Ironworks which was reputedly built by a relation of 'Iron-Mad' Wilkinson in such a way that the first rays of sun on the summer solstice would illuminate the furnace tie bars, which bore the words 'Pipeclay Ironworks Saluteth Sunne'. A young maiden clad in iron trappings and garlanded in flowers would then thrust a ladle into the shaft of sunlight to symbolise the liquid gold of the ensuing year's smelting. Our suspicions should have been roused when Bolt said he had not noted the actual reference (a habit which he thinks is beneath a true industrial archaeologist). Never-the-less, aware that today was the solstice, we resolved to visit the site and observe this phenomenon for ourselves. The night was cold, but Bolt and Mrs D had us singing traditional canal ballads and dancing to keep warm. Just as dawn was spreading greyly from the east, we were suddenly surrounded by some fifty policemen with batons and shields. By the time my wife and Neill had persuaded them we were not New Age ravers, as a neighbouring farmer who had seen our dancing had assumed, but eminent local industrial archaeologists, and they had left in their fleet of vans, the sun had not only risen, but was lost behind a very damp rain cloud. Our mood was not helped when Bolt suddenly remembered that the legend might have referred to the winter solstice anyway. Neill was heard to mutter that just as Wilkinson was 'Iron-Mad', we should refer to our friend as 'Bloody-Stupid' Bolt. However, even a night without sleep is no excuse for THAT sort of language.



PRIZE FOR A NAME

We would like a new title for the *Bulletin*, a title which is less wordy than The Association for Industrial Archaeology Bulletin and which will give it a separate identity. Channelling views, news and information about industrial archaeology is our aim, and we would like people increasingly to join the Association because they like the *Bulletin*, not to receive the *Bulletin* just because they are members. Our title should give an instant impression of the range and interest we hope the publication has when

at its best.

We are offering a prize for the title we eventually use. The Association has agreed to provide a £10 book token, and the Editor will match this personally. The winner will therefore have the pleasure of seeing his or her idea in print, and £20 to spend as well. The title should have some of the following qualities:

- It should be short and snappy.
- It should suggest discussion, news and exchange of information.
- It should show that the publication is an

organ for its subject, not just for the Association.

■ It should reflect our interest in the full archaeology of the industrial period, not just some aspects of it.

■ It should be suitable for treatment as a logo (you might squeeze another £10 out of the Editor if *you* design a satisfactory one).

Please send your ideas to the Editor, Dr Peter Wakelin, at the address on the back of this issue.

NEWS

PRESSURE ON PORT SUNLIGHT

Port Sunlight, W H Lever's turn-of-the-century industrial model village, is resisting renewed development pressure. Landowners Unilever Merseyside Ltd have joined with a housing association and architects to promote a new sheltered housing estate. Wirral Borough Council has backed village residents by refusing

planning permission in principle. A previous similar scheme was turned down at appeal, on building design grounds.

The planned estate's new design is claimed to blend in with Port Sunlight's distinctive style. It would, however, occupy one of the village's characteristic green spaces, the Pool Bank recreation ground. Port Sunlight today still appears largely as Lever and his architects

designed it, and opinions differ sharply as to whether the proposed infill development would fulfil his original intention for the site. A further appeal and a Public Inquiry now seem likely. In an ironic twist, the silver commemorative spade with which Mrs Lever cut the first sod in 1888, has recently been stolen from the village's Heritage Centre.

Paul Sillitoe

REGIONAL NEWS

SCOTLAND

As de-industrialisation gathers pace again in Scotland, it becomes increasingly difficult to recall the glories of what was one of the world's most diversified industrial economies. Sadly, the last year has seen the death throes of several Scottish industries. Perhaps the most significant loss was the closure of **Ravenscraig Works** on 27 June, bringing to an end over 120 years of bulk steelmaking in Scotland.

