
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND *NEWSLETTER*

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May 2005

DIARY DATES

- 11-12 June Mills & Millers of Ireland Donegal fieldtrip.
25 June Visit to Avoca Mines, led by Nick Coy.
TBA ESB book launch, Turlough Hill.
17 July 'Mills Ancient and Modern'. Talk by Norman
Campion at Country Life Museum, Castlebar
17 July Stationary steam engine exhibition, Straffan
Steam Museum, Co Kildare
23-25 Sept Autumn field trip, Birr, Co Offaly.

Events in bold are organised by IHAI.

This edition of the IHAI newsletter reports on our AGM, held in Dublin last March, and also details future events, including advance notice of our autumn fieldtrip. Book reviews are thin on the ground in this issue, so if you've come across anything of interest, please let the editor know.

May I also remind you about subscriptions for 2005-06. If you have not already renewed, please do so with Robert Guinness, c/o The Steam Museum, Straffan, Co Kildare. Rates are: Individual - €20; Student/OAP - €10, Heritage Centre - €50; Corporate - €100.

Finally, if you'd like to be kept updated on short-notice events which occasionally arise between newsletters, please send your email address to the editor (details at end). You can also check out our revamped and very user-friendly web site (address at top or type 'IHAI' into Google) for updates and details of past events.

2005 AGM, DUBLIN

The National Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin was the venue of this year's IHAI on Saturday 16 April (see photograph below). This site was acquired by the Royal Dublin Society in 1795, came under government control in 1877, and is now the responsibility of the Office of Public Works.

The first phase of building was by the Dublin ironmaster Richard Turner from 1843 to 1869 and comprised an elegant glazed cast- and wrought-iron glass house known as the Curvilinear Range. This was restored by the OPW in 1995 to mark the Gardens' bicentenary. Nearby is the massive Palm House Range, built in 1884 and also restored in 2004. These glasshouses are now unique in Britain and Ireland in retaining most of their original fabric (the palm house in Belfast was restored in mild steel and the Kew Gardens palm house in stainless steel).



The day's proceedings started with a fascinating talk by Ciaran O'Connor, the OPW Architect responsible for the glasshouses' restoration. His overriding principal was to retain as much of the original fabric as possible and only replace what was absolutely necessary - using material as close to the original as possible. To this end, some of the principal structural elements were recast in ductile iron and new wrought-iron pieces welded on to the original glazing bars. The new wrought-iron was recycled from scrap left over from the Kew Gardens restoration and the welders were trained by experts from the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant. The paint used on all the metalwork prior to its re-erection was developed specifically for this project by a Cellbridge paint manufacturer. A computerised climate controlled system was introduced to open and close the windows and to activate the water spray (the water is recycled and treated with ultra-violet light to eliminate the risk of Legionnaires' Disease). Such was the interest in the glasshouses, that the collection of some 20,000 species of plant were given scant attention!

After lunch, IHAI President Ron Cox welcomed the 24 attendees to the AGM; his report of our activities over the past year is reproduced at the end of this newsletter, as are the Treasurer's accounts. You will see that we are now a limited liability company with a membership of 140. Ron expressed thanks to Ewan Duffy and Dermot McNamara, both of whom relinquished their posts as Secretary and Membership Secretary respectively during the year. Robert Guinness presented the Treasurer's report and also thanked our honorary auditors, Mr John McAuley FCA.

Ron then stepped down as President and I'm sure I speak for everyone in thanking him for his services over his term as President. Details of the new officers and committee are given at the end of this newsletter. The day's events concluded with a members' forum. Norman outlined some of the things he'd like to see happen over the next year:

1. More co-ordination with like-minded organisations.
2. The need for IHAI members to be aware of any threats to industrial heritage sites in their locality and notify the committee accordingly.
3. The setting up of specialist sub-committees to tap in to members' expertise.
4. The setting up of a permanent archive.

Ed Galvin suggested that the dates of the spring and autumn meetings be fixed so that members could plan their arrangements well in advance (Ed lives in USA!).

Thanks to Mary Mulvihill for organising the day's activities and catering. I for one shall certainly return!

VISIT TO AVOCA MINES

Nick Coy is leading a fieldtrip to the Avoca Mines on Saturday 25th June. Meet for lunch at noon at Avoca Handweavers, Avoca. Transport will be in convoy in your own cars (lifts can be arranged over lunch). During the afternoon, we will be seeing a variety of structures associated with the mining in this district - engine houses (including the largest and best preserved beam engine house in Ireland),

pits, a tramway and ropeway. Bring walking shoes, wet weather gear (just in case) and camera for what will be a fascinating trip led by an acknowledged expert on the mines of Co Wicklow. This is the first IHAI fieldtrip for 2005, so please do come along and support it.

