

Circular. August 1973.

Visits. On 28th April 11 members with their friends and families paid a visit to the Bluebell Line where we were received and shown round by Mr. Whitfield, one of the Directors. In the loco-sheds at Sheffield Park Station we saw, amongst others, the oldest locomotive on the line, Fenchurch now 100 years old, which had just been fully restored to working order, and also the largest, a recently acquired Bulleid locomotive of about 1930. After travelling to Horsted Keynes on the railway we were able to see the carriage sheds, not normally open to the public, where many old carriages, both wooden and steel ones, are being renovated and repainted in their original livery. Our thanks are due to the Bluebell Railway Company for the trouble they took in making our visit so pleasant and informative.

On a fine Wednesday evening, May 30th, 10 members went to the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux where they were met by Philip Laurie, also an S.I.A.S. member, and taken on a conducted tour of the Castle and Observatory. Mr. Laurie, with his encyclopaedic knowledge both of the Castle and its history and of the work and history of the Observatory, made this a memorable evening which included a visit to the large Equatorial Group and the Solar Department which is Mr. Laurie's own special province.

On Wednesday evening, 20th June, about a dozen members were shown over Nutley Windmill by Frank Gregory, one of the team who have restored this mill to working order from its previous derelict, almost tumble-down condition. The evening was fine, after a rainy day, and it was good to see the oldest post-mill in Sussex once more turning and to know that it had now ground grain again after so many years. This was a most worth-while work of restoration and the difficulties overcome were formidable.

A fine Saturday, 14th July, saw 17 members with their families assembled for a visit to the Wey & Arun Canal. We were met by Mr. Markwick, the Secretary of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust, who, in the course of a 4 mile walk, showed us something of what the Trust has already achieved in the restoration of the canal - Rowners Lock, now under repair, the remains of old water-mills, the canal warehouse at Newbridge and a long section of the canal already cleared and full of water with a short section still uncleared as a contrast. The more energetic members then drove to Lee Place and, after a mile walk along a dry and uncleared section, we were able to see Orfold Aquaduct where the canal crosses over the River Arun. At one place, where a culvert over a stream had collapsed, a wet and boggy crossing had to be made, but after dumping stones, sticks, rushes and grass in the mud most members were able to cross moderately dry-shod. We are very grateful to Mr. Markwick for giving up a whole Saturday to making our visit so pleasant and instructive, and for all the trouble taken in preparing for it.

Members' Activities. Mrs. Sue Farrant has been doing some very valuable survey and recording work in the Brighton and Newhaven areas and has completed a number of C.B.A. Record Cards. Much demolition due to Council development is taking place in the Kemp Town area and an interesting small group of industrial buildings opposite the old Kemp Town Station has been recorded. These include a maltings store, steam flour mill, warehouses and factories. Some of these buildings pre-date the Kemp Town Branch Line which was built in 1862. The remains of the Black Rock Gas Works have also been recorded. These were operating in 1818 and were the first to supply Brighton. Most of the original buildings were demolished about 10 years ago but two derelict buildings, of about 1820, still survive. The three gas-holders are now being demolished.

Michael Kemp has sent in a useful list of I.A. sites which he has come across during his rambles; these include water-mills, some apparently not previously recorded, iron works, kilns and old railway details.

It is hoped that more members may be able and willing to make brief surveys and take photographs of I.A. sites known to them and to complete C.B.A. Record

Cards - or at least to send in such information as they have. Andrew Fayle has already sent in information about horse-gins and early water-supply arrangements. C.B.A. Record Cards can be obtained free from the Secretary together with suggestions about how they should be filled in. These suggestions were given by Kim Leslie in Newsletter No. 5, April 1970.

S.I.A.S. exhibition. At a local fete at Warbleton, a display by our local Group aroused much interest. It should be kept in mind that we have some panels available for mounting such displays.

I.A. News. Brighton Technical College has presented us with a 1926 Blackstone Oil Engine which has been in use until quite recently for instructional purposes. This has been removed and stored at Goldstone Pumping Station, Brighton, by agreement with Mr. Fairbanks, the Brighton Water Engineer, and Mr. Minns who is negotiating for the lease of Goldstone with the intention of turning it into an Industrial Museum. It is hoped that our engine will be shown there in working order.

The first of the two 1904 Tangye Triple Expansion Engines at Brede Pumping Station, near Hastings, has unfortunately been sold for scrap. The second engine is still kept in working order as a stand-by unit and it is hoped that it may be possible to transfer this to Goldstone when it finally becomes redundant. The Hastings Water Engineer has promised to give us plenty of advance warning of this so that suitable arrangements can be made.

Michael Kemp reports than an old wheel-less horse-bus, from Hastings, which stood in the grounds of Lidham Hall Farm, has now been removed to the Hastings Museum where it will be renovated and preserved.

Bateman's Watermill. From similar initials "J S" carved on a watermill at Etchingam and stated by Ernest Straker to be those of J. Snapp the builder, we may perhaps deduce that he was also the builder of Park Mill, Bateman's. The date 1777 of the Etchingam mill is not too distant from the 1795 date carved alongside the same initials at Bateman's.

Green Ropeworks, Hailsham. Old hand ropemaking machinery has just been replaced and the old equipment of early 19c, is being offered to museums. Some is already at Michelham and other pieces may go to the Newhaven and Seaford Museum.

Ice House at Scotney Castle. Now under the National Trust, the thatched ice house in the grounds of Scotney Castle near Lamberhurst may be seen.

