



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY
GROUP

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 107 - SUMMER 2008

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Photograph front cover: A room full of bobbins, Masson Mill, Derbyshire
© Jane Waterfield 2007

From the Editor

So far this year the walks and visits have been a huge success with numbers for some of the trips exceeding those of previous years. Thanks to all the Committee members who have led these interesting evenings and days.

The Heritage Day in Wellingborough is being run as a joint venture between us (NIAG) on behalf of EMIAC, NALH (Northamptonshire Association of Local History) and the Wellingborough Archaeological & Historical Society. To that end please find enclosed the flyer for this event.

I understand that there have been a few rumbles about the fact that the author of the review of the latest VCH volume was given as a pseudonym. Many will know him as John Rigby and who is one of my regulars in the sense of giving me bits and pieces for this small publication. If I have unwittingly annoyed some members by withholding his name then I am sorry. I personally feel that I have the editor's prerogative to withhold a name if I think I should if it encourages others to submit contributions (so long as I know the author's identity) and perhaps in hindsight I should have given out the fact that the author's name was known but withheld. To avoid any further upsets in the future, I will not be accepting any more pseudonyms unless it is accompanied by the writers full name, which will be put alongside the article in the contents section.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer. If you have been anywhere of interest to members let us share your thoughts and memories.

Jane Waterfield



WINTER PROGRAMME 2007/8

History of Rugby Radio Station - 14th March

Malcolm Hancock worked at Rugby Radio Station from 1964 until his retirement in 2002, by which time he was Manager. The Radio Station, owned by the General Post Office (later British Telecom), was built in 1925 in Warwickshire on a site to the west of the A5 Watling Street near to Hillmorton on the edge of Rugby. On 1st January 1926 the (16 kHz) Long Wave (Very Low Frequency) transmitter with call-sign "GBR" became operational. The transmissions were in Morse Code with a transmitter output power of 350kW from a building on the site which was linked to an aerial suspended from twelve 820ft masts - at that time the world's most powerful transmitter using thermionic valves, giving worldwide coverage.

In 1927, just a year after the Radio Station opened, the first radio telephone service from the UK to the USA began. This was before telephone cables were laid under the Atlantic. Later this service could carry a maximum of two telephone calls using a frequency of 6068 kHz in the Long Wave band. The cost of a call, during the first year of service was £15 for three minutes, about £600 at today's prices. The

service was transmitted from Rugby and the receiving station for the return leg of the circuit was at Wroughton in Wiltshire.

In 1929, a Short Wave (High Frequency) service was launched from a new building called Building 'A'. Although circuits on Short Wave were not quite as reliable as Long Wave, the transmitters needed much less power and smaller aerials. This reduced costs and increased demand for short wave circuits and by 1935 Rugby was capable of transmitting many, mainly telephone, circuits to any country in the world.

The demand for long distance, point-to-point, radio links continued to increase and Rugby Radio reached its zenith in 1955. The size of the site was increased from 900 acres to 1600 by the purchase of land on the Northamptonshire side of Watling Street. A new building (Rugby 'B') was opened in July 1955 by the Post Master General Dr Charles Hill (the wartime "Radio Doctor"). We were able to hear a portion of his opening speech. The new building contained twenty-eight "Marconi" 30 kW high frequency transmitters. Rugby now had 57 transmitters and was the biggest radio transmitting station in the world. In the mid 1960s circuits at Rugby were set up for use by NASA on the Mercury and Gemini space flights.

When the first transatlantic telephone cable opened in 1956 some of the traffic started to move away from Rugby. Over the next ten years Rugby changed from carrying the high density telephone traffic of North America and Australasia into providing better telephone and teleprinter services to countries in areas that had no direct cable access. With the advent of satellite communications, Short Wave international land-based, point-to-point, radio services continued a slow decline between 1975 and 1987. Other Radio Stations closed, as the remaining services were concentrated at Rugby. Between 1987 and 1992 the station was converted to carry an improved long-range maritime service. Smaller modem transmitters were installed and the aerials changed. Finally even the ships' services started to transfer to satellite. The number of transmitters required reduced and all maritime commercial services were concentrated at the 'B' Building. Building 'A' closed as a radio station in the early 1990s.

The ship distress system moved over to satellite and shipowners, if they purchased satellite equipment for their ships, no longer had to provide radio officers to maintain a 24 hour morse distress watch. Obviously that worked out cheaper. "OfTel" also relinquished the requirement that the ships' service must be provided. The 'B' building maritime services finally closed at the end of April 2000. This left only two telegraphy and the Time Signal services at the original building now called Rugby 'C'.

The original GBR transmitter designed and built by the General Post Office was gradually improved over the years. It suffered fire damage in 1943 but a partial rebuild and further improvements saw the original transmitter continue through to 1965. The transmitter was then completely replaced by a new three valve, "latent heat of steam" cooled, transmitter which was also designed and constructed by the

Post Office. Over this period the traffic moved from commercial telegrams to ships and diplomatic news broadcasts, to Air Ministry weather forecasts and finally played an important part in the Cold War for the Royal Navy. The MOD(N) contract for the remaining two telegraphy services, one of which was GBR, ceased on 31st March 2003 and eight of the twelve 820ft masts were demolished on the evening of 19th June 2004.