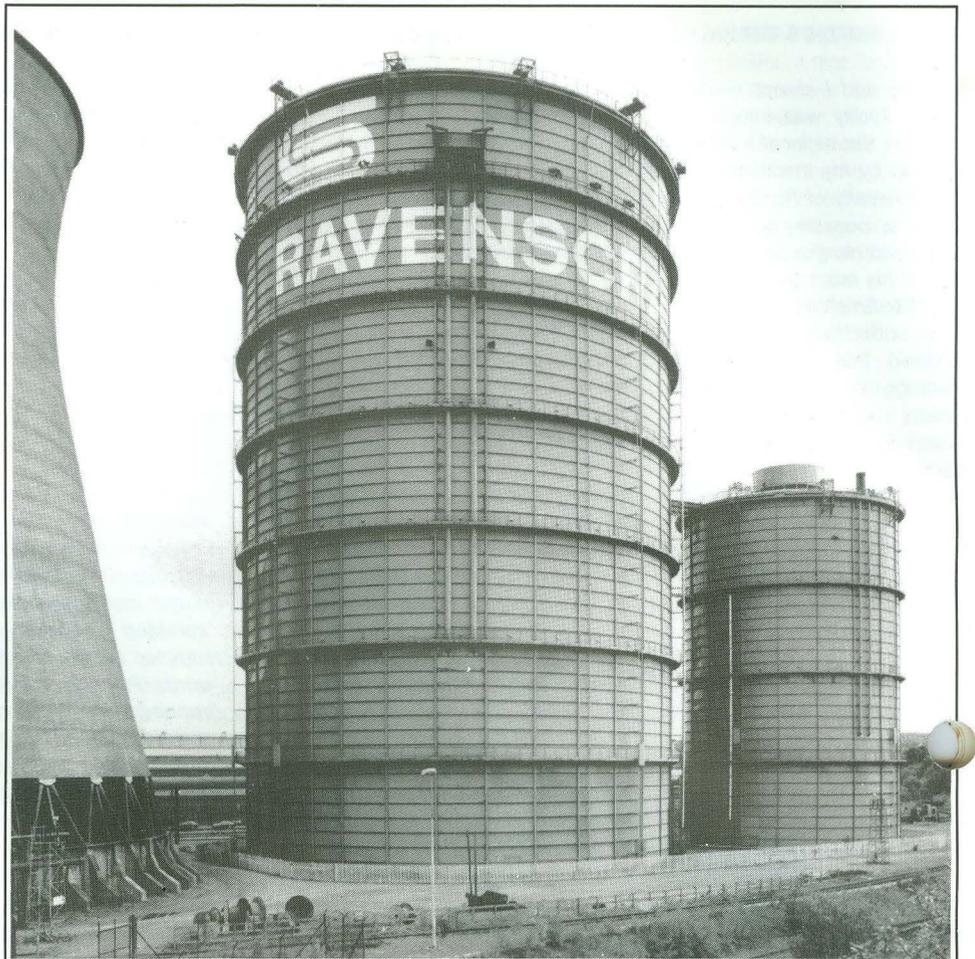
By the end of the year, it is also likely that Coats Viyella will have closed Neilston Mill and Anchor Mills in **Paisley**, signalling the eradication of cotton thread manufacture. Nearby, Armitage Shanks have closed Scotland's only surviving sanitary ware factory at **Barrhead**, and in **Greenock**, Kvaerner Kincaid's decision to cease building marine diesel engines has ended a great engineering tradition. With defence cuts and continuing recession, further closures are inevitable. Other worries include the effects of new EC regulations on the fish processing industries, especially in centres such as **Arbroath** and **Aberdeen**.

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) is attempting to record many industries, preferably before closure. Attempts are also being made to ensure that relevant records are not destroyed, and cooperation between RCAHMS, Historic Scotland, the Scottish Record Office, the Business Archives Council of Scotland, and other bodies is continuing, with the assistance of the Scottish Industrial Archaeology Panel. One of the greatest concerns has been with records of the **Scottish coal industry**, which has been reduced to one deep mine. **Scottish Power** and **Scottish Nuclear** have deposited their power station photographs with the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS). ScotRail have also provided access to records, particularly of **Wemyss Bay Station**, part of which is to be demolished. British Gas has supplied information on their revolutionary coal gasification plant at **Westfield** in Fife, which has shut down following the closure of the research programme.

Several industrial monuments have disappeared during the last year, including the two Sir William Arrol giant cantilever cranes at **Rosyth Dockyard**, much of **Isla Bank Mills** at Keith in Banffshire, **Arthur Street Engine Works** at Greenock, **Cartside Mill** at Johnstone, and **Corsewall Lighthouse's** foghorn engines in Wigtonshire. Others that are due to go include the great **Ferguslie No. 1 Spinning Mill** in Paisley, **Barony Colliery** at Auchinleck, **Kinneil Colliery** in Bo'ness, and **Creagan Viaduct** in northern Argyll.

