



Conservation Award Presentation:
Andrew Norris receiving the
award from Bob Bryson.
Photo: Alan Thomas.

The West Lodge and the recently
restored gate at the entrance to the
Chilworth Gunpowder Mills.

**Chilworth
Gunpowder Mills Group
Receives Conservation Award**
*from the press release
by Alan Thomas*

The 2010 Conservation Award of the Surrey Industrial History Group was presented to the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills Group and Guildford Borough Council on Saturday 10 July 2010 in recognition of their work over many years in recording, researching and restoration of the site of the former gunpowder works at Chilworth on the Tillingbourne. The award was commemorated by the presentation of a plaque by Mr Robert Bryson (Chairman, Surrey Industrial History Group) to Mr Andrew Norris, representing the Group and its constituent members the Guildford Borough Council and St Martha's Parish Council.

The Guildford Borough Council was represented by Councillors Jenny Powell, Roy Hogben and David Wright.

The award is the 28th in the series of annual awards made by the Surrey Industrial History Group.

The Chilworth Gunpowder Mills were established in 1626 by the East India Company using water power from the Tillingbourne, but later made powder for the King and for commercial sale. From 1885 a new type of powder was made for heavy guns, and from 1892 cordite, a smokeless propellant, was made in a new factory. In WWI the Admiralty built a second cordite factory on adjacent land. After the war explosives factories merged, and most closed, as did the Chilworth works in 1920. The site was sold by the Duke of Northumberland in 1922.



Many of the buildings were demolished. Much of the site is now owned and maintained by the Guildford Borough Council. There has been much work in recent decades in research into the history of the site, the recording and interpretation of building remains and their conservation and repair, including removal of damaging vegetation. The Chilworth Gunpowder Mills Group, an informal association of local authorities and local history and natural history organisations, supports the care and management of the site and encourages public interest and involvement. This includes arranging activities on Heritage Open Days, the Parish Council's annual open evening and giving talks to interested bodies.

Numerous books and articles have been written about the mills. A short guide to the site and the history of powder making is *A Guide to the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills* (4th ed.) by Glenys Crocker (SIHG 2005), and a more detailed account is given in *Damnable Inventions: Chilworth gunpowder and the paper mills of the Tillingbourne* by Glenys and Alan Crocker (SIHG 2000). A more extensive list may be obtained from info@sihg.org.uk. □

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Reports & Notices

Details of meetings are reported in good faith, but information may become out of date. Please check details before attending.

SIHG Visits, Details & Updates at www.sihg.org.uk

Surrey Archaeological Society—Research Committee *report from our new SIHG rep Pam Taylor*

As the new SIHG representative on the research committee, I am becoming aware of the possibilities that membership of our parent society could offer to our members. Many of you have undertaken, or are currently involved with, research of various Industrial Archaeology and History interests and it could be that the Research Committee might be able to help in this. For instance, our editor, Jan Spencer, undertook an archive (and geographical) search for a traction engine used locally, which led to further research. A short talk was given at the Ashtead SyAS conference and the results will be published in our own newsletter. Glenys Crocker, already with an in-depth knowledge of historic wool processing in all its stages, has been conducting further work that has taken her on a recent trip to Norway. Alan Crocker, not to be outdone, is working on a compilation of the surviving watermills of Surrey.

To encourage new work it might be useful to canvas members' existing interests, with a view to tabulating this, and encouraging exchange of information between members. It could be that workshops might be helpful to new researchers, to identify potential subjects and the means of accomplishing the research. SIHG itself has resources which could be used for projects, so together with SyAS help, funding could be available for implementation of research and publishing of the findings. Please think about this, and report any interest to myself, sastre1@btinternet.com or 01252 715218, or any other committee member. □

SIHG is a group of the Surrey Archaeological Society, Registered Charity No 272098
Castle Arch Guildford Surrey GU1 3SX
Group Patron: David Shepherd OBE, Group President: Prof AG Crocker FSA

