



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 99 - 'SUMMER' 2006

Contents

Introduction		1
Winter Programme		
Moving Images	Terry Waterfield	2
Summer Walks		
Rugeley Power Station & Brindley Bank	Steve Myers	2
Pumping Station		
Railway Lines of Northampton	Jan Fajkus	3
Harringworth Trail	Peter Perkins	5
Evans' Mills (EMIAC 71)	Jane Waterfield	6
Ale-Brewing in Northamptonshire after the	Mike Thornton	7
Black Death		
Of this and that		
Including: Notes from the Committee, Places to visit, requests for		9
assistance, new publications.		
Lastly		11
Committee members and contact details		12

Wondering quite what a robin was doing making regular trips into our covered porch and in particular to one corner full of logs and pots, made us cautious. To our great pleasure there was a nest somewhere in that corner. We tried to sneak a look when going to the dustbins but as we didn't want to move a pot which we suspected covered the nest and we hoped not to miss them when they eventually flew the nest. Quite opportune really when Bill Oddie has being doing his Springwatch series again. And yes we did miss the exit, but we have since seen one baby robin hopping about the back lawns.

Terry & I went to London a few weeks back on a specially arranged coach trip by our Community Association here in Norton. It was a grand day and not having been down there for some time we were somewhat taken aback by all the buskers and changes that have taken place around the London Eye. The Festival Hall is currently closed for refurbishment and in place of the rather dingey lower ground restaurant, the frontage had been completely rebuilt with three restaurants (tables spilling onto the promenade) Foyles books and a Music store. The whole area was alive and kicking unlike the rather pathetic river frontage of our own River Nene here in Northampton. Not having been in that area until we went with Jan (see report on page 3) I felt that here instead of all those flats the planners could have opened the area up and made something of it with restaurants, coffee houses and cleaning up the river. If they could do it in London and Worcester then surely someone with a bit of flare could have done something here in our County Town. Ah!! Well - no vision.

The end of the 2005/6 series of talks ended with a fascinating one on the moving image, Terry W writes below. The walks started well with some 30 people turning out on a rather inclement evening for the walk taken by Jan. Numbers have fluctuated since and again hit the 30 mark on the 30th June at Dingley Park.

Please also see a note about the next issue - we reach the magical 100 edition and I would particularly like to hear from those members who were active with NIAG way back in 1980. Your memories please.

Jane Waterfield

WINTER PROGRAMME 2006

Moving images - Friday 10th March

For the last meeting of the season, we were transported back in time with the aid of an old film: We were seated on the upper deck of a tram travelling along Glossop High Street; the street was remarkably empty with the occasional person strolling along the pavement or crossing the road. The journey ended at the cinema and since this building was 'featured' at the end of the journey it was thought that the film had probably been made by its owner as an advertisement in 1909. James Patterson had come to talk to us about the work of the Media Archive for Central England (MACE), of which he is director, but what better way than by showing some of the images held in the archive. All of the extracts that we were to see had been transferred to DVD so that we didn't have to endure the sound of a projector - and to preserve the original material of course.

The impetus for the archive came from Carlton, later Central, TV who wanted to keep their own archive in Birmingham. This was not to be as Carlton moved to Nottingham taking the archives with it. The British Film Institute (BFI) came on board because none of the universities wanted to work across the county boundaries. James started in 2000 by finding a small building that Nottingham University were prepared to rent out. Much of his time is spent fund raising to cover his activities. To put his work into perspective, the first film archive was created by the Imperial War Museum in 1919 with the footage taken during the First World War. In 1935 the BFI instigated the first public film archive the National Film and Television Archives which contains some 750,000 title. Since the mid 1970s several regional archives have been set up: though all independent they do work together with the BFI to preserve this type of material.

The work of MACE falls into five areas: select and acquire material, document the material, conservation and preservation, to make the material available, and to research the material itself. It holds in excess of 28,000 items, principally from ITV, but increasingly coming from a variety of sources. It is anticipated that a database of the holdings will be available shortly on the web, which will help to make the material more widely available. One of the growing areas of interest is the use of the archive for educational activities - a point quickly picked on by Judith for her own work. Rather than being just 'another archive', James sees MACE as a link between the many archives that exist across the region, including one in Northampton.

In case you are thinking this was a very 'dry evening', it was anything but: some of what we saw could be classed as advertising, but there was also a considerable amount of industrial archaeology. The film about a family winning a holiday to Skegness was typical of many made during the 1950s to advertise the resort. Other films included *Liberty Land* about Symington's Corset factory in Market Harborough made in 1929, plant modernisation by the Coal Board from the early 1950s, the carpet industry in Kidderminster shot in the 1960s by ITV and finally the steel works at Corby made by ATV. It was a very informative and entertaining evening, with not a dry eye in the house.

