
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER

August 2000



Diary dates

Aug	30 *	TICCIH Conference, London (to 7 Sept).
Sept	8	AIA Conference, Manchester (to 14 Sept).
Sept	3-10	National Heritage Week. See below for event details
Sept	20-21 *	Second Irish Mills Conference, Cork.
Oct	20	Ulster Waterways Group Conference 2000.
Oct	28	SPAB Mills course, London
Nov	11	IHAI Autumn Meeting, Dundalk: 'The industrial heritage of north-east Ireland'.

Events in bold are organised by the IHAI; * - see April Newsletter for details.

Richard Shackleton, Miller, 1916-2000

Members will be saddened to learn of the recent death of our esteemed member Dick Shackleton. *Norman Champion* writes:

It was a sad day when a number of us representing the IHAI bade farewell to Dick Shackleton, one of our founding members. He passed away some days after suffering a stroke and was buried at Clonsilla Church on 28th July.

Dick and his wife, Mary, were great supporters of the Association's activities and fully participated in our recent Wexford weekend. They greatly enjoyed living on the banks of the Liffey at Anna Liffey Mills, Lucan. The wild life of the river interested them as much as the activity at the family mill. The Shackleton name requires no introduction in milling circles, or indeed in many other fields of endeavour from exploration to horticulture – a tradition still carried on today by family members.

The original Shackleton milling interests were at Ballytore, Co Kildare, and then later at Lucan. Here the original water driven stone mill was converted into a roller mill – first equipped in the 1880s by Henry Simon Ltd and later in the 1930s by Miag. This state-of-the-art equipment is in very good condition thanks to Dick's good management. Shackleton's mill was the last of the privately owned flour mills in the Republic and only ceased production in the last two years, having been specially adapted in recent years primarily for the production of semolina for the pasta industry (under new ownership).

Dick took great pride in the turbines, which provided a high proportion of the power for the mill. He also retained valuable records of the mill and hoped that these would be properly preserved. He expressed a wish that the IHAI could play a major role in this. Of particular concern was the fact that the new owner, once the mill closed down, was seeking planning permission to convert the premises into apartments etc. This was fought by local interest groups, An Taisce (the National Trust for Ireland) and our Association. As you will read below, the mill has now been purchased by Fingal County Council. It was a great joy to Dick that this has been

achieved and we are sure he will be with us in spirit as we work with the Council to make his and Mary's dream come true. We hope that whatever evolves will be a fitting memorial to Dick's long life's work and interest.

Anna Liffey Mills

Fingal County Council has just purchased Anna Liffey Mills and its associated miller's house for £3.75m. This is the only water-powered rolling mill left in Ireland which still retains its power plant and milling machinery, virtually complete and all in an excellent state of preservation. The Council hope to restore the mill and its contents as a major heritage enterprise of benefit to the local community and visitors to the Liffey Valley. Much credit must go to Michael Lynch (responsible for the restoration of Fingal CC's wind and watermills at Skerries) for taking the initiative in rescuing the mill, and to the councillors for having the foresight to save this unique survivor of Ireland's milling heritage.

IHAI Spring tour, Co Wexford

Our best attended tour to date was held over the weekend of 26-28 May in Co Wexford, numbers being boosted by friends from the Scottish Industrial Heritage Society and Dublin Archaeological Society. Participants assembled at the Whitford House Hotel on the Friday evening and were treated to an introductory talk on the county's industrial heritage by Austin O'Sullivan of the Irish Agricultural Museum.

The Museum was our first port of call the next morning, with its impressive collection of farm implements and machinery made by Pierces of Wexford, and a most informative exhibition on the Great Famine. Then on to Dick Hammond's garden at Killinick and its four lime kilns and associated quarry. Lunch at Kilmore Quay was followed by an inspection of the lifeboat and former lightship, now a maritime museum surrounded by a sea of concrete. We then made our way to Browne's Mill, an intact mid-19th century water-powered cornmill at Old Ross. The Heritage Council have recently sponsored the preparation of a Conservation Plan for this mill, so hopefully its future will be assured.

