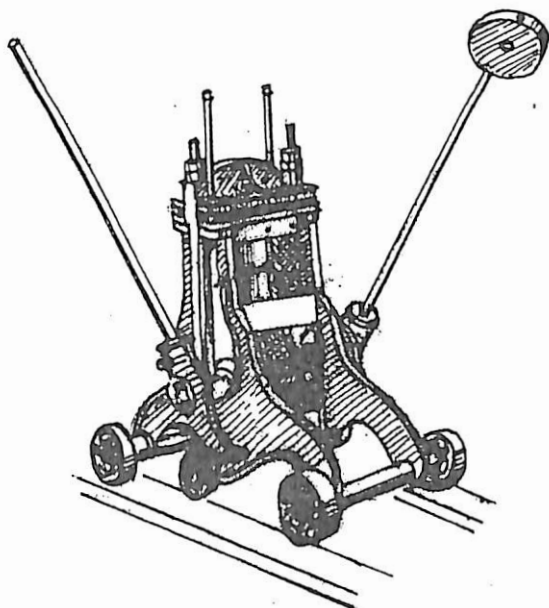




SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No 125

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HAND OPERATED TILE PRESS
at AMBERLEY WORKING MUSEUM

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SIAS PROGRAMME TO 23rd APRIL 2005. Pat Bracher

Tuesday 8th February, 7.30pm at East Pallant House, Chichester. Annual joint meeting with Chichester Museum Society. A talk by Gary Wragg, '*The Making of Milestones*', the creation of street scenes in Hampshire's living history museum.
Contact Chris Bryan, 01243 773158.

Saturday 19th March, 7.30pm at West Blatchington Mill Barn. A talk by Martin Hayes, '*Pictures of the Past in West Sussex*'.
Contact Peter Hill, 01273 776017

Saturday 23rd April, SERIAC conference organised this year by Surrey Industrial History Group at Chertsey Hall with an evening visit to Kempton Park Pumping Station. For further details contact Bob Allen 01323 896724.

FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS Malcolm Dawes

It is intended to expand this list in future *Newsletters* but it is up to you to let me know of events organised by other societies which may be of interest to our members. If you have any details please send these to Malcolm Dawes, 52 Rugby Road, Brighton, BN1 6EB or

malcolm.dawes@btinternet.com

Saturday 8th April at Sevenoaks Community Centre a conference entitled *Historic Houses in Kent*. Tickets (£4.00) from CKA 7, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8HP. Cheques payable to CKA with a SAE.
www.the-cka@fsnet.co.uk

Friday 11th February at Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton at 7.30 pm Mark Lawrence of Wessex Archaeology on *Wrecks on the Seabed*.

Saturday 19th February at Barbican House, Lewes, at 2.30 pm Friends of East Sussex Record Office seminar by Dr. Annabelle Hughes on *House History and Archives*.

Sunday 3rd April in the car park at Michelham Priory a display of stationary engines.

PUMP HOUSE AT WORTH PARK, CRAWLEY

Ron Martin

A survey is currently being carried out of the Pump House at the former Worth Park Estate in Crawley. This was built by the Montefiores, a prominent 19th century Jewish family, the most well known of them being Sir Moses Montefiore who was a stockbroker and a great advocate of Jews and member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The mansion was built in 1856 and demolished in the 1950s but many of the estate buildings of 1882 still survive. These include the stable block, a model laundry, the manager's house and workers' cottages as well as the waterworks. The pump house was built over the top of the well and has an adjacent underground storage tank and filter bed.

Looking at buildings as I do, I frequently find strange anomalies and this building is no exception. The first odd thing I noticed here was that the lower part of the walls was of solid brickwork 9" thick in Flemish bond and the upper part was of cavity work 11" thick in stretcher bond, oversailing the lower part by 1" on each side. The character of the brickwork also indicates that the work was of two different dates.

The second odd feature was that the casement windows appear to have been reduced from larger units, the transoms and window heads having the horizontal mouldings continuous and vertically cut off at the outsides of the jambs suggesting that they had apparently been recycled. However, considering the quality of the work in general on the estate, the use of second hand materials from some other source seems unlikely. The most plausible explanation of this is that the original building of 1882 was a fully glazed glasshouse type structure. On rebuilding some twenty years later, the glazed sides were cut down and reused as conventional windows.