From 1927 to 1986, at certain specific times of day, time signals were transmitted on the GBR VLF service. This enabled ships anywhere in the world to synchronise their chronometers for navigation purposes. The time source improved over the years from Royal Greenwich Observatory land line, to local “Essen Ring” crystal, to Rubidium and finally to a Caesium Atomic Frequency Standard in 1976. The time signal service finally moved to Anthorn Radio Station near Carlisle on 15th April 2007. So, after 80 years, this brought to an end the transmission of Time Signals from Rugby.

A temporary “Loran C” navigation service started on 100kHz in mid 2005. This used an American “Megapulse” Accufix 7500 Solid State transmitter and a new “T” aerial, straddling the building, between old 820ft masts Nos. 1 & 2. This temporary service ceased on 4th July 2007 and was the last radio transmission from Rugby Radio Station. The remaining four 820ft masts were demolished at 1500 BST on Thursday 2nd August 2007.

Thus as with many industries, Rugby Radio Station, a pioneer of technology itself, became the victim of technological development. We tend to think that radio broadcasting is more advanced than cable telephony but unfortunately for Rugby it was the other way round!

Malcolm’s excellent presentation was supported with good visual and aural aids, surprising everyone with the GBR transmitter’s call-sign!

Report by Peter Perkins based on Malcolm Hancock’s write-up.



SUMMER VISITS & WALKS

Archaeology Day at Cogenhoe - Saturday 5th April

This was a very good event, attended by about 90 including those from participating societies and groups. Five were NIAG members. The interaction between participants was excellent, and a number of good contacts were made.

Because NIAG’s proper display stands were at the NALH AGM, two of us devised a make-shift display at very short notice. Jan provided the major part of the materials for supporting the display. We had vertical display boards providing a total display area 47 inches high by 64 inches wide. On one half Jan arranged a display of A4-size photographs of NIAG summer visits; the other half focussed on the Northamptonshire Mills Survey, and this was supplemented by the display on

the table of the three files of the Watermill Survey for the County Council, lists of the watermills and windmills in the county and examples of the fuller recording of these using documentary evidence.

We also started with a small number of NIAG publicity leaflets but all but one of these (which I had kept to show to later visitors) had gone half way through the morning. It is a pity we did not have more copies because throughout the day considerable interest was shown in NIAG's activities.

The attention paid to the NIAG display was very pleasing. There was hardly a moment during the day (10.00am - 4.00pm) when there were not one or more people at our stand, and we had some very interesting discussions as well as receiving very useful information and comments.

I found this a most enjoyable occasion and it was no effort to be there throughout the day, and well worth the work in getting our display together. It is possible there will be another Archaeology Day next year, and hopefully it will be on a date at which the official NIAG publicity team can attend.

Geoffrey Starmer



Geddington Church - Friday 16th May

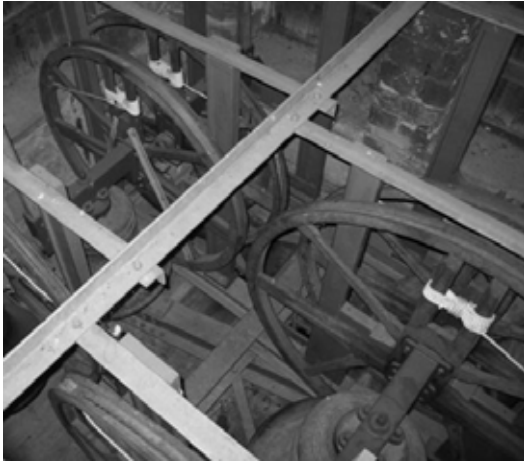
Ten members, including NIAG's 'resident campanologist' Cecil Swann, visited the church at Geddington to see and hear the bells. The church of St Mary Magdalene has a peal of 5 bells in a new steel frame erected in 2002, when a new bell was added to the original four. The two oldest bells were cast in 1550 and 1580; the heaviest weighs 11¾ cwt and was given in 1630 by Sir Robert Dallington.

We were able to ascend the tower to examine the bells (while one of the bells was rung!) and also to climb up to the top for a splendid view over the village of Geddington with its famed Eleanor Cross and medieval bridge. This was one of the cleaner towers we have been up in recent years but the engine room ladders took some getting used to!

Friday is bell practice night so after we had finished viewing we were treated to a spot of bell ringing, Cecil Swann usefully making up the numbers. The bell ringers' platform is some twenty feet up the tower and open to the nave; being able to see the bell ringers in action from the nave made a splendid sight. While this was happening we were able to examine the rest of the church including the Anglo-Saxon remnants, the triangular-headed arcade, the single splay windows and the long and short quoins, now incorporated into the later Norman and Gothic building.

