



March 2023

Dear Member

**AIA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and Seminar,  
1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the University of Bath**

This year the Association is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and your Council has decided that the 2023 conference should celebrate not only the achievements of the Association over the past half century but also the spread of Industrial Archaeology to other parts of the world. To this end several speakers of international renown have agreed to contribute lectures on the Saturday morning programme in tribute to AIA, (see the attached intended programme). The seminar on Friday, in contrast, will consider the work currently being done by our younger members.

The conference proper will commence on Friday evening with a welcome drink courtesy of the President Marilyn Palmer and her husband Michael Upstone. There will also be a display of the past AIA publications. Delegates are invited to bring relevant photographs and other memorabilia to share memories with others.

In place of the traditional Rolt Lecture after the AGM on Sunday morning, we will be celebrating the achievements of the late Angus and Brenda Buchanan. It is also hoped that conference attendees will be shown a representative sample of the archive material of the Buchanans, George Watkins and others held at the University.

Both the seminar and the conference will be hybrid, allowing those members unable to attend to access the presentations. However, it is hoped that members will take this opportunity, after a break of three years, to attend in person to renew old friendships and form new ones.

There will be a room with tables for the display of books for sale and for other displays. Those wishing for table space should indicate their requirements on the booking form and make a request in writing to me as Conference Secretary.

Following the conclusion of the formal conference, from lunch time on Sunday Council members Michael Messenger and Geoff Wallis have prepared an exciting programme of visits to local places of interest, starting with a visit to the Museum of Bath at Work, which includes a reception courtesy of our Chairman David Perrett and his wife Olwen. An outline programme of the whole conference is attached to this letter.

As is usual there will be an opportunity for members to make short contributions, *on Sunday evening*, and an early notification from delegates who wish to make such contributions would be helpful, and they will be taken on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to give a presentation should **write or email to me** giving the

title of the presentation and brief details. My address and email is at the bottom of this page.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday there will be a choice of coach trips to sites of local IA interest. The attached notes will assist delegates in making their choices. On Monday evening there will be a talk on the history of Clifton Suspension Bridge by Julia Elton and by the Bridgemaster, Trish Johnson. On Tuesday Shane Gould will give a talk on Radstock and the Somerset Coalfield.

Delegates must be aware that under the current conditions there may have to be changes to the programme.

The campus at the University is large but it is anticipated that the facilities we shall use are not too far apart. The University offers three classes of modern accommodation: single, double or twin. While I have not been able to see inside these rooms, I have little doubt that they are of a high standard. The Association has reserved a certain number of rooms. Places will therefore be allocated strictly on a first come first served basis. Once all the reserved places have been allocated it may not be possible to accept further residential places. For this reason, **early booking is strongly advised.**

If you need help with the cost, there is some money available courtesy of a legacy from the late Patrick Nott, which allows a 50% discount, up to a maximum of £500, on the conference fee. It is available to anyone from the UK or Ireland attending the 2023 conference, but the total sum available is limited so applications will be processed on a first-come first-served basis. You should email a copy of your booking form to the Hon Secretary at [secretary@industrial-archaeology.org](mailto:secretary@industrial-archaeology.org) with a brief explanation of why you are seeking the discount. You will be informed about the result, and if your request is approved your application will be forwarded to Michael Messenger so that your place can be booked. He will then contact you to request the reduced amount to pay. If the application is from a couple, only one person will be eligible for the discount. The Council's decision is final.

**Delegates are requested and strongly advised to have been vaccinated for Corona virus.**

**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. In deciding which tours to apply for, delegates must consider their agility, etc. The Association reserves the right to refuse to admit delegates should it consider 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 letter and an online conference booking form and associated information is available on the AIA website at <http://industrial-archaeology.org/conferences/service001/>.**

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(Conference Secretary)

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