Sunday morning began with a working demonstration by Peter Scallan of his restored 1929 Merryweather fire engine. A brief stop at Wexford railway station was followed by an inspection of the pumping station at the North Slob. Although now electrified, its Roturbo pump is still in situ. We then took in mills at Castlebridge and Kilcarbury before lunch at the 1789 Centre, Enniscorthy. Our last stop was Craanford Mill, near Gorey, where we concluded the weekend in appropriate fashion - with scones, home-made raspberry jam and tea!

Our thanks to Norman Champion for organising this memorable weekend, to Eithne Scallan and Austin O'Sullivan for their assistance, and everyone who acted as guides.

National Heritage Week

National Heritage Week runs from 3-10 September and aims to promote a wider public appreciation of the built and natural heritage, thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation. The event is being coordinated by Dúchas in the Republic and the Historic Buildings Council in N. Ireland. Various events are being run throughout the country over the eight days, although most are being held on the first and last Sunday. A full programme may be obtained from Dúchas (tel 1850-660601 or 01-6472466), or HBC (tel 048-90543078).

Those events which have an industrial heritage slant are listed below by date and county. Most are free but there may be a nominal charge for some. Those in bold are IHAI events and are free. Where no times are stated, contact the organiser for details. If any IHAI member attends an event, the editor would be glad to receive a brief report.

Sunday 3 September

Co Cork: tour of Allihies mining complex. Meet 2pm outside Catholic Church in centre of Allihies village. Contact John Morris, tel 01-6041473.

Co Donegal: tours of Newmills flax and corn mills, west of Letterkenny, 3-10 Sept. Free admission on both Sundays. Contact Paul Browne, 074-25115.

Co Dublin: guided walk through Dublin's historic Docklands. Meet 2pm at Stone Arch, Custom House Docks, Custom House Quay, Dublin. Contact Mary McMahon, tel 01- 4541786.

Co Dublin: exhibition on the history of Dun Laoghaire/Kingstown Harbour at the National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Hiagh Terrace, Dun Laoghaire. Ongoing May- Sept. Contact Dr P Smyly, tel 01-2800969.

Co Dublin: guided tours, A-V presentation and readings at the National Print Museum, Beggars Bush, Haddington Rd, Dublin 4. Runs 3-10 Sept, but free entry on Sundays only. Contact Mairead White, tel 01-6603770.

Co Dublin - guided walk along the Royal Canal. Meet 2.30pm at Newcomon Bridge, North Strand Rd. Contact Derek Whelan, 01-8225034.

Co Dublin: demonstrations of stone grinding at Skerries Mills complex (venue of this year's IHAI AGM). Runs 3-10 Sept, with one hour demonstrations at 11.30am and 3pm. Contact Stephanie Bourke, tel 01-8495208.

Co Dublin: guided tours of Waterways Visitor Centre, Dublin 9.30am-4.45pm. Contact Dúchas, tel 01-6777510.

Co Galway: guided tours of restored 19th century lead/silver mine, Glengowla, 9.30am - 6pm (two miles north of Oughterard on the N59 Clifden Rd). Contact Pat Geoghegan, tel 091-552021.

Co Galway: guided tours of the old Town Waterworks, Dyke Rd, Terryland. Runs 3-10 Sept, 11am-4pm. Contact Miceal O Cionnaith, tel 091-536400.

Co Kerry: demonstration of shoeing at the Old Forge, Gneeveguilla. 3pm. Contact Jerh O'Leary, tel 064-58619.

Co Kildare: guided tours of Crookstown Mill Visitors Centre throughout September, 10am-6pm. Contact Jim/ Anne Maher, tel 0507-23222.

Co Laois: steam train rides on narrow gauge railway, Stradbally Hall (on N80 road in Stradbally). Contact R C Flewitt, tel 01-8554081.

Co Longford: free guided tours of Iron Age trackway, Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, Kenagh. 9.30am - 5.45pm. Contact Mary Forbes, tel 043-22386.

