

WORCESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Spring Newsletter 2020; Issue no. 56, May 2020

President's Piece

Dear Members,

We hope that this newsletter finds you safe and well and that you are coping with the challenges that social distancing and self-isolation brings. The past few weeks have been nothing short of extraordinary and whilst none of us knows what the future holds, what we have learned is that it is more important than ever that we continue to support one another as much as we can.

Due to the current circumstances we were forced to postpone the Regional IA Conference that we were due to host on 4 April. This has now been re-arranged (provisionally) for 26 September and we hope that as many members as possible will be able to join us for an enjoyable day in interesting surroundings.

The Winter Programme has been arranged and I enclose a copy. When this emergency has finished, I will organize either a lunch or dinner for the Society as a pleasant social affair and to celebrate 50 years of the Society.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the Society. I am always here for you if you have any queries or need someone to talk to - just pick up the phone.

Remember, stay home, stay safe and stay connected.

Good wishes to you all and I hope to see you very soon.

Christine Silvester

Editor's Note:

This newsletter is a special abbreviated format due to the circumstances we find ourselves in during the coronavirus pandemic. There is extraordinarily little of the usual content to impart, as we were forced to suspend all activities in mid-March, and it is not clear how or when we will be able to get back to anything approaching normal. Also, the logistics of editing, printing and distributing a newsletter in our usual form would have put officers of your society at unnecessary risk. But we feel it is important to maintain contact and let you know what we are doing to plan ahead. So, please forgive this rather lightweight document, we hope normal service will be resumed by the Spring 2021 newsletter at the latest!

John Beale

Committee News

The last meeting of the society before lockdown commenced was the AGM. We are grateful that so many members attended as the beginnings of social distancing were beginning to be felt. The occasion marked the retirement of Sue McCurdy as Membership Secretary. She has served the society in this role for many years and has done a wonderful job. She has made the job of many other committee members so very much easier not least by being the communications hub during a time when we began to make use of email more fully, and she steered us safely through the minefield of implementing GDPR! We will miss her, very much, on the Committee but look forward to her continuing as an active member of our society.

We are incredibly grateful that Sue Southwick volunteered to take over the role of Membership Secretary and was duly elected at the AGM. She has already been highly active maintaining

communications with members during lockdown and we look forward to having her on board the Committee.

Hugh Field was due to step down as Chairman at the AGM but there was no candidate willing to take on the role. Rather than allow a hiatus to develop the members present agreed to the Committee's proposal that the society's normal rule would be waived temporarily to allow Hugh to continue in post for one further year. Hopefully, that will enable us to organise a succession plan.

51st South Wales and West of England Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference (SWWRIAC)

We are hosting this conference to celebrate our 50th year since founding. As you are aware, it has been postponed to Saturday, 26th September 2020. However, this remains provisional on the lifting of restrictions and social-distancing advice relating to the coronavirus pandemic. We are taking bookings, but cheques will not be presented until September in case we cannot go ahead. It will still be held at the Elim Conference Centre, West Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 4DF

The programme includes:

- Dr Dennis Williams — The Industrial Archaeology of Croome Park, RAF Defford, and the Museum of Jet Flight.
- Max Hunt - Herbert Austin, the Longbridge Story and Longbridge Village
- Dr John Harcup — The Magic of Malvern Water - The Springs of Malvern and the Water Cure.
- Mike Napthan - The Industrial Archaeology of Worcester's Shrub Hill Station

There will be visits after the conference, to be confirmed, but include:

- Malvern Town Centre, the Priory and water spouts
- Great Malvern Station
- Geology of the Malvern Hills

The conference fee of £23 is inclusive of refreshments morning and teatime and a three -course hot lunch. A booking form is being sent with this newsletter. Further copies of the programme and booking form is now available on our website at <http://www.wialhs.org.uk/aia-regional-conference-2020.html> . Any queries phone Christine Silvester 01905 354679 or email conference@wialhs.org.uk

Summer Programme 2020

Mike Hayzelden reports that the Summer Programme is effectively cancelled. We do not know if and when any activity could take place over the Summer, whether any of our planned venues would be willing to receive us, and whether any members would want to participate. The plan is to keep our proposals on ice for 2021. Your committee will keep the situation under review and may organise events at relatively short notice as and when it becomes possible. So please watch for further communications, emails and our website as things develop.