Many thanks to the Bell Captain, Ken Jackson and all the bell ringers for an excellent evening.

Peter Perkins



Inside the Bell Tower - © Peter Perkins 2008



Heritage Day - EMIAC - Saturday 10th May

12 members set off to Nottingham on a gloriously warm and sunny Saturday morning to our destination Sneinton, Nottingham, where we were to look at Green's Mill during the afternoon.

As usual timing varied and we arrived well before 9.00 am. The route into Nottingham along the A453 past the big cooling towers at Radcliffe are always an unknown quantity, get stuck behind a lorry and one is there for the next goodness knows how long. We motored down an old familiar route - Terry's mum once lived at West Bridgford - and swung off onto a road to take us not to Trent Bridge but further up, the Lady Bay Bridge, once a railway bridge. Sneinton is not known to Terry, but we located the venue without too much difficulty and surprise surprise ended up helping to set up the signs!

The hall was pleasantly comfortable, by that, a nice number of delegates and not overcrowded. Coffee and a biscuit was welcome after our journey. Plenty of interest at our stand and it was pleasing to sell a few more of the Gazetteers.

The two talks were well put together, though I did wish the first speaker had not read so much from a well prepared script.

No coffee break, just a quick comfort break. I know it's a pain but I do like to have a coffee mid morning.

The second speaker was entertaining, lively and extremely informative on the subject of the mills, and in particular Green's Mill.

After a buffet style lunch - plenty of sandwiches and the like followed by tiny cakes and fruit. We packed up our stands and set off to find a slot in the car-park at the Mill, having been warned that space was at a premium because the car-park was small. No wonder it was at a premium since the Nottingham cabs use it to park up and have a chat! Splitting up into the inevitable walking groups we elected to start with the Mill.



Sneinton Mill - © Jane Waterfield 2008

Unfortunately the whitish sky behind the Mill sails and Cap (white) meant that it was difficult to photograph. Ron and I managed to get some decent shots from afar, but it could have been better. Being set in a small parkland and close to the old Mill house did not help us. However we set off into the Mill itself and steadily climbed the stairs to the top, through four floors. This is a working mill and the miller had obviously been kept busy as there was a lot of flour dust around and covering the machinery and working parts.

Moving slowly up the Mill into the Cap we looked at the various sections carefully noting that a great deal of work had gone into restoring and making this a working mill once more after it was left in a somewhat parlous state following a devastating fire. Terry and Peter had a deep debate about one of the working parts which was all part of the day.

A trip into the shop to pick up 4 bags of flour (to try out when making bread) and a few other purchases before the change over in the car park. Should have had a cup of tea (yes tea could be had freshly made behind the scenes) before the walk. I should also mention that there was an extensive museum of science and maths related exhibits attached to the shop. There was also an amateur radio 'mills' day; a radio station had been set up in one of the adjacent rooms with extension speakers in the courtyard for all to hear as mills across the country were contacted.



Deep discussion within the Mill - © Jane Waterfield 2008

We were taken on an hour's walk round part of Sneinton and our guide (first speaker) pointed out various buildings of interest - noting that there was a plaque on one wall telling us that Marilyn Munroe once stayed at the house. Onward and steep slopes and hills before pausing to look across to the Station and other industrial buildings which were in a bad state of repair (empty and about to fall down - or be knocked down!). Toiling upwards back towards the Mill area we side-stepped into the Salvation Hall for a short film on the life of its founder, William Booth and an extremely welcome cup of tea (or two), and delicious cakes. It was a good day and we were pleased that we had gone.

By way of background history to the mill.

The Mill had ceased milling flour around 1861/62 and was left abandoned. The last Green, youngest and last surviving child of George Green, died at the age of 79. The property was acquired by the Crown as she had died intestate. The mill was then purchased by a solicitor, who had the cap of the mill covered with copper sheet to make it weatherproof. He then let the mill to manufacturers of furniture polish. Unfortunately the mill caught fire on the 10th July 1947, badly damaging the whole building. The brick tower remaining as the heat and ferocity of the fire burned out the wooden floors and melted the copper cap. The mill was abandoned but not until the owner had the doors and windows bricked up and a flat concrete roof put on the tower. Three decades later and the news that the area was to be redeveloped renewed interest in restoring the Mill. Almost forty years to the day of the fire, the Green's Mill Centre was opened and at the same time the Mill was officially opened, even though there was still a great deal of work to do. By March 1986 the new fantail staging and windshaft had been hoisted into place in the cap. The sails being hoisted into place in June, turning for the first time three days after installation. On the 2nd December 1986 the mill-wrights spread the canvass cloths

upon the common sails, closed the shutters of the spring sails and released the brake. The sails turned and for the first time since the 1860's flour was produced at Green's Mill.

