



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY
GROUP

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 105 - WINTER 2008

CONTENTS

Introduction		1
Winter Programme		
The Rise and Fall of Footwear Manufacturing	Peter Perkins	1
Foxton Locks - Heritage Day	Jane & Terry Waterfield	4
Stoke Bruerne Stables	Mike & Sue Constable	6
Scotch Whisky - A brief history	Chris Collins	7
Planning - Help wanted	Peter Perkins	10
Winter Talks - dates		11
Miscellany of items of interest		
The Corrugated Iron Club		11
Web-sites		12
Weatherwatch		13
Of this and that:		13
AGM, results of 'Who or what', Diary Dates, TV programmes		
Finally		15

Photograph front cover: Tap set into the brickwork on a bridge at Foxton Locks.

Another new look to your quarterly newsletter. I hope you will like it. The content will not change and I am indebted to those members who send me things to include in our issues. Keep them coming.

The winter programme got off with a good start with the hall almost at standing room only for the talk on Ironstone Mining at Irthlingborough. I hope to bring that report in the next issue. The AGM was also well attended and a short report can be found later on.

Five of us had a flying visit back to Boots in December to look at part of the completed roof and I have to say that the cleaned up glass is magnificent. Terry gives a very short note of that morning further on.

There has been a great deal of 'industry' out there in the garden - we now have three squirrels, one of which seems to be a permanent visitor. He entertains us most days and a classic was when Terry witnessed a chase by a ginger cat who having chased the squirrel ran smack into the shed door (squirrel disappeared under the shed). I missed it and of course no camera handy to capture the moment. Christmas has been and gone - what happened to peace on Boxing Day? Mind you New Year wasn't much better - everything was open. I really don't know why we bother with 'Bank Holidays' as shops don't want to close and the joy of having Bank Holidays has completely gone.

I do hope you all had a happy time at Christmas and that your New Year is both happy and healthy.

Jane Waterfield



WINTER PROGRAMME 2007

The Rise and Fall of Footwear Manufacturing - 9th November

In his talk, Ron Whittaker reviewed the evolution of the footwear industry over the past two centuries, from the localised production in the villages and towns of the county at the beginning of the 19th century to the global footwear market of today. In doing so he described not only the technical aspects of shoemaking we would normally associate with industrial archaeology but also the economic changes which have resulted in the transfer of production to the Far-east.

The footwear industry is a typical example of an industry that has transformed though economic necessity. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries changes in processes and production methods were introduced to enable companies to compete. From the hand lasting of uppers in home workshops in the 1850s, the industry evolved the factory-based manufacturing systems of the later 19th century with its concentration on the mechanisation of production. Then followed the technical innovation associated with the development of rubbers, polymers and other synthetic footwear materials in the mid-20th century and finally came the

move to resourcing footwear from overseas and the development of the global brands in the past 20 years.

Many of the technical developments in the footwear industry were aimed at improving productivity. The effects of this were well illustrated by the fact that employment in the UK footwear industry peaked at some 120,000 people way back in 1910, whereas the effects of improved productivity meant that footwear production



Chinese workers

© Ron Whittaker

peaked at about 200 million pairs much later, in the 1960s when many fewer were employed in the industry. Today no more than 3,000 employees are producing some 7 million pairs of shoes per annum in the UK - the greater proportion of them in Northamptonshire.

In this county, the Goodyear welted process has dominated footwear production during the last century and Ron described the principles of that process, whereby a leather welt is stitched to both the upper and insole rib. The sole is then subsequently attached by sewing it to the welt. Ron explained how shoemaking in the county began in garden workshops then, in the mid-19th century, moved to the ubiquitous three-storey factory where each floor was allocated to a specific part of the manufacturing process - clicking, closing, bottom stock etc. Machinery to aid production was increasingly driven by belts and lineshafts from a central power source. Then, towards the end of the 19th century, for example when the Manfield factory moved from Campbell Square, Northampton to its brand new Wellingborough Road site, single storey factories became the order of the day, with saw-tooth roofs, to accommodate the increasing range of machinery, whilst giving ample light. Later on in the 1920s, Timpsons 'glass emporium' in North Park Kettering, with its employee facilities including a bowling green, was seen as *'the place to work'* and demonstrated the strength and importance of footwear manufacturing at that time.