Winter Programme 2020/2021

Christine has completed the plan for the next Winter Programme as detailed below. You will see that we hope to begin again on the 11th September, but that is far from certain at this stage. Please keep in touch or check with Christine Silvester on 01905 354679 nearer the time. All meetings will be held at RGS Worcester in the Lecture Theatre (unless otherwise indicated) with a 7.30 p.m. start.

SEPTEMBER 11 - MIKE WILKINSON - The ecology of Castlemorton. Mike is an ecologist and will talk about the wildlife, how the area formed and also why.

OCTOBER 23 - RICHARD CHURCHLEY - Will talk to us on the subject of 'Humble Homes' The type of houses that most of our ancestors lived in as opposed to grand houses.

NOVEMBER 20 — MAX HUNT — Will speak to us about Herbert Austin and the Longbridge Story including the village he had built for the car workers, and cedar houses imported from Canada. Many still exist.

DECEMBER 11 - MICHAEL DAMES - Will give us a talk on 'Spirits of Severn' -a mystic look at the river and its history that he has recently had published. Michael is a member of WIA&LHS. *THIS MEETING WILL BE IN THE ELD HALL AND WE WILL HAVE MINCE PIES, MULLED WINE, ETC.*

JANUARY 22 2021 - DAVID MORGAN - NARROW GAUGE RAILWAYS PART 2. I am sure that you will recall part 1 (January 17 2020).

FEBRUARY 12 — CHRIS WILKINSON — One of our members and a train enthusiast, will give us a talk on the — THE BUTTS SPUR LINE —This went from Foregate Street Station to the racecourse and then alongside the river towards the Cathedral.

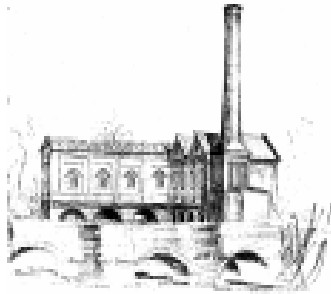
MARCH 5 - A.G.M. — after the meeting we will have a film of 100 years of a local farm T.B.C.

APRIL 16 - MARTIN WEBB - Will speak to us on the subject Of MORGAN MOTORS - how it began and where it is going

Newsletter Editor: John Beale

51st REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE SOUTH WALES AND WEST OF ENGLAND

Hosted by:



**WORCESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY
& LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Saturday 26th September 2020

Elim Conference Centre
DeWalden Rd
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 4DF

PROGRAMME

- 09:00 Registration, refreshments, view society stands
- 09:45 Welcome and Introduction
- 10:00 *The Industrial Archaeology of Croome Park and Defford Airfield, and the Museum of Jet Flight.*
Dr Dennis Williams
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 *Herbert Austin, the Longbridge Story and Longbridge Village*
Max Hunt
- 12:15 Lunch in the refectory—first group
Screening of *archive film: “A Pocket of Hops”* introduced by Mike Jackson (20 mins)
- 12:35 Lunch in the refectory—second group
Time to mingle, and view society stands
- 13:20 *Archive film: “A Pocket of Hops”* will be shown again for those who were at lunch the first time
- 13:45 *The Magic of Malvern Water*
Dr. John Harcup OBE
- 14:45 *The Industrial Archaeology of Worcester’s Shrub Hill Station*
Mike Napthan
- 15:45 Summary and Close
- 16:00 Tea
- 16:30 Muster for tours and depart

TOURS (provisional)

The following optional tours have been organised for the end of the conference. Sign up sheets will be available at registration, on a first-come-first-served basis.