George Green was not only a Miller but a keen mathematician as well. He went to study in Nottingham at Bromley House, Angel Row. Here he studied the sciences eventually writing an essay which was published by private subscription. In this Essay Green applied mathematical analysis, or calculation, to the contemporary theories of electricity and magnetism. This Essay of 1828 and the nine further investigations published in the next 11 years caused Green to be regarded as the founder of the Cambridge school of mathematical physics, which developed strongly in the course of the 19th century to become the leading school in the world of science. The small museum attached to the Mill is well worth looking at.

Jane & Terry Waterfield



Twywell Hills & Dales - Friday 23rd May

Twelve members met at Twywell Hills & Dales Country Park to examine the remains of ironstone and limestone quarrying in the area to the west of the village of Twywell. The site is now managed by the Rockingham Forest Trust in conjunction with East Northants District Council.

The area was quarried for ironstone between about 1907 and 1948, by the Islip Iron Co, later taken over by Stewarts & Lloyds, with the later, deeper pits being quarried during and immediately after WW2. The site runs parallel to the former trackbed of the Kettering to Huntingdon branch of the Midland railway, now mostly obliterated by the A14. To the north of the site was a limestone quarry which operated between about 1927 and 1943, the limestone from which was presumably used to calcine the ironstone prior to it being fed to the blast furnaces at Islip. A part of the tramway which transported the stone back to the furnaces still shows up as an inverted V on the modern 1:50,000 map of the area and can be clearly followed on the ground.

The site of Twywell Lodge marks the most westerly point of the quarries and can still be made out on the ground. Demolished at the end of WW2, the house was significant to one of our number whose ancestors had lived here at the end of the 19th century.

Our walk followed along the bottom of the final gullet, where the ironstone 'bench' can still be clearly seen, along with a few lengths of flat-bottomed rail, presumably from the 3 foot gauge tramway that used to transport the ore to Islip furnaces. Tonks* remarks that "*this was almost certainly the deepest ironstone quarry to be operated by narrow gauge*". We made our way to the east end of the quarries, afforested since the 1950s to where the tramway ran from just south of Twywell village. Tony Waller reminded us that we had found an overbridge in the

vicinity when we visited the site in 1994. However, although we thought we could identify the site of this, there was too much undergrowth to establish if it was still extant.

Returning to our starting point, the well signed path took us along the top of one of the numerous ridges of spoil running parallel to the final gullet, in an area that appears to have been kept clear of vegetation. This permitted excellent views that illustrated the method of working the quarry.

Rockingham Forest Trust and East Northants District Council are to be congratulated for maintaining Twywell Hills & Dales Country Park so that the principles of ironstone quarrying can still be seen, whilst creating an effective wildlife habitat.

Peter Perkins

*Eric Tonks, *The Ironstone Quarries of the Midlands, Part V - The Kettering Area*, Runpast Publishing 1991



Masson Mill - Saturday 7th June

A small 'select' group assembled in the Car Park at Masson's Mill and made their way into the Mill's tiny museum where we were met by our guide. After a talk about the history of the mill we moved off into the Mill proper and were enthusiastically told about all the machinery which was there to be seen and still working - spinning, weaving etc.

The founder of the firm was Richard Arkwright who was responsible for much of the cotton industry in the Derbyshire Dales. The thirteenth child of poor parents did not auger well for his career prospects, but he was extremely interested in machinery. He set up a small barber's shop in a cellar in Bolton and with a bit of ingenuity began to make some money. At the age of 35 he obtained the secret of a process for dyeing human hair, wigs were then in fashion. All the time still experimenting with machinery. His second wife not being happy with his



Concentration

© Jane Waterfield 2008

'messing about' with machinery burned all his models as she felt Arkwright should have been concentrating on building up the barber's business!

Meeting Jedediah Strutt of Nottingham gave him the chance to fulfil his dreams. Strutt was a hosiery manufacturer who had adapted the stocking-

frame to make the famous 'Derby rib' and he was impressed with Arkwright's invention and with his partner, Mr Need, decided to finance it, the three men entering into a partnership.

The firm moved to Cromford in 1771 having seen what an excellent place this was for a mill. The mill went into production and within a couple of years a larger mill of six storeys was built. The yarn being made was much stronger and more uniform than was possible when spun by hand and naturally could be produced in large quantities. Manufacturers of cloth were suspicious and did not purchase the new cotton thread. This led to the cotton being woven into calico in a new mill at Belper. This was the first cloth ever to be made in England entirely out of cotton, as the new yarn, being so strong, could be used every for the warp as well as the weft.

Arkwright's frame was here to stay. Other manufacturers were highly jealous of Arkwright's success and conspired against him, accusing him of stealing and borrowing ideas from other inventors. After several years they succeeded in getting his patents set aside, but by this time Arkwright was wealthy and the patents were due to expire. The matter was laid to rest.

Masson Mill was built soon after the business was set up in Cromford. It became Arkwright's chief factory and mills in Bakewell and Wirksworth soon followed. Arkwright was a good and kindly employer and took an interest in his workforce. The factories were much cleaner and better kept than others and he built houses for his employees which were described as being models of comfort and neatness.