James is planning a series of public screenings of some the material held by MACE; the next one should be in Northampton - so keep eye out for the adverts.

Terry Waterfield



SUMMER STROLLS AND VISITS 2006

Rugeley Power Station and Brindley Bank Pumping Station - Saturday 6th May

On the 6th May, 14 members visited Rugeley 'B' Power station, and Brindley Bank Pumping Station. The power station was the first visited. After arrival, we had coffee, watched a corporate video, and had a short introduction. All kitted out, we were then split into two groups, and proceeded around the station.

The station was built in the late 1960s, adjacent to the then extant Rugeley 'A' power station and Lea Hall Colliery. They had both been developed in the 1950s as a joint project between the nationalised coal and electricity industries, with the colliery almost exclusively supplying coal to the 'A' station. Today there is virtually nothing left of either site, both having closed in the 1990s, although the 'A' station's switch house still stands.

The 'B' station was built to counter a growing demand for electricity, as industry was increasingly turning to public supply, and domestic consumables became more affordable and thus more popular. Originally it was intended to construct a station with a 2000 megawatt output somewhere in the West

Midlands (for comparison, Rugeley 'A' had an output of 600 MW). However, no suitable site could be found, so the proposal was split into two stations of 1000 MW each - one at Ironbridge adjacent a 1930s station, and the other at Rugeley. The Rugeley 'B' station, designed by the architectural practice of Watson and Coates, was commissioned in 1970, and is still operating.



Rugeley Power Station - The chimneys and transformers.

© TJWaterfield

Rugeley 'B' is still fired by coal, although in order to crack down on emissions, biomass in the form of wood pellets is now also being burnt. Approximately 60 trainloads of coal arrive each week. Some of this coal is stockpiled, whilst the rest goes straight to the station. The coal is crushed to a powder by 14 pulverising mills, before being blown into the two boilers.

Steam is created in the boilers at conditions of 568°C/2400psi, before passing to the two turbines. Each turbine is connected to an alternator, rated at 500 MW /22,000 volts each. The electricity produced is then 'stepped-up' in transformers before being sold into the National Grid. Not only did the tour take in elements of the above, we also



Gas Turbines at Rugeley Power Station

© TJWaterfield

got to see the gas turbine powered alternators, used in starting up the station, for peak lopping, and emergencies. The control room was also viewed, its quiet atmosphere with flashing lights and occasional klaxon, a complete contrast to the noise of the turbine hall. Finally, we got to stand near the impressive 114m high cooling towers, used to cool the condenser water.

All in all, although 1960s architecture may not be everyone's cup of tea, the sheer spectacle of such a site is alone worth the visit - sites of this size are just not built anymore. Rugeley is not simply representative of 1960s technology and architecture, but also of the nationalised industries as they were, and their attitudes. Our two guides are to be thanked for leading us on a fascinating morning tour.

The afternoon saw the group descend upon the Brindley Bank Pumping Station, of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. It was built between 1905-10, to a neo-Jacobean style, and supplied water from a borehole to parts of the Black Country. Within is a huge Hathorn Davy horizontal rotative compound engine. The east end of the engine powered the borehole pumps, lifting up water into a tank. The west end is connected to booster pumps, to force water along a main up to a reservoir.

The engine was replaced by two small electrically powered pumps in 1969, still there. The two Lancashire boilers were taken out, the chimney demolished, and the boiler house converted to a small museum housing some of the company's historic artefacts. The main engine was kept as a static exhibit. Unusually, a set of early belt-driven sand filters still remain in-situ.

We were shown around by Chris Pattison, a former South Staffs project engineer. Unfortunately, the water from this site was recently found to be contaminated, so the station was shut down, except for occasional testing of the pumps.

The main engine appears to need some restoration/conservation work, whilst the museum has seen better days. Conservation work is badly needed on at least some of the exhibits. Sadly, the company has recently announced its intention to sell the site for housing, although they want the engine to be sold on for preservation. This visit may have been one of the last times the site is viewed complete.

I am grateful to all concerned who made this day possible, both at the power station, and South Staffordshire Water.

Steve Miles



Brindley Bank Pumping Station © JS Waterfield

Disused Northampton Railway lines - Friday 12th May

A good crowd of about 30 turned up at the John Street car park. It has to be said that standing in the middle of this car park today it is difficult to imagine that a hundred years ago it was the site of a bustling railway terminal. The Bedford to Northampton Railway was inaugurated in 1872 and after a short period when it had occupied premises south of the river Nene the terminus was opened near the centre of the town. A handsome station approached from the Derngate provided passenger facilities and storage for light freight. With the aid of the 1901 OS map it was possible to position the station and its ancillary buildings.