- A: The Elim Conference Centre: Our venue has a fascinating history and many unusual features. It was originally the large mansion of Lord Howard de Walden but was taken over as a girls boarding school early in the 20th Century. Its more recent history is as home to the Regents Theological college and headquarters of the Elim Pentecostal Church.
- B: Malvern Town Centre and water spouts. This short walking tour will also include Malvern Priory.
- C: Great Malvern Station: This tour will cover the influence by Lady Foley, the architect Edmund Wallace Elmslie, the sculptures by William Forsyth, the design style and links to the Imperial Hotel (now Malvern St. James School), rail links to Worcester, Hereford and Ashchurch. Plus changes over the years and current proposals for refurbishing the station and the Worm.
- D: Geology of the Malvern Hills. Depending on the weather, this may involve a short walk on the hills, possibly a quarry. If wet the tour will comprise a visit to the Malvern Hills GeoCentre the official visitor information centre for the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark, and the Malvern Hills AONB. Led
- E: The Story of Malvern Water—This tour is not confirmed, it is hoped to visit Holywell Spring and Visitors Centre to see where Malvern Water is still bottled.

COST

The conference delegate rate is £23 inclusive of hot, three course lunch, and all refreshments. A booking form is enclosed.

Contact Christine Silvester 01905 354679 or conference@wialhs.org.uk

Directions:

From S Wales:

- Approach via the M50 Eastbound, Leave at Jc 2, left onto A417 (Ledbury)
- At roundabout, 2nd exit onto A449 (Ledbury town centre)
- In the town centre, at the lights, turn right onto A449 (Malvern)
- Follow A449 to the summit at British Camp, turn left before the Malvern Hills Hotel onto B4232 (resume at ++ below)

From the South West:

- Leave M5 at Jc 8 onto M50 (S. Wales)
- Leave M50 at Jc 1 (Malvern); take A38 north then A4104 west (Malvern/Upton)
- At Upton bridge, turn left at mini roundabout to stay on A4104 until junction with A449 at Little Malvern.
- Turn Left onto A449, (Ledbury) then at the Malvern Hills Hotel turn right onto **B4232. (resume at ++ below)**

++ All:

- Follow B4232 (Jubilee Drive) to its dogleg junction with B4218
- Turn Right then Left to regain B4232 West Malvern Road to the venue.
- Proceed until you see marshals who will direct you to car parking.

By public transport:

The best option is to travel by train to Great Malvern station and take a taxi from there (10 minutes or so). This station is also the setting for one of the visits at the end of the conference. Trains are at approximately hourly to/from South Wales by changing at Hereford. From the south west the trains are less convenient so you are recommended to stay at the venue on the Friday evening (see below).

First Bus routes 675/6 Malvern-Ledbury pass the venue (St James' stop). In the current timetable a bus leaves Ledbury station 09:12, Colwall station 09:30 and arrives at the venue 09:42. A return service leaves at 16:32 arriving Colwall 16:42, Ledbury 17:02. Please check before travelling.

Accommodation:

As a residential college, the venue is able to offer accommodation to those wishing to arrive on Friday 25th September. Delegates to the conference should contact the venue directly on 01684 588967 to book. A special rate from £57 B&B has been negotiated, but spaces are limited. Why not come early and book a visit to the Morgan Motors factory in Malvern—01684 892295 for details?

For other accommodation options visit <https://www.visitthemaalverns.org/where-to-stay/>

51st REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE SOUTH WALES AND WEST OF ENGLAND

Malvern, Worcestershire, Saturday, 26th September 2020

BOOKING FORM

To: **Christine Silvester, 12 Upper Park Street, Worcester WR5 1EX**

Please reserve _____ places at £23 for the AIA South Wales and West Regional Conference on Saturday 26th September 2020. I enclose a cheque (dated 1st September 2020) payable to WIA&LHS for £_____. (Cheques will not be presented until conference is confirmed. In case any ongoing COVID-19 restrictions prevent us going ahead, your cheque will be returned).

Special dietary requirements (with numbers) _____

My party will be travelling by car, in _____ vehicles, including _____ blue badges

Name and Address of person making booking (Block capitals)

Numbers for tours: A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____

Contact Telephone No. _____ Email: _____

Other names in my party: _____

Society/ Affiliation: _____

Display space required (details, please?) _____

If booking by post, please enclose an SAE if you require acknowledgement. We will not retain your contact details after the conference.

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