

IHAI BULLETIN



Greetings to all our members around the island of Ireland and abroad. The second issue of the *IHAI Bulletin* continues the aim of keeping in touch with the membership at a time when face-to-face contact is not a wise move and our outings have had to be held in abeyance. The IHAI Executive Council (Board) met by Zoom on 16th June shortly after the AGM, which was conducted largely by email. We welcomed two new company directors to the Board, Niall Colfer, Archaeologist at Dublin City Council and Lar Joye, Heritage Officer at Dublin Port. Their considerable expertise in heritage matters will further enhance the debates and decisions of the Board.

The 8th of June next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the Inaugural Meeting of the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland, held in The Tailor’s Hall in Dublin. The meeting resulted from the work of a Steering Group, chaired by the late Norman Campion, then Vice-Chairman of An Taisce. The inaugural address was given by Dr Marilyn Palmer, then Senior Lecturer in History & Archaeology at the University of Leicester. Dr Palmer’s definition of the term ‘industrial archaeology’ was widely accepted and she occupied the first academic post in the UK dealing specifically with the subject. In September 2017, Marilyn, now Emeritus Professor of Industrial Archaeology at Leicester, was guest of honour at a celebratory meeting of the IHAI at The Steam Museum at Straffan to mark the 21st anniversary of the founding of the association. She will be assured of a warm welcome back for our 25th.



Marilyn Palmer read History at St Anne’s College, Oxford, and then worked in teacher training at Loughborough College of Education before joining the History Department of the University of Loughborough and becoming its Head in 1983. She transferred to a joint appointment in both the History and Archaeology Departments of the University of Leicester in 1988, eventually moving solely to Archaeology. She served as Head of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History from 2000 to 2006. She has taught industrial archaeology in adult education for over thirty years and is concerned to establish the

discipline within mainstream archaeology in academic departments, herself becoming Britain’s first Professor of Industrial Archaeology in 2000. She has been President of the Association for Industrial

Archaeology and a Commissioner with The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England before its amalgamation with English Heritage in 1998 and has sat on committees concerned with her discipline for The National Trust and, English Heritage. She is currently President of the Association for Industrial Archaeology and Chair of Trustees of the Council for British Archaeology as well as chairing the East Midlands Regional Group of the CBA. She is now heavily involved with the University of the Third Age and is its National Subject Advisor for Archaeology. She edited *Industrial Archaeology Review* for nearly twenty years and is now its Book Review Editor. She was awarded an MBE for services to industrial archaeology and heritage in 2015.

Industrial Heritage of County Cork, **Heritage Unit of Cork County Council.**

Over the past number of years many have become familiar with the Heritage of County Cork Publication Series – a Series that explores the vast heritage of the County of Cork, having to date focused on bridges (2013); Houses (2014), Churches (2015), Rebel Sites (2016), Castles (2017) and Europe and the County of Cork: A Heritage Perspective (2018). In continuation of the Series, the publication of a book that examines the Industrial Heritage of County Cork was published by Cork County Council in November last year.

The latest publication takes a look at the earliest origins of industry in County Cork, with a particular focus on the industrial revolution and the inclusion of sites right up to and including the 20th century. It examines their construction and in turn their importance to the locality, as well as where they sat in the wider economic growth of the County. Architectural features associated specifically with industrial sites are clearly demonstrated and the publication also features a number of important industrial sites located within the County of Cork that the public can visit. The text includes fascinating stories regarding these industrial sites coupled with first-hand accounts of the people who worked them, from Breweries and Gunpowder Mills to Linen works, Creameries and Foundries.

The primary author of the informative and enjoyable text of the latest book was the well-known expert in matters of industrial heritage, Dr Colin Rynne, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at University College Cork. Editing was carried out by the Council's Heritage Unit. The publication received support from the Heritage Council. One of the most important elements of the publication, if not the most important, was the input of local heritage groups and enthusiasts. Past publications in the Heritage of County Cork Series have

benefited hugely from a great number of public submissions including photos for use, stories, and indeed lists of recommended sites that should be featured in the book(s).

The many photographs are of a high quality and the standard of reproduction superb. Apart from the general text concerning industrial archaeology, the book includes detailed descriptions of thirty prime industrial sites in the county and concludes with an appendix of images accompanied by brief descriptions of many other sites of interest. There is an extremely useful glossary of industrial terms which will prove invaluable when interpreting the various sites, not only in Cork, but when visiting sites nationwide.

A Pillar of the Community

One of the effects of the recent COVID-19 Lockdown has been to make us profoundly aware of our domestic surroundings and the abundant flora and fauna which surrounds us. Our exercise walks and cycles have also made us more aware of our surrounding infrastructure, some of which dates back to Victorian times and even earlier. One of the items of street furniture that we are very familiar with is the humble post box or pillar box, although we are using them less and less in this digital age.

Prior to 1922, post boxes in Ireland, as in the UK, were manufactured and supplied by companies, such as W. T. Allen and Co. of London, and principally A. Handyside and Co. of London and Derby, who introduced the cylindrical letter box in 1879. No radical change in the external design of the cylindrical pillar boxes has taken place since that time. After 1922, many pillar boxes were cast in the St Johns ironworks in Enniscorthy and later by Tonge & Taggart in Dublin.



However, some pillar boxes, including the one opposite my parish church in Rathmichael (County Dublin), were cast in the ironworks of the Carron Co. in Falkirk in Scotland, thus it occurred to me



that there may well be others in Ireland supplied by the same company, so why not ask our members to look and see whether their local pillar box has on its base the words "Carron Scotland". Please do let me know at rcox@tcd.ie if you spot any in your neck of the woods.

The Carron Company was an ironworks established in 1759 on the banks of the River Carron near Falkirk. The company prospered through its development and production of a new short-range and short-barreled naval cannon, the carronade, and the company was one of the largest iron works in Europe throughout the

19th century. They cast pillar boxes (from 1922), wall boxes (from 1952) and lamp boxes (from 1969 to 1982). After 223 years, the company became insolvent in 1982 and was later acquired by the Franke Corporation, being rebranded Carron Phoenix.

*The fascinating story of the Irish post box is told in Stephen Ferguson's book:
For more information go to www.irishstamps.ie*

Bygone Days 2

Can you identify the location of this members visit in 2015? It may help to get 'tuned in'!



Finally, the answer to the 'Bygone Days' memory test in the last Bulletin is the bridge carrying the Suir Navigation towpath over the small Anner River where it flows into the River Suir.