Other IA Organisations

- Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre:** next to Amberley railway station, West Sussex, www.amberleymuseum.co.uk.
- Association for Industrial Archaeology:** www.industrial-archaeology.org.
- Basingstoke Canal Authority:** 01252 370073.
- Brighton Circle (London, Brighton & South Coast Railway):** www.lbscr.demon.co.uk.
- Chatham Historic Dockyard:** Kent ME4 4TZ; www.chdt.org.uk.
- Cobham Bus Museum:** London Bus Preservation Trust, Redhill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1EF; www.lbpt.org.
- Croydon Airport Visitor Centre:** Airport House, Purley Way Croydon CR0 0XZ; www.croydon-airport.org.uk.
- Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society:** meetings: Small Hall, United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, E Croydon.
- Cuffley Industrial Heritage Society:** Northaw Village Hall, 5 Northaw Road West, Northaw EN6 4NW; www.cihs.org.uk.
- Didcot Railway Centre:** Access via Didcot Parkway Station; www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk.
- Docklands History Group:** Museum in Docklands, No 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, London, E14 4AL; www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk.
- East London History Society :** Latimer Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1; www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk.
- Enfield Society:** Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ; www.enfieldsociety.org.uk.
- Fetcham U3A:** <http://fetchamu3a.org.uk/home.htm>.
- Greenwich Industrial History Society:** Old Bakehouse, Age Exchange Centre, 11 Blackheath Village, SE3 (opposite Blackheath Station).
- Great Dorset Steam Fair:** South Down, Tarrant Hinton, nr Blandford, Dorset DT11 8HX; www.gdfs.co.uk.
- Hampshire Archaeology Society (HIAS):** Underhill Centre, St. John's Road, Hedge End, SO30 4AF.
- Hampshire Mills Group:** www.hampshiremills.org.
- Heritage Open Days:** 1 Waterehouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST; www.heritageopendays.org.uk.
- Honeywood Museum:** by Carshalton Ponds, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3NX; www.friendsofhoneywood.co.uk.
- Kempton Great Engines:** Feltham Hill Road, Hanworth, Middx TW13 6XH (off elevated section of A316); www.kemptonsteam.org.
- Kew Bridge Steam Museum:** Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0EN; www.kbsm.org.
- Lewisham Local History Society:** Lewisham Methodist Church SE13 6BT.
- London Canal Museum:** 12/13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT; www.canalmuseum.org.uk.
- London Transport Museum, Acton Depot:** 2 Museum Way, 118 - 120 Gunnersbury Lane, London, W3 9BQ; 020 7565 7298.
- London Underground Railway Society;** Upper Room, All Souls Clubhouse, 141 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QG; www.lurs.org.uk
- Lowfield Heath Windmill:** near Charlwood.
- Mid-Hants Railway (Watercress Line):** Alresford Station, Alresford, Hants SO24 9JG or Alton Station, Alton, Hants GU34 2PZ; www.watercressline.co.uk.
- Newcomen Society London:** Fellows' Room, Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD.
- Newcomen Society Portsmouth:** Room 0.27, Portland Building, University of Portsmouth, St James Street off Queen Street, Portsea.
- Open City London (Open House London):** www.open-city.org.uk.
- Portsmouth Historic Dockyard:** www.historicdockyard.co.uk.
- Railway & Canal Historical Society:** The Rugby Tavern, Rugby Street, London WC1; www.rchs.org.uk
- Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Group:** Time & Talents Centre, Old Mortuary, St Mary Church Street, Rotherhithe Village, SE16; www.kingstairs.com/rotherhithe.
- Royal Gunpowder Mills:** Waltham Abbey; www.royalgunpowdermills.com.
- Rural Life Centre,** Old Kiln Museum, Reeds Road, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DL.
- Shalford Mill (National Trust),** Shalford Guildford Surrey GU4 8BX.
- Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society:** Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut SE1 8LN (almost opposite the Old Vic).
- Shirley Windmill:** Postmill Close, Shirley, Croydon CR0 5DY; visitor@croydowntowncentre.com.
- Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society (The Basingstoke Canal):** Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham; ww.basingstoke-canal.org.uk.
- Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society (SIAS):** www.sussexias.co.uk.
- Sussex Mills Group:** www.sussexmillsgroup.org.uk.
- Twyford Waterworks:** Hazeley Road, Twyford, Hampshire SO21 1QA; www.twyfordwaterworks.co.uk/.
- Wealden Iron Research Group:** Nutley Memorial Hall, Sussex, (North end of village, West side of A22).
- Westcott Local History Group:** Westcott Reading Room, Westcott near Dorking, Surrey RH4 3NP; info@westcotthistory.org.uk.
- Wey & Arun Canal Trust:** The Granary, Fritchfold Farm, Loxwood Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 ORH; www.weyandarun.co.uk.
- Wings & Wheels at Dunsfold Park:** near Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8TB; www.wingsandwheels.net.

