
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

September 1999

Diary dates

- Oct 9 'The evolution of the electrical industry'. IEI talk by Joseph McEvoy.
- Nov 3-6 Mine Heritage and Tourism conference (MHSI).
- 13 IHAI Conference, Tullamore, Co Offaly.**
- 22 'Ardnacrusha and the development of Irish Engineering'. IEI talk by Paul Duffy.
- Dec 1 Canal Users' Forum, Longford (Heritage Council).

IHAI Autumn Conference

This will take place on 13 Nov at the new Tullamore Dew Visitors' Centre, courtesy of Amanda Pedlow. As a change to previous conferences, this one will cover a wide range of topics rather than a specific theme. Speakers have been confirmed for presentations on Co Donegal industries, Cork's linen industry, a Co Ferm- anagh forge and John Killaly, canal engineer. There will also be a members' forum. Do please consider giving a paper yourself on any industrial topic (contact any committee member). Full programme details will be sent out in mid October.

Ireland's Inland Waterways

In June 1999, the Heritage Council launched a Policy Paper on the Future of Ireland's Inland Waterways. This paper was the culmination of a period of discussion with all waterway users, commencing with a consultation paper inviting responses followed by a one-day conference. It attempts to deal with the concept of "Living Heritage", the tension between the need for development whilst protecting and preserving both man-made and natural heritage. It stresses that all development must be sustainable, taking into consideration the legacy that this generation is responsible for handing on to future generations. While it advocates the "need for inventories to identify and protect the unique industrial archaeological and architectural features of the waterways", this is only one of many recommendations. In addition, the role of the Heritage Council is limited to proposing policy and giving advice to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, and so it is important for the IHAI to put pressure on Dúchas - Waterways to carry out a full inventory and to conserve the heritage aspects of the waterways in any works which have to be carried out. Copies of the policy

paper, price £7, can be obtained from the Heritage Council, Rothe House, Kilkenny (tel 056-70777).

The Council has decided to continue the process of consultation by holding four regional meetings to pursue issues specific to those regions. The first of these was held in Carlow on 8 September and focused on the Grand Canal system, the Barrow Navigation and the navigable waterways of the South-East. One of the issues raised was the need for a full inventory of the buildings, structures and furniture of the waterways so that these can be identified and protected. Examples were given of the work currently in progress on the unique lifting bridge at Monasterevin and current proposals to widen the attractive canal bridge at Rathangan. Three more regional meetings take place:

- 1 December in Longford - Royal Canal.
- 8 March 2000 - Shannon Navigation and Corrib.
- 3 May 2000 - Upper Shannon, Shannon-erne Waterway and Ulster Canal.

There is no charge to attend the meetings but please inform the Council if you wish to attend. The time, venue and agenda will then be forwarded to you.

Monastic mill excavation

The investigation of an eighth century tide mill adjacent to the Nendrum monastic site on Strangford Lough, Co Down, is nearing completion. The excavation is being carried out by Tom McErlean for Environment and Heritage Service, DOE(NI). The structure comprises a mill pond, flume and stone-lined chamber containing a horizontal waterwheel for which a tree-ring date of 788 AD has been obtained. This is an exciting discovery and provides a new dimension to our understanding of the economy of this early medieval monastery which was excavated by H.C. Lawlor in the 1920s. It's also a fascinating example of Ireland's industrial heritage and it is to be hoped that it can be preserved in situ.

National Heritage Week

This ran from Sun 5th to Sat 11th September. Dúchas is co-ordinating and publicising events in the Republic. Apart from the events staged by the Mining Heritage Society, industrial heritage was noticeable by its absence. Would IHAI members please think about organising a talk or tour in their area next year. It's only by promoting the general public's awareness and understanding of industrial heritage that we can hope to salvage the best of what's left for posterity.

IEI Talks

The Institution of Engineers of Ireland has organised a series of public lectures which will be of interest to IHAI members. They take place at 22 Clyde Road, Dublin, starting at 8pm:

- 19 October 'The evolution of the electrical industry' by Joseph McEvoy.
- 22 November 'Ardnacrusha and the development of Irish Engineering', by Paul Duffy.
- 28 Feb 2000 'The Viking Age buildings of Dublin', by Pat Wallace.
- 27 March 2000 'The promotion of a heritage centre - the experience of Mullingar', by William Roe.

Mine Heritage and Tourism - a hidden resource

The Mining Heritage Society, in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Ireland and Shannon Development is organising a conference with the above title in Nenagh, Co Tipperary, on 3-6 November 1999. Its purpose is to examine how Ireland's mining heritage can best be developed for educational and leisure purposes. As well as two days of talks on this theme, visits will be made to Waterford's Copper Coast and the National Mine Heritage Centre at Shallee, Co Tipperary. You'll also find a flyer enclosed. For more details, contact Dr John Morris (tel 01-6041473), Eamon de Stafort (067-32100), or visit the web site at <http://minet.era.ie>.

Cole's Geological Memoir of Ireland

The very active Mining Heritage Society of Ireland has, with the assistance of the Heritage Council, recently produced a facsimile edition of Grenville Cole's *Memoir of Localities of Minerals of Economic Importance and Metalliferous Mines in Ireland*. This was first published in 1922 and is a veritable mine(!) of information on mines and mineral exploration in Ireland during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It also contains a biography of Cole, photographs and site maps. Copies priced at £11 (incl p&p) are available from Matthew Markes, Mining Heritage Society of Ireland, c/o Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Rd, Dublin 4 (cheques in stg£ or IR£ payable to MHSI). You will also find a flyer with this mailshot.

Protecting the Archaeological Heritage

Earlier this year, the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the islands launched a document entitled *Framework and principles for the protection of the archaeological heritage*. This outlines the various forms this heritage takes, details the various bodies and laws relating to its protection and highlights the necessity of archaeologically assessing monitoring new construction works. The value of 'preservation by record' where a site cannot be conserved is also noted.

Although focused on pre-1700AD archaeological monuments, there is no reason why similar principles should not also apply to our later industrial heritage. The need to record in advance of new developments is especially pertinent given the scale of new construction work throughout the country.

Copies of this report, priced £3, are obtainable from Government Publications, Molesworth St, Dublin 2. A second document *Policy and guidelines on archaeological excavation* was also launched at the same time and can be obtained from the same source for £2.

WWW update

A new website hosted by the Flemish Association for Industrial Archaeology is well worth a visit - <http://www.conservare.be/vvia/vvia3-en.htm>. Besides news on industrial heritage in Flanders, there are sections on the European Confederation for Industrial Heritage, 2002 - European Industrial & Technical Heritage Year, and a links section entitled "Your speedway" to other interesting websites on industrial and technical heritage. This is predominantly European with some US and Canadian content. Interestingly, the list of links can also be approached thematically.

IHAI Publications

Copies of *Taking Stock of Ireland's Industrial Heritage* (£5.50 incl p+p) and *Power from Steam* (£6.00 incl p+p) can now be purchased from Wordwell at PO Box 69, Bray, Co Wicklow (tel 01-2862649).

And finally ...

Thanks to Ron Cox, Ruth Delany, Mary McMahon, and Cormac Scally for their contribution to this issue. Please send details of industrial heritage news and events in your area to Fred Hamond at the address below.

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