Co Longford - guided walk along the Longford spur of the Royal Canal. Meet 2.30pm at the Harbour House, Longford. Contact Fergus Kennedy, tel 043-48376.

Co Tipperary: guided walk of Silvermines. Meet 2pm outside Church. Contact Martin Critchley, tel 01-6799227.

Co Waterford: visit to mining museum and sites along the Copper Coast. Meet 2pm at the car park, Bonmahon. Contact Des Cowman, tel 051-396157.

Co Wicklow: guided tour of Avoca Mines. Meet 3.30pm at White Bridge, Tigrooney, Avoca (halfway between Avoca village and the Meeting of the Waters). Contact Nick Coy, tel 045-866400.

Co Wicklow: guided tour of the granite quarries and workers' village of Ballyknockan. Meet 2pm outside Lakeview Lounge (Cullen's Pub), Ballyknockan. Contact Barry O'Reilly, tel 01-4541786.

Co Wicklow: guided walk around the mines at Glendalough. Meet 2pm at the Upper Lake car park. Contact Rob Goodbody, tel 01-2823419.

Monday 4 September

Co Galway: guided tours of Galway Irish Crystal Heritage Centre, Merlin Pk, Dublin Rd, Galway. Also runs on 5 Sept. Contact Margaret Jordan, tel 091-757311.

Sunday 10 September

Co Donegal: Guided tours of the Donegal Railway Heritage Centre. 2-5pm at the Old Station House, Tyrconnell St, Don-egal Town. Contact Owen Howells, tel 073-22655.

Co Donegal: Guided self-drive tour of industrial sites around Letterkenny. Meet 2.30pm outside Letterkenny Museum, High Rd, Letterkenny. Contact Fred Hamond, tel 048-90616480.

Co Donegal: vintage car and farm machinery display at Newmills complex. Contact Paul Browne, 074-25115.

Co Dublin: guided tours of Waterways Visitor Centre, Dublin 9.30am-4.45pm. 'Viking Live' presentation runs from 2-5pm. Contact Dúchas, tel 01-6777510.

Co Galway: guided tours of restored 19th century lead/silver mine, Glengowla, 9.30am - 6pm (two miles north of Oughterard on the N59 Clifden Rd). Contact Pat Geoghegan, tel 091-552021.

Co Longford: free guided tours of Iron Age trackway, Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, Kenagh. 9.30am - 5.45pm. Contact Mary Forbes, tel 043-22386.

Co Longford - guided walk along the Royal Canal. Meet 2pm at the Old Canal Ticket Office, Ballymahon. Contact Fergus Kennedy, tel 043-48376.

Co Wicklow: guided tours of restored 18th century lighthouse. 10am - 5pm at Wicklow Head Lighthouse (one mile south of Wicklow Town). Contact Tamsin Young, tel 01 -6704733.

Association for Industrial Archaeology Conference

Threading its way through Manchester and Salford is a linear site of such importance in the industrialisation of Britain that it is one of the sites chosen by the UK Government as a candidate for World Heritage Site status. The city witnessed the creation of Britain's first industrial 'true' canal, Britain's first mainline inter-city passenger railway and the country's first industrial suburb based on steam power.

'Manchester, the archetypal city of the Industrial Revolution' is therefore the natural choice for the theme of this year's AIA conference at Hume Hall, Manchester, from 8 - 14 September. It will explore the role, importance and development of the industrial city, industrialisation across the region and the claim to the title of Cottonopolis.

The World Heritage Site, which extends from Salford through to Manchester, is linked by the Bridgewater and Rochdale canals. Key elements include Worsley Delph, a 46-mile network of underground canals; the Castlefield canal basin with its warehouses which became a model for canal basins across the country; the oldest passenger railway station and custom-built railway warehouse in the world; a wonderful landscape of soaring railway viaducts; and Ancoats, famous for its unique grouping of early and late cotton mills.