SIHG Newsletter No 176 July 2010

DIARY

The 35th series of SIHG Industrial Archaeology Lectures

on alternate Tuesdays, 1930 - 2130 at the University of Surrey (Lecture Theatre F).
 Enquiries to programme co-ordinator, Bob Bryson, meetings@sihg.org.uk. Maps at www.sihg.org.uk
 Free parking is available in the evening on the main campus car park.
 Single lectures at £5, payable on the night, are open to all.

The Autumn 2010 Thursday Morning Lecture Series at Leatherhead

Enquiries to Leatherhead programme co-ordinator Ken Tythacott, Ken.tythacott@btinternet.com.
 As seating is strictly limited, enrolment is for the whole course only; casual attendance is not possible.

Diary July / August / September 2010

- Thur 23 September SIHG New Lecture Series (Leatherhead)
- Tue 28 September SIHG New Lecture Series (Guildford): Watches in England, the First Hundred Years, 1580-1680 by David Thompson, Curator of Horology, British Museum

Spelthorne: Where do You Think You Live?

report by Jan Spencer

The open day on Saturday 5 June, at Staines Methodist Church, was well attended. There were many interesting displays and talks on recent discoveries. The SIHG stand, set up and manned by Jan Spencer, was flanked by the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Surrey History Centre.

Visitors were made well aware of the history of Staines and the Borough of Spelthorne.

Our display panels, repared by Glenys Crocker, had highlights from our (unfortunately out-of-print) *Guide to the Industrial History of Spelthorne* and aroused many questions. We were even visited by the Mayor and Mayoress.

Gordon Knowles' book *Surrey and the Motor* includes several references to activities in Spelthorne and sold several copies.

A reminder of past glories, Peter Minett's Lagonda stood by the entrance and was admired by all who came.

Another pioneering enterprise, the Staines Linoleum Factory operated where the Two Rivers Shopping Centre now stands. Frederick Walton, the inventor of linoleum, opened the factory in 1864. By 1930 it covered 45 acres. It produced the first lino in the World and was the largest employer in the area for many years.

The event was organized by Spelthorne archaeology & Local History Group, Spelthorne U3A Local History Groups.

- Spelthorne Museum, with exhibits on several local industries, is in Staines Library, Friends Walk, Staines TW18 4PG.
- Egham Museum is run by the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society and is in the Literary Institute, 51 High Street, Egham TW20 9EW. It is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays only. ☐



Peter Minett's Lagonda at Staines. Photo: Jan Spencer.



"Roll Out the Lino" by David Annand March 2004 in Staines High Street. Photo: Jan Spencer.

Surrey Industrial History Group Officers

Chairman & SIHG Lectures Organiser: **Robert Bryson**, meetings@sihg.org.uk

Secretary: **Alan Thomas**, info@sihg.org.uk

Treasurer: (vacant)

Membership Secretary: **David Evans**, membership@sihg.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: **Jan Spencer**, news@sihg.org.uk

Industrial Archaeology Review Volume XXXII No 1 May 2010 review by Gordon Knowles

Industrial Archaeology and the Archaeological Community: Fifty Years On Marilyn Palmer is Emeritus Professor of Industrial Archaeology at the University of Leicester and a Vice-President of the Council for British Archaeology. She gave the annual Beatrice de Cardi lecture at the CBA meeting at Ironbridge in October 2009. It was held to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the first successful smelting of iron using coke by Abraham Darby at Coalbrookdale in 1709. (Not 1609 as printed in the article. This must be an editorial or proof reading slip, I cannot imagine Marilyn making such an error!). This paper is an expanded version of her lecture and discusses in depth the CBA's championship of the fledgling discipline of industrial archaeology in the early 1960s, together with the highly significant but frequently neglected developments in Northern Ireland. The paper then considers the development of industrial archaeology in public and professional archaeology in the second half of the twentieth century and concludes that the definition of industrial archaeology adopted by the CBA in 1959 significantly helped to pave the way for its considerable growth in that period. Where we will be in 50 years time no one knows, but as the Editor of IA Review writes 'most of us are unlikely to find out: but we can look forward to the immediate future with confidence.'