DONEGAL MILL WEEKEND

The Mills & Millers of Ireland is organising a meeting in Co Donegal on 11-12 June. The event begins in Ramelton on Saturday when James Davidson will talk on 'Our daily bread' and Derek O'Brien (Head of the National Bakery School, Dublin Institute of Technology) on 'Back to the future - the Irish bakery experience'. In the afternoon, there will be visits to New Mills (Letterkenny), the Glebe Gallery and St Columb's House. Evening Dinner will be at the Millbridge Inn, Kilmacrennan. On Sunday, there will be a walking tour of Ramelton, led by historian Mary Hagan. This will be followed by a barbecue lunch and then visits to Kelly's Mill and Tully Mill, both close to Ramelton. For further details, contact Simon Lancaster or Stephanie Bourke at Skerries Mills.

ESB BOOK LAUNCH

The Electricity Supply Board is launching a book entitled *A Heritage Inventory of ESB Buildings in Ireland* during the summer, possibly at Turlough Hill. Final details will be announced to IHAI members in due course.

DUSTY MILLER

IHAI President Norman Campion will be delivering a talk entitled "Mills Ancient and Modern" at the National Museum of Ireland's Country Life Museum, Castlebar, Co Mayo on Sunday 17 July at 2.30pm. Norman has a lifetime's experience in milling and this talk promises to be both authoritative and entertaining.

STEAM ENGINE DISPLAY

The Steam Museum at Straffan is hosting a stationary steam engine event on the afternoon of Sunday 17th July. Everyone who has models built to an engineering standard (and also clocks and musical boxes) is invited to display them at this event. For further details, contact the Steam Museum, Straffan, Co Kildare (email info@steam-museum.ie; tel 01 6288412). Spectators will be most welcome.

AUTUMN FIELDTRIP

This year's weekend outing will be to sites in counties Offaly and Tipperary on 23-25 September. Our base will be the historic town of Birr, adjoining the world-famous Birr Castle (with its recently restored telescope). The plan is to assemble on the Friday evening for an introductory talk. Over the next two days, we'll then visit a variety of sites such as mills, maltings, railway stations, and bridges and also spend some time in Birr Demesne, courtesy of the Earl of Rosse. Full details will be circulated with the August newsletter.

THE WIRE MEN ARE COMING

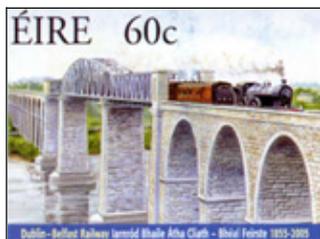
A new musical about, of all things, the ESB's great rural electrification scheme of the 1950s, opens at Dublin's Gaiety Theatre on May 4 for one month. Written by Eurovision songwriter Shay Healy, it is set in North Mayo where an ESB crew arrives from Dublin to connect 'the electric' and change the lives of the townspeople forever. When progress meets tradition, sparks will surely fly, especially when backed by the Riverdance production team. It should be electrifying!

Tickets from €20 are obtainable from the Gaiety Theatre box office, Dublin (tel 01 6771717). Further details can also be found on <http://www.wirementhemusical.com>.

Mary Mulvihill

STAMP SPOTTING

In April, An Post issued four stamps to mark the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Dublin-Belfast rail link in 1855. The Dublin & Drogheda Railway Company started work at the Amiens Street (now Connolly St) end of the line and reached Drogheda in 1844. Two years previously, the Ulster Railway had reached Portadown en route to Armagh. The Dublin & Belfast Junction Railway Co then completed the link between Portadown and Drogheda link in 1852.



The River Boyne at Drogheda presented a major problem to through running. Here the river runs in a deep gorge and the Admiralty had insisted on a bridge with 90ft headroom and a channel width of 250ft so as not to impede shipping to and from Drogheda's quays.

Initially passengers were transferred from one side of the river to the other by horse and cart across the road bridge. It was envisaged that a railway bridge would soon be built but problems with its foundations and design greatly delayed its completion. To facilitate travel to the Great Industrial Exhibition in Dublin, a timber truss bridge was opened as a temporary measure in May 1853. Two years later, the lattice girder bridge was finally completed, a joint effort by Sir John Macneill and James Barton. It is the opening of this bridge on 5th April 1855 which is being commemorated by An Post. However, only its masonry arch approaches now survive, the metal span having been replaced in steel in 1932. It remains the longest free span on the Irish rail network.

The four commemorative stamps show the old and new *Enterprise* trains in action – in steam at Connolly Station (48c), crossing the Boyne Viaduct (60c), a modern diesel loco leaving Belfast's Central Station (65c) and en route between the two capitals (48c).