Bateman's Watermill. Good progress has been made with the restoration work at Bateman's Watermill which the Society is carrying out for the National Trust. The greater part of the supporting framework for the gearing and mill stones, the hirsting, has now been re-erected by Barry Taylor of Etchingam, which involved cutting and jointing a number of new oak timbers, most of the original ones being too rotten to use again. The Trust has received a grant from the Department of the Environment and their inspectors have visited the mill and expressed general approval of our work as well as giving us much useful advice based on their experience at other mills. The new wheel-shaft is finished and the mountings for the inboard and outboard bearings for this are being prepared. 84 new teeth for the pit-wheel have been cut from apple wood by Jim Smith who also made the new wheel-shaft with help from David Butler. When the wheel-shaft has been re-installed a new water-wheel will be made and fitted by Barry Taylor and the Royal Engineers will re-install the water-turbine, D.C. generator and switch-board first installed by Kipling in 1904 to light his house at Bateman's. These have been fully repaired and re-conditioned by the R.E. in their workshops at Chatham. Unfortunately they now find that their many commitments will not allow them to undertake the clearance of the mill pond and mill lade feeding it and we shall have to find other means for doing this, partly by volunteer labour. Other work that needs to be done is the clearance of the floors of the wheel-pit and of the inside pit in which the pit-wheel runs; this work is fairly urgent. The top floor of the mill also needs repair and various

carpentry jobs required to be done. Week-end working parties are needed for all this work and any members who can give a Saturday and/or Sunday for digging or carpentry are asked to get in touch with the Secretary (A.J. Haselfoot) or the Chairman (W.R. Beswick) as soon as possible, saying what days they can manage and what work they could do, so that working parties can be arranged.

C.B.A. I.A. Research Committee. The Secretary attended this meeting in London on 15th June, representing the Sussex Archaeological Society's Research Committee (C.B.A. 11B). Sussex, in May of this year, was still well down in the list of C.B.A. Record Card returns - 30th out of 40, with 52 cards. Our neighbours, Hampshire, Kent and Surrey all do better, Hampshire being 3rd with 384 cards. The position will have been somewhat improved by now as over 100 cards were sent up to the C.B.A. in June, and more will be sent shortly. There is still a lot more work to be done, in the County.

Every 6 months the C.B.A. Advisory Panel on Industrial Monuments considers a regional list of sites with a view to recommending statutory protection. Sussex will be considered in March 1974 and Keith Falconer of the C.B.A. Industrial Monuments Survey will be visiting us in November of this year. It is therefore imperative that our Society should record and review all sites of I.A. interest to see whether they should be recommended for statutory protection. All members can assist in this by sending it to the Secretary details of any sites which they know of and which have not previously been notified or recorded. Don't delay, he has to make a preliminary report by the end of September.

Industrial Lewes. Enclosed is a sheet giving an advance outline of the arrangements for our visit to Lewes on Saturday, 22nd September. In this visit we are co-operating with the Lewes Group of the Sussex Archaeological Society. This should be an extremely interesting visit, with something for everybody. Don't miss it. Only those who send in application slips will get the final details.

Evening Meetings. We hope shortly to arrange a programme of evening meetings for the coming Winter. These will be informal and will be held either centrally (say in Lewes) or at a suitable place in East or West Sussex. It is not proposed at present to have formal lectures but it is hoped that members will be prepared to talk about work they have carried out or sites they have visited, either in Sussex or elsewhere, and to show their own slides, to be followed by a general discussion. Will any member who is willing to talk and show slides please write in to the Secretary as soon as possible saying what they would like to talk about and what evenings they could manage. One or two people have already intimated their willingness. A slide projector will be arranged. If there is sufficient response details of the programme will be given in the next Circular, due out in October.

Address List. A list of members and their addresses, as at 31st July 1973, is enclosed. The County has been divided, perhaps rather arbitrarily, into 8 areas and members are listed alphabetically in each area. Those resident well outside the County and those resident overseas have been listed separately. Although this division has been done primarily for convenience in recording it is thought that it may be of assistance to members in enabling them easily to identify other members living in the same area as themselves. Perhaps this may encourage the formation of local groups and group activities.

Bibliography. A further six sheets of our Sussex I.A. Bibliography have been prepared by Hugh Gordon and are also enclosed.

Rescue Archaeology. The Sussex Archaeological Society has arranged a Conference on "The Crisis in Archaeology" to be held at the Priory (Middle) School, Moutfield Road, Lewes, on Saturday, 6th October, at 11.00 a.m. Tickets (50p each) can be obtained from K.W. Suckling, "Little Corran", 272 Willington Road, Eastbourne, BN20 9JR. (s.a.e. please). Our Treasurer, G.P. Burstow, is Chairman of the Conference, which deals with a subject that is of vital interest to us all.

British Waterways. We receive a copy of all News Releases and also "Waterways News" from the British Waterways Board. If any member is interested in seeing these please apply to the Secretary (s.a.e. please).

Mid-Victorian Littlehampton: The Railway and the Cross-Channel Steamers by John Farrant has just been published. It is primarily an account of the cross-Channel steamer services operated by, or in conjunction with, the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway between 1863 and 1882, which raised the volume of traffic through Littlehampton harbour to a level probably never surpassed before nor since. These steamer services to the Channel Islands and Honfleur, and the cargoes they carried, are examined in the context of the harbour's development in the 19th Century, of the town's growth as a seaside resort, and of competition from other South Coast ports. Extensive use is made of the archives of the railway company and of the harbour commission, and the pamphlet is illustrated with contemporary photographs.

27pp. plus 5 plates, card cover, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 6 in., price 50p from the Clerk of the Council, Littlehampton Urban District Council, Council Offices, Littlehampton, BN17 5EP.

A. J. Haselfoot
Secretary

Albion House,
Cobourg Place,
HASTINGS TN34 3HY
Tel: 260