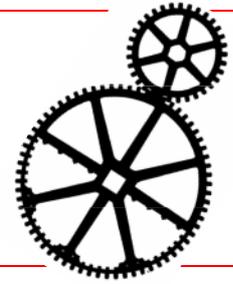


# INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND **NEWSLETTER**

[www.ihai.ie](http://www.ihai.ie)

No 34  
March 2010



## DIARY DATES

<b>27 March</b>	<b>IHAI AGM, Print Museum, Beggars Bush, Haddington Rd, Dublin 4.</b>
10 April	MMOI visit to Skerries Mills, Skerries, Co Dublin
<b>22-23 May</b>	<b>IHAI fieldtrip to South Tipperary.</b>
12-13 June	MMOI fieldtrip to Tralee, Co Kerry
<b>25-26 Sept</b>	<b>Visit to Newmills and District, Co Donegal</b>

*Events in bold are organised by the IHAI*

## EDITORIAL

Following hot on the heels of the December 2009 issue, this newsletter brings you news of our AGM, Spring Tour and several recent awards ceremonies featuring industrial heritage sites. For logistical reasons to do with the preparation of the AGM notices, it is reproduced in black-and-white. However, the original colour version can be downloaded from our website <[www.ihai.ie](http://www.ihai.ie)>. Technicolor service will be resumed with the next newsletter in June. All articles will be gratefully received by the editor, particularly on recent publications.

## IHAI AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place on 27 March at the National Print Museum, Beggar's Bush, Haddington Rd, Dublin 4 (11.30am for a noon start). Formal proceedings will be followed by lunch, a talk on printing and end with a tour of the museum.

This is your opportunity to meet up with like-minded individuals, vote on the make-up of the Committee (the current members are listed at the end of this newsletter), and express your views on the Association's past and future activities. The AGM is free to attend, but there will be a charge of €15 per person to cover a light lunch and admission to the museum. Fuller details are enclosed with this newsletter.

The Print Museum is located in the old Garrison Chapel of Beggars Bush Barracks and is dedicated to all facets of the printing industry in Ireland. To get there, the nearest DART station is Lansdowne Road or Grand Canal Dock (both a five minute walk). The museum is also served by no 7, 45 and 63 buses from outside Trinity College. Fuller details of the museum and its various activities can be found on its website <[www.nationalprintmuseum.ie](http://www.nationalprintmuseum.ie)>.

## IHAI TOUR TO SOUTH TIPPERARY

This year's fieldtrip will take place over the weekend of 22-23 May. Based in the historic town of Clonmel, we will be focusing on sites along the River Suir eastwards as far as Carrick-on-Suir.

Clonmel was the centre of much industrial activity in the later 1700s and early 1800s, notably flour milling. Prior to the advent of the railway in the 1850s, Carrick was also an important staging post in the trade between Waterford and its hinterland. In the 1750s, the river was upgraded between Carrick and Clonmel, and a towpath constructed. The 1830s saw more improvements to the Suir downstream of Carrick, with the cutting of a canal.

Although many industrial sites have disappeared, sufficient survives to give us a flavour of the area's past industry, commerce and trade. Further details and a booking form are at the end of this newsletter.



The Quays, Clonmel c.1900 (*National Library Ireland*).

## MILLS & MILLERS OF IRELAND EVENTS

On 10 April, MMOI will be visiting Skerries Mills, Skerries, Co Dublin. Starting at 10.30am, there will be a tour of the watermill and two windmills, followed by a talk and members forum.

Over the weekend of 12-13 June, the group will be exploring the mills of Tralee and district, including Blennerville Windmill & other mills in the area and talks by Dr Henry Lyons and engineer, John Griffen. For more details, go to the MMOI website <[www.millsofireland.org](http://www.millsofireland.org)> or contact Maureen Fryer-Kelsey, Secretary, Tully Mill, Ballyarr Rd, Ramelton, Co Donegal (email [Mfryer\\_kelsey@hotmail.com](mailto:Mfryer_kelsey@hotmail.com)).