The 19th-Century Suspension Footbridges of Harpers of Aberdeen is written by Douglas Harper, who is a retired Consultant Surgeon and now researches the work of his great-grandfather, and Tom Day, an independent researcher, formerly of Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. The engineering firm of Harpers in Aberdeen developed a light suspension bridge that had little connection with the so-called 'blacksmith bridges' of the early part of the 19th century. Apart from scale, they differed in construction by having a unique tensioning device together with an arched deck. Some 60 were constructed, but only a few remain today; those vanished and those remaining in the UK are shown on a map. There has not previously been any description published of this unique design. These bridges provide a valuable insight into the affordable and adaptable engineering solutions, easily exported to all parts of the empire, and which were adopted for small-scale projects during the course of the 19th century. Examples illustrated in the text include Scottish ones at Glen Tanar, Birkhall, Banchory and Nairn as well as one over the River Wye at Ross and another in Mumbai, the current fate of which is unknown.

The Emergence of Municipal Baths: Hygiene, War and Recreation in the Development of Swimming Facilities is on an unusual topic and is written by Gordon Marino, a mature PhD student at the University of Manchester. Public bathing facilities were one of the many new urban developments arising from the Industrial Revolution. Marino examines the changing role, function and provision of baths and swimming pools from the Victorian period through to post WWII in the 1950s and 1960s. He discusses the changing rationales from cleansing, through preparation for war to post-war recreational use. These changes are put into context within the archaeological and historical record, using examples from across the United Kingdom. He explores how such buildings, as well as being functional, were simultaneously physical manifestations of the municipal grandeur and pride of the new industrial cities. The future of some of these buildings is uncertain, indeed since Marino completed his field studies in 2008 some have already been demolished and others are empty and decaying.

Nash Mills - The Endless Web Revisited is written by Bob Zeepvat who formerly worked for the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit and has for ten years been historic buildings consultant for Archaeology Services & Consultancy Ltd. A watermill is known to have existed on the river Gade since the 11th century on the site of Nash Mills, Hertfordshire between Hemel Hempstead and Abbots Langley. A purpose-built paper mill was constructed here in the late 18th century. In 1810 by John Dickinson, one of the great innovators of the paper industry, bought the mill. It evolved during the 19th and early 20th centuries as part of Dickinson's expanding business, which at one time included five different mills in the area, including Apsley Mill, Home Park Mill at Kings Langley and Croxley Mill five miles downstream from Home Park. This produced high grade note paper, probably the product most well-known by the public. Nash Mills remained in the ownership of John Dickinson and his successors until 1990, ceasing production in 2006. It was the last of the Dickinson mills to close down. Zeepvat has used documentary and remaining buildings evidence on the site to examine the development of the mill, emphasising the relationships between personalities, events, structures, processes and changing business and technological influences. Dickinson seemingly was paternalistic to his workers but had a fearsome reputation and preferred to work with less experienced and younger staff from which he brooked no challenge to his authority. □

Lagonda Factory - Request for Information

Mike Clark is trying to find out about the history of the factory during the First World War and later. His particular interest is munitions worker records, as a relative Hilda Ogilvy (or Ogilvie) is thought to have worked there. Please contact any SIHG committee member or Mike at clarkvandm@yahoo.co.uk.

“A History of the Fuller's Earth Mining Industry Around Bath”

by Neil MacMillen & Mike Chapman
book review by Paul W Sowan

Fullers' earth, an unusual (highly absorbent) clay, mineralogically montmorillonite, has been worked opencast on a large scale at Nutfield and Redhill, and also mined on and off in the same area. Not of widespread occurrence, it has only been found in economically workable deposits at a few other places, including the Maidstone district, and an area in Somerset south of Bath. Its many uses derive from its very high absorbency, the material having a very high free surface area (about 80 square metres) per gram of earth. Thus it was good for absorbing grease from wool, and indeed as is well-known in and around Nutfield, the natural excretory products of cats! In the warehouse at Nutfield one could see the material destined for export, in paper sacks lettered 'Good kitty' or somesuch in all the main European languages!