In the early 1960s, Charles Clore started to revolutionise the industry but was seen by many as the villain of the piece as many local factories closed down. However, he had the vision to recognise that retailing should drive manufacturing and not the other way round. Thus alternative sources of production were developed to meet retail needs. As the 20th century progressed, costs became an increasing problem

and this led to the decline of manufacturing in the UK as cheaper sources of production were found overseas.



The Chinese factory floor

© Ron Whittaker

Then in the 1980s a retail revolution occurred with the development of the Nike/Reebok sports brands which gradually saw the demise of many of the conventional shoe shops. The two drivers - reducing costs and development of the brands - resulted in the global footwear industry we have today where the western brands control product design and development and production is sourced from the Far-east, mainly China. Today, knowledge-based skills - those needed to specify and control production, quality and performance - have become more importance to western footwear companies than the traditional product-based skills of actually making a shoe. Despite what is often reported in the press, many of the shoe factories in China are modern, clean and well run with production processes so effectively controlled from the west that product quality rivals that of the traditional UK factories.

In concluding, Ron commented that the Goodyear welted footwear which made Northamptonshire famous is still seen as the ‘Rolls Royce’ of footwear styles today. The county continues to maintain its position as an important producer of footwear and can look back with pride at its important role in the evolution of the footwear industry from localised craft industry to the modern global industry we see today.

Peter Perkins

More from the winter programme in the Spring edition.

Foxton Locks - Heritage Day (EMAC) - Saturday 13th October

15 or 16 members attended this one day conference at Foxton and had an excellent day. We met at the Foxton Community Hall and had three excellent talks about the building of the Canal and how the Canal should have been taken through to Northampton, but ended up being built across the county to meet up with Norton Junction. It was extremely unfortunate that the first speaker overran and we were unable to have a short break for coffee. Two and a half hours after we first sat down lunch was a welcome break. The business meeting, as it seems these days, got extremely heated and it was with some relief that we were able to stand up and make our way to lunch. I have to say this was a bit of a shambles, after the well organised lunch at Boston, but we managed to find a crumb before making our own way up to the car park for our tours round the locks.

The weather was good for the afternoon and we spent a happy couple of hours, first with the guide, and then on our own wandering around the Locks and being able to see the barges navigating the locks.



Left:
Terry and Ron having that all important discussion on the Incline Plane.



By the towpath





Foxton Locks top of the Incline Plane.

Jane & Terry Waterfield



Boots, Nottingham - Friday 14th December

Five of us made a flying visit to Nottingham to see the first completed section of the cleaned glass roof. Once again Peter Wood made us very welcome and we were able to sit down and watch the various films that the summer visitors had seen. A short tour - slightly different from last time - someone had complained that we were not wearing the right footwear (industrial) so Peter took us up a floor higher and we were able to watch full production from two floors up. The noise on a weekday was quite noticeable and we were glad to eventually escape. Taking us up to see part of the recently cleaned roof was the icing on the cake and we were very much aware at how bright the factory will be when the roof is finished.

We were very grateful to Peter for giving us his time and for giving us a very short whistle stop tour.

Terry Waterfield



Stoke Bruerne Stables

I would like to add something to Geoffrey's write up of this walk in connection with the canal stables near the Tunnel Mouth. Had you visited a week previously there would have been over fifty working boats on site, but they had all gone on to Braunston. I only know a little bit about the actual railway, although there is still a display on it in the Museum and I will make sure I have a good look at it soon to see what it actually says. That display was done by someone who knows more than a bit about the system so it should be trustworthy. The same cannot be said for some of the external material around the Tunnel and on the towpath where there are known to be a number of mistakes so I am pleased to read that at least some of the interpretation boards are correct.