On a more encouraging note, moves are afoot to save **Dangerfield Mills** in Hawick, and Historic Scotland have scheduled the viaducts at **Leaderfoot** and **Roxburgh** in Borders. Attempts are also being made to save the oldest railway viaduct in Scotland, at **Laigh Milton Mill** in Ayrshire, built in 1812. The huge maltings at **Slateford** are to be converted to housing, and there are plans to restore the splendid gentlemen's lavatories at **Rothsay Pier** on the Isle of Bute. In Caithness, a museum of the flagstone industry is being developed at **Castletown**.

In Edinburgh, RCAHMS moved during February. The new building accommodates what was originally housed in three separate



Scottish steelmaking comes to an end: gas holders at Ravenscraig works, 1991 Photo: © RCAHMS (Neg. B56670)

buildings. The NMRS opened to the public only two weeks after the move. The new address is: John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, EH8 9NX ☎ 031 662 1456 (Fax 031 662 1477).
Miles Oglethorpe

WALES

The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust has been commissioned by Taff-Ely Borough Council to carry out an archaeological investigation of the **Nantgarw Pottery**. The project has received funding from the Welsh Office Urban Programme and the European Regional Development Fund. The aim is to research the site archaeologically and present the results for publication, display and interpretation. Archaeological and historical data will be integrated to provide a full account of the establishment of the porcelain works in 1813 and its subsequent development, to identify the processes that took place in the various buildings and, through study of the finds and wasters, to understand more fully the wares and production methods. The site contains remains of three kilns and store rooms, drying rooms, throwing rooms, dipping sheds, pipe workshops, and warehouses. In addition, the remains of early steam motivation have been identified. Work so far has concentrated on recording and restoring the 'Pottery House' as an administrative and public area. Undergrowth has been cleared, the remains sympathetically landscaped and a significant number of finds discovered.

The **Welsh Industrial Archaeology Panel** held its summer meeting at the offices of RCAHMS at Aberystwyth. Discussion centred around draft guidelines for procedures and standards for archaeological investigation on industrial archaeological sites in Wales, prepared by Peter Fasham, Director of the

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. The Panel has been concerned that sites are disappearing rapidly, especially those connected with mining, and the guidelines set out procedures (based on the government's Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning) to enable sites to be recorded and reasoned judgments made about preservation. The procedures relate primarily to land reclamation schemes sponsored by local authorities but are valid for any development or alteration of a site. It is hoped that the guidelines can be finalised by the autumn and circulated to local authorities throughout Wales.
Hilary Malvern

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

Sheffield is celebrating the 250th anniversary of **Benjamin Huntsman's** invention of crucible steelmaking in or around 1742. This was the first steelmaking method to melt the steel and thus produce a material of uniform composition. It was the basis for Sheffield's growth to be the world's largest steel centre in the early nineteenth century, and the origin of a tradition of quality steelmaking that has continued to the present day. Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet has an exhibition about Huntsman until 8 November; a documentary film has been made, and a Benjamin Huntsman Trail is in preparation. In a timely decision, DoE have disallowed an appeal against refusal of consent to demolish the listed crucible steel and file works at **Well Meadow**, Sheffield, and the associated houses.

The RCHME's Air Photography Unit is carrying out a comprehensive survey of the **Yorkshire Dales National Park** to map its thousands of monuments including lead mines and other industrial sites.

English Heritage has used its powers of compulsory entry for the first time since its

formation at **Marrick Smelt Mills** in Swaledale to enable emergency repairs. The mills date from the late sixteenth century and incorporate some of the earliest visible structures of the lead industry in Britain, as well as later features such as eighteenth-century furnace arches and a chimney. The mills were in danger of structural collapse, but masons are now undertaking repairs and consolidation.

Derek Bayliss and David Cant

EAST MIDLANDS

Clay Mills Pumping Station at Burton-upon-Trent is to be repaired with the help of £82,750 from English Heritage. This will meet half the cost of repairs to the Grade II* listed building. The rest will be provided by the owners, Severn-Trent Water. The sewage pumping station was built in 1885 and was in service until the 1970s. There are four Woolf compound beam engines made by Gimsons of Leicester. The Clay Mills Engines Group will lease the buildings and aim to restore the engines and auxiliary machinery to working order.

