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# INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER

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No 13  
June 2001



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## Calendar dates

June	23-24	Scottish Industrial Heritage Society summer field trip, Scottish Borders.
Sept	2-9	Mining heritage exhibition, Geological Survey of Ireland (Beggar's Bush, Dublin).
Sept	4	<b>IHAI Committee meeting.</b>
Sept	8	<b>IHAI Tour of Shackleton's Mill, Lucan.</b>
Sept	11-12	Irish Mills conference, Derry.
Sept	21-23	<b>IHAI field trip to Co Donegal.</b>

The foot and mouth emergency has curtailed outdoor activities throughout Ireland. Archaeological fieldwork and excavations have been delayed, and conferences postponed or cancelled. Our own programme has had to be rescheduled - first the AGM and then the Spring field trip (of which details below). With the recent easing of restrictions, it is to be hoped that we will soon be back to normal. Can I also remind anyone who hasn't yet renewed their subscription for 2000-2001 to please send a £10 cheque (made out to 'IHAI') to our treasurer Dan Hurst, 27 Churchview Drive, Killiney, Co Dublin.

## Autumn field trip to Co Donegal

As you probably know, this has been rearranged for the weekend of 21-23 September. It will be based at the Holiday Inn, on the Derry Rd, Letterkenny. The cost will be £30; this covers transport, guide notes and admissions over the weekend, but not accommodation or meals. Attendees can, of course, make their own overnight arrangements, but may like to avail of a discounted b&b rate of £45 ppns at the Holiday Inn. If you're interested in this offer, ring Carmel on 074-61272 (code 00353-74 from NI) without delay in office hours to make your booking; don't forget to mention the IHAI. Details of other hotels and b&bs can be obtained from North-West Tourism, Derry Rd, Letterkenny (tel 074-21160).

Our weekend convenes at 9.30pm on Friday at the Holiday Inn with a brief introductory talk. Over the next two days we travel by minibus around significant industrial sites in and around Letterkenny - see the separate form enclosed with this newsletter for details. To reserve your place, please return the booking form asap along with a non-refundable £10 deposit (cheques to 'IHAI'). Fuller details will be circulated to participants nearer the time.

## Tour of Shackleton's Mill, Lucan

But for the F&M, our AGM was to have been held at Shackleton's Mill. You won't miss out on a tour of the complex, however, thanks to Fingal C.C. and Norman Campion who will be guiding a tour of the site on Saturday 8th September as part of National Heritage Week. Free entry. Meet at 3pm at the mill. Car parking is extremely limited, so come early!

## Third Island of Ireland Mills conference

This conference was to have been held in June but has been rescheduled to 11-12 September. Based at the Fir Trees Hotel, Derry, it is aimed at developers, mill owners, architects, planners, engineers, surveyors, and heritage consultants.

On Tuesday there is a cross-Border tour of restored and adaptively reused mills in Tyrone, Donegal and Derry (including the latter's shirt factories). Wednesday kicks off with talks on the regeneration of Sion Mills and the reuse of Mossley Mill, near Belfast. This is followed by workshops on the sustainable development of brownfield sites, the conservation of defunct mill machinery, and progress on the regeneration of Glenavy Mill, Co Antrim by a community group. The afternoon session focuses on mill regeneration projects as job creators and on structural issues arising from the adaptive reuse of old mills as offices and apartments.

The cost for the talks, workshops, tour and conference dinner (on Tuesday evening) is STG£170/ IR£220. There is a concession for voluntary groups. Note, however, that accommodation is extra (addresses can be supplied). For an application form and more details, contact NGCS, Oakwood House, 637 Roundhay Rd, Leeds LS8 4BA (tel 0113- 2497488; e-mail NGrizzard@aol.com).

## Railway & Canal Historical Society

The above society is organising a field trip to the Cork region on 14-16 September. For further details contact Pat McCarthy on (UK) 01270-568486.

## Annual General Meeting

The minutes of this year's AGM, held on 19th May at the newly-opened Guinness Storehouse, are enclosed with this newsletter along with our audited accounts.

Mary Shackleton was accorded IHAI Life Membership in recognition for her and her late husband Dick's efforts to secure the future of Shackleton's Mill, Lucan. Outgoing secretary Mary McMahon and long-gone Fred Hamond were made Vice-Presidents in recognition of their services to the IHAI. That's the vice programme sorted! Mary and Fred both remain on the committee, but Ewan Duffy takes over as Secretary. I'm sure I speak for all members in thanking Mary for her sterling secretarial services in keeping the IHAI on an even keel since she innocently volunteered to take the minutes at our inaugural meeting way back in 1996.

Stephen Coonan stood down from the Committee and our thanks to him for his involvement. Two new members were elected: William Hogg and Mary Sleeman. William is the author of *The Mills and Millers of Ireland*. Mary works on the Cork Archaeological Survey for Dúchas and it's largely thanks to her efforts that much of the county's industrial heritage has been recorded. Welcome aboard!