The Station stood on the site now occupied by new housing and was approached by a broad drive in front to accommodate carriages, carts and no doubt a few cars, (Mulliners had a store opposite the station). The track extended beyond the station so as to enter a goods shed which lay immediately adjacent to St John's chapel. In approximately the centre of the present car park stood a turntable, whilst just inside the car park entrance was the signal box controlling the station complex. The eastern side of the station was packed with a mass of small terrace houses which have long since been demolished. An interesting feature of the area was the number of industrial buildings, including the Northampton Electricity Co. power station just north of the station.

From the car park we crossed the road, near the site of the rail bridge, into Becketts Park and followed the embankment, now very overgrown, which carried the track south. Where the line crossed the River Nene all that remains now are the bridge abutments on the island. Having crossed the river, the track curved across the meadows southwards to cross the Blisworth Peterborough railway. Today the meadow shows no sign of the track which disappears under the Avon building.



Bridge St. Station - 1957

Standing on the new foot bridge spanning the River Nene it was just possible to visualise the bustling riverside scene that would have been typical of the area in 1901. Although the timber yards that stood on either side of the river have been replaced by new housing the grain warehouse belonging to Lattimer and Crick still stands (now converted to housing). The warehouse foundations on the south side are still visible as is the entrance to the filled in dock.

Passing through the new housing on the south bank there was no sign of the busy industrial activity that had taken place here until we reached the Towcester Road. A fine brick building now used as offices may have originally been a railway warehouse. Although now called the granary, it had

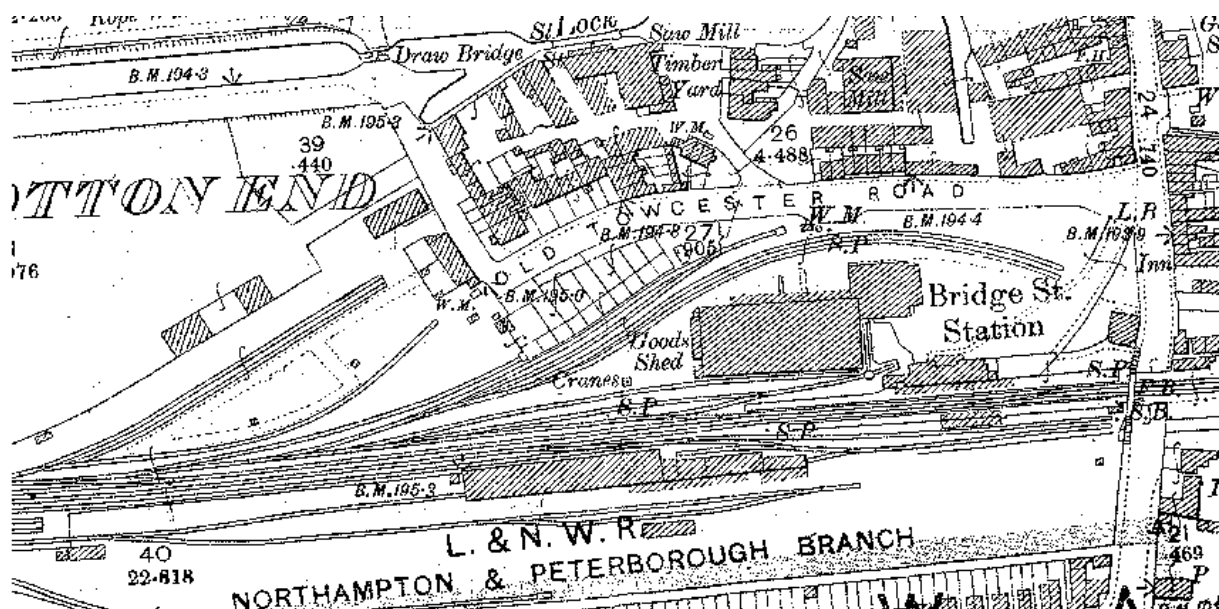
sliding doors capable of accommodating railway wagons and it had the grandeur reminiscent of Midland Railway architecture. Judith Hodgkinson pointed out that it was constructed using English Bond brickwork.

Our evening ended at the level crossing on the Towcester Road. Here the track for the Northampton to Peterborough passed through Bridge Street Station. This had been Northampton's first station, opened in 1845 and closed in 1964. Nothing now remains except a rather derelict signal box which served the immediate area

Jan Fajkus

As an addendum to this report just a few personal thoughts on this excellent evening. To set the picture further the evening was one of those that was glorious one moment and the next the skies filled with black clouds competing with the setting set. Odd rumbles of thunder accompanied us on this trip down memory lane until we got to the Bridge Street crossing. It was here that the rain begun in earnest and became a deluge. Umbrellas went up and those of us without sheltered under the nearest one. In the end the weather beat us, the light went out and to the accompaniment of heavy rain, extremely loud claps of thunder and streaks of lightening, we soggily made our way back to St John's and our cars. Full marks to Jan for an excellent evening under difficult conditions and it is hoped that part 2 from Bridge Street to the triangle will go into the 2007 summer walks programme.