Bestwood Colliery Winder, in Nottinghamshire, is the subject of a proposed scheme by the Nottinghamshire Historic Buildings Preservation Trust. The twin cylinder vertical steam winder was conserved some time ago with the aid of a PRISM grant, but further funding is required to repair the building and restore the engines to working order.

British Coal has been awarded the first **Leicestershire Archaeological Award** for its support for the investigations at the Lounge opencast mining site (see *Bulletin* 18.4).

The **Great Central Railway** has now been extended southwards from Rothley to Birstall on the outskirts of Leicester, where a new station has been built. Further extension into the city is precluded by the demolition of bridges, embankments and blue brick viaducts which carried the line across the Soar valley. A northerly extension to Ruddington from Loughborough is however under consideration.

The **Ruddington Framework Knitters' Museum Trust** is purchasing the adjacent Old Chapel of 1828/9, which is contemporary with the museum's buildings. It will be used to set the industry in its social and historic context improve the education facilities; areas freed in the existing museum will be returned to their original working use. Fund raising for £150,000 is in progress to cover the purchase and equipping of the chapel.

In **Leicester** a rare survival in Darker Street of a master hosiery's house with adjoining workshops has been listed. Elsewhere the re-use of many late nineteenth-century boot or hosiery factories continues, through selective demolition and adaptation of ground floors to car parks. Examples include the Raven's hosiery factory and the British United Shoe Machinery Company's works, both now business centres, and the Stretton hosiery factory, now building society offices. The former Midland Railway warehouses north of London Road station have had their upper storeys removed and form the base for retail stores in the St George's Centre; the former hydraulic house with accumulator tower in Samuel Street does still remain. On Humberstone Road the listed station building has been sold for a nominal sum for re-erection by the **Shackerstone Railway Society** on their system which serves the battlefield of Bosworth in west Leicestershire. The adjacent Humberstone coal wharf,

with its ranges of sidings served by turntables, has been cleared for an industrial estate.

Peter Neaverson

GREATER LONDON

A canal museum for London at Battlebridge Basin off the Regent's Canal was opened by Princess Anne on 9 March. The museum is housed in a building at 12 New Wharf Road N1 formerly used by Carlo Gatti for the storage of ice in two subterranean wells. This was imported from Norway via the Regent's Canal. Use of the wells declined with mechanical ice-making and they are being cleared of debris for public exhibition. The Museum is open on Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am-4.30pm ☎ 071 713 0836.

At the **Brunel engine house**, Rotherhithe, the top of the chimney used to be wrought iron lined with firebrick and there are plans to restore it, at least in external appearance. When the top was taken off, firebrick and ash were found packed inside the base. Bob Barnes and a colleague have recently cleared out the remaining brick part—a difficult job, old rubble tending to fall on those working below, for whom a protective steel cage was devised.

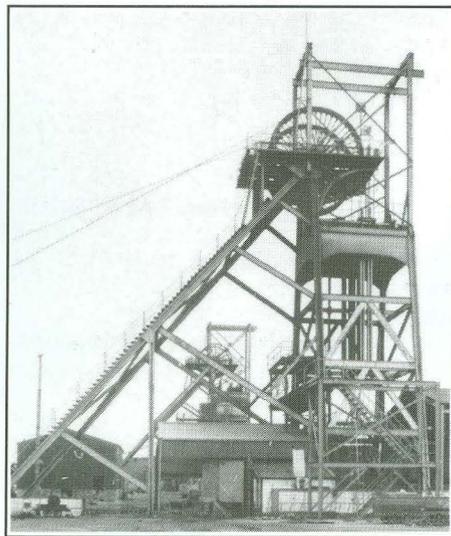
The **Roundhouse** at Chalk Farm has been offered for sale (see *Bulletin* 18.2). No firm bids had been received by the deadline but the owners, the London Borough of Camden, were still hoping for a last minute sale (☎ 071 405 3581). At **Kentish Town** the Midland Railway locomotive depot still has an intact roundhouse in alternative use. **Finsbury Park** depot for diesel locomotives has been demolished.

At **Abbey Mills pumping station**, 'A' Station of 1865-8 by Sir Joseph Bazalgette is unlikely to be knocked down. Listed grade II*, its use for main drainage pumping will probably not last much longer. Its c1935 electric pumps, 'the Daleks', are threatened and worth recording.