This leads me onto the Stables and there are two points to make about these. Although large horses were common in London where they towed barges, the standard canal horse was not normally a large animal as these would have had serious trouble with the clearance in bridges. As it was a good towing horse soon learnt to turn its head towards the canal when passing through bridges. Stamina is more important than size in such situations. Most of the effort in towing narrow boats comes at the point of starting off and there were ways of using the towropes to give extra assistance to the animal when leaving a lock. To reinforce this statement, Mules were often used as the motive power. Similarly I have not checked the levels myself, but the towpath has been rebuilt several times in recent years along there and it is quite likely that the floor of the structure known as the Stables, (or the Leggers Hut!) may have been raised several inches.

Like the use of the term Leggers Hut, which it certainly wasn't, the term Stables may give the wrong impression. Both the Stables and the Leggers Hut were alongside the Pub opposite the museum. The Shelter near the Tunnel was just that, a Shelter for the horses who had been led over the top of the tunnel from Blisworth to wait in until the boats could be taken through, either by legging or behind the tunnel tug whose base was the other structure by the tunnel mouth. They were not overnight stabling and I am fairly certain that there used to be a similar shelter at the Blisworth end of the tunnel, just below the car park. It is a while since I have been there so cannot say with any certainty that it is still there.

Up until recently there used to be several stone sleeper blocks from the tramway being used as coping stones on the railway side of the canal between the locks. As we now spend quite a lot of time in Stoke Bruerne, I will again check whether these are still as obvious. I also believe that a wagon from the Stoke Bruerne brickworks survives in preservation but again I have not checked that information yet.

Mike and Sue Constable

Mike & Sue are the Joint Honorary Curators, at The National Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne

Scotch Whisky - A Brief History

Scotch Whisky can only be made in Scotland. There have been many attempts in different parts of the world to reproduce its unique flavour - they have never succeeded.

The Scots have been distilling whisky for centuries and, although no one can say precisely where or when it was first produced, it was made in the Highlands 500 years ago. Slowly the news spread through the glens and eventually scores of small stills were operating, each relying on the clear waters of the burn. Many of these early stills were situated close to the sparkling waters of the river Spey - an area that was to achieve fame as one of the great centers for distilling Scotch Whisky.

In 1784, the License Act was passed and the men who had been distilling relatively small quantities of Whisky in the Highlands found that theirs were now legalised.

For years the Act became law, however, there was considerable ill-feeling between those who accepted the Act and those who had small stills hidden away in the glens and who could see no reason for paying the Government for the privilege of making whisky: In fact, in one part of the Highlands, the first licence was not taken out until forty years after the Act was passed. Gradually the distilling of Scotch Whisky became a major occupation and, in 1822, the industry was put on a more solid foundation by the application of one rate of duty to all parts of Scotland. Following this new-found stability, more and more distilleries were built but their owners stayed in the glens with the pure air and crystal clear, soft waters of the burn close at hand. There was an art which depended on such things as these and they knew in their hearts that they must not move. To this day, many distilleries stand where, hundreds of years ago, the first small illicit stills were built.

Malt and Grain Whisky

There are two kinds of scotch whisky - malt whisky which is made from malted barley only, and the lighter grain which is produced from a mixture of un-malted barley and other cereals mashed with malted barley.

Malt whisky is produced in pot-stills, a process which has remained virtually unchanged since the first Scotch Whisky was made and, from the pot-still distilleries in Scotland, come four recognised types of malt whisky.

Draw a line from Greenock in the west to Dundee in the east and the area above that line is where Highland malt whisky is made. South of the line, the Lowland malt whiskies are made. The two remaining malt whiskies are - Islay's, from the island of the name; and Campbelltowns, which get their name from the town in the Mull of Kintyre.

Malt whiskies differ among themselves although their production methods are all based on the original pot-still process. Each malt whisky has a flavour and character all of its own. In one part of Scotland there are two malt distilleries,

separated only by a road; they get their water from the same source but the whiskies they make have entirely different characteristics.