## IHAI AWARDS 2009

The fifth annual IHAI Awards ceremony took place on 2 February at ESB Headquarters, 29 Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin. This event recognises individuals and organisations who have contributed to the preservation and promotion of Ireland's industrial heritage. IHAI President Colin Rynne welcomed everyone and invited Brid

Horan, Executive Director, ESB Energy Solutions to present the awards.

The **Best Industrial Site/Museum Award** went to the corn and flax mill complex at Newmills, near Letterkenny, Co Donegal. In accepting the award on behalf of the Office of Public Works (the site's owners), Paul McMahon, Senior Conservation Architect with the OPW, reminded us of the five key ingredients which contributed to the site's restoration to working order as a visitor attraction – foresight, planning, expertise, dedication and resources. He paid tribute to the team of people involved in the work, particularly the late Vincent Conaghan. He was also delighted to announce that the adjoining shop owned by the Gallagher Family has now been acquired by the OPW and will eventually also be opened to the public. The IHA will be visiting Newmills in September (details in the next newsletter).

The **Best Publication Award** went to Dr Michael J. Conry, a former soil scientist and agronomist with An Foras Taluntais. Since his retirement, he has become a prolific author on topics of industrial heritage interest, most recently *Carlow Granite: Years of History Written in Stone* (2006); this reviewed in our last newsletter. He has also penned *Culm Crushers* (1999), *The Carlow Fence* (2000), *Dancing the Culm* (2001), and *Corn Stacks on Stilts* (2004). In accepting the award, Michael paid tribute to his family and the sponsors of his various books, notably the Heritage Council.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** went to Michael Lynch, recently retired as Senior Parks Superintendent with Fingal County Council. In this capacity, Michael masterminded the restoration of the Skerries Mills complex and was also instrumental in the Council's purchase of the former Anna Liffey Mills, Lucan. Michael also paid tribute to the FAS employment scheme, and his long-suffering family (unquote!).

A new category, **Outstanding Achievement (Restoration) Award** recognized the many unsung hours of voluntary work put in by individuals. This year's recipients were Benny Cullen and Tom Meaney of Straffan Steam Museum. Together they were largely responsible for the dismantling, restoration and reassembly of the numerous working engines now displayed in the former Inchicore Chapel which has been rebuilt by Robert Guinness at Straffan.

As always, we are grateful to ESB, and Brid Horgan and Brendan Delany in particular, for organizing and sponsoring this most enjoyable event.

### ESB VEHICLES (1928-2008)

At the recent IHA Awards ceremony, Brid Horgan of the ESB launched a poster marking 80 years of service by various ESB vehicles. Die-cast scale models have also been produced of a 1954 Land Rover and 1980 Bedford van, both with their authentic number plates.



From L to R: Paul McMahon, Benny Cullen, Colin Rynne, Brid Horgan, Michael Conry, Tom Meaney, and Michael Lynch.

### ZURICH LAMA AWARDS 2010

The fourth Local Authority Members Association Awards ceremony took place on 30 January at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. Sponsored by the insurance company Zurich, this event showcases the best companies and community projects throughout Ireland. Over 450 guests attended the event at which Miriam O'Callaghan was MC and Minister Michael Finneran, Minister for Housing and Local Services, was guest of honour.

Three industrial heritage projects made it to the finals in the **Best Heritage Project** category - Castlecomer Mining Museum (Co Kilkenny), Kells Waterworks (Co Meath), and Lartigue Monorail Museum (Co Kerry). The other four finalists were the Druid Theatre (Galway), Lios na gCon Ringfort, Clonakilty (Co Cork), Red Stables, St Anne's Park, Raheny (Dublin), and St Senan's Church, Kilrush (Co Clare). The winner was ....

Castlecomer Mining Museum, situated in the Castlecomer Discovery Park on the road in from Dublin. A 45-minute self-guided *Footprints in Coal Experience* tour takes the visitor on a journey through time from the formation of coal in the Castlecomer District some 300 million years ago, through 300 years of coal mining history, to the closure of the mines in 1969.

For further details of the museum, contact Castlecomer Discovery Park, Estate Yard, Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny; tel 056 4440707, email [info@discoverypark.ie](mailto:info@discoverypark.ie).