JW - Ed



Harringworth Trail - Friday 19th May

This walk led by Glenn Foard and Tracy Partida was due to held in 2005 but was cancelled due to torrential rain. The weather this year was not much better but fortunately the rain held off for the most part. The trail itself was the result of a study of the history of the village of Harringworth undertaken by Glenn and Tracy for the Rockingham Forest Trust.

On the trail we saw a range of historical features, including the remains of a medieval chapel incorporated into a domestic dwelling and the site of the medieval manor house of the Zouche family, where some small fragments remain incorporated into Manor Cottages including decorated medieval windows. We explored the meadow which is the site of the water mill. Although former water channels were evident, it was difficult to determine which were lines of former courses of the River Welland and which could have formed the mill leat.

The market cross erected soon after 1387 is evidence that Harringworth was an important market centre in the middle ages and that despite its rural setting today, the village was once on an important route from London to Nottingham. Adjacent to the market cross is an old smithy which has an elaborate chimney. Glenn thought that this had been salvaged from the manor house in the 19th century.

On the south side of the village, going up the side of the Welland valley, there was evidence of ridge and furrow. However, higher up were signs of deeper excavation from the ironstone workings of the 20th century. Tonks indicates that a calcine clamp was operational here, with a tramway running back to the Midland Railway's Kettering to Manton line close to the point where the Harringworth viaduct leaps out across the Welland Valley on its 82 brick arches.

The following historical notes were supplied by Glenn & Tracy.

“Much of the historic landscape of Harringworth has been destroyed by quarrying in the 20th century and by the construction of the aerodrome during WWII. However, where destruction has not occurred then the light soils along the plateau edge and valley sides have produced scatters of prehistoric flints, probably representing settlements of the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and several Saxon sites. During the Iron Age and Roman periods settlement will also have extended onto the poorer soils of the boulder clay plateau. A widespread scatter of iron slag has also been discovered, mainly across the surviving plateau. This is probably mainly from Iron Age and Roman iron bloomeries, part of an extensive iron industry in Rockingham Forest that began in the early Iron Age. Also in the same area, within the former deer park there is evidence of large scale charcoal production, represented by dense patches of charcoal in the plough soil. These hearths probably produced fuel for the iron smelting furnaces which existed in this part of Rockingham Forest in the medieval period.

There were two settlements in the parish, Harringworth, the main settlement and Shotley a smaller hamlet, but they appear to have worked a single open field system, where the arable land was divided up into long narrow cultivation strips. The earthwork remains of this field system can be seen as ridge and furrow surviving in just a few fields. In the medieval period it covered much of the parish, organised into furlongs, large groupings of strips all running parallel to each other. What survives of the furlong pattern is simple on the slopes of the Welland Valley at the north and more broken by slades (small shallow dry valleys) near the village.

The open fields were enclosed in 1774 to create the pattern of hedged fields that are recorded on the Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s. By 1774 only very limited areas of the parish had already been enclosed. These were mainly the paddocks adjacent to the village, including a ‘small park’ immediately to the east of the manor. The other major enclosed area was the deer park.

In the south of the parish the ridge and furrow recorded and the 1940s vertical air photographs shows that part of the deer parks had once been open field. However most of the deer park had never been cultivated, being taken straight out of the woodland.

The deer park was first established in 1233-4, ‘made from a wood called stockes extending by the common field’. The NE boundary of this park as mapped in 1619 zig-zags around the furlongs lying on the N. A short section of the ditch and bank, on which the park pale or fence stood, still survives on a tiny strip of un-quarried land on the north edge of the former park. On the south east corner of the old park lies the surviving 15th century hunting lodge. A ‘new park,’ was laid out by the Zouches, lords of the manor, to the south of the old park. It straddled the southern boundary of the parish. It is recorded on the map of Gretton of 1587. The 1619 map shows that the park contained several woods and a large lawn or area of grazing for the deer. There still survives a section of the high stone wall which was the park pale during the latest stage of the park’s life, lying to the west of the hunting lodge. This last phase is shown on Eayre’s map of Northamptonshire of 1791.”