The former **East Greenwich fire station** on Tunnel Avenue has been adaptively re-used. Built in 1901 with married quarters at the back it is now the Greenwich Hotel. Further east demolition has been taking place at the former **LCC central tramway depot**, Felltram Way SE7, which opened in 1909. Airfix were a subsequent occupier.

Ship repair has restarted in London. At the yard which was used by Cubow Ltd, to the west of the Woolwich Free Ferry, the vessel **Wear Hopper No.3**, 414 tons, from Sunderland, was on the slipway in June.

Robert Carr



A rare colliery not lost: the 1909 steel girder headframe at Penallta Colliery, S Wales, recorded by RCAHM Wales and listed by Cadw. See right

NEWS

COPPER REVOLUTION

A Bronze Age copper mine discovered on Llandudno's Great Orme has attracted international attention from historians and media. Of unparalleled size for the period, (provisionally dated to 1800BC), the mine will radically alter Bronze Age industrial and commercial history.

Great Orme Mines Ltd are successfully combining archaeology and tourism. Initially, 100,000 tons of spoil were removed to expose prehistoric and nineteenth-century workings. When opened to the public last April, the mine drew 42,000 visitors in its first season. Attractions include exhibited artefacts, an audio-visual presentation, guided tours underground, and interpretation by the resident archaeologist. Excavations continue, assisted by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, largely during the winter months—a useful advantage of being underground. Publication and visitor displays will reflect the revelations the site undoubtedly has still to offer. The mines are open 10am-5.30pm, April to October ☎ 0492 870447. An article will appear in a future issue. *Paul Sillitoe*

CRISIS IN COAL

The crisis in the coal industry has been in the news regularly in recent months. In May, a conference was held to discuss its archaeological and historical implications, organised by the National Association of Mining History Organisations, with support from the AIA and the North West Region IA Panel. Fifty delegates attended, from the national heritage bodies and Royal Commissions, local societies, record offices, planning departments, archaeological units, museums, and British Coal itself.

The obvious conclusion was that closures will proceed inexorably, bringing demolition and loss of documentation. It is vital to act quickly in selecting important sites for preservation or re-use and to protect archives. It was emphasised that British Coal is working in a tough business, with strict financial constraints; but it must also work within the planning process, which is the most positive means for promoting conservation if local authorities can be persuaded to become actively involved. British Coal has no policy whatever on conservation, but does have a policy of complete demolition upon closure. Some sites have been adaptively re-used, but these were mainly closed before the 1985 strike.

The problems of trying to find new futures for so many sites at once are almost insurmountable, but the present range of structures preserved is far from representative, focussed as it is on 'the cult of the prime mover' and omitting preparation plants, waste-heaps, underground machinery, post-war buildings, complete groups, and other features crucial to future interpretation. Paper recording, too, is inadequate, with difficulties of gaining access to sites for recording, and original documents under severe threat. The Royal Commissions are attempting rapid surveys and to find homes for archives, but the task is overwhelming.

The next twelve months or so will be the last chance ever to ensure that an appropriate legacy of the coal industry remains for future generations. The conference proposed approaches from NAMHO to British Coal; but it was seen as vital that individuals and groups should do whatever they can, and raise particular cases with their local authorities and others, if any successes are to be achieved.

NEWS

A NATIONAL SURVEY OF FARMSTEADS

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) will shortly commence a three-year project on historic farmsteads. The project is intended to raise awareness of the historical significance of this seriously threatened class of monument. The Commission will seek to establish a methodology for recording surviving buildings, with an emphasis on recovering information related to the development of farming systems. It is proposed that five areas of the country should

be selected for detailed fieldwork, and that the results should be made available both through the National Monuments Record (NMR) and through publication.

During the survey, RCHME will seek to encourage other individuals and organisations to record farmsteads and, wherever possible, to deposit their records in the NMR. As an initial stage, RCHME would like to establish contact with individuals and organisations who already undertake such recording, in order to compile a register of existing material. Anyone who can help and who wishes to have further details is invited to contact Colum Giles or

Janet Atterbury at RCHME, Shelley House, Acomb Road, York YO2 4HB (☎ 0904 784411; Fax 0904 795348).

GOOD HOME WANTED

Chris Barney, furniture maker and member of the Association, is wishing to dispose of some wood-working machinery: a Wills and Chaplin 22 inch Thicknesser. The date of the machine is unknown, but it is thought to be before the turn of the century. It has been regularly used until recently. Details from Mr Barney, Brook Farm, Birdingbury, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 8EN ☎ 0926 632094.