## NEW ZEALAND FLAX

The March 2007 IHAI Newsletter mentioned a flax mill near Dingle, Co Kerry, where flax was processed in the 1880s. Whilst such mills are not uncommon in Ireland, particularly in Ulster, this one was of particular interest as it was suggested that the flax being processed may have come from New Zealand.

My younger son and his family now live in New Zealand (NZ) and I visit them every year. During my holidays there, I tour around the country and, with my interest in industrial heritage, I always look out for relevant information - books, leaflets, museum exhibits, etc - as well as IH sites and artifacts.

In NZ, 'flax' means something quite different from that understood in Europe. The Irish linen industry was based on fibres from the *Linum usitatissimum* plant whereas in NZ, the fibres come from the *Phormium tenax* plant, a quite different species altogether. Irish flax derives from the stems of the plant, whereas NZ flax is from the leaves which are long and broad and can provide fibres which are sometimes six to eight feet in length! It is these fibres which give strength and rigidity to the large leaves.

Originally the Maori separated out the fibres by scraping



Left: Irish flax. Right: New Zealand flax.

the leaves with a mussel-shell after a period of soaking. Later, the Europeans introduced more conventional methods of treatment, including scutching.

In NZ the flax fibres, which are rather coarse, were not often woven to form cloth but used mainly to produce rope and cordage. Mats, sacks, and fishing-nets were also made from the fibre. The Maori did sometimes produce a coarse cloth from the fibres but this was fairly crude and not a widespread activity. The term *flax-weaving*, as used in NZ, refers to the weaving of the leaves of the plant to make baskets and bags.

Besides local use for rope-making and other manufactures, processed flax was exported to Europe and some could have reached Dingle. As the NZ fibre was scutched and fully processed into fibre before

export, was the Dingle factory perhaps a rope or twine-making mill, if indeed it did use NZ flax?

The profitability, and therefore the quantity of flax production in NZ depended very much on the world price for the fibre. It is estimated that in the 1870s there were up to 300 small businesses producing flax fibre, using crude NZ-produced machines, and making products from flax. As sailing ships were replaced by steamships, the demand for rope diminished and other materials replaced the use of agricultural twine, so the flax industry dwindled.

The main factory was at Miranui (Maori for 'the big mill') which is in the southern area of North Island, near the township of Shannon - *now there is an Irish connection!* This factory operated from 1907 to 1933 - all the smaller ones had closed by then, too.

During WW2, with encouragement from the British Government, the European flax plant was extensively cultivated for various grades of linen for military purposes. As an example, the famous 'Mosquito' aeroplane of WW2 had a fuselage mainly constructed of wood with a linen canvas covering which needed frequent replacement. However, this flax-growing enterprise finished at the conclusion of WW2 when flax from the European countries again became available.

There is now no commercial flax production in NZ but there is a Flax Museum at Foxton, near Shannon, and another near Invercargill, at the southern end of South Island.

I have a sample bundle of NZ flax and several illustrated books which give some information about it. I shall endeavour to bring these with me on my next visit to Ireland for an IHAI meeting.

For further information, see *Heritage of Industry - Discovering New Zealand's Industrial History* by Nigel Smith (Auckland: Reed, 2001), and *Miranui - the story of NZ's largest flax mill* by Bob Ayson (Wellington: Southern Press, 1977).

Alan Birt

## -- IHAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009-10 --

*President:* Colin Rynne, Dept Archaeology, University College Cork (email [c.rynn@ucc.ie](mailto:c.rynn@ucc.ie)).

*Vice-President:* Ian McQuiston.

*Company/Membership Secretary:* Ron Cox, Civil Engineering Archive, Museum Building; Trinity College, Dublin 2 (email [membershipsecretary@ihai.ie](mailto:membershipsecretary@ihai.ie)).

*Treasurer:* Robert Guinness, Steam Museum, Straffan, Co Kildare (email [rcg@steam-museum.ie](mailto:rcg@steam-museum.ie)).

*Editor:* Fred Hamond, 75 Locksley Pk, Belfast BT10 0AS (email [frederick-hamond@utvinternet.com](mailto:frederick-hamond@utvinternet.com); tel 028/048 90616480).

