

SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Circular April 1973

The main item of interest is the programme of visits for this summer which has been arranged by Hugh Gordon. These are as follows:-

APRIL 28th
Saturday
Morning

BLUEBELL LINE. Meet at car park at Sheffield Park Station at 11.00 a.m. Mr. Holden, the Supervisor, hopes to be able to meet us and tell us something about the history and operation of the line. There is an interesting collection of locomotives and carriages and a museum of railway relics. A train to Horsted Keynes leaves 11.40 which gets back to Sheffield Park at 12.28. For parties of 12 or more the return fare is 30p instead of the normal 50p. Car park - 5p, entrance to the engine sheds - 5p.

MAY 30th
Wednesday
Evening

ROYAL GREENWICH OBSERVATORY, Herstmonceux Castle. Meet at main gate at 6.30 p.m. Our member, P.S. Laurie, who is a senior astronomer on the staff, will meet us and show us round. PARTY LIMITED TO 10 PERSONS.

JUNE 20th
Wednesday
Evening

NUTLEY WINDMILL. Meet at mill at 7.00 p.m. Our member, F.W. Gregory, will meet us and show us round. Cars park in the forest a little way East of the mill, at Grid Reference TQ455289, from which there is a short footpath to the mill. There will be a charge of 10p per head. The new sweeps for the mill have to be paid for!

JULY 14th
Saturday
All Day

WEY AND ARUN CANAL, Southern Section, all parts of which lie in Sussex. Meet at 11.30 a.m. Details of assembly point, car parking etc. will be notified.

AUGUST 24th
Friday
Evening

BRIGHTON "A" POWER STATION. Meet at main entrance to the "A" Station at 7.30 p.m. PARTY LIMITED TO 30 PERSONS.

SEPTEMBER 8th
Saturday
Afternoon

ROYAL GREENWICH OBSERVATORY (Second visit). Mr. Laurie will again meet us and show us round. Time and place of assembly will be notified. PARTY LIMITED TO 12 PERSONS.

SEPTEMBER 22nd
Saturday
All day

INDUSTRIAL LEWES. There are many sites of interest still to be seen which illustrate the industrial history of Lewes which was an important part on the River Ouse. Details will be notified later.

As it is necessary for the number of visitors to be known in advance in some cases, and as the number of visitors to the Royal Greenwich Observatory is strictly limited, tear-off slips for the visits are attached which must be returned by the date indicated. If either date for the visit to the Observatory is suitable please indicate this. We will try and satisfy everybody but the rule must be - "first come, first served". Members will be notified if there is a place for them, and on which day. For the visit to the Wey and Arun Canal details of assembly, car parking etc. will be notified to all those who send in the appropriate slip. Details for the September visits will be given in the next Circular which will be sent out at the end of July. It will be noted that the programme comprises some week-end visits and some week-day evening ones. We hope that this mixture will be generally acceptable.

WEST SUSSEX. We welcome a new member, Mr. Elwyn Lewis, who has kindly volunteered for the position of West Sussex Secretary. His address is: 4A, Guildhall Street, Chichester.

The Sussex Rural Community Council is holding a Local History Conference at the Chichester Assembly Rooms on 28th April at 2.00 p.m. Brian Austen is giving a talk on the work of our Society and our members have been invited to attend. Entry 20p. Programmes are available by post from the Secretary (s.a.e. please) or at the Bluebell Line visit in the morning of 28th April.

GOLDSTONE. Members may have seen in the Evening Argus recently that a Mr. Jonathan Minns has taken a lease of the Goldstone Pumping Station and hopes to preserve the old beam-engines, possibly getting the No. 2 engine under steam again. Although he is still negotiating for the lease the news is very welcome to the Society, who have been pressing for the preservation of the beam-engines, and we are getting in touch with Mr. Minns to see how we can best co-operate in this venture.

HASTINGS. Some members may have seen a notice in the local press that the old water-balance lift on the East Hill at Hastings was to be electrified. I have learnt from Mr. Walker, the Borough Water Engineer, that the position is not as bad as would appear. The main difficulty with the present operation of the lift is that the safety of passengers depends entirely on the driver at the top station, who has to apply the brake at the correct time to stop the lift and prevent it crashing into the buffers. As this is a seasonal job, a new operator may have to be trained each year. To increase the security the following alteration will be made. The water-balance feature will be retained as the main driving agent but a small auxiliary electrical drive will be fitted as well. This can be used for dynamic braking, operated by limit switches, and the same switches can be used to apply the main holding brake electrically instead of by hand as at present. The electric drive can also be used to assist starting which has sometimes been found difficult on the first journey of the day with a full ascending car and an empty descending one.

SITE RECORDS. Many members would probably like to be more actively engaged in the Society's work but have not the time or facilities to undertake a detailed site survey and fill in a Record Card. Any one who knows of objects or sites of industrial archaeological interest which have not been reported on can send in details to the Secretary who will try and arrange for a detailed survey to be carried out with a view to completing a Record Card for the National Record of Industrial Monuments. The minimum information needed by the Secretary is:- type of object or site, Grid Reference, means of access, and owner of site. Any further information, such as state of repair, possibility of demolition, or history of the site will be welcome.

KENT WINDMILLS. Mr. D.G. Jones has now published a map of Kent Windmills in the same format as the map of Sussex windmills which has been available for some years now. The new map shows the 29 windmills of Kent of which substantial remains still stand, and indicates the type of mill and how many sweeps or sails are still in existence on each mill. The map of Kent windmills is available by post from D.G. Jones, 22 Manor Road, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, Sussex, at a price of 10p, including postage. Copies of the map of Sussex windmills are still obtainable by post at the same price from the same address, or personally, at 8p each, from Polegate Windmill or the Open Air Museum, Singleton, Nr. Chichester.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION. Any members visiting the North Somerset district, where there is much of interest to see on the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Somerset Coal Canal, may like to know that Miss M.C. Barraclough has a holiday cottage to let at 2, Upper Pitching, Chilcompton, BATH. The cottage will sleep 5, and the rent is £15 p.w. April 7th - June 9th and September 8th - October 6th; £20 p.w. June 9th - September 8th. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary.

The Secretary will be away from home from June 14th to July 14th. During this period letters requiring an answer should be addressed to W.R. Beswick, Turners House, Turners Green, Heathfield.

A. J. Haselfoot,
Secretary.