A history of the Nutfield / Redhill mines, pits, and works is not, as far as I am aware, currently available. But a perfectly splendid book about the mining and processing in Somerset has recently been published. As the same company employed the same processes at both locations, this new work will be of considerable interest and most enlightening to east Surrey readers.

The book contains a location map (several mines and processing works were operated in and around Midford), site plans and underground plans of mines, descriptions and explanations of the properties of the clay and of its processing and uses, and is well illustrated with



“Fuller's Earth ... has a very high absorbency, the material having a very high free surface area”

photographs inside the mines, at the entrances, in the works, etc. A whole chapter is devoted to associated road, canal, and railway transport. The district was served by the Somersetshire Coal Canal, the Somerset & Dorset Railway, and the Camerton Branch of the Great Western Railway. The railways have all closed, as have the mines - the last one ceasing work in 1980.

This district is also noteworthy for the residence there for some time of William

Smith [1769 - 1839] the pioneering stratigraphical geologist. Each chapter has a very useful list of references for further reading. And there are biographical details of personnel, including James Cawley and his son Claude William Cawley, who worked fullers' earth in east Surrey. C.W. Cawley also worked a hearthstone mine at Betchworth.

Witney: Black Dwarf Lightmoor Publications Ltd: 152pp
[ISBN 978-1899889-32-7] [Somerset / Nutfield (Surrey)], 2009

£ 17.50 inclusive of postage and packing from Black Dwarf Lightmoor Publications Ltd, 120 Farmers Close, WITNEY, Oxfordshire OX28 1 NR ☐

“Past Industries of Ashted, Leatherhead and Bookham”

by Peter Tarplee

Leatherhead & District Local History Society
book review by Gordon Knowles

Peter Tarplee is Vice-President of SIHG and former long-serving Secretary. This new publication by the Leatherhead & District Local History Society is a welcome addition to their range of local histories, is reasonably priced and well produced. The paper is of good quality, the font in the text easily readable and the many black and white pictures are excellently reproduced, particularly bearing in mind the age of most of the originals. There are a few spelling and punctuation errors; unfortunately what modern publication does not have them. It is perhaps a reflection on the lower standard of proof reading today.

There are thirteen chapters, each devoted to a particular industry or business. These range from Roman tile and brick making on Ashted common, through silk and pottery manufacture to major engineering firms such as Ronson, Goblin, Neil and Spencer and the old and new Atlas works in Bookham. I have certainly learnt more about a number of the industries and firms eloquently described; I am sure most readers will too. Peter has drawn on his extensive researches over the years which

have formed the basis of the many lectures he has given, but he does not claim to have covered every industry in the area and asks that any errors or omissions be notified to him.

One realises that it is virtually impossible to include every business or industry and that there must be a limit to the number of pages, and thus the cost, of such a book but I do wonder whether, if Fetcham had been included, (it is one of the districts covered by the Society) then the mill on the Cobham Road could have been mentioned. Also perhaps the tannery by the bridge in Leatherhead or Ventham the Coach Builders in Bridge Street.

This most welcome book is strongly recommended; it will be of great interest to industrial, social and local historians as well as to those who worked in one or other of the factories - or perhaps their parents did. It is a much needed and essential record of the industries of the area which is now almost entirely given over to housing, offices or warehousing. Like so much of Britain there is now very little manufacturing industry left in the area.

ISBN 0-9552785-5-6: £8.99 from local booksellers and Amazon,

or post free from the Society Sales Secretary at Hampton Cottage Museum,
64 Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DP ☐

Industrial Archaeology News No 153 Summer 2010 review by Gordon Knowles

The *AIA Council report* for 2009 contains details of awards totalling £36,750 made to the Scottish Maritime Museum, the South Yorkshire Trades Historical Trust, Beamish North of England Open Air Museum and the Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port from a large donation from an anonymous benefactor. There is a new AIA website at www.industrial-archaeology.org. The 2010 Conference in Cornwall from 3-6 September will include a Symposium marking the centenary of the birth of Tom Rolt.

Fred Barker writes on part two of the trip to *New Zealand* in November 2009, this time covering the South Island. Visits in Christchurch included the tramway, the steam tug Lyttelton, built in 1907 by Ferguson Brothers in Glasgow, and Ferrymead Heritage Park which contains an Edwardian village, fire engines and transport aircraft.