Malting

There are four stages in the making of malt whisky - malting, mashing, fermentation and distillation.

The barley which must be sound and reasonably dry is first passed through cleaning machinery to remove any dust then stored until needed. Next the barley is soaked in water, which must be at the correct temperature for two days until soft. It is then spread on the maltings floor where it begins to germinate.

This stage takes about seven days and, about three times every day the barley is turned to control the speed of the germination and prevent mould forming. Large wooden shovels, known as shiels, are used to turn the barley so that the grain will not be bruised. As the days pass, the grain starts to sprout (Chit) and the insoluble starch in the barley begins to be converted to soluble starch or sugar ready to feed the shoots. Germination is halted before this process goes too far and the malted barley or green malt as it is called is dried in a kiln and the growth stops.

The kiln is heated by a peat fire and the aroma of the burning peat, known as peat reek, is absorbed by the barley at this time and gives Islay Whisky, much of its characteristic flavour. The dried malt from the kiln is then placed in large bins and allowed to cool.

Mashing

The malted barley goes to the mill where it is crushed and the resulting grist is then taken to the mash tun - a large vessel some 23 feet in diameter - where it is mixed with hot water in order to extract the sugar. After some hours, the sweet liquor, or wort is drained off, but nothing is wasted, the draft or residue, being taken away and used as cattle food.

Fermentation

The sweet liquor is then cooled and passes to the tun room for fermenting. The Wash Backs are large vessels made of stainless steel or Oregon pine. Each wash back holds 42,000 litres. At this stage the fermenting agent, yeast; is added and, working on the sugary liquid, it converts all the sugar into alcohol.

During the fermentation the liquid bubbles and froths and rotating arms, called switchers, are fitted near the top of each wash back to cut the foam and prevent the liquid from overflowing.

Fermentation takes about forty-four hours and, at the end of that time, the liquid, or wash, containing 8% is pumped to the Still House.

Distillation

Malt whisky is distilled twice first in the wash still and then in the spirit still. The spirit which has a lower boiling point than water, is driven off as vapour and then condensed back as a liquid

The wash stills and spirit stills stand side by side: they are heated by steam coils inside the stills

In the wash still the alcohol is separated from the yeast and no fermentable matter is eliminated. The alcohol from the wash still is known as low wines and when no more alcohol is left in the still the process is stopped and the residue, called pot ale, is removed. The wash is then re-charged and distillation begins again.

The low lines from the wash still contain impurities and must be redistilled in the spirit still. It is here that the skill of the stillman comes to the fore. The first and last runs from the spirit still - the foreshots and feints - are not considered from the point of view of the high standard of the distiller to be suitable for drinking and it is up to the stillman when to switch the flow of spirit into the spirit receiver. The foreshots and feints are held back and returned for further distillation with the next batch of low wines from the wash still.

Maturing and Blending

From the spirit receiver the whisky is pumped to the spirit store where it is placed in casks and stored in warehouses for at least 3 years and usually many more.

In the silent season, dark warehouses, the oak wood of casks allows the living spirit to breathe and finally produce, after a number of years, a smooth and mellow whisky.

Most brands sold today are a blend of malt and grain whiskies because this mixture has been found most acceptable throughout the world. Grain whisky is produced by the Coffey still process which was invented in 1831 by an excise man of that name.

Each single whisky has its own characteristic flavour and those produced in many different distilleries are used in varying proportions in the final blend which reaches the public. The blender takes samples of malt and grain whiskies from the casks and only when they have passed his expert 'nose' will the casks be used.

Although the climate undoubtedly affects the process of maturation in a cask, Scotch Whisky does not change in any way once it has been bottled.

Every company has its own blending formula, a secret which is never disclosed. There are no rules, only the skill of the blender can produce year after year, a uniform blend.