The condition of this disused farmstead in Northumberland is a stark reflection of the crisis faced by farm buildings. In the foreground is a derelict horse engine house. Photo: RCHME

DIARY

5 September 1992

W G HOSKINS AND THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE

a day school at the University of Oxford Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

5-6 September 1992

FIELD RECORDING TRAINING EXERCISE

at the Innocent Railway near Edinburgh, organised by the Scottish Industrial Heritage Society and led by Graham Douglas of the RCAHM(S). Details from Miriam McDonald, 3 Rosebank, Threemilietown, West Lothian EH69 6NE.

8-9 September 1992

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF GAS PRODUCTION IN BRITAIN

an international conference at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. Offers of papers should be submitted by 1 June this year. Details from Dr Alan Wilson, Museum of Science and Industry, Liverpool Road, Manchester M3 4JP.

11 September 1992

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

a symposium preceding the AIA annual conference in Cheltenham, with sessions concerned with buildings, landscapes, artefacts and adaptive re-use. Details: The Editors, *Industrial Archaeology Review*, Department of History, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH.

11-13 September 1992

AIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR 1992

at Cirencester, with a post conference programme until 16 September. Details were enclosed with the last *Bulletin*.

13-18 September 1992

TICCIH MADRID

the Eighth International Conference on the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, in Madrid. Details from the Secretary of the Congress, Fundacion de los Ferrocarriles Espanoles, Direccion de Programas, Santa Isabel 44, 28012 MADRID, Spain.

13-17 September 1992

SYMPOSIUM ON THE CATALAN FORGE

at Ripoll, Catalonia, Spain. Details from Dr Estanislau Tomas, Secretaria del Simposi, AMCT, Via Laietana 39, 08003 Barcelona, Spain.

3 October 1992

TENTH MILLS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

at Union Mill, Cranbrook, Kent. There may be a series of mill visits arranged on the following day. Details from Tony Bryan, 2A Meadowlands Road, Cambridge CB5 8SA.

16 October 1992

NEW INITIATIVES IN PROTECTING THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

a course at Ironbridge on listing, scheduling and other protective procedures. Details from The Short Course Administrator, The Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW ☎ 0952 432751.

2 November 1992

IN SITU OR IN SHOWCASE: FUTURE POLICIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF INDUSTRIAL ARTEFACTS

a course at the Science Museum, London. Details available as for 16 October.

20 November 1992

MARKETING MUSEUMS

a course at Ironbridge. Details available as for 16 October.

21 November 1992

GOTHIC TILES: MEDIEVAL AND MODERN

a seminar at the British Museum. Details available as for 16 October.

24 November 1992

ARCHAEOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS: PURPOSE AND TECHNIQUES

a course at Ironbridge. Details available as for 16 October.

23-25 April 1993

AIA AFFILIATED SOCIETIES WEEKEND

at Coalbrookdale. Details will be circulated in a future mailing.

10-12 September 1993

AIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR 1993

at Ambleside, Cumbria, with an additional programme 8-10 and 12-14 September. Details will be mailed to members in due course.

Information for the diary should be sent to the Editor as soon as it is available. Dates of mailing and last dates for receipt of copy are given below. Items will normally appear in successive issues up to the date of the event.

AIA Bulletin

ISSN 0309-0051

Editor: Peter Wakelin

Designer: John Stengelhofen

Edited from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Castle Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 3HR, and published by the Association for Industrial Archaeology. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, Dr Peter Wakelin, at the above address. Local news and press releases should be sent to the appropriate AIA Regional Correspondents, names and addresses for whom are given regularly on this page. The editor may also be contacted on 0222 465511 extension 269 or 0222 377953. A fax is available on 0222 450859.

Final copy dates currently are as follows:

30 September for November mailing

30 December for February mailing

30 March for May mailing

30 June for August mailing

The AIA was established in 1973 to promote the study of Industrial Archaeology and encourage improved standards of recording, research, conservation and publication. It aims to assist and support regional and specialist survey and research groups and bodies involved in the preservation of industrial monuments, to represent the interests of Industrial Archaeology at national level, to hold conferences and seminars and to publish the results of research. Further details may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Association for Industrial Archaeology, The Wharfage, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7AW, England ☎ 095243 3522.

The views expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of the Association for Industrial Archaeology.