The programme will also explore the wider region including mills in Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale and New Mills; Portland canal basin at the junction of the Ashton and Peak Forest canals; Park Bridge industrial complex, Tameside; Manchester warehouses; the only surviving hydraulic pump house of its kind in Manchester; the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester; salt works, salt mines and the salt town of Northwich; Cheesden; Queen Street and Helmshore cotton mills; Wet Earth colliery; and Quarry Bank mill, Styal.

For further information, contact the Conference Secretary, 62 Marley Rd, Rye, Sussex TN31 7BD.

Second Mills of Ireland conference

This two-day conference, details of which were given in the April *Newsletter*, has been rescheduled for 20-21 September. As previously reported, it will be based at the Firkin Crane, Cork, courtesy of IHA member Colin Rynne. There will be site visits on Wednesday and talks and workshops on all aspects of mill conservation on Thursday. Further details from Linda Rosen, NGCS, Woolston House, 3 Tetley St, Goitside, Bradford BD1 2NP; tel +44 (0)1247 201697.

Ulster Waterways Conference

The Ulster Waterways Group is organising a conference on the Lagan Canal at the Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn, on Friday 20 October. The morning's proceedings start at 9.15am and include talks on the canal's development, conservation initiatives currently underway, and the economic and social benefits of restoring both it and the Ulster Canal. After lunch, there will be a coach tour of sites of interest along the course of the waterway.

The conference fee is STG£85, including refreshments, lunch and tour. There is also an optional pre-conference dinner the previous evening (£25). For further information on this event, or the UWG in general, contact the Secretary, 88 Clifton St, Belfast BT13 1AB; tel (048/ 028) 9042 5230.

SPAB Mills Course

The Mills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is holding a one day milling course from 10am to 5pm on 28 October. The venue is 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY. It is aimed at those who want to learn more about running and looking after a traditional wind or watermill. Topics include acquisition of a watermill, running a commercial mill, aspects of health and safety, and fund raising. All the speakers have a wealth of practical experience and this course will be of immense benefit to anyone who runs, or is thinking of running a mill as a visitor attraction or commercial enterprise. The cost is STG£55 (£50 to SPAB members). For full details, contact the Mills Section on (UK code +) 020 7456 0909.

IHAI Autumn seminar

This will take place on Saturday 11 November in Louth County Museum, Jocelyn St, Dundalk. This year's theme is *The Industrial Heritage of North-East Ireland*. The following speakers are confirmed at the time of writing:

Prof John Byrne: Sir John Macneill, architect and engineer.

Dr Ron Cox: Mitchell's screwed piles.

Ewan Duffy: The railways of north-east Ireland.

Claire Foley: Scheduling the Newry Canal.

Dr Michael Gould: Belfast truss roofs.

Canice O'Mahony: Manisty's foundry, Dundalk.

Members who would be willing to make a contribution, however short, should make themselves known to Ron Cox or any Committee member (addresses below). Final details and a booking form will be dispatched in October.

Inland Waterways News

Brian Goggin kindly sent me a copy of a quarterly publication which he edits on behalf of the Inland Waterways Association - and most impressive it is too. The Summer 2000 edition runs to 40 pages carrying news of past, present and future developments and events on Irish waterways. The front cover carries an impressive aerial view of the Royal Canal crossing the M50 at Blanchardstown. Inside, there are extended articles on the canals of Dublin. To obtain a copy and subscribe to future issues, write to Brian at Stradbally North, Castleconnell, Co Limerick.

Images of Britain

Those of you with Internet access may be interested to know of a project recently instigated by English Heritage to feature a photograph of every one of England's 360,000 listed buildings on the Web. The images are being added in batches as field-work progresses and about 15,000 are currently available. Check out progress on www.imagesofengland.org.uk.

Not to be outdone, the Scots have also embarked on internet imaging by way of the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN). Their website www.scran.ac.uk gives free access to tens of thousands of images and other resources from museums, libraries, archives and historic monuments in Scotland which will appeal to anyone interested in social, industrial, military and local history, genealogy, archaeology, art and architecture. Must get a faster modem!

