



Industrial Heritage Network North West (IHNNW): meeting summary and key points

National Waterways Museum; 6 June 2019

Key points covered during the meeting:

1. Update from IHSO (Industrial Heritage Support Officer).

- IHSO is an England wide, one-person project funded by Historic England and managed by Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.
- IHSO is a facilitator for the Industrial Heritage Networks (IHNs) supporting members with the following:
 - Bringing members together
 - Providing help in organising the meetings
 - Providing regional logos (sites/organisations can use the IHN logo online, in print or anywhere they think is relevant and can be beneficial; if you don't have a copy of the logo yet please let the IHSO know)
 - Providing access to the IHNs website which can be used for promotion, information sharing and spreading awareness
 - Providing access to the online communications and information platform – this is currently under development. The IHSO is researching the best option and is looking for feedback from members and ideas they might have about staying in touch in between meetings.
- Joanna reminded members that:
 - Network meetings are bi-annual
 - Each meeting is to be hosted at a different site/organisation (providing lunch is optional)
 - Agenda is flexible, and members are encouraged to, and should input into it (offering suggestions for themes, talks, presentations, workshops and discussions)
 - Future meetings will be held under a specific theme to focus on issues in more detail and the theme is chosen by the host for the meeting.
- Joanna also talked about the benefits of the IHNs website, asked everyone to send in short blurbs (100 words) and a photo to add to their entry; she also asked to send in various stories with news, information, adverts etc. and subscribe to the IHNs website: <https://industrialheritagenetworks.com/> and the Industrial Heritage Support (IHSO project) website: <https://industrialheritagesupport.com/>
- Lastly, Joanna stressed that meetings should be perceived as 'starters', or 'igniters' for further networking, discussions and support across member sites/organisations throughout the year.

2. National Waterways Museum host talk – theme *Empowering, relevant, dynamic – using industrial history collections to engage and inspire*.

- Margaret Harrison, the Collections Manager, talked to us about the restoration efforts at the museum over the last five years and their plans for the future. She then focused on sharing thoughts and ideas about empowering collections based on the recent Museum Association's report.

More details about what was covered in Margaret's talk, and in the discussions that followed, are in the blog entry on the IHNs website:

<https://industrialheritagenetworks.com/2019/06/10/empowering-relevant-dynamic-using-industrial-history-collections-to-engage-and-inspire/#more-925>

3. Updates from members.

- Members had a chance to talk about their site or organisation, promote any activities or events they might have coming up, advertise any vacancies or volunteering opportunities or anything else happening which they would like to share.
- Anthony Pilling, funder of Pilling Looms, talked about smaller industrial heritage sites with large, working machinery that face issues in ensuring they produce appropriate health and safety documentation. Documentation which protects them in case of an accident, or negligence. This is a sector-wide concern as many staff and volunteers operate dangerous machinery daily and dealing with visitors at the same time. Members were happy to share their processes with other sites – if you're working or volunteering at a site concerned about their health and safety documentation, please get in touch with the IHSO and Joanna will put you in contact with relevant members.
- Jonathan Lloyd from the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) provided an updated on the organisation and its recent activities, and invited members to the next ERIH meeting at Port Sunlight on the 19th September. More information about ERIH is available on their website: <https://www.erih.net/> and also, do get in touch with Jonathan if you have any questions, or would like to attend the meeting in September: j.b.lloyd31@gmail.com
- Mike Nevell, Chair of the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA), talked about the upcoming AIA Conference which is now open for bookings: <https://industrial-archaeology.org/aia-annual-conference-now-open-for-booking-2/>
- Derek Dick, Team Leader at the Lion Salt Works, mentioned the Heritage Transport Festival which took place on the 9th June at the Lion Salt Works.

4. Site tour.

- After lunch, members enjoyed a great tour of the museum delivered by Mike and Cat, enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers at the National Waterways Museum.

5. Other.

1. **IHNs website:** if you've not done it yet, please send your 100-word blurb and a photo to Joanna. Please also send your news stories, adverts etc. Use the website for promotion, sharing information and improving awareness.
2. **Our next meeting:** we'll be meeting in November (dates TBC). We don't have our next host confirmed yet so do get in touch if you'd like to take this opportunity to showcase your site and choose a theme for the day. More information about hosting is available in the *Guidelines for the IHNs* which can be downloaded on the IHNs website:
<https://industrialheritagenetworks.com/guidelines/>

Most importantly, use the network to your benefit – talk to your colleagues, start discussions, act on the project ideas you've had, offer and ask for support.