People moved into factories to work from once being home based, to use the machinery which was first driven by water and later by steam. Factories being built alongside rivers and streams to make use of natural resources.

The Mill ceased production in 1991 and is now undergoing a restoration programme. Our guide enthusiastically took us on a tour of the building and we looked at looms, spinning machines, carding machines, cloth which is still made, though in small quantities, thousands of bobbins, clocks, shuttles a fantastic array of 'bits and bobs'. We covered our ears to shut out the clanking of the machinery - quite deafening really and looked at the engines which work the mill. We were also taken into the building which houses the steam engine and noted the extensive work which is being undertaken with this piece of machinery. We also 'shooed' off a couple who had latched on to our party and who had managed to find their way into a building which was not normally open for the casual visitor. What cheek!

The Mill is now a shopping complex and it was here that most of us had a spot of lunch before going off and doing our own thing. Walks, other Mill visits or to carry on with their journey having just 'passed through' on the way to their final destination.

Jane & Terry Waterfield

Additional information taken from 'Green's Mill - It's History & Working' by Denny Plowman



Bobbins



Spinning

© Jane Waterfield 2008



EAST ANGLIAN RAILTOUR 2008

WEDNESDAY JULY 16th

This trip is going ahead and details of it are to be found in the last Newsletter (issue 106).

Members who are interested should please contact me preferably by email at barryr.taylor@btinternet.com, or by phone on 01536 71351. If you intend to join the party then please let me know by Saturday (12th) - no later. Details will then be got to you as soon as is possible.

Barry Taylor

Recently I have been travelling a great deal between home and south Yorkshire due to the fact that my father decided 'on a whim' to move. This meant that a great deal of his possessions had to be trimmed and have now found their way to me to be sorted, binned etc and generally clutter up the house. One very interesting tantalising leaflet I came across is about the hairdressing business. I say tantalising because there is only one leaflet and no more. I have reproduce this leaflet below to show you what was being done in 1767. Whilst this is not necessarily 'industry' in the sense of manufacture, it is nonetheless an 'industry' which still carries on today and no doubt will do so for many centuries yet to come.

Jane Waterfield

“L’Art du Perruquier”

“L’Art du Perruquier” et le “Baigneur-etuviste” by M.de Garsault - 1767

The aim of every student of historical hairdressing is to discover the ways and means applied in the days of the coiffures of many centuries ago and although science has given us modern methods to supersede the old ones, if a true reproduction of any historical coiffure is to be obtained, it is essential to be acquainted with the methods which first produced the original work.

Croisat, of whose works I have already published a series of extracts, is considered to be the pioneer of theory in hairdressing - he established a given theory to prove the natural geometrical basis which governs the execution of any perfect headdress. No other work on these lines is known to have been published before, but there existed various books on general hairdressing methods.

About fifty years before, when the demand for wigs was at its highest, a very interesting book was written by Monsiuer de Garsault, dealing at length with the various duties which fell to the “Barbiers - Perruquiers - Baigneurs - Etuvistes” (Barber - Wigmaker - Bath-keepers) of the eighteenth century.

To ensure the veracity of this documentation, I have compiled a series of extracts, translated from the book by M.de Garsault, and which can be added to the ‘Croisat’ series.

Extracts from “l’Art du Perruquier” by M de Garsault, 1767 - Compiled by M. Gaston Boudou.

The book opens with an instructive preface on the origin of certain customs pertaining to the grooming of the head in general, and a few of which have endured throughout the ages.

He tells of the importance attached to long hair during a great number of centuries. The first Gauls wore flowing beards and their hair over their shoulders as a sign of power and dignity. A few centuries later, the head was shorn entirely of all hair as a punishment for any serious offence. In 1521, Francis 1st of France, having

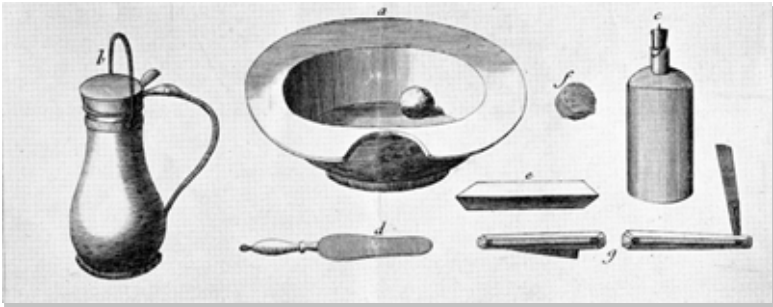
sustained serious head injuries, was compelled to have his hair cut short, and the whole population immediately followed his example.

Hair fashions fluctuated in length until the Eighteenth Century, when wigs became almost general for both men and women.

This brings the author to his own time and he devotes the first chapter to: "SHAVING.". This item was given much attention at this period, as a number of persons had their head entirely shaven to ensure the perfect fit of their wigs. The illustration shows the various accessories used for this purpose.