Also available apart from the stamps (€2.21), are first day covers (€2.96), minisheet (€2.21), and illustrated booklet (€3.00, including four sets of each stamp). All can be had from the Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Dublin 1 or online at www.irishstamps.ie.

SECOND STEAM

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland recently completed the refurbishment of steam engine no.186 at their Whitehead headquarters, at a cost of £85,000. The loco was built in 1879 by Sharp Steward in Manchester for the Great Southern & Western Railway, and is now one of the oldest mainline steam locos still at work anywhere in the world. It was presented to the RPSI by CIE in 1965 and featured in a number of films, notably *The First Great Train Robbery* (starring Sean Connery) in 1978. It is now back in service with the Society for excursions and tours.



The Society's next project is the restoration of loco 461 which should be back in service next year, funding permitting. For further details of all the RPSI's activities, check out the their website, www.rpsi-online.org.

Rail Issues, Dec 2004.

INLAND WATERWAY NEWS

The Lagan Canal Branch of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland held its inaugural meeting on January last in Lisburn, Co Antrim. Its aim is to promote the reopening of the Lagan Canal between Belfast and Lough Neagh. The canal was built in two stages – from Belfast to Lisburn in 1763 (under Thomas Omer), and from Lisburn to Lough Neagh in 1794 (under Richard Owen). As the M1 motorway now runs along part of the canal between Moira and Sprucefield, this section will be re-routed along the river when it is eventually restored. At Sprucefield itself are the impressive remains of the Union Locks, a four-lock rise from the River Lagan to the summit level of the canal.

Lisburn was an appropriate venue for the launch of the new branch as its City Council was responsible for the restoration of Lock 12 and the rewatering of a stretch of the canal at its new Civic Offices. For further details of the Lagan Canal Branch, contact Linda Crymble, tel 044 28 9250 9489.

Inland Waterways News, Spring 2005.

£1 BRIDGES

The Royal Mint is introducing four new £1 coin designs between 2004 and 2007. These designs, on the reverse side to the Queen's head, will replace the existing four-year sequence of £1 designs which has come to an end. Their designer is wood engraver Edwina Ellis, who won a limited competition judged by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee.

The sequence of issue will be as follows: 2004 - Scotland (Forth Road Bridge), 2005 - Wales (Menai Straits Bridge), 2006 - Northern Ireland (the Egyptian Arch, designed by Sir John Macneill for the Belfast-Dublin railway at Newry), and 2007 - England (the Millennium Bridge, Gateshead).

Numismatists amongst you might be interested to know that the coins were issued in 2003 as a limited edition in gold (3000) and silver (7500). Not unsurprisingly, these are not legal tender.



CITYBOATS LISBURN

Whilst on the subject of the Lagan Canal, Cityboats Lisburn began operations in March of this year under the management of William Wallace with the introduction of trips on the Lagan in a traditional (British) narrowboat. The boat is moored adjacent to Lisburn Civic Centre and operates seven days a week with sailings at 10am, noon, 2pm, 4pm (subject to demand). Bookings can be made by post, telephone or email. Various cruises are on offer and private hire is also available. Prices are: adults- £6; children/ senior citizens- £4; family- £16; private hire- £60/hour. For further details visit www.cityboats.biz or tel (044) 07765 887 948.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government recently launched Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines of Planning Authorities. Its objective is to explain the implementation of Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. This relates to the creation of the Record of Protected Structures and designation of Architectural Conservation Areas by local authorities.

Part 1 deals with the legislative and administration of the Act - site identification, assessment of heritage significance, declarations and the planning process. Part 2 focuses on the theory and practice of conservation - maintenance, repair, refurbishment and adaptive reuse, the key principle in all cases being to do as much as is necessary and as little as possible so that special character is retained. The appendices are also very useful, with advice on sources, reports, bibliography and architectural glossary.

Whilst this might seem a rather dry subject, anyone with an interest in architecture and field recording will find this copiously illustrated book very accessible and informative. Although it deals with buildings in general, it is extremely relevant to industrial sites, so many of which still have to be identified, recorded, evaluated and protected.

Priced at a giveaway €10, the book is obtainable from the Government Publications Sales Office, Molesworth St, Dublin 2 or by mail order from Government Publications Postal Trade Section, 205 Harcourt Rd, Dublin 2.

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My thanks to Erskine Holmes, Robert Guinness, Nuala Redmond (editor of *Inland Waterways News*), Mary Mulvihill and Ron Cox for their contributions to this newsletter. The next issue will be at the end of August. All contributions on industrial heritage will be gladly received by the editor Fred Hamond, 75 Locksley Park, Belfast BT10 0AS (email frederick-hamond@utvinternet.com).

