

SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Circular, January, 1973

At the A.G.M. held at Southover Grange, Lewes, on 1st December, 1972, various changes were approved by the Meeting. In order to keep members in touch with what is happening this Circular is being sent to all members.

OFFICERS G. P. Burstow, who had been the Group's Chairman since its inception in 1968, and had also acted as Treasurer since 1971, expressed a wish to relinquish the Chairmanship in favour of someone with more industrial experience. His resignation was accepted with regret and with sincere thanks for his past services. W.R. Beswick was elected as Chairman in his place.

Mr. Burstow had indicated his willingness to continue as Treasurer and he was re-elected to this office.

E. J. Upton, also expressed his wish to resign as General Secretary owing to heavy pressure from other commitments in the future. In accepting his resignation the Chairman stressed the hardwork and efficiency that Mr. Upton had shown during his tenure of office and thanked him for his services. A. J. Haselfoot was then elected as General Secretary.

H. A. Gordon was elected as East Sussex Secretary and J. A. Hoare was re-elected as Vice-Chairman. J. Farrant was re-elected as Editor of "Sussex Industrial History".

The Committee was re-elected en-bloc, Mr. Upton being elected to the vacant place resulting from Mr. Haselfoot's election as General Secretary.

NAME A Resolution was moved, and unanimously approved, that the name of the Group should be changed to the "Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society", as the previous name was considered to be rather unwieldly and, by now, inappropriate.

Under the new name our Society continues to bring together all those concerned to establish a permanent record of the County's Industrial Past. We shall encourage the preservation of industrial monuments and objects wherever practicable.

Compared to the highly industrialised areas of North and Central Britain, our task in Sussex is made lighter because the tide of the Industrial Revolution ebbed early here, and in consequence buildings and industrial sites still remain which elsewhere would have been re-built many times.

What we lack in volume of past industrial activity can provide us with time to study in depth such relics as remain; in this sense we can serve our County well by going right back to the earliest time of an industry's beginning and putting together the whole story right up to what remains. In this way too, we can offer a contribution from our industrial expertise to our contemporaries who are working in the field of straight archaeology, just as they have been very ready to help us on a number of occasions.

The issue of private interim, and published final reports is our aim, and since the pattern and techniques of an industry spread wide across County Boundaries, the Society also has the task of liason with other Area and National Bodies pursuing the same objectives.

FIELD MEETINGS Although there have not been any visits to places of general interest during the past year some of the specialised sections have held field meetings. A visit to Nutley post-mill, organised by F. W. Gregory, was well attended in spite of bad weather, and our Rushlake Green Area Group arranged a meeting to inspect Tudor blast furnace and forge sites, in which they were joined by some members of the Wealden Iron Research Group.

During 1971, A. C. Booth made a survey of the Heathfield natural gas drillings, including the background of the undertaking concerned. A report was subsequently published in the Robertsbridge Society's Journal, Recollege Papers, Vol:4, No.2.

Tentative arrangements are now being made for visits in 1973, possibly starting with a visit to Nutley Mill in June, with F. W. Gregory as guide,

a visit to Southwick "A" Power Station at Brighton is also a possibility, A programme of meetings and lectures for the Winter of 1973/4 is also envisaged.

It would be a great help if members could indicate whether Saturdays are the only suitable time for visits, or whether some mid-week visits, possibly on summer evenings would be acceptable. Please write to the Secretary and let him know your preferences.

WORKING PARTIES These took place throughout the year at Batemans Watermill, Burwash, and will continue through 1973. The major project is proceeding well and members are reminded that there is a need for workers who can undertake straightforward but neat carpentry,

Members continued their investigations of a complete iron-making complex of late Romano-British, and possibly early Saxon date at Turners Green.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS In compiling a list of members it is a great help to know people's particular fields of interest, and also any special skills or qualifications they may possess. The following classification of interests has been found useful.

1. Natural Power. - Wind, water, human and animal.
2. Fuel Power and Public Utilities.
3. Tollhouses and Milestones.
4. Railway Architecture. - Stations, bridges, tunnels, etc.
5. Malshouses, icehouses, warehouses and other industrial buildings.
6. Breweries.
7. Kilns. - Brick, pottery and lime-burning kilns.
8. Ports and harbour installations.
9. Brighton and Hove. (Now threatened by arterial road extensions)
10. Canals and water transport. - Lock, aqueducts, bridges, etc.
11. Iron-making sites. - Furnaces, forges and hammer-ponds.

If you have not already done so, please let the Secretary know your particular interests. Also, any special skills or qualifications; e.g. surveying, map-making, photography, illustrating.

COURSES IN INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY The Scottish Field Studies Association is running a course on "Industrial Archaeology" at their Field Centre at Kindrogan, Perthshire, from 8th-15th August. A. J. Haselfoot attended this course last year and found it useful and interesting.

Other courses with an I.A. content are also being run by the Field Studies Council at Flatford Mill, Essex, on "Photography and Industrial Archaeology", from 18th-25th April, and at Preston Montford, near Shrewsbury, on "Industrial Shropshire" from 4th-8th August. Details of these three courses can be obtained from the Secretary.

Finally, remember that the Society urgently needs a Secretary for West Sussex and a Programme/Meetings Secretary. It is not possible for the General Secretary to deal efficiently with both these aspects in addition to his ordinary duties. He needs help. Suggestions and names of volunteers please, on an urgent basis.

W. R. Beswick. Chairman
A. J. Haselfoot. Secretary.

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