- (a) A metal or china bowl, in which is placed a tablet of soap
- (b) A brass kettle in which to boil the water to be used in the shop
- (c) A brass container in which to carry hot water to the customer's house
- (d) Leather strap for sharpening the razors
- (e) A sharpening-stone
- (f) A piece of pure soap the use of which is especially recommended for shaving
- (g) A closed and open razor.

When the whole head has been shaven, it is advisable to wash it with a little spirit (eau-de-vie).



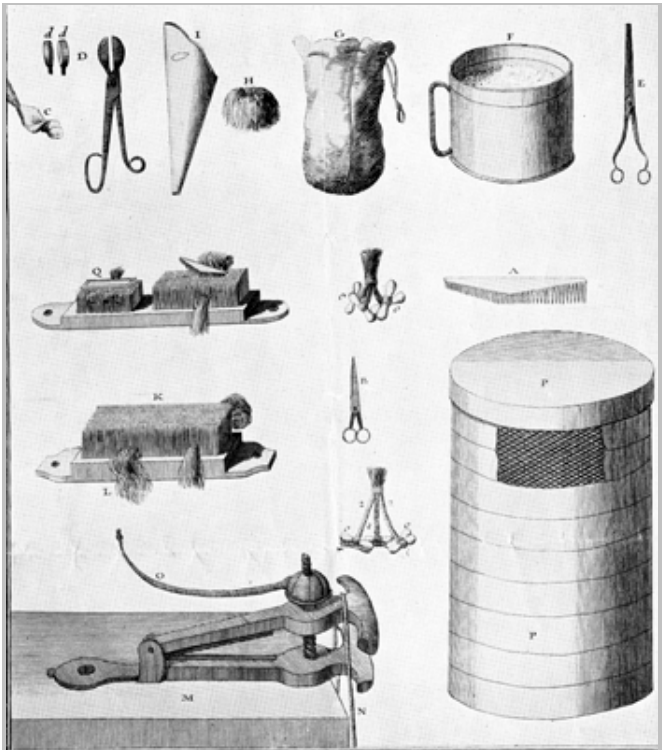
Implements for Shaving

HAIRDRESSING

Before going into the various operations relative to the curling and dressing of the hair, it is essential to enumerate the tools which are necessary for this work.

- (a) Comb for untangling and smoothing the hair
- (b) Hair-cutting scissors
- (c) A paper curler
- (d) Curling tongs - the first kind is for pressing the curlers and is made of two equal parts of metal
- (e) The second is for curling the hair and has the shape of a pair of scissors, one stem being round and the other hollow. This is known as "toupet tongs"

- (f) To powder the hair it is advisable to use wheat flour, which should be kept in a large tin box, or
- (g) in a leather pouch
- (h) The puff for applying the powder over the pomade (preferably lard) should be be very soft
- (i) A special shield of thick paper or cardboard is used to protect the customer's face from the powder
- (k) and (q) are known as 'cards' or 'hackles' and are used to comb the meshes of loose hair, preparatory to curling, etc. This operation is called 'carding' and consists of drawing the hair right through the teeth
- (m) Is a special holder in which the hair is clamped whilst it is being handled for curling etc. The two small bundles of meshes show the curlers which are used for curling the hair. If a curlier effect is required, the mesh is tightly wound before the curler is fixed.
- (p) is a special portable over (étuve) for drying wigs, toupets, etc., and is placed over a low fire.



Tools for curling and dressing the hair

WIGS

The chapter on wigmaking must be divided into several sections: preparation of the hair, weaving, blocks, dressing etc., but before studying these details, it is well to look at the various kinds of wigs which are being made today.

(To be continued).....

And how annoying that I do not have the leaflets that followed. Still this is just a 'taste' for another kind of ongoing industry and lets face it we all need our hair cutting and styling even if we no longer have to go through the methods which were employed a couple of hundred years ago.

JW



Of This and That

Dates for the Diary:

- 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
- 19/20th
August Archives and Artefacts at English Heritage's Festival of History - Kelmash Hall, Northamptonshire. 9.30 to 18.00 hours daily. 08703 331183
- 22nd to 28th
August AIA annual conference. Lackham nr. Chippenham, Wiltshire. A seminar "Modern Military Matters" precedes the main conference, field visits and evening lecture follow. Contact James Gardiner, AIA Liaison Officer, School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester,. Leicester LE1 7RH - 01162 5237 - email: AIA@le.ac.uk.
- 20th
September The Past in Pieces: Current pottery studies in the East Midlands led by Dave Walker, at Sharpe's Potter Centre, Swadlincote, Derbyshire. A CBA East Midlands organised trip. Further information available from Daryl Garton, 12 Collington Street, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1FJ - email: daril@dgarton.plus.com
- 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:

- BBC1 Tuesdays. 9.00 pm. 6 programmes commenced 8th July. 'Bonekickers': New drama series set in a fictional university archaeology department, somewhere in the West County.
- BBC2 Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 8.30 pm. 10 programmes commenced 8th July. Francesco's Mediterranean Voyage. Italian architect Francesco Da Mosto goes on a maritime adventure around the Mediterranean .
- Channel 5 Monday at 7.30 pm. How Do They Do It?: Last few programmes. Robert Llewellyn hosts.