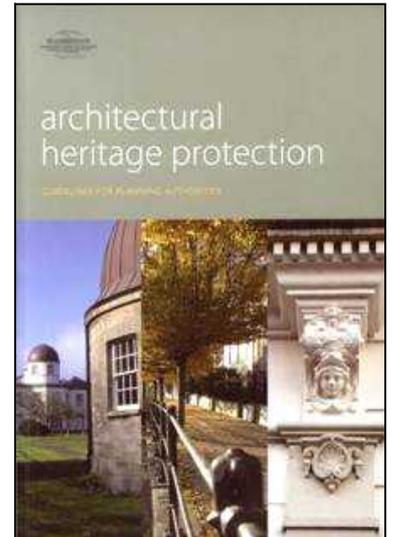
IHAI Committee 2005-06

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Secretary/ Membership Sec: Ron Cox, Ron Cox, Centre for Civil Engineering Heritage, Museum Building; Trinity College, Dublin 2. Tel. 01 6082544; email rcox@tcd.ie.

Treasurer: Robert Guinness, The Steam Museum, Straffan, Co Kildare. Tel 01 6288412; email rcg@steam-museum.ie.

Committee: James Davidson, Brendan Delany, Ruth Delany, Fred Hamond, Simon Lancaster, Mary McMahon, Paul McMahon, Mary Mulvihill, Ian McQuiston and Andrew Ogden. Colin Rynne, Michael Lynch and Barry O'Reilly were also co-opted.



The Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland Ltd: Annual Report 2004-05

This report on the activities of the association during the session 2004-2005 was prepared by the outgoing President, Dr Ron Cox and presented to the AGM on 16th April, 2005

The Executive Committee met on six occasions during the session. The outgoing Officers and Members of the Executive Committee wish to record their thanks to the outgoing Hon Secretary, Ewan Duffy, who resigned the position in October 2004, for all his untiring efforts on behalf of the Association.

The annual conference and tour was based in Belfast from 9th to 10th October 2004. The title was '*Serving the People: The Heritage of Public Utilities in Ireland*' and there were six presentations on topics including mains drainage, water supply, air-conditioning and electrification. On the second day there was a tour of industrial heritage sites, including visits to Duncrue Street Sewage Pumping Station, Carrickfergus Gasworks, and the Royal Victoria Hospital. Thanks are due Ian McQuiston, Fred Hamond and Mary McMahon for organising this very successful conference.

On 20th November, 2004, a visit was arranged by Norman Campion to the National Archives of Ireland in Dublin. Our thanks are due to Brian Donnelly and the staff of the NAI for an interesting look at our national archives. During the visit, an EGM was held to ratify the documents required for the registration of the IHAI as a public company. In the afternoon, there was a visit to the NCAD to view the Powers Distillery beam engine, efforts being made to fund a conservation programme.

The IHAI provided inputs to a number of local authority draft heritage plans. An IH mission statement was sent to all heritage officers and 11 (54%) responded. All responses were positive and recognised the importance of establishing an IH record.

Machinery was recovered from Clara Mills and presented to the Shackleton's Mill Project. Efforts are in train to conserve the two steam beam engines on the site of the former Powers Distillery.

Following approval by the members of the Memorandum & Articles of Association & Regulations at an EGM, IHAI Ltd. has now been registered as a public company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The IHAI is now affiliated to the Federation of History Societies allowing insurance to be arranged to cover claims by members against members or against the association. Cover also includes public liability and accidental damage to property during meetings, functions and outings.

Membership currently stands at around 140. In November, our Membership Secretary, Dermot McNamara, resigned after many years of loyal and efficient service to the association. Ron Cox has taken on the task of Membership Secretary as he will be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM.

During the session, Simon Lancaster was co-opted to the Council as the representative of the Mills and Millers of Ireland in place of William Hogg, whom we thank for his valuable contribution to the work of the Council.

Newsletters continue to be produced and circulated on a regular basis and thanks in this regard go to our Editor, Dr Fred Hamond. Newsletters were circulated to all Heritage and Conservation Officers in local authorities as well as to members. IHAI occasional publications are distributed through Wordwell in Bray to whom orders should be directed.

The IHAI Executive Committee were invited by the Editor of the German IH magazine *Industrie Kultur* (Olaf Schmidt Rutsch) to contribute a number of articles on different aspects of industrial heritage in Ireland for a special 'Irish' issue to be published during 2005. Thirteen articles have been submitted and translated into German. It is hoped that they will subsequently be published by the IHAI in English together with contributions to the Belfast conference.

Thanks are due to Rupert Fuller for organising the IHAI website which continues to be hosted on the Steam Museum Straffan site (by kind permission of Robert Guinness). The website is currently undergoing extensive updating [*now completed*].

Ron Cox, 16th April 2005