
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

January 1999

The committee apologises for the fact that you have not heard from the IHAI for some time, due to a variety of circumstances. This mailshot is intended to update you on recent developments and to circulate details of our 1999 programme to the end of May (there will be a further mailshot in early May). May we also wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

Newsletter

Our editor Colin Rynne apologises to anyone who didn't get the last newsletter (September 1998). A copy is enclosed just in case you were one of the unlucky ones!

Subscription renewal

A membership renewal form is enclosed with this mailshot. Fees as last year. If there is a red 'X' against your name on this form your membership is still awaited for 1998. If this has not been paid by the AGM, it will be assumed that you no longer wish to be a member. If so, the IHAI thanks you for your support and hopes that you might consider rejoining in the future!

Power from Steam

The proceedings of our one-day conference held at Straffan Steam Museum in September 1997 have now appeared. Entitled *Power from Steam*, it has papers on 'Technological development of the reciprocating steam engine' (Paul Logan), 'The Newcomen engine' (John Allen), 'Steam locomotives' (Richard Grainger), 'Parsons and the steam turbine' (Garrett Scaife), 'Industrial archaeology in the Ulster Museum' (Alfred Montgomery), 'The heritage of the stationary steam engine in Ireland' (Colin Rynne and William Dick). It is obtainable from Helen Perry, Pigeon House Trust, Pigeon House Rd, Dublin, price £6.00 (incl p&p). It will also be on sale at the AGM along with the previous year's conference proceedings *Taking Stock of Ireland's Industrial Heritage*.

Autumn 1998 Conference

This was organised by Plunkett Hayes and Helen Perry and took place at Croom Mills, Co Limerick, on 24 October. The complex, which Plunkett and his wife run as a visitors' centre, has an extensive display of working milling machinery driven by all manner of prime movers (as well as a first-class restaurant!). Various speakers gave us their views on the setting up of visitor attractions and the challenges likely to be encountered. Fuller details

will be included in the next Newsletter. It is hoped that some form of publication will ensue.

National Heritage Plan

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has initiated the preparation of a National Heritage Plan in accordance with the government's Action Programme for the Millennium. The aim of this plan is "to develop a national plan for the protection, conservation, management and presentation of the natural heritage, the architectural and archaeological (moveable and immovable) heritage, the inland waterways of the State, and documentary and archival heritage". Proposals were invited by the end of November 1998, and the IHAI made a submission relating to industrial heritage and which covered the following points: (1) the need for a national inventory of industrial heritage, (2) action on the listing and scheduling of industrial sites and landscapes, (3) the need for conservation plans when adapting industrial buildings to new uses, and (4) the need to develop a national collection policy for industrial artifacts. This document will be available for consultation at the AGM.

European Fed. of industrial heritage groups

Mary McMahon represented the IHAI at a meeting in Barcelona on 27-29 November to discuss the setting up of a European Federation of Associations of Industrial Heritage. The idea of this is to provide a forum for the exchange of information and views, and to create a united front when dealing with EU policy makers. Already we have had contact with a Belgian group to discuss setting up a partnership for a project under the EU's Raphael programme. PS. Mary's "holiday" was generously financed by the EU, not the IHAI!!!

Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held at the Pigeon House on Saturday 6th March. Full details are enclosed with this mailshot. The venue is easily reached by car from Ropers Quay, the cross-harbour toll bridge, or from Sandymount - drive up to the roundabout at the east end of Pigeon House Road, then continue east. The turn into Pigeon House is on the left, immediately before the ESB Poolbeg station.

One important function of the AGM is to elect a new Council. Your present one is: Fred Hamond (president), Norman Campion (vice-president), Mary McMahon (secretary), Dan Hurst (treasurer), Vincent Conaghan,

Michael Coulter, Ron Cox, Ruth Delany, William Dick, Paul Duffy, Plunkett Hayes, Paul McMahan, Dermot McNamara, Ken Mawhinney, Helen Perry, Colin Rynne and Cormac Scally. During the year Amanda Pedlow resigned due to family commitments, and we wish her well with her new baby.