It is hoped that a full description of this building will be included in a future issue of *Sussex Industrial History*.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004 Ron Martin

The 27th. AGM of the Society was held on Saturday, 28th November At West Blatchington Mill Barn. The Chairman, John Blackwell reported that this has been a steady but quiet year. The Winter lectures were, on the whole, well supported, apart from the one in Worthing. Visits this year have been made to Newhaven, Lewes and Baynards Station and Powdermill Gunpowder sites, the last two being very badly attended. A barge trip on the Wey and Arun Canal was most enjoyable, followed by a visit to the recently rebuilt scoop wheel at Orfold Lock. Disappointing progress has been made on the *Field Guide* partly due to the resignation one of the editors. The recording of IA sites is slow but there has been interest from a few towns, although as yet, no record sheets have been forthcoming. There has been no further progress on the database for the Society's records.

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary presented the annual accounts and commented that the expenses were high due to the fact that the cost of two issues on *SIH* were included in the current year's accounts. The total membership at 01.10.03 stood at 386, an increase of two from the previous year.

The Editor, Brian Austen gave his report on writing and commented that *SIH Issue 34*, the 2004 edition had been published in October, being a 40 page edition.. There are no articles yet available for *SIH 35*, although several have been promised. Publication at an earlier date is anticipated subject to the material being available. John Norris who have previously typeset *SIH* has declined to continue and Alan Durden has offered to do this in future, for which we are very grateful.

Peter Hill, Chairman of the Mills Group, gave his report in writing on the activities of the Mills Group. The *Newsletter* had been greatly improved and is now normally a 20 page edition. He commented on the many successful open days held at various mills. The Group had also organised a very well attended visit to mills in Hampshire and one to several mills in Sussex. The 'Get together' meeting in Uckfield was preceded by a visit to Hempstead Mill. Restoration work had been carried out at Halnaker, Barnham, Polegate and High Salvington Windmills and at Michelham Watermill . The buck of Windmill Hill has been repaired and replaced and the steps and tail pole fitted. A Mills Group web site has now been set up - www.sussexmillsgroup.org.uk.

The sale of souvenir items has been most successful. A revised pamphlet of mills open to the public is to be prepared for next year.

Robin Wilson reported in writing that at the Coultershaw Beam Pump there has been a successful year with an decrease of 12% on visitor number but a 19 % increase on income from the previous year, with Bank Holidays contributing to 25% of the income. The Working Party in March was well attended and there had been several visits by parties. The Project Proposals for the Coultershaw Heritage Site had been drafted and an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is to be made shortly. A visit from an English Heritage inspector has been made.

Tony Baxter reported that at the Swanbourne Pumphouse, there has been a disappointing year as work being carried out by Southern Water caused the closure of the fish pond which resulted in the site being closed during July and August.

Ted Henbery reported that at Ifield Mill the means of controlling the water supply is to be addressed. The water wheel will need to be rebuilt shortly with steel boards at an estimated cost of £25,000. The outside of the mill has been repainted and part of the top floor has been opened to visitors.

Chris Bryan reported that the Poyntz Bridge Group had replaced some of the bridge decking and repainted the ironwork. Several sites on the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal have been investigated included Casher and Dudley Bridges, with resistivity surveys being carried out at four bridge sites and at the Ford Lock. Guided walks along the course of the canal took place in July and October.

Ron Martin reported that he has carried out surveys of the down-draught kilns at Pitsham Brickworks, Balcombe Road Forge, and the Horsham ROC 2 Group HQ in Horsham, the last having since been demolished. He had also carried out recording at Wealden Brickworks, the former Spirogill's factory in Pulborough and Brighton Municipal. Market. Efforts to get permission to survey Bishopstone Station have been thwarted by Southern Railway.

The election of the principal Officers and Committee took place and these are listed on the back page of this *Newsletter*.