It is the blender's sense of smell which guides him in blending perhaps a score or more different whiskies. Working in an almost laboratory-like atmosphere the blender has samples of many different 'single' whiskies in glasses before him. Usually he smells or 'noses' the whisky in the glass but if in doubt he will rub a little of the spirit on the palm of his hand and then cup them over his nose. There are two golden rules for the blender at work - not to drink a single drop and not to smoke - to do either would impair his judgment.

Written By: Old 5 Watt

[With the help of Laphroaig Distillery Staff - of which I offer many thanks for their patience]

Planning Applications – Members’ help wanted

As I mentioned in the Secretary’s Annual Report, with the closure of the County Council’s Built and Natural Environment Service there is now no countywide advice on industrial sites available to district planners. It is thus down to organisations such as NIAG to lobby and encourage district councils when it comes to planning issues relating to former industrial sites. Already during the past year, NIAG has made representation to South Northamptonshire Council on the former EH Roberts site at Deanshanger and to Kettering Borough Council about proposals for the former Glendon & Rushton Station buildings.

NIAG aims to be pro-active in monitoring planning applications and providing objective comments, where relevant to sites which involve some elements of industrial heritage. However there are eight different district councils in the county and NIAG’s Committee would welcome help from Members in monitoring these, as well as advising if applications are likely to have a detrimental effect on the industrial heritage of a particular site, so that appropriate representation can be made.

Planning applications are published in local newspapers such as the Chronicle & Echo and Evening Telegraph but are also published on each district council’s website - see below. I monitor Kettering Borough Council’s website on a regular basis and Jan Fajkus is keeping an eye on the plans submitted to Northampton Borough Council. It would be helpful if other NIAG members could monitor the county’s websites on an ongoing basis. If you would like to take responsibility for monitoring the planning applications of one of the district councils, please let me know on 01536 713256, (email: eastfields.rushton@btinternet.com). Alternatively, if you become aware of any planning applications which involve a former industrial site, please let me know. Please also send this information to Jan Fajkus (jan@fajkus.com). Jan will publicise details of such planning applications on the NIAG website - www.niag.co.uk - so everyone will be able to see what is happening.

Details about each of the district councils in the county including links to their websites can be found at: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Districts+and+Boroughs You will then need to navigate to the planning pages of the relevant website.

Alternately the url for the planning page of each council is shown below:

Corby:

publicaccess.corby.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/weeklylist_searchform.aspx

Daventry: www.daventrydc.gov.uk/frames/apas.html

East Northants: www.east-northantsonline.co.uk/planning/searchparam.asp

Kettering: www.kettering.gov.uk/site/scripts/planning_list.php?weeklyList=true

Northampton: www.northamptonboroughcouncil.com/planning/defaultNBC.asp

South Northants: snc.planning-register.co.uk/

Wellingborough: planning.wellingborough.gov.uk/portal/

West Northants:

www.northamptonboroughcouncil.com/planning/defaultWNDC.asp

Peter Perkins

Note: If you spot anything of importance - remember to take the Application No., eg: DA/2007/1234, plus any description. WNDC have its own unique numbering. Applicants' names are not always known and importantly note when the response has to be submitted to whichever authority. They tend to have different time scales. Ed



Winter Talks 2007/2008

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 11 th January | Members Night - various |
| 8 th February | Railways Around Northamptonshire - Barry Taylor & Graham Onley |
| 14 th March | Rugby Radio Station - Malcolm Hancock |

Meetings are held in the Garden Room at St. Matthews Church Hall, off Kettering Road, Northampton.



Miscellany of items of interest

The Corrugated Iron Club

Unyielding and industrial, corrugated iron is often portrayed as an intruder into the countryside, an ugly usurper of the role of slate or thatch as a roofing material, a mean and tawdry substitute for proper materials in barns, chapels, garages and village halls - in all something that should be expurgated rather than celebrated, and certainly not worthy of the accolade of listing or conservation.

Yet, corrugated iron has a surprising heritage. Far from being Johnny-come-lately building material, it was being used for construction back in 1829, eight years before Victoria ascended the throne. As her empire grew, so the corrugated iron sheeting spread around the globe.