The group then travelled on the TranzAlpine train to Greymouth calling at the Brunner coalmine either side of a valley linked by a bridge built in 1876. At Reefton the remains of the 1888 hydro-electric power station were visited; it fed the first public electricity supply in the country. The Coaltown Museum at Westport was next on the list, then a long drive over the mountains to Wanaka and on to another hydro station. Three units are still operating there, unfortunately none were during the visit, two were down for repairs as was the canal which feeds the turbines.

The final visit was to yet another hydro power station, originally built in 1934 and extended in 1940, 1941 and 1949, whilst the power house was extended in 1954 bringing the output up to 105MW. The group went finally on to Dunedin, visiting the magnificent railway station there, alas no longer used for regular services; whilst some members of the party stayed on to attend the Third Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference at the University of Otago.

Linda Ross tells the story of the restoration of the original boiler from a Clyde Puffer at the *Scottish Maritime Museum*, funded by the grant referred to in the

Council report. The boiler was built by Cochran of Annan in 1942-3 and is a substantial piece of machinery weighing 6.8 tonne and is an important piece of Scottish maritime history.

The *Ken Hawley collection* has now been moved to a new home in the Kelham Island Museum in Sheffield. Keith Crawshaw describes the move from the Ruskin Gallery after a Trust was set up in 1995 to raise funds to ensure the survival of this unique collection of tools, cutlery, catalogues and memorabilia.

Amongst South East regional news is an announcement of a *day school on IA and Wildlife Interests* to be held on 5 July, speakers are Alan and Glenys Crocker and Paul Sowen of SIHG and Chris Matcham of Surrey Wildlife Trust, with a visit to Chilworth gunpowder site. (This was a lively and successful event, attended by about 30 participants. Ed.)

The two 550 ft high concrete chimneys at *Northfleet, Kent*, cement works were demolished in March. They were opened by Blue Circle, now Lafarge, in 1970. A smaller one opened in 1958 was demolished earlier this year. This marks the end of nearly 200 years of cement production following the exhaustion of the chalk reserves. The site is due to be developed for housing.

A dig at the formal *Royal Naval Dockyard at Deptford* has uncovered substantial remains of docks, basins, slips and mast ponds designed and built by John Rennie, Sir Samuel Bentham and George Ledwell-Taylor. They had been covered by concrete and tarmac in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The remains of the paddle steamer *Ryde* is likely to be broken up; hopes that it might be rebuilt like the *Medway Queen* have been dashed. The *Ryde* was built in 1937 by William Denny at Dumbarton on the Clyde and the ship has deteriorated badly since being laid up some 40 years ago at Binfield, Newport, IOW. Meanwhile work is progressing on the *Medway Queen* at Bristol, on both the engines and the hull. □

Some Web Sites of Interest to Industrial Archaeologists

All the links are on our site at www.sihg.org.uk;
some have been added only recently.

Brewery History Society: www.breweryhistory.co.uk
City Posts - the coal duty boundary marks of the City of London: www.coaldutyposts.org.uk/cityposts.html
Droitwich Spa "Saltworkers":
www.statues.co.uk/droitwichsaltmin.html
Mapledurham Watermill:
www.mapledurham.co.uk/history/watermill/
Milestone Society: www.milestonesociety.co.uk
National Monument Record Centre:
www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.16400
Northwich Salt Museum: www.saltmuseum.org.uk/
PastScape: www.pastscape.org/
Petroliana: www.petroliana.co.uk/

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard:
www.historicdockyard.co.uk/
Richmond Lock and Weir
www.pla.co.uk/display_fixedpage.cfm/id/2253
Rhydymwyn Valley History Society -
Secret Wartime Factory in North Wales
www.rhydymwynvalleyhistory.co.uk/
St Johns School Redhill Air Raid Shelter -
WWII pupil murals
- On YouTube: <http://tinyurl.com/sihg06>
- Pathe film: <http://tinyurl.com/sihg11>
- At War: <http://tinyurl.com/sihg14>
Air Raid Shelter: www.stjohnsschoolredhill.co.uk/
STEAM - Museum of the Great Western Railway
www.steam-museum.org.uk
Tweedsmuir Military Camp, Thursley
www.tweedsmuirmilitarycamp.co.uk/