After the AGM Howard Stenning, the Director of the Amberley Working Museum gave a fascinating talk on the first 25 years of the Museum, describing its conception and development from the early days. The diversity of different trades and industries portrayed on the site was paramount ranging from limekilns, broom making, woodworking tools, narrow gauge industrial railways and road transport exhibits. Recent developments have been the new restaurant, the electrical display building, from the former Milne Museum, the Connected Earth museum sponsored by BT and the Railway Shed. Future work will include the Fire Station.

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COULTERSHAW UPDATE

Robin Wilson

In 2005 Coultershaw will celebrate 25 years of operation since its restoration by members of the Society. An Open Evening is planned for 6pm-8pm on Wednesday 3rd July. All members of the Society are invited. Come and see the pump working and enjoy a glass of wine. Admittance free but donations welcome!

2004 was a year of mixed fortunes. Visitors were discouraged by the weather: no less than six Open Days were cold and wet including one Bank Holiday. On another day the road was closed and no visitors called for three hours following a serious accident south of Petworth. The total number of visitors (891) was 12% less than in 2003.

The financial out turn for the year was satisfactory. Following the increase in admission charges (from £1.00 to £1.50) overall takings from visitors were up 19% to £1460. The surplus of income over expenditure was £3199 (£120 in 2003). The outturn was greatly helped by an anonymous donation of £2000, which was given towards the cost of restoration of the engine house.

The Coultershaw Trust is making an application for a Project Planning Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The grant will be towards the cost (max 90%) of developing a Conservation Management Plan for the Coultershaw Heritage Site. The proposals include the refurbishment of the visitor centre (including provision of toilets), the repair and restoration of the sluices, the engine house and the four warehouses, the improvement of access (including access for the disabled), a landscape plan, a site interpretation plan and a visitor attraction plan.

On completion of a satisfactory Conservation Management Plan, application will be made for a Capital Grant towards the cost of the work. The Trust has the support of the Leconfield Estate, the Environmental Agency, the Chichester District Council and the Rother Valley Project.

Special visitors last year included the Newcomen Society, Alan Oxford, son of Brian Oxford the last manager of the Coultershaw Mill and two swans who could not get out of the old mill wheel pit. The swans were

thought to have been there for three days and were fed on Michael Palmer's sandwiches until rescued by the fire service.

We have been pleased to welcome Mick Ball, Laurence Newman, Ken Austin and Dave Challis as new Stewards. More Stewards are needed: first or third Sundays in the month and Bank Holiday Mondays April to September, whole or half days; contact Robin Wilson 01798 865 774

The pump has continued to perform well throughout the summer. Winter maintenance includes the replacement of wedges, 5 paddles and 3 boards. At the end of 2005 it will be necessary to replace 2 or 3 starts. Work to reduce the risk of identified hazards is in hand. The SIAS Working Party to prepare the pump for opening will be on Sunday 13th March 2005 from 10.00 am. All are welcome.

BAYNARDS RAILWAY STATION VISIT Robin Jones

Although just over the county border in Surrey, I arranged a visit to the magnificently restored railway station at Baynards on Saturday October 9th 2004. Nineteen members had indicated they wished to visit the station, but only ten members turned up. We were greeted by Fraser Clayton and Linda, the owners of the station, which has been restored to the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway period. We were invited to look around the station, which was almost complete as it would have been in BR days, except between the platforms there was a grassed area instead of tracks and the signal box that was located to the south end of the down platform was longer there. Having briefly looked round the buildings, we met at the waiting shelter on the down platform where we heard about the history of the Horsham to Guildford railway line on which Baynards is located, and the work that was carried out in restoring the station. Two photograph albums were made available, one with some early photographs of the stations and trains that used to operate on the line and the second showed photographs taken during the restoration of the station buildings. Also the Middleton Press book *Branch Lines to Horsham* could be studied, which gives further photographs and a detailed history of the line. Also in the waiting shelter there were a few exhibits including some chairs used to hold lengths of track to sleepers. Enamel signs and early posters were displayed in various places on the station buildings. The main station building on the up platform has now been converted into the home of the owners.