Peter Perkins

Evans’ Mills - Saturday 20th May

About 16 to 18 members from NIAG attended this excellent day at Darley Abbey, just north of Derby. Directions to the venue left a lot to be desired and some of us went for an extra trip before finding the well appointed village hall situated not far from the site of the Darley Hall (now demolished). There must have been a good 100 plus members from the six societies which make up EMIAC. Expectations ran high.

Three talks were given by Jackie James who took us on the family tree of the Evans Family, describing in detail their connections with Darley Abbey. Mark Sissons taking us along the sewing thread production line gave a very graphic account of life on the mills, and finally Adam Menuge from English Heritage who spoke about the Mills themselves, the architectural development of the Darley Abbey Mills and its being part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site. The inevitable business meeting, which was lively to say the least, took up the rest of the morning. An excellent lunch was provided before the spitting up into groups for the walk round Darley Abbey.

The walk was enjoyable - in our group we had a good guide who was able to point out various buildings and tell us about their connection with the mills. I, for one, felt that the Evans family has left us a legacy in the architectural design of a very compact village from the workers cottages to the schools and to the mills themselves. Fortunately development within this village is following along the lines of the originals and ascetically pleasing to the eye. All that is left of the Abbey is a small stone built building which is now a public house - we did not enter. The mill race and river were in fine form and the falls were frothing as they raced away around the mill and beyond. I personally was rather disappointed with the mills themselves - fine brick built buildings and some features left on the outside to show that they were once mills. This would be an opportunity for interpretation boards to show the layout of the site, certainly nothing remains of the engines and wheels and to all intents and purposes if one had been able to go inside I don't expect there would have anything left from their heyday. One had to have a jolly good imagination to conjure up what it must have been like a century ago. A great potential for taking part of one of the buildings and turning it into a small museum as there was an excellent restaurant on site for refreshments.

However, we had a good mooch around the site before making our way back to the Village Hall for a welcome cup of tea and more excellent home made cakes.

Jane Waterfield



Darley Abbey Mills

© Jane Waterfield

Ale-Brewing in Northamptonshire after the Black Death

Ale was virtually the only liquid drunk regularly by medieval peasants and its small-scale production was a common and widespread feature of their economy throughout the Middle Ages. The necessary equipment - large pots, vats, ladles and straining cloths - would have been among the possessions of even many poor households.¹ The production process was lengthy. It required a supply of grain, usually barley although in Devon and Cornwall oats were commonly used, to be soaked in water for several days, after which it was germinated to create malt. The malt was then dried ground and infused with hot water for fermentation to produce the ale.

Unless drunk within a few days, however, the ale quickly soured, and it was the consequent need for regular replenishment of supplies which led, in rural communities, to significant numbers of people - both men and women - brewing for home-consumption and the local market. This production and retailing was regulated by the Assize of Ale through which the crown sought to control price and quality. Measures were to be checked for accuracy, quality monitored and prices fixed with reference to a sliding scale based on the fluctuating price of grain. Anyone intending to sell part of a brew was to display a post outside his/her house, wait until the local ale-tasters had approved the quality, and sell outside the house, on a level doorstep, using only approved and sealed gallon and half-gallon measures.²

The enforcement of the assize was the responsibility of royal officials but in practice was often delegated to local lords who administered it through their manor courts. It is from surviving court rolls of the manors Brigstock, Broughton, Geddington, Loddington and Weekley that the Northamptonshire evidence in this note is taken.³ Ale-tasters were the key officials; some are known by name and, at Geddington, Thomas Smyth held office continuously from 1404 to at least 1414. Tasters presented to the court everyone who had brewed for sale since the last presentments. The clerk then recorded that they had brewed and sold contrary to the assize and they were amerced (fined). In practice there had not necessarily been any breach of the assize and the misleading formula disguises the fact that local lords in effect exacted a local licence fee to defray their administrative costs.⁴ This is reflected by the consistency of the amercement: at Broughton and Loddington, for example, it was almost invariably 2d per brew. The volume of ale in a brew was not recorded. Where a brewer had also committed an offence such as using an unsealed measure, or failing to make a brew available to the tasters this is often specified and an additional amercement recorded.⁵

Many individuals brewed for sale occasionally, but the number of professional brewers was relatively few. At Geddington between 1377 and 1423 almost 150 individuals were presented for brewing but only nineteen, drawn from eleven families, appeared regularly. Comparable figures are available for Brigstock during the fifteenth century.⁶ Professional brewing in Geddington, Broughton and Loddington was dominated although not monopolized, by men who also tended to play a major part in village life by acting as local officials, engaging in the local land market and undertaking other commercial activities such as operating a bakery or a mill. Edmund Byfield of Geddington is a prime example. He was one of a group of tenants who leased the manor from the crown; he served as bailiff throughout the 1390's and held a number of other local offices; he bought and sold property; acted for clients in land transactions and litigation in the manor court; and took the leases of a fulling mill and of the toll charged to wayfarers passing through the village. Using numbers of presentments as a measure he was the leading commercial brewer in Geddington for about thirty years; on several occasions in the 1390's he paid no licence fee and may have used his influence as bailiff to achieve this.