The McX Files

Many of you will know of Alan McCutcheon's masterpiece, *The Industrial Archaeology of Northern Ireland*, published by HMSO in 1980. This was based on his extensive fieldwork throughout the province in the 1960s and '70s. All the raw data, which include some 30,000 photographs, hundreds of drawings, numerous site-specific records and miscellaneous publications, eventually came to rest with DOE Environment & Heritage Service: Built Heritage where they have been languishing unused for some 10 years.

A contract has just been awarded by EHS to Belfast-based Archaeological Development Services for the cataloguing of this material and making it accessible to the public. The work will be carried out by Cormac Scally over a three-year period. Cormac brings a wealth of experience to this project, gained whilst setting up the EHS Industrial Archaeological Record.

Heritage Lottery Fund Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland, 2000-2002

This document sets out the aims and objectives of the Northern Ireland Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the distribution funds to public and voluntary groups for heritage-related projects. This heritage embraces the built and natural environments, museums and archives. Since the fund's inception, a total of £39m has been granted to projects in NI up to May 2000.

The HLF strategy identifies four main priorities: heritage conservation, national heritage, local heritage and heritage education/ access. It will continue to work with the Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland, and the NI Museums Council to improve the curation and presentation of collections. The essential repair of buildings at risk of imminent loss will also remain a priority, and the need to direct funds to vernacular and industrial buildings of identified heritage merit is also recognised. Conservation Plans are a key element in the successful conservation of a site and the HLF guidelines in this respect are a 'must read' for any group contemplating such action. The HLF will give priority to projects which conserve items relating to industrial, transport and maritime heritage in situ, where this can be sustained. Small projects involving local communities to preserve, understand and enjoy this heritage will be encouraged.

The NI Committee intends to allocate funds as follows: museums and galleries - 24%, historic buildings and sites - 45%, land and countryside - 12%, libraries and archives - 7%, industrial, transport and maritime - 8%, and revenue schemes - 4%. Many industrial sites fall into more than one category but are, as yet, undersubscribed. As yet, only one industrial project has come to fruition - the restoration to working order of Mullycovet Mill, Belcoo, Co Fermanagh, by Belcoo & District Development Group Ltd.

Check out the HLF website www.hlf.org.uk for further information.

Recent Publications

Ireland - the Inner Island: a Journey through Ireland's Inland Waterways by Kevin Dwyer. Colins Press. IR£22.95. ISBN 1-898256-91-8.

This is a book of photos of Irish inland waterways: the Lee, the Munster Blackwater, the Barrow, the Grand, the Royal, the Shannon, the Shannon-Erne and the Erne. What you get is about 150 pages of large colour photographs.

Kevin Dwyer travelled all the waterways he covered, taking photos from the land or the water between June 1997 and November 1999. But it's the aerial photos that really make this book special: seeing, from above, places that you know from the water.

I can think of no excuse for *not* getting this book. It's definitely worth buying - and I hope there's enough waterway left for a second volume: we might at last find out the secrets of the Corrib!

[This is an abridged version of Brian Goggin's review in the Summer 2000 issue of *Inland Waterways News*].

If you've read anything of industrial or transport interest which you think would appeal to readers of this *Newsletter*, your editor would be pleased to receive a review.

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 both be ordered from Wordwell, PO Box 69, Bray, Co Wicklow (tel 01-2862649).

For those of you with **Internet access**, keep abreast of events on our Web page, courtesy of Robert Guinness (Straffan Steam Museum) and Cormac Scally. Our address is www.steam-museum.ie/ihai or www.steam-museum.com/ihai. If all else fails, use a search engine to find 'THAI'.

IHAI Committee, 2000-2001

Please note the phone code changes for N.I. members.

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- *Vice-President:* Norman Campion, Inver, 1 Kilgobbin Rd, Sandyford, Dublin 18 (01-2942981).
- *Secretary:* Mary McMahan, 77 Brian Rd, Marino, Dublin 3 (01-8334709; email mcmahonmary@eircom.net).
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- *Membership Secretary:* Dermot McNamara, 95 Bulfin Rd, Dublin 8 (01-4535827).
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