*Committee:* Stephanie Bourke (Mills & Millers of Ireland), Norman Campion, James Davidson, Brendan Delany, Ruth Delany, Reggie Goodbody, Michael Grace, Michael Lynch, Mary McMahon (*ex-officio*), Paul McMahon, and Mary Mulvihill (*co-opted*).

My thanks to Alan Birt and Stephanie Bourke for their contributions to this newsletter. Please send articles for the June issue to the editor at the above address by the end of May.

## HERITAGE HONEYPOT: IHAI SPRING TOUR TO SOUTH TIPPERARY, 22-23 May 2010

This year's tour will focus on the River Suir between Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir. Our base will be the historic town of Clonmel, one of Ireland's leading milling centres in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Carrick was at the end of the tidal section of the Suir and an important staging post in the trade between Waterford and Clonmel. In the 1750s, a towpath was constructed along the Suir between the two towns and the 1830s saw further navigational improvements downstream of Carrick. Although many industrial sites have succumbed to modern development, those that survive still reflect the area's 19<sup>th</sup> century prosperity brought about by its industry, commerce and trade.



### Provisional timetable

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Registration will take place in Fennessy's Hotel from 9.00am to 9.30am.
- Depart Clonmel by coach c.9.30pm. Visit Tinhalla Quay – Navigation Cut - Carrickbeg – Carrick - Suir Navigation and bridges – Bulmer's cider factory at Annerville. Return to Clonmel c.5.30pm. Carrick will also be our lunch stop and we will be visiting the town's Heritage Centre, where items of industrial interest are displayed. There will also be a talk by Ralph O'Callaghan, the last of an illustrious line of Suir boatmen.
- Evening meal: Arrangements are in hand for a communal meal in a central venue in Clonmel. Please indicate on the registration slip if you are interested in participating.
- After dinner: There will be the opportunity to hear two short presentations. One will be on the Industries of South Tipperary and is based on fieldwork carried out on behalf of South Tipperary County Council in 2009. The other will be on Quaker Industrialists by Michael Ahern, author of *The Quakers of County Tipperary -- 1655-1924*.

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>

In the morning we explore Clonmel by foot, visiting various bridges, the quays, Suir Island (focus of the town's milling industry). Shay Hurley of the Workmen's Boat Club will accompany us around the island and explain some of the work being undertaken to conserve what's left of its heritage. We will also look at the impact of the town's new flood defence scheme on its industrial heritage. The weekend will conclude with a late lunch in town.

### Accommodation and Travel

Details of hotels, B&Bs, trains and buses are given on the attached lists. Whilst this information is correct at the time of writing, timetables may change due to summer working. You are strongly advised to check before making a booking. Lifts may also be available – please indicate on the registration whether you are interested in car sharing.

### Cost

The tour is €30 per person (€40 for non-IHAI members). This includes coach travel on Saturday, tour notes, speakers' fees, room hire and site entries. It excludes travel to/from Clonmel, accommodation and meals, for which participants are individually responsible.

A deposit of €10 is required by **30 April** to ensure your participation. Note that this sum is not refundable after that date. To register, fill out the attached form and send with a cheque (payable to 'IHAI') to Stephanie Burke, 67 Hampton Green, Balbriggan, Co Dublin.

If you have any queries, please contact Fred Hamond on 028 (NI)/ 048 (RoI) 9061 6480, or email him at frederick-hamond@utvinternet.com.

## GETTING TO CLONMEL

From Dublin by road, take the motorway towards Limerick. On the Portlaoise bypass, turn off for Cork. On approaching Cashel on the motorway, turn off on to a minor road leading to Clonmel. An alternative route is via Carlow and Kilkenny. Clonmel is also served by trains and buses as follows:

### Trains

#### *Friday 21 May, Cork line*

Dublin Heuston	Dept	07.00	13.00	17.00
Limerick Jct <i>Change</i>	Arrive	08.44	14.50	18.39
	Dept	08.50	15.10	18.45
Clonmel	Arrive	09.42	16.04	19.37

#### *Friday 21 May, Waterford line*

Dublin Heuston	Dept	09.10
Waterford <i>Change</i>	Arrive	11.37
	Dept	12.30
Clonmel	Arrive	13.18

Check <[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)> for any timetable changes and also for Sunday return services.

Note that Clonmel Station is a 15-20 minute walk from the town centre and a taxi may be required.