Did you know?

2.7 million is the number of records of slaves from the former British colonies available online at Ancestry.co.uk

24 million is the number of outbound passenger records at www.ancestors onboard.com.

100,000 is the number of pages of text available to search at the Old Bailey Proceedings online website.

710 is the number of computer terminals in the new, improved reading rooms at the National Archives.

2,227,000 gallons of wine were imported from France in 1861, compared to just 254,000 in 1831.

Visitors to the Great Exhibition in 1851 could use the new WCs for a penny, thereby adding the phrase 'to spend a penny' to the English language.

5,000,000 people are members of Freemason societies across the world.

In 1885 the cost of sending a 1oz letter was 1d. The rate increased to 1½d for a 2oz letter and by ½d for each additional ounce.

Between 1890/91, 1,769,500 letters were sent in Britain. In 1897, a letter weighing 4oz cost 1d to send.

Taken from the Who Do You Think You Are magazines May to July 08.

From other publications:

The painting of the Forth Rail bridge which is a never ending job, is about to undergo a dramatic change in that a new paint, similar to that which is used in the North Sea Oil industry, is now being applied and has an estimated life of at least 25 years. The current painting of the bridge will conclude somewhere around 2012 and it will be from about then when the scaffolding, which breaks up the outline of the bridge, will be taken down.

A sign of the times: The smallest union affiliated to the TUC, the Sheffield Sheep Shear Workers with 10 members, was disbanded last summer. Founded in 1890, it

was based latterly at Burgon & Ball's La Plata Works at Malin bridge, Sheffield, where hand sheep shears are still made. Today they are used, for example, for dagging sheep (trimming the rough wool on their rears), edging lawns, and topiary.

There is also an extremely long article written by member Geoffrey Starmer and David Lyne (Leicestershire IA). With luck I hope to be able to reproduce this in a later issue of our newsletters.

From Industrial Archaeology News No.145.

Landlord Billy Nettleton was astonished after a 700 year old grave cover was discovered in his village pub thanks to the smoking ban. One of his regulars, archaeologist Percival Turnbull, spotted it in the wall as he stood outside puffing his pipe, because he can no longer smoke in the bar of the Blacksmiths Arms in Mickleton, County Durham. Mr Turnbull said; *"I saw right away that it was part of a medieval cross slab grave cover"*.

*March 10 - The Northern Echo newspaper.
British Archaeology magazine - May/June 2008.*

A quarry has been given the go ahead by Northamptonshire County Council despite opposition from residents living nearby. This is to be built by Hanson Quarry Products on a site in Grendon Road, Earls Barton. 117 lorries a day will probably use the site once up and running and will be worked on for the next 15 years, with minerals being extracted up to a depth of 14 feet. Steven Hollowell along with others were opposed to the scheme and it would appear that this quarry will become the biggest excavation site in the county. Another opponent to this quarry is quoted as saying *"We've got 117 lakes and bogs in the Nene Valley now which made it a virtual wasteland nobody apart from us seems to care.... Who is going to say 'stop'?"*

Northamptonshire Chronicle & Echo - 2nd July 2008

Well quite frankly no-one since there is a great body of misguided people who are determined to destroy this County one way or another. Thought you might also like to know that the Danetree Consortium for their Danetree Village at the base of Borough Hill here in Norton have had the heave ho from both WNDC and DDC. But there is an appeal in the pipeline. Whilst two organisations have said no the Inspectorate may just say yes. However, another bid for 5,000 houses along the Long Buckby Road from Daventry to Long Buckby is still being discussed. Quite honestly I don't trust anyone and building will happen on this side of the County and will eventually destroy a quite lovely part of it.

Ed



From past Newsletters

The Development of the English Retail Shop: a talk by Barrie Trinder on 10th February 1984.

Barrie Trinder's talk concentrated on the provincial shop. He indicated that most books on retailing are about London shops but these were not really influential on provincial shopping until the twentieth century. He suggested that there was a remarkably consistent pattern on shopping facilities in English Towns. There were variations in quality of goods sold but not in the types of shop. This pattern continued until the revolution in shopping at the end of the nineteenth century.

The main theme of Barrie Trinder's talk was that for a long time there were two forms of shopping - formal and informal and the best features of these were brought together at the end of the nineteenth century to produce the style of shopping which has continued to the present day. The informal selling including pedlars, chapmen and attendance at street markets and fairs. Its characteristics were a marked aggressiveness, lavish display of goods for sale and payment at the time of sale. On the other hand, formal shopping although taking place in permanent premises tended to have few items displayed in a shop window and accounts were rendered half-yearly or even yearly.

