

EAST MIDLANDS INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE NETWORK MEETING	Friday 30th July 2021, 11:00-12:30 Zoom
SESSION 1 A brief introduction and update from Shane and Mike	
Introduction by Shane Gould, Head of Industrial Heritage Strategy, Historic England	<p>Shane is the Head of Industrial Heritage Strategy within Historic England, which funds the Industrial Heritage Support Officer post.</p> <p>This Network is one of 8 that are now up and running across the country in the following regions: London, North East, North West, Cornwall & Devon, South West, South East and West Midlands. Two other Networks are also planned in Yorkshire and East of England</p> <p>Any suggestions for speakers at future Network meetings should be sent to Mike and Shane (Action = ALL).</p>
Dr Mike Nevell, Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England	<p>The Industrial Heritage Support Officer post was established in 2012 to provide support and advice to the 600 Industrial Heritage preserved/protected sites that are open to the public in England.</p> <p>Mike started his role in March 2020 and managed to visit a few sites before the COVID lockdowns began.</p> <p>There are four social media channels for industrial heritage support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website https://industrialheritagesupport.com/ (for stories) • Website https://industrialheritagenetworks.com (for IHN member news) • Facebook https://www.facebook.com/IHSOEngland/ (for news) • Twitter @IHSOEngland (for immediate support) <p>Of the 600 industrial heritage sites that are open to the public – approximately 350 are water & windmills and preserved railways. The mills tend to be run by volunteers and usually aren't part of larger museums. The railways are more business orientated and better at lobbying and raising money.</p> <p>The remaining 250 sites include textile mills and mining sites, which are all listed or scheduled. They are sometimes part of larger organisations such as English Heritage and the National Trust. Some include larger individual sites such as Beamish and Ironbridge.</p>
Challenges	<p>In 2020 the Industrial Heritage sector has faced 2 major challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change (flooding) – industrial buildings needing maintenance and changes made to adapt to climate/environmental issues such as erosion and degradation • Covid-19 pandemic – many industrial heritage sites rely on visitors and volunteers to survive. The two periods of lockdown in 2020 have seen annual visitor numbers reduce by more than 70% and increased vandalism found when some reopened. <p>When sites could reopen in the summer, 46 confirmed that they would remain closed until 2021. Many of the small volunteer sites are struggling to stay open. The long-term effect of the pandemic on volunteers is not yet known; there's a concern there might be less volunteers in the future.</p> <p>Another concern is that Local Authorities may have to transfer assets as a way of reducing costs. This could lead to very few industrial heritage sites being managed by Local Authorities in the future.</p>

SESSION 2

The attendees each introduced themselves and the organisations they represented. They described the challenges they have faced this year

Neville Buckle (Pleasley Pit Trust)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have been opening only on a Sunday, but as from early August, will be opening on Thursday's as well, although visitors can pre-book for times outside of these days• A couple of the guides haven't come back but otherwise OK• Every 2nd Sunday in the month they run the electrical drive
Chris Hossack (Leicestershire Industrial Heritage Society & Glenfield Tunnel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be holding a Heritage weekend in September at Glenfield Tunnel but with reduced numbers of guides as many of them have not come back. All tours are currently for a maximum of 10 people per tour instead of the usual 25• During the Archaeology Festival there have been tours of Swannington Coal Mines• Although fewer in numbers, the teams have held up pretty well so far• Bulletins are regularly published, a recent one was about the Co-Op Movement in Leicestershire, they also publish a bi-yearly magazine for news• EMEAC has been suspended until "normal" times return
Chris Page (Dogdyke Pumping Station)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opened on the 1st Sunday in July with 107 people visiting• Have spent lockdowns completing maintenance, which was carried out by volunteers and the good news is that they have a larger volunteer base for open days, which at the moment only occur on Sunday afternoons• Have survived financially thanks in large part to receiving funding• Looking to do some promotion for more volunteers as they only have 3-4 currently• They did use the track and trace system but when they open up properly again this won't be continued, although they will keep sanitising points and social distancing in the smaller buildings
Peter Milner (Derbyshire Historical Buildings Trust & Wingfield Station)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very fortunate as they are not reliant on income from a single project• The 1st phase of Wingfield Station was the development phase and was funded by the NLHF• All planned public meetings were cancelled but everything else has been successfully managed electronically• Have reined back the training and community engagement activities• Eccles House had never previously had 100% occupancy until the pandemic as people started looking for more "out of the way" spaces
Lucy Godfrey (Wingfield Station)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have been investing in packages for larger audiences• Have been creating their own films, including a series of mini films put together by a local film maker, that are now on the website• Have been giving tours of the station whenever they can, these tours are free• Sudbury Gasworks – have received some NLHF funding for a community hub• Staff engagement had to be postponed for a key member of staff, but they have now come on board, starting in November 2020• Frame Workers Knitters Museum has had some capital works finalised but have felt some impact with volunteers