At Brigstock, and its dependent Stanion, brewing remained in the hands of women but no female group, comparable to the commercial brewers of Geddington, can be identified. Even the most active brewsters averaged little more than one presentment a year: Joan Radenhale brewed intermittently for nearly forty years between 1440 and 1479 but was presented on only twenty occasions. One hundred and four individual women each appeared only once. Brigstock's requirements appear to have been met by numerous women selling their domestic surplus.


Much of the ale brewed was drunk at home, and during the fifteenth century peasant families increased their consumption of it.⁷ There were, however, already taverns in some villages. John Botelyr was presented as being violent in the common tavern at Geddington in 1382.⁸ In 1376, at Broughton, Simon Spicer, a brewer, was amerced for harbouring an outsider and may have been running some kind of inn and by 1470 an ordinance regulating card-playing there refers to it taking place in the *tabernam*.⁹ At Lowick, in 1456, a manor court ordinance prescribed the hours during which a tavern might be open and this was repeated twenty years later.¹⁰ In numerous other villages, however, no record of any tavern during the late-fourteenth and fifteenth centuries survives.

The decline of the medieval ale-brewing trade was related to the introduction of hops in the fifteenth century enabling the production of beer which sours less quickly, but initially its consumption was largely restricted to aristocratic households.¹¹ In the Northamptonshire villages considered here the only reference to the brewing of beer was at Brigstock in 1498 when Alice Hoggesson was presented as having sold both ale and beer.¹² The transition to breweries requiring significant capital investment lay in the future.

Mike Thornton

1. J.M.Bennett. 'The Village ale-wife: women and brewing in fourteenth-century England', in B.A.Hanawalt, ed., *Women and Work in Preindustrial Europe* (Bloomington Indiana USA. 1986) p.21
2. D.L.Farmer, 'Marketing the produce of the countryside', in E.Miller, ed, *The Agrarian History of England and Wales Volume III 1348-1500* (Cambridge, 1991), p.377.
3. Northamptonshire Record Office, Montague (Boughton) Collection includes all manorial documents for each of these manors except Loddington which is in the Young of Orlingbury Collection
4. H. Cam, *The Hundred and the Hundred Rolls. An Outline of Local Government in Medieval England* (Cambridge, 2nd edn 1963), p.211.
5. NRO (MB) Box 340 Folder 2, m1-4, Court Rolls of Weekley are particularly informative about such transgressions.
6. M.J.Thornton, 'Rural Society in the Manor Courts of Northamptonshire, 1350-1500', unpubl. Ph.D. thesis, University

- of Leicester (2004), Chapter 4, includes detailed evidence for these generalizations.
7. C.Dyer, *Standards of Living in the Later Middle Ages. Social Change in England c.1200-1520*. (Cambridge, 1989), p.158.
 8. NRO M(B) Box X351B, Court Michaelmas 6 Ric. II.
 9. NRO M(B) Box X35 1B, Views Simon and Jude 50 Edw. III and 12th November 49 Hen. VI
 10. NRO Stopford Sackville Collection 2108, Court 25 October 35 Hen. VI; 3472, Court 1st May 16 Edw.IV.
 11. .D.Postles, 'Brewing and the peasant economy: some manors in late medieval Devon', *Rural History* 3 (1992), p.134.
 12. The National Archive: Public Record Office SC2I194I72 m9, View Michaelmas 14 Hen. VII



Of This and That

The Committee asks 'Can you help?'

From time to time the committee receives enquiries on specific topics related to IA in Northamptonshire. Although we try our best to answer these enquiries we often do not have all the information required to give a full answer. However, we do know that it is quite possible that one or more NIAG members may have the desired information.

The committee would therefore like to compile a register of members who have a special interest or expertise in aspects relevant to the industrial history of Northamptonshire which they would be willing to share.

No members name or address would be given to third parties. Any request for information would be directed to the member concerned who would be free to participate or to decline as they wished.

If you would like to help with this project you can fill in the appropriate section of the Membership Renewal form enclosed with this newsletter or you can write into Jan Fajkus at 101 Holly Road, Northampton, NN1 4QN.

Winter Programme 2006/07: will commence on October 13th with a talk by Geoffrey Starmer on the "IA in open air museums". Meetings are held at *The Garden Room, St Matthews Church Hall, off Kettering Road, Northampton* and start at 7.30 pm. Look forward to seeing you then.