Invented by Henry Palmer - corrugated to add the strength and rigidity that sheet iron lacks and dipped in molten zinc to make it weatherproof - it was transported in vast quantities during the 1840s and 1850s to India, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Africa and southern America. In Malaysia and Singapore it was used to construct cottage-style villas with long verandas for rubber plantation owners; in

New Zealand it provided the roof for the country's first parliament building; in Australia, corrugated iron was used for farmhouses and sheep barns, also for shops, hotels, theatres and churches, even for the first university buildings in Melbourne, still known as 'Tin Pan Alley'.

As a result, there are plenty of listed buildings of corrugated iron - and learned papers on their care and conservation - in other countries of the Commonwealth. The British have, however, been slower to appreciate the appeal of furrowed iron; if it is mentioned at all in the listed buildings registers for England, it tends to be in the context of a building at risk, patched up with corrugated iron as a sad indication of decrepitude or as a stop-gap form of weatherproofing.

Conservationists finally began to champion the UK's humble vernacular churches, chapels, mission, rooms, hospitals, pavilions and club houses after the publication in 2004 of a book called *Tin Tabernacles: Corrugated Iron Mission Halls, Churches and Chapels of Britain*, written by Ian Smith. The Corrugated Iron Club was formed shortly afterwards, the brainchild of Sue Clifford and Angela King, those champions of all things local and distinctive, as an offshoot of their influential environmental and conservation charity, Common Ground.

The Corrugated Iron Club like Common Ground is a non-membership organisation, with a website (www.corrugated-iron-club.info/index.html), to which anyone who can appreciate the romance of corrugated iron can contribute. The many pictures and links on the site - photographer Alasdair Ogilvie (www.tintabernacles.co.uk) - show that these buildings make a much more valuable contribution to the gaiety and character of our built heritage than most of us realise.

Taken from Current Archaeology magazine.

Thanks to Graham Cadman who says "*the piece reminded me of the very fine corrugated iron Halse Mission Church*" (NGR.SP5665 4034). (SMR277/2)

[I have just looked at the web-sites - quite impressed. Ed]

Web-sites of interest:

It is understood that recordings made up to 100 years ago can still be retrieved. An article in the magazine 'Ancesters' (October 2005) gave an insight into how this can be achieved. If you should have any such item in a box don't be tempted to throw it out, the following web-sites may be of assistance if you wish to hear the recordings.

1. There is a directory of individuals and companies who can help render your old tapes readable at www.radiocraft.co.uk/directory/formats
2. For a complete history of early recording visit: www.recording-history.org/index
3. If you are looking for a safe place to deposit historic recordings, the British Library's Sound Archive may be able to help. www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/nasacollections for details.

Weatherwatch

A Nissan hut on the edge of the Chilterns in Bedfordshire, cunningly disguised as a haystack, was among the least known top secret sites of the Second World War. It was the Thunderstorm Location Unit of the Met Office, described as one of the most outstanding inventions of British scientists. What were to wireless listeners annoying cracklings on medium and long waves were to scientists trackable radio signals. When these same atmospheric disturbances were recorded on specially designed radio direction finders, equipped with early television tubes, operators were able to detect thunderstorms up to 2,000 miles away. Linked up to atomic clocks and three other thunderstorm locators in Scotland, Cornwall and Northern Ireland, it was possible to pinpoint by triangulation the location of distant thunderstorms to within two miles.

This was immense value during the Second World War because one of the biggest hazards faced by aircraft was icing of wings in thunderstorms. At the time icing was said to be as deadly as enemy action during bombing raids and the tracking of thunderstorms meant the route for aircraft could be altered to avoid the hazard.

Icing continued to be a danger for commercial airlines after the war and it was the cause of the air crash that killed pop legends Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper in America in 1959.

Taken from The Guardian, June 25th 2007.



Of This and That

AGM

This was well attended and we said goodbye to committee members Alice Luikinga and Mike Brown who were standing down.