Fraser has also an interesting collection of historic vehicles and on view outside next to the up station building members were able to inspect the AEC Mammoth Major Mk. III lorry as well as an RAF open truck nearing the completion of its restoration. In the goods shed at the north end of the up platform was a former London Transport Leyland RTW 185 double-decker bus, a 1939 Harrington dorsal fin-bodied Leyland Cheetah coach and an early Wolseley car. The Leyland Cheetah coach has attended many bus rallies recently and it was interesting to see this vehicle again as the body was made at the famous Harrington works in Hove. The goods shed also serves as a workshop and there is an interesting crane in place, which would have originally been used to transfer goods from wagons in the early days of the railway.

After refreshments of tea and biscuits were served in the waiting shelter on the completion of visit, John Blackwell gave a vote of thanks to Fraser and Linda for an enjoyable and interesting visit to Baynards Railway Station.

SERIAC 2005

Bob Allen

The South East Region Industrial Archaeology Conference will be held on Saturday 23rd April in Chertsey Hall, Chertsey, Surrey. The host this year is the Surrey Industrial History Group.

The theme this year is the popular theme of transport with subjects ranging from buses and cars to trams, trains and planes.

Apart from the books and displays from the contributing societies there will be stands from other industrial history organisations.

Early booking is advised as the accommodation is limited. Lunch may be purchased at the hall. After the conference there will be an opportunity to see the huge steam pumping engines at Kempton Park Waterworks.

A leaflet about the conference and booking form is enclosed with this *Newsletter*. Extra booking forms may be obtained from Bob Allen.

THE SERIAC BURSARY

Ron Martin

Members are reminded that a bursary of £250 is being offered by the organisers of SERIAC for work in recording, publishing or restoration of IA sites within our area. Application is to be made to me by the date of the next SERIAC Conference, on 23rd April, 2005.

POYNTZ SWING BRIDGE AND OTHER CANAL WORK

Chris Bryan

During the summer an inspection revealed that some of the deck planks were so rotten that the bridge was unsafe for public access. With the bridge due to be open for Heritage Open Days 2004 (HODs) within a couple of months some work was necessary. Fortunately with the help of Gerry Nutbeem some new timber to replace the rotten ones was kindly donated by Covers Timber Merchants of Chichester, and were duly replaced in time for HODs . At the same time the opportunity was taken to repaint the bridge railings. Even with a team of four or five it still seemed like painting the Forth Bridge. The railings are now finished to a far higher standard than when the bridge was originally restored. During 2005 some more deck planks will have to be replaced and perhaps the bridge side members repainted. The HODs in September produced lots of interested visitors.

Work in the last few months has been carried out at two other swing bridge sites on the Chichester section of the Canal. At the Casher Bridge site within the Chichester Marina it is a matter of keeping undergrowth cut down and the centre section of the bridge is on display. At Dudley Bridge, between Birdham and Donnington access was granted across private land and enabled us to clear undergrowth and find three counterbalance weights. Digging a small trench found that the counterbalance end coping stones are buried and still in position. A site for future work.

Geophysical surveys have been carried out at four swing bridge sites and at Ford Lock. This is thanks to Ian Allison of Worthing Archaeological Society who used their soil resistivity equipment. The results of the surveys have been published on the Internet.

Interpretation boards, paid for by the Society, have been set up at three locations so far and two more to set up shortly. The one at Ford Lock became peripatetic and turned up in Arundel. It was recovered intact via Amberley Museum with help from Bob Allen.

Several pieces of cast iron that were part of the Hollinsworth Swing Bridge at Barnham Court Farm have been laid out in an appropriate manner on a steel beam. They have now been top coated from primer

with paint donated by Brewers (decorators merchants). A colour match to red lead was aimed for as this was the only paint found on the metal during conservation.

DALEK INVADES BREDE WATERWORKS

Bob Allen

One of the redundant electrically driven well pumps from Balsdean near Brighton has been dismantled and is awaiting rebuilding as a major exhibit for the Brede Steam Engine Society at Brede Waterworks. Its rounded top with ventilators and conical shape reminds visitors of the fictional characters from television, the difference being that this monster is 16 ft high and 9 ft in diameter at the base. It will join the collection of water heritage equipment in the boiler house at the waterworks.

The boiler house doors are too small to admit any form of crane and the roof trusses too weak to support a pulley system, so for details of how the components, each weighing several tons are to be got into the building prior to reassembly, watch this space! I strongly suspect that magic or occult powers may be invoked again. You only have to see the other exhibits in the boiler house to see what I mean!