Dates for the Diary:

Aug 26/28th Holcot Steam and Country Fair. 36 full size engines expected and will be involved in threshing, saw bench work, road construction and ploughing. Last year's event was reported in NIAG Newsletter no.96.

Aug 26/28th Earls Barton Rally and Country Fair. Odd that this is on at the same time as the one at Holcot. If you cannot manage both, Holcot is the better one.

Sept 9/10th Steam Ploughing Great Challenge at Beebys Premises, Rempstone, Notts. The Steam Plough Club is celebrating its 40th anniversary and also 100 years of steam ploughing by Beebys, with eight or ten pairs at work. This should be well worth the journey from Northants.

Sept 15/17th Bedfordshire Steam and Country Fayre, Old Warden Park, nr. Biggleswade, with 130 (!) full-size engines expected.

Oct 7/8th Festival of Showground Organs at Twinwood Airfield, nr. Clapham, Bedford. Could be about 12 large organs, many more smaller organs. The site is a WWII aerodrome with plenty of buildings intact - and associations with Glenn Miller.

Oct 14th A Heritage Day (EMIAC 72) - Wandering around Wirksworth. Please see the flyer enclosed.



An appeal for information

The Friends of Abington Park are planning an exhibition of old photographs etc., to take place after the Art in the Park annual exhibition in the late summer of 2007.

A fellow member, Bryan Milton and myself are looking into the archaeology and history of the Park. At the moment we are concerned with the bungalows that stood for a time in the early part of the 20th century in the Park alongside Abington Park Crescent, near the Hunting Gate (Chimneys) folly.

I am particularly keen to get sight of any photographs, drawings etc. of the inside of the Water Tower. This was opened some years ago and I am hoping someone recorded the machinery that was inside and/or could describe the interior to me.

Any material members have that they feel would be of interest would be most welcome, it would, of course be looked after and returned. Anything used would be acknowledged.

Jon A Small
64 Ivy Road, Northampton, NN11 4QT (01604 627885).

New Publication: Information has been received via e-mail from Nick Cooper of the University of Leicester Archaeological Services about a new publication, East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework Volume. Garry Champion has done a chapter on the modern period and Geoffrey Starmer was involved in the initial seminar series. The volume is 377 pages and available at a pre-publication price of £17 (normal price £19.95) for a short period. At the back is a flyer which gives a bit more information.

Trips & Visits through the summer: If any member has an interesting story to tell about a visit to any of the Steam & Country Fayres mentioned in the Dates for the Diary section, or indeed has seen anything of interest on their travels - why not put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and send me a report for inclusion in a later issue of this newsletter. In fact quite a few members go on the walks on a Friday evening. What are your impressions of that 'stroll', many photographs are taken - why not submit one for issue in the Newsletter, it would certainly help when putting this together and I haven't been on the walk to illustrate the words. All photographs submitted would be returned to you after scanning.

Roads: Some information from an issue of the Parish Highways Reps' Review told me that according to The Highways Magazine a society of road enthusiasts has recently calculated that the area of the UK covered by roads is less than one percent. It appears that there are 425,121 kilometres of public roads in the country and they are calculated to take up about 2,200 sq. kilometres of a long area of 241,590 sq. kilometres. [*Amazing what some people will do in their spare time*].

Geoffrey's 'Clincher'.

John Beswick says that according to his 'Nuttall's Standard Dictionary' - one meaning could be 'a holdfast'.

From Joyce Grimes: With reference to the query about "clincher" I refer you first to the dictionary. To clinch is to knock over the protruding end of a nail or bolt. In the boot and shoe trade when the main trade was making heavy boots that would be nailed, not sewn, then the nails would need hammering flat when they were put in to secure them, hence clincher, the special hammer to do the job, or the person who did it.

My father spent his working life in ship repairing and he always spoke of clinching the nails when he was making or repairing things at home.

From June Swann: [the international authority on footwear and its manufacture whom we are fortunate to have as a member of NIAG.]

I delayed replying, as 'clincher' is a term not used in the shoe trade. The 3-leg 'last' is called last, or cobbler's/repair last when someone like me has to be specific, so as not to confuse it with lasts used in making, finishing etc; also hobbing foot, and doubtless others I can't at present recall. In 1950 when I started at the Museum, workers had different names for the same tool depending on whether they came from N'ton, one of other Co. towns, villages etc. After a few months of men telling we had tools labelled wrongly, I began to suspect the name in some cases might even vary from one end of town to the other.