Our thanks go to both for their contribution to the running of NIAG. However, we don't completely lose Alice as she kindly volunteered to continue doing the coffees.

Jan Fajkus our Treasurer told the meeting that having given prior notice last year (Nov. 2006) that subscriptions were likely to rise, informed the meeting that with effect from this year (2008/9) they will rise by a nominal sum. £7.50 for single members, £10.00 for joint. This is the first rise in a number of years. Please note that subscriptions for the current year (2007/8) remain at £5 single and £6.60 joint/family.

As a consequence of losing Alice and Mike we are two down on the Committee. If you would like to join us please contact Peter. Contact details on the inside of the back cover.

Dates for the Diary:

- 5th April NALH AGM and Conference. Abbey Centre,
- 2nd May Commencement of Summer Programme - details available with next Newsletter
- 10th May - Saturday | Heritage Day at Sneinton: In association with EMIAC. Please see flyer enclosed with this issue.
- 12th to 20th July - 9 days National Archaeology Week - excavations open days, tours, workshops.
Contact: Sophie Cringle, Marketing & Events Officer, CBA, St. Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ.
Tel: 01904 671417. e-mail: naw@britarch.ac.uk
- 18th October -Saturday Heritage Day (EMIAC) - Wellingborough. A joint venture between NIAG and NALH with the Wellingborough Archaeological & Historical Society doing the hosting.

TV Programme:

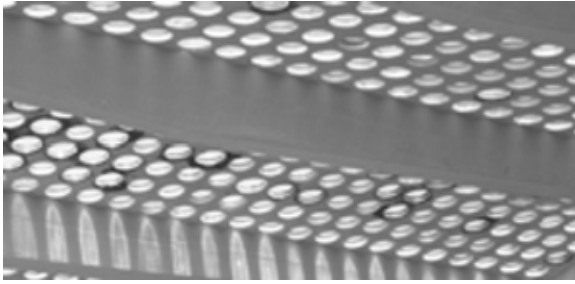
- BBC2 Saturdays and Sundays evenings. Timewatch. 6 programmes, commenced 5th January.
- Channel 4 Sundays at 5.45 pm. Time Team. The annual fix of digging up the past. 13 programmes, commenced 6th January.
- ITV1 Thursdays at 7.30 pm. Waterworld. More to do with the canals and the people on them. 10 programmes, commenced 3rd January.

Answers to Who or what?



'Don't we look grand?'

Members Hedley Warwick and Glenn Foard having a giggle after donning protective head wear during the visit to Boots.



Glass roofing tiles D10 wets building - Boots.

The roofing tiles at the D10 wets building, Boots. 10,000 glass skylights set in concrete over the whole factory building.

Did you know?

81,000 was the number of entries in the first national phonebook published in 1896.

Around £42 million was spent on Christmas Puddings in 2005 by the UK.

In the early 1870s approximately 9,000 people died every year from typhoid in England and Wales.

The number of times we will have caught the common cold virus by the age of 70 is 200.

72 kilometres is the length of shelving needed to hold all the records at the LMA (London Metropolitan Archives)

There are 28 miles of shelving occupied by holdings at the British Newspaper Library at Colindale.

It is estimated that 2 million of Britains are related to criminals deported to Australia between the 18th and 19th century.

Taken from the Who Do You Think You Are magazines Oct 07 to Jan 08.



Finally:

*'Owd time is a troublesome codger
Who keeps nudging us on to decay
While he whispers, "Thar'rt nobbut a lodger,
So get ready for pikin' away".*

The changing face of Industry



As it was and then.....



the buildings can't be knocked down quick enough for new housing!

(See Peter Perkins article on page 1)

Photographs © Ron Whittaker

NIAG Committee

President: Geoffrey Starmer, 34 The Crescent, Northampton, NN1 4SB
Chairman & 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
Members: Steve Miles, Barry Taylor and Terry Waterfield

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Newsletter:

Next Issue: **April 2008**

Deadline for all articles and information **20th March 2008**. 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 and 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 and don't forget to put a caption with them.