In earlier time goods produced for sale by craftsmen and tradesmen were sold on the producer's premises, for example bakers, shoemakers and hatters. Everything imported into the town in the way of consumer goods was sold by mercers and Barrie Trinder made reference to work on probate inventories of the 17th and 18th centuries relating to mercers. From these it appeared that a very wide range of fabrics were offered in nearly every English Town. He quoted examples of mercers stocks which included cloth (woollens, mixtures, lines and silks, if a good mercer, haberdashery (tapes, ribbons and laces which were manufactured nationally rather than locally), hosiery, paper (writing, wrapping and a small selection of books, although mainly Bibles and similar), groceries (sugar, spices and dried fruit, barrels of herrings, soaps) and sometimes candles and tobacco. One probate inventory ended "nine gallons of brandy and a little glass".

In large towns before 1700, and in smaller towns after that date, there was a gradual separation of the goods sold by mercers into specialist shops, for example stationers. By the end of probate inventories about 1760 this separation had been almost completed.

To wards the end of the nineteenth century there was a revolution in shopping bringing together the best of informal and formal shopping which culminated in a settled shop, selling a more limited range of those goods known to be most profitable at a fixed price and the former reticence had given way to an eagerness to display and advertise the goods for sale. This was the time of rise of Liptons, Sainsburys and similar entrepreneurs who expanded into other parts of the country by taking over similar but not so successful shops. Their expansion was accompanied by the adoption of the 'house style' so that their shops could be instantly recognised.

At this stage Barrie Trinder introduced the value of industrial archaeological study of shop premises, both to illustrate earlier periods but also to examine subsequent developments to the present day. Using a large number (some might say too large a number!) of slides he showed examples of informal retailing in street markets and market squares (including our own in Northampton) and of the moves to informal retailing by moving it into market halls (such as the covered market at Longton and the immense hall in Shrewsbury where construction displaced 300 to 400 people in the centre of the city and was itself demolished in the 1960's). Changes in shop styles were indicated by the ornate cast ironwork of an ironmongers in Witney, the glass and cast iron front of a store in Macclesfield and also the premises now occupied by Woodalows in Gold Street, Northampton. The expansion of the decorative tile industry from the 1850's also had its effect on shops and his examples included Co-op stores those of Boots the Chemists, and of Burton's, many of whose elaborately fronted premises now have other occupants.

Geoffrey Starmer - Issue Number 16 - March 1984.



And Finally:

Why physics falters

Here follows a multitude of reasons for not studying physics.

The student: "My GCSE science teacher is a biologist. My School doesn't specialise in the sciences. Our careers teacher keeps telling us we are moving from a manufacturing economy to a service-based economy, so what's the point of getting a physics qualification if I end up in a job that doesn't need it? What do physicists do anyhow? Nobody at school seems to know. Everyone knows who wins Big Brother. Nobody knows who won the Nobel Prize for Physics."

The parents: "This school seems to be finding it increasingly difficult to retain good science teachers because they all feel that their career prospects would be much better if they taught in a specialist science college.

"Physics qualifications used to open lots of employment doors outside physics, but was that because of physics or because, in the past, physics departments had no problem recruiting more than their fair share of the best A-level students? Do they still? We worry about this. As adverts for financial products are obliged to say 'past performance is no guarantee of future outcome'.

"We often see grandfather's copy of Physics World. There don't seem to be all the many jobs on offer and those that are don't seem

to pay very well - £35K for a fusion computational physicist; £65K for a head of plasma physics. For jobs as important as these this seems like peanuts when the average GP's salary is over £100K."

A grand-
parent

"I was a first generation physicist. Nobody ever gave me careers advice. I did physics because it was my best school subject. I had no idea what I would do with it three years on.

"Today's A'-level students are second or third generation students; they know the score and, more importantly, so do their parents. There are no shortage of career opportunities for the very brightest. What is more, everyone seems to be being urged to become entrepreneurs. It is not obvious to me that a study of physics is going to be of much help when it comes to entrepreneuring.

"Money, money, money! When I began my teaching career my salary was on a par with that of a certain Stanley Matthews. Today, if physics graduates commanded annual salaries that came within a gnat's whisker of the weekly payments - I can't bring myself to use the term earnings - of John Terry, Wayne Rooney, Stephen Gerrard *et al*, the Institute would have no worries about the future of physics. Unfortunately pigs are more like to fly."

Conclusion:

The problems that the Institute has have far more to do with changes in society than they have with anything that might be wrong with the curriculum. Despite all of the curriculum initiatives from Nuffield onwards, physics numbers have declined. (Curriculum projects seem to have many of the characteristics of East Court flood defences. They are effective for a while, but then?)

Society has changed enormously over the last 50 years. In a world in which more and more responsibility is being placed on the individual - the free market - rather than the state, it is scarcely surprising that the priorities of young people, and their parents have changed. It is finance, not physics, that matters.

Taken from the letters page of the IOP newspaper. April 2008.



WINTER TALKS COMMENCE ON
FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER
DETAILS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter:

Next Issue: **October 2008**

Deadline for all articles and information **20th September 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 via e-mail - black & white if possible - compressed to make it faster to download and please give information about the photograph. Photographs/slides sent by post (first class