### Buses (via Kilkenny)

#### *Friday 21 May*

Dublin (Busáras)	Dept	09.00	11.30	13.30	15.30	17.30	20.30
Clonmel (Railway station)	Arrive	12.30	15.-00	17.00	19.15	21.00	23.45

#### *Sun 23 May*

Clonmel (Railway station)	Dept	14.30	16.00	17.20	20.30
Dublin (Busáras)	Arrive	17.45	18.40	20.50	23.45

Check <[www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)> for any timetable changes.

## CLONMEL ACCOMMODATION

### Hotels

Clonmel Park Hotel (4 star)  
Poppyfield Retail Park, Clonmel  
Tel 052 61 88700; Web <[www.clonmelparkhotel.com](http://www.clonmelparkhotel.com)>.

Fennessy's Hotel (2 star)  
Gladstone Street, Clonmel  
Tel 052 61 23680; Web <[www.fennesseyshotel.com](http://www.fennesseyshotel.com)>.

This centrally located hotel will be the venue for our talks on Saturday evening. At the time of writing they had 9 twins/doubles available, priced at €35 per person per night sharing. Mention the IHA when booking.

Hearns Hotel (2 star)  
Parnell Street, Clonmel  
Tel 052 6121611; Web <[www.hearnshotel.ie](http://www.hearnshotel.ie)>.

Minella Hotel (4 star)  
Coleville Road, Clonmel  
Tel 052 61 22388; Web <[www.clonmelparkhotel.com](http://www.clonmelparkhotel.com)>.

Mulcahy's Hotel (2 star)  
47 Gladstone Street, Clonmel  
Tel 052 61 25054; Web <[www.mulcahys.ie](http://www.mulcahys.ie)>.

Raheen House Hotel  
Raheen Road, Clonmel  
Tel 052 6122140; Web <[www.raheehouse.ie](http://www.raheehouse.ie)>.

### Bed & breakfast and guesthouses in Clonmel

Mrs Anne Cunningham, Knockainey, Coleville Rd., Clonmel. Tel 052 6123148  
Mrs Lily Deeley, Beentee, Ballingranne, Clonmel. Tel 052 6121313  
Mrs I. Gleeson, Nagles, Kilsheelan, Clonmel. Tel 052 6133496  
Mr Michael Moran, Lissarda, Old Spa Rd., Clonmel. Tel 052 6122593/6122294  
Mrs Rita Morrissey, Hillcourt, Marlfield, Clonmel. Tel 052 6121029/ 6129711  
Ms Nuala O'Connell, Benuala, Marlfield Rd, Clonmel. Tel 052 6122158/ 6182531  
Mrs Alice O'Connor, 10 Old Toberaheena, Marlfield Rd, Clonmel. Tel 052 6121446  
Mrs Breda O'Shea, Ashbourne, Mountain Rd., Clonmel. Tel 052 6122307  
Mrs Margaret Whelan, Amberville, Glenconnor Rd, Clonmel. Tel 052 6121470  
Hillcrest Guesthouse 1, Ard Na Greine, Clonmel. Tel 052 6121798

*For further information on Clonmel, visit <[www.clonmeltourism.com](http://www.clonmeltourism.com)>.*

<b>HERITAGE HONEYPOT: IHAI SPRING TOUR TO SOUTH TIPPERARY, 22-23 May 2010</b>
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Please register \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the IHAI fieldtrip.

I enclose a cheque for €\_\_\_\_\_ made out to 'IHAI' (€15 deposit per person).

Name	
Address	
Phone	Landline: _____ Mobile: _____
Email	
Sat dinner	I am interested/ not interested in a joint meal in Clonmel on Sat evening.
Transport (please tick)	Do you require a lift to/ from Clonmel?
	Can you offer someone a lift to/ from Clonmel?
	I shall be coming to Clonmel by:    Car            Train            Bus

Please return with cheque by **30 April** to Stephanie Burke, 67 Hampton Green, Balbriggan, Co Dublin.

----- Please retain the copy below for your records -----

<b>HERITAGE HONEYPOT: IHAI SPRING TOUR TO SOUTH TIPPERARY, 22-23 May 2010</b>
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