David Knight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haven't been able to meet in person but have quite a few projects on the go
Georgina Greaves (Derwent Valley Mills WHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are lots of new films online and some offline engagement of festivals • The commercial shops at Masson Mills have closed • Cromford Mills have received some Cultural Recovery Fund monies • Have had lots of engagement with Schools but sadly the Victors Centre isn't open • Strutts North Mill Museum has been flooded • Have an older non-diverse volunteer demographic but they are working hard to change this
Geoff Taylor (Chain Bridge Forge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have done quite well during the pandemic as had funds coming from the local council and the Arts Council • The museum has been closed but the working forge has remained open and has been exceptionally since July 2020 • They run taster sessions and created online capability 10 years ago as part of the local history resources, but they feel that they need to make more of this • Have created an archive of the Flower Parade, with about 3500 items submitted by local people • Have also created an oral history, which has been given to a local artist to create a visual representation of this • Hoping to create a charity in order to promote local arts etc, although a bit of a standalone it is hoped it could work with IH sites to develop a "hand-over" to other sites • Have developed augmented and virtual reality resources
Jason Morden (Notts CC Historic Buildings Conservation Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bestwood Colliery Winding Engine – doesn't make money and is run and managed by volunteers, they have only recently reopened, along with the Community Space nearby • Jason is also the Chair of a charitable site (non IH), which has been funded by the NLHF
Elaine Evans (Clipstone Colliery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After years of no investment etc the owner are now looking at the restoration of this site. It is currently closed to the public due to it being unsafe • There is a market to be held nearby in a couple of weeks, which is hoped will encourage regeneration of the area

Any Other Comments
<u>Shane Gould</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Told the group that he didn't think there would be any live meetings before 2022 and then it is hoped there would be one or two meetings for each network • If there were any topics or issues that the Network members would like to raise at the next meeting, let Shane or Mike know • If any of the Network would like to host a live meeting, let Shane or Mike know • Although there has not been a face-to-face meeting with this particular Network, it has been inspiring how all the members have coped through the pandemic

- There will be a short paragraph to add to the website as an introduction to this Network
- **Mike agreed to circulate his presentation as a PDF (Action = Mike Nevell)**

ATTENDEES:	
Chris Page	Dogdyke Pumping Station
Elaine Evans	Clipstone Colliery
Gladys Rico	
Neville Buckle	Pleasley Pit Trust
Peter Milner	Derbyshire Historical Buildings Trust & Wingfield Station
Adam Russell	Peak District Mines Historical Society
Jason Morden	Notts CC Historic Buildings Conservation Officer
Chris Hossack	Leicestershire Industrial Heritage Society & Glenfield Tunnel
Colin East	
Georgina Greaves	Derwent Valley Mills WHS
Jim Grevatte	Framework Knitters Museum, Notts
Lucy Godfrey	Wingfield Station
R Shawcross	
David Knight	Derwent Valley Mills WHS & Trent & Peak Archaeology
Geoff Taylor	Chain Bridge Forge, Spalding, Lincs