Under our constitution, five sitting members have to stand down, and not all are offering themselves for re-election. In short, there are vacancies on the Council for fresh blood and new ideas!

If you, or any of your member friends are interested in serving, please fill in the enclosed nomination form BY 8 FEBRUARY. Council membership basically entails four meetings a year in Dublin to discuss policy and arrange IHAI activities. If there are more nominations than places, a postal ballot will be held and you will be circulated accordingly.

Another important function of the AGM is to enable members to put their views as to how they envisage the Association developing. Please give the following topics some thought for discussion on the day (along with any other ideas you might have):

- *Publicity, membership and networking*: communicating with the membership, IHAI publicity at industrial heritage sites, development of our Internet home page and establishing links with like-minded organisations in Britain and Europe.
- *Publications*: newsletter, general information leaflet on Ireland's industrial heritage, guidelines for the restoration of heritage sites, annual publication on Ireland's industrial heritage, gazetteer of IA heritage sites open to public.
- *Events*: conferences and workshops, talks, fieldtrips, thematic and area surveys.

Power to the People

This weekend conference on all forms of power generation and application is being organised by Paul Duffy on behalf of the Clare Historical and Archaeological Society and will take place on Sat 27 and Sun 28 March. If details are not with this mailshot, contact Paul at 'Cascia', Rockbarton North, Salthill, Galway.

Cornmilling in Ireland

This is being organised by one of our members, Colm Donnelly, on behalf of Belcoo & District Development Group to commemorate the recent restoration of Mullycovet Mill to full working order. It will take place on Friday 7 May at Enniskillen College of Agriculture, Co Fermanagh. Full details are enclosed. Again, please give it your support. There will also be an opportunity to see the water-powered corn mill at work - although extensively refurbished in the mid 19th century, it retains the medieval design of wooden waterwheel linked by a cog-and-lantern gear to a single set of millstones.

IHAI Spring Tour

This year's tour is being held in conjunction with the Association for Industrial Archaeology and will be based in Dublin from Thursday 13 - Sunday 16 May. See the enclosed page for preliminary details. It promises to be an excellent weekend, with interesting sites and good company, so please give it your support. Coaches, hotel accommodation and meals must be arranged in advance, so if you think you might at all interested, please return the form asap (and before the AGM) so that the level of interest can be gauged and arrangements made.

IHAI home page

Cormac Scally has been busy setting up an IHAI page on the Internet, courtesy of Robert Guinness who has generously supplied the facility. If you have Internet access, visit on <http://indigo.ie/~rguinn/ihai.html>. Cormac would like to hear your views on its design and content, so make these known at the AGM or E-mail him at cscally@dial.pipex.com.

Industrial survey and field recording

With the impending legislation on protection of our built heritage, the need to record what is left of our industrial heritage becomes all the more imperative. The IHAI proposes to run a training programme on site recording which will cover its identification and field recording. This will focus on 'paper' survey techniques (eg the discovery of sites through OS maps and other documents, and also on practical field recording (types of field record, planning the survey, describing sites in quantitative and qualitative terms, photography, analysis and evaluation).

This course will be of benefit to professionals and amateurs alike. An interest is all that is required to participate, and no special expertise will be assumed other than a willingness to engage in field recording.

Details still have to be worked out and will depend on the level of response from members. If you think you might be interested, please make yourself known to Fred Hamond, 75 Locksley Pk, Belfast BT10 0AS (tel 08-01232-616480).

Buildings at Risk

The Heritage Council are compiling a national list of buildings which require funding for essential repairs. This will enable it to identify the scale and extent of risk to the architectural heritage and assist it in proposing policies and priorities to address the problem. Owners are invited to submit names and details of such buildings for inclusion in this list. All types of building will be considered, including those of industrial interest. If you know of any such buildings under threat, please inform their owner that fuller details and a form may be obtained from the Heritage Council, Kilkenny.