After the formal business, members toured the Storehouse. This building was formerly a grain store but has been converted into an interpretative display, superseding the previous one in the Hop Store. It is already one of the City's major tourist attractions. A particularly striking architectural feature is the partial removal of the five upper floors in order to reveal the building's impressive scale and construction.

The lower floors focus on the production of Guinness, the development of the company and its various marketing campaigns over the years. The upper floors contain conference facilities, a staff training bar and restaurant. The entry ticket also entitles you to a free pint in *Gravity*, the rooftop bar. Sheeted entirely in glass, it offers breathtaking panoramas over Dublin and the Wicklows - a memorable end to the day's proceedings. Our thanks to Guinness Ireland Ltd, Dan Hurst and Norman Campion, for facilitating our visit.

### Roberts Brothers, millwrights

The editor received a request from John Jones for information on the millwrighting activities of three Welsh brothers by the name of Roberts. Apparently Thomas, Humphrey and Dafydd established a foundry at Mountmellick in the 1830s or '40s.

Mr Jones writes: "At first they had the contract to make a wheel 40ft across for a mill two miles away. They then built a corn mill in Clara, King's County, for a Mr Goodbody, then a large mill in Westport - a corn mill; a steam mill in Ringsend Dock, Dublin; mills in Loughmore, Ballingerry, Leinster, Yeomanton, Clonanto, Waterford, Dublin, Rudsmill, Templemore, Strabane, Omagh, New Haggard, Athlone, Derrinsalla (two mills), Parsonstown, Tullamore, Roundwood, Montreath, Beechfields, Abbeyleix, Hamond and Athy, together with many other things too numerous to mention. In 1845, Thomas and Dafydd failed to agree and the latter left and emigrated with his family to America and settled in Toronto, Canada."

Does anyone know of Roberts' foundry or the above mills? If you can help John with his research, please e-mail him directly (Joneshines@btinternet.com) or pass it to the editor who will be forward it (address at end of Newsletter).

### Survey of New Ross Railway

Ewan Duffy is currently undertaking a photographic survey of the railway between New Ross and Waterford, opened by the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Co in 1904. Since 1963 it has been closed to traffic with the exception of goods trains from the Albatross fertilizer factory.

Ewan's initial survey focuses on those features identifiable on the 1:50,000 maps and which are accessible by car. He hopes eventually to walk the line to pick up minor features and do a more detailed survey using GPS to map the line. His report and photographs are posted on the Irish Railway News website, [http://communities.msn.co.uk/Industrial\\_Heritage](http://communities.msn.co.uk/Industrial_Heritage).

### The International Molinological Society (TIMS)

Anyone with a passion for wind and watermills may be interested in this worldwide organisation. Its aim is to bring mill enthusiasts and groups together to further our knowledge of all aspects of molinology. A conference is held every four years, and a bi-annual tour. TIMS also has an impressive list of publications, most of which are free to members. For details

contact the TIMS Irish representative, Plunkett Hayes (Croom Mill, Co Limerick), or its UK rep, Michael Haverson (125 Parkside Drive, Watford, Herts WD1 3BA).

### Living Linen

For over a century, Ulster manufacturers produced three-quarters of the UK's linen output. A notable feature of the linen industry has been the resilience of the small family firms, a few of which still operate. *Living Linen* is an oral record of their activities. It is housed at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra, Co Down. For further details, contact the museum's librarian on 048 9042 8428.

### Development Guidelines

Planning conditions now generally stipulate that any large-scale development proposal must be accompanied by an assessment of its impact on the site's archaeological heritage. To this end, the Heritage Council and the Irish branch of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites have just launched *Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers*. This outlines a schedule of procedures by which archaeology can be preserved by avoiding damage and minimising disturbance, whilst minimising cost and delay to the developer. Although the focus is on buried archaeology, similar procedures also apply to upstanding buildings and structures.

This is essential reading for architects, planners, archaeologists and engineers. Copies may be obtained from Wordwell Ltd, PO Box 69, Bray, Co Wicklow, price £5.

The IHAI's *Taking Stock of Ireland's Industrial Heritage* and *Power from Steam* can also be ordered from Wordwell at £5.50 and £6 respectively.

My thanks to Alan Burt, Norman Campion, Ewan Duffy, Mary McMahon and Cormac Scally for their assistance with this newsletter. Please send all copy for the September issue to the editor, Fred Hamond, at the address below.

#### ***IHAI Committee, 2001-2002***

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- ◆ *Secretary:* Ewan Duffy, 64 Grange Village, Mullingar, Co Westmeath (087-9804134)
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- ◆ *Membership Secretary:* Dermot McNamara, 95 Bulfin Rd, Dublin 8 (01-4535827).
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