



Industrial Heritage Network South East (IHNSE): meeting summary and key points

Amberley Museum; 28 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 Museums 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.
- 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. Amberley Museum host presentation.

- Brian Johnson, Chairman of the Amberley Museum Trust, talked to us about the museum's past, present and future.

3. Kent Firefighting Museum presentation.

- Howard Myers talked to us about the development of the museum and the various challenges they have faced over the years and are currently dealing with.

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

<https://industrialheritagenetworks.com/2019/07/01/inaugural-meeting-of-the-industrial-heritage-network-south-east-ihnse-beginning-of-another-great-partnership/>

4. Who's who and what are they up to interactive group session.

- Members were split into several smaller groups to chat about who they are, what their roles are and give an example of a challenge their organisation faced or is facing.
- Some of the challenges mentioned included the issue of space for large objects, delivering successful volunteer management, using social media, successfully managing your trustees and looking at ways of attracting new audiences.

5. Site tour.

- After lunch, members enjoyed a great tour of the museum delivered by Julia Edge, the museum's curator.

6. Meeting summary and feedback.

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), and our next host will be the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth.
3. **Staying in touch:** Joanna will be in touch soon with details of the online communications platform.

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.

Thank you for your feedback!

Some comments are included below – if there is anything else you would like to suggest or share, as always, do get in touch. This is your network and your opinions are invaluable in ensuring it succeeds. You can shape the network in whatever way you like and believe will be sustainable; the IHSO is there to help with the process.

Comments:

A good meeting and a chance to find out about other organisations, made some good contacts.

Good inaugural meeting. Now need to focus on points of common interest for future meetings.

Meeting people and learning about their activities. Understanding what issues sites are grappling with which are relevant to me.

Chance to meet other people working in industrial heritage and discover what skills are around in the region.

Thank you for establishing this network, much needed and look forward to maintaining new contacts.

Really positive experience – should lead to more exchanges of ideas and support.

Came away with some ideas for fund raising and recruitment of volunteers.

I look forward to the next themed meeting.