

IHAI BULLETIN

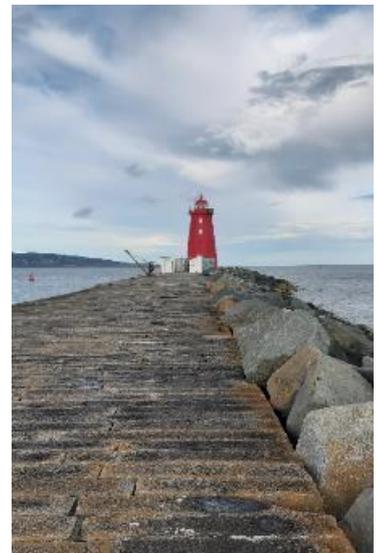


Greetings to all our members around the island of Ireland and abroad. We hope you are staying safe and well.

AGM and 25th Anniversary

The IHAI Board are considering combining the AGM with an anniversary event to mark our 25th anniversary in September. Full details of this event, which will be cognisant of Covid restrictions at the time, will be circulated to members once we are able to make a decision on what form the event may take.

Over the last year, we have all become familiar with our immediate surroundings, first the 2km around our homes and then stretching to 5km. I have enjoyed exploring these areas and noticing structures that my eyes might previously have overlooked. Living in a city, my walks have included a wide variety of sites of industrial heritage significance; sites which are easily identifiable and easily researchable. An extended stay in rural Ireland during our most recent lockdown and some discoveries of twentieth century road alterations during garden clearance, led to some sleuthing as to the possible provenance of these. It brought to my attention how much research we can now do online, and how these online tools are of particular resonance when it comes to our IH. As we begin to move further afield and as our travel is likely to remain within our own country this summer, I thought it might be worth looking at some of the sources that are available to research that interesting structure we might see on our travels.



HeritageMaps.ie (<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>), co-ordinated by the Heritage Council, working with the Local Authority Heritage Officer network, hosts a vast range of heritage-related sites and projects, making them available to the public. A number of industrial-related surveys are included within the *Industrial, Technical & Craft* layer, with coverage of the entire island. By choosing the relevant survey, you can search for sites in a specific area using the mapviewer. In addition to the surveys, Heritage Maps provides a Basemap Gallery, including a number of historic maps, which are another vital source in identifying industrial heritage sites. Other useful historic mapping sources are <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html> and <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:40377#c0055-6-6.1>. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Historic Environment Viewer includes the Sites and Monuments Record, Record of Monuments and Places and sites recorded by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

It is hoped that we will once again be able to visit heritage sites that are open to the public for the summer. The IHAI's website has an interactive map, locating industrial sites that are open to the public - <https://ihai.ie/ih-sites-open-to-the-public/>

Now all we need is some lovely weather for our explorations!

Rural Electrification

2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the IHA. Another milestone anniversary this year, is the 75th anniversary of the rollout of rural electrification, which commenced in 1946. This visionary project saw the installation of electrical infrastructure across the country, bringing electricity, which had primarily been limited to urban areas, to Ireland's largely rural population. The rollout of the rural electrification scheme was probably one of the most important developments in the twentieth-century in Ireland. It impacted social, industrial and economic development. It also required the construction of additional infrastructure, with hydro schemes constructed along the rivers Liffey, Erne and Lee and oil-burning and steam stations constructed.



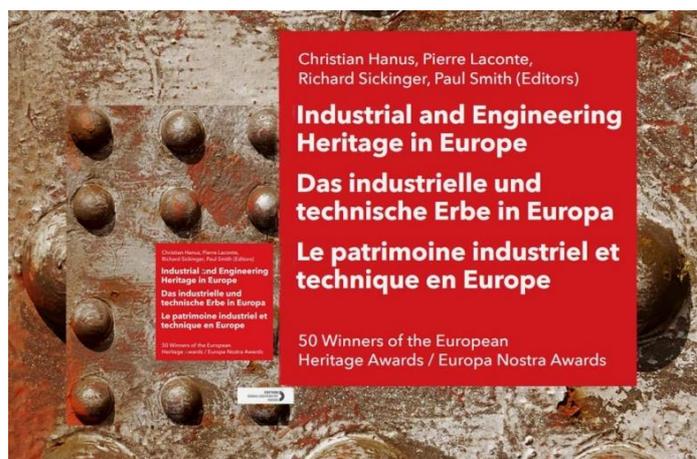
Mobile Demonstration, 1951 ©ESB Archives

By 1965, 81% of rural Ireland was connected to the national grid, and the last area to receive electricity was the Black Valley, Co. Kerry, in 1978.

The ESB Archives website (<https://esbarchives.ie/>) has a wealth of information on the Rural Electrification Scheme and a recent Heritage Council Podcast with Deirdre McParland, Senior Archivist with ESB should be of interest to IHA members.

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/heritage-council-podcast-series/episode-4-when-the-lights-went-on-the-story-of-rural-electrification-in-ireland>

Europa Nostra hosted a very interesting talk in March, which looked at a selection of industrial and engineering sites throughout Europe, many of which received the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards as 'outstanding achievements in the conservation, enhancement and adaptation to new uses of cultural heritage'. Many of the sites that featured in the talk are included in a new publication from Europa Nostra - *Industrial and Engineering Heritage in Europe, 50 winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards*. This publication presents successful examples of conservation, enhancement, and adaptation of industrial and engineering sites and illustrates how the promotion and appreciation of this heritage is so important in ensuring its survival. It also demonstrates how these sites can be successfully conserved and adapted to new uses. The publication can be viewed here - <https://door.donau-uni.ac.at/open/o:989>





Dan Hurst, RIP

The Committee was very saddened to hear of the recent passing of a good friend and one of the founding members of our Association. Dan will long be remembered for freely sharing his expert knowledge gained from his time with the Guinness brewery and his broad understanding of industrial heritage. We will miss him and his infectious gentle humour.

Subscription Reminder

A gentle reminder that there are some outstanding membership subscriptions for 2021. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership for the current year. Your support through membership of IHAI is vitally important to the continuing voluntary efforts of the Officers and Executive Committee to promote an appreciation of Ireland's industrial heritage.

Bygone Days 6

Can you identify the location of this sunny coastal shot from an outing in recent years?



Finally, the answer to the 'Bygone Days' memory test in the last Bulletin is Stonebridge Saw Mill, just off the main Clones-Monaghan road, where the owner, Sinead Galvin, made us very welcome.