Brockham Limeworks Scheduled Ancient Monument (22780): Management Plan

by Paul W Sowan

When, some decades ago, Surrey County Council purchased the Brockham Limeworks site (comprising the chalk pits, lime works, and associated works buildings but not the neighbouring former brickfield nor the blocked hearthstone mine adits), I urged them to produce a management plan. More recently, especially since the kilns and mine shaft were Scheduled as Ancient Monuments in 2004. English Heritage has been making similar representations. Now, in 2010, the Surrey Wildlife Trust, who manage the site as a nature reserve, has commissioned Oxford Archaeology South to write such a plan. I accompanied Oxford Archaeology's Jonathan Gill around the site earlier this summer, pointing out salient features and issues, and have supplied him with background notes. I have now received from him a first draft of the plan, which addresses all issues from geodiversity through industrial archaeology, wildlife conservation issues (including bat hibernation in the kilns) through to public access to and enjoyment, and interpretation of and publicity for the site. My contributions relating especially to the geology and archaeology have very largely been incorporated into the draft which runs to 77 pages at present.

The draft plan notes significant developments at Brockham since hearthstone mining ceased in 1925, and chalk extraction and lime burning ceased in 1936.

Machinery (a crane, winding engine, rolling stock and grinding mills) was presumably removed from the site before World War II. The hearthstone mine shaft, approximately nine feet in diameter and over 70 feet



“... repair and modify industrial-scale flare kilns ... to make them more suitable for hibernating bats.”

deep, was backfilled, but has been re-excavated in recent years (it is rendered safe by a stout metal grill).

During World War II an Army exercise using live ammunition was staged in the chalk pits, and witnessed by George VI. 'Our boys' stormed the cliffs (perhaps representing the Normandy coast) and successfully took the crest of the escarpment from the enemy.

Little happened thereafter until the 1960s/70s when members of the Narrow Gauge Railway Society established the "Brockham Museum" at the site, a collection of industrial and mostly narrow gauge rolling stock (steam, diesel, waggons etc) which has since been relocated to the Amberley Working Museum in West Sussex. The Museum laid a short demonstration line, largely on a shallow embankment, alongside the public footpath towards Betchworth limeworks. However, their accumulated

rolling stock was of several different gauges, so only a fraction could be demonstrated in motion. A short length of mixed gauge track in the limeworks yard went some way to solving that problem.

Most recently, the Surrey Wildlife Trust has found the resources to stabilise the eastern battery of eight lime kilns, and to repair and modify industrial-scale flare kilns 1, 3 and 4 to make them more suitable for hibernating bats. It has fallen to me to advise relevant parties (English Heritage and Surrey Wildlife Trust) and liaise with the contractors to ensure that the archaeological features are safeguarded, and Scheduled Monument status respected. □

“Thomas Haywood & Sons Ltd.”

by Carol Palmer

book review by Paul W Sowan

Thomas Haywood & Sons Ltd, a family engineering company, moved in 1929 to a long narrow site at Coulsdon, between the A23 Brighton Road and the main line railway. They continued in business at Coulsdon until, having been taken over in 1963 by the Clark & Smith Industries Group, the works were closed.

The firm was founded at Worcester in or about 1887 by Thomas Eli Haywood [1872 - 1963] and manufactured, notably, railway signalling equipment, some of which was exported as far afield as Brazil. They also did wrought iron work (some of which was exhibited at the Festival of Britain in 1951), and ran the Falcon Garage selling motor fuels and repairing vehicles.

This very informative and exceptionally well illustrated

book is recommended to all who are interested in Croydon and Surrey commercial history and industries.

Coulsdon: Haywood Publishing: (2) + xii + 68pp [Coulsdon] [ISBN 978-0-9564136-0-4] 2009

It is about £ 9 per copy / postage and packing extra.

*For purchase details contact
haywood.book@googlmail.com*

A DVD entitled 'The workings of Falcon Works and Falcon Forge' is also available to go with the book, consisting of a film taken in 1964 in three parts featuring the Falcon Forge, Thomas Haywood Sons, and Falcon Forge fitting. This is £ 8.50 plus postage and packing. □