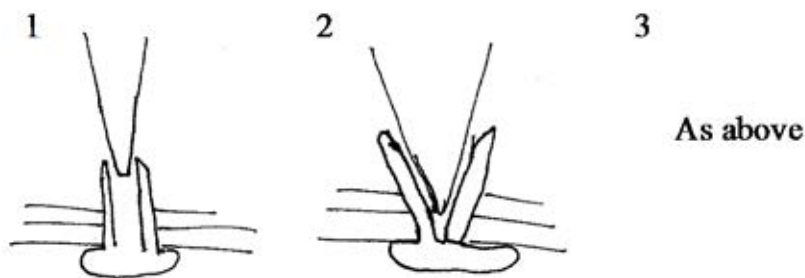
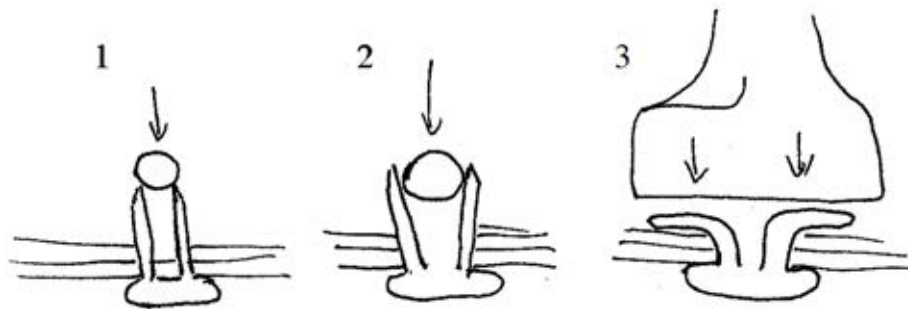
As its name indicates, it was used for repairing. It MIGHT also occasionally have been used as a base for attaching 'Blakeys' (protector), and even for riveting a half-sole repair, though cast iron (making) lasts were usually used and essential for riveters making riveted footwear. That is one sort of clenching/clinching, a term an outsider might use.

The other clenching was eyelet attaching, a type of pliers shaped to ensure the bits of the eyelet were securely crimped on the leather. These were usually known as eyeletters, or eyeleting pliers/pincers; also eyeleting machines in due course.

Salaman* had of course specialised all his life in the 'wood' trades and his first book was on the tools for them. A few years later, knowing nothing about the subject, he decided to write another on tools of the leather trades. Sadly, there are many ghastly mistakes in it.

* *There was reference to Salaman's book in the query to 'clincher' etc. in Newsletter 98.*

From Nigel Cross: When I emptied my Father's cousin's Cobbler's shed at the bottom of the garden there was a jar of bifurcated rivets. These I Clench by first hammering a round bar in to open the two lugs apart and then beating them down with a flat hammer. If I were a skilled and accurate boot maker I would not need the bar but just both faces of a hammer - see sketches. This hammer would be my Clincher.



Hammer

Drawings by Nigel Cross

Lastly : Iconic image of Northampton

It occurred to me that perhaps the most iconic image of the County is that of the Express Lift Tower in Northampton itself. Whilst considered to be fairly modern, it does represent Industrial Architecture from the middle of the last century. Which leads me nicely into the question of 'What do members think is an iconic image of the Industrial Heritage of the County?' Could it be Church's Shoes, the lost Castle Station building in Northampton or indeed Dulley's Baths in Wellingborough.

Ideas please to me at js-sec@tandjassociates.co.uk or if you would prefer to write the address is at the end of the newsletter. I would like them to include in our next issue which is the 100th Newsletter of the Group.

NIAG Committee

President: Geoffrey Starmer, 34 The Crescent, Northampton, NN1 4SB
Chairman: Peter Perkins, Eastfields Farmhouse, Manor Road, Rushton, Kettering, NN14 1RH
Secretary: Peter Perkins, Eastfields Farmhouse, Manor Road, Rushton, Kettering, NN14 1RH
Treasurer: Jan Fajkus, 101 Holly Road, Northampton, NN1 4QN
Web site: Jan Fajkus as above

Newsletter Editor

Mrs Jane S Waterfield, 6 Bakers Lane, Norton Daventry, NN11 2EL
Tel/Fax: 01327 312850 - e-mail: js-sec@tandjassociates.co.uk

Newsletter:

Next Issue: **October 2006**

Deadline for all articles and information 20th September 2006. Anything received after this date will be held over to the next issue.

Article guidelines: No more than 1½ pages long please. Photographs will be inserted if submitted.

Please submit by e-mail, fax or mail. Where possible photographs are encouraged to illustrate all articles. When submitting photographs it would be appreciated that they are not sent via e-mail as this can take a very long time to download the quality is not always good. Preferably send photographs/slides by post (first class) and these will be returned to you the same way. Please also include your name and address so that you can be credited with taking those photographs.



An aptly named cottage, Darley Abbey

©Jane Waterfield