The water heritage collection including the two magnificent triple expansion steam pumping engines are on public display on the first Saturday of each month and on Bank Holiday Mondays from 10.00 am.

The front cover of this *Newsletter* has a drawing of what is reputed to be a hand operated tile press. This might well have been used to help produce the many special tiles which were used in the refurbishment of Hampton Court, some of which are included in the display.

At the time of writing the brick displays are covered by sheets of ice and snow and have festively clad penguins clambering over them as the display has become *Santa's Grotto* for the season. After Christmas the restoration to an exhibition of Sussex bricks and associated equipment will start.

Many of the areas of the Museum have their own teams or working groups to maintain them. The Railway Group, Bus Garage, and Telephone Engineering Group are examples. Unfortunately with the decline of the brick industry in Sussex no such group of ex workers exists to maintain and improve the brick displays.

As mentioned in the last *Newsletter* it is the intention of the SIAS to tidy and rationalise the displays and carry out some research into some structure which have been revealed in the surrounding area. Working parties will take place from 10.00 am on consecutive Mondays starting 10th January during the period when the Museum is normally closed in order to carry out this work. No previous knowledge or skill is necessary, just bring along some working clothes and a sense of humour. Also if you intend to stay for more than a couple of hours some sandwiches will be needed as the restaurant will be closed.

In order to advise you of any cancellations due to weather or other circumstances please inform Ron Martin or Bob Allen (contact details on the back page) if you would like to join us.



The picture shows a fireback cast by Richard Leonard at Brede furnace, in 1636. It is curious in having a representation of the founder, with his dog and caps, a drawing of the furnace with the wheelbarrow and other implements for casting and in a shield, the pincers and other marks of the blacksmith. Lawrence Leonard died in 1605, tenant of the Sackville furnace at Little Udimore which is locally surrounded by Brede, leaving three sons and three daughters, all minors. Richard the eldest, succeeded his father in the works. He lived at Little Udimore, but his children were baptised at Brede. At Udimore and Brede the name remained till the end of the seventeenth century.

Source : Sussex Archaeological Collections Vol XII page 270

The Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society

registered Charity No. 267158

Officers

President	Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, Home Farm, Heron's Ghyll, Uckfield		
Chairman	J. S. F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton,	BN1 6JR	01273 557674
Vice-Chairman	Brig. A. E. Baxter, 9 Madeira Avenue, Worthing,	BN11 2AT	01903 201002
General Sec	R. G. Martin, 42 Falmer Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton,	BN2 8FG	01273 271330
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	P.J. Holtham, 12 St Helens Crescent, Hove,	BN3 8EP	01273 413790
Chief Editor	B. Austen, 1 Mercedes Cottages, St. Johns Road, Haywards Heath	RH16 4EH	01444 413845
Newsletter Editor	R. E. Allen, 7 Heathfield Road, Seaford,	BN25 1TH	01323 896724
Archivist	P. J. Holtham		
Programme Coordinator:	Mrs P.M. Bracher, 2 Hayes Close, Ringmer, Lewes,	BN8 5HN	01273 813902
Area Secretaries			
Eastern Area	R. F. Jones, 3 Nutley Mill Road, Stone Cross, Pevensey,	BN24 5PD	01323 760595
Western Area	Brig. A. E. Baxter, 9 Madeira Avenue., Worthing,	BN11 2AT	01903 201002
Central Area	J. S. F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton,	BN1 6JR	01273 557674
Northern Area	E. W. Henbery, MBE, 10 Mole Close, Langley Green, Crawley,	RH11 7PN	01293 406132

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

C. Bryan, M.H.Dawes, Mrs D. Durden, C.C. Hawkins, P.J. Hill, R.M. Palmer, Claire Seymour, R.L. Wilson.

Visit our web site : www.sussexias.co.uk

Latest copy for the January *Newsletter* is 14th March. Copy for the Newsletter should be sent to:

R.E. Allen, 7 Heathfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1TH, 01323 896724

e-mail footprints@tesco.net

(Copy for the Mills Group section should be sent to the editor of the Mills Group Newsletter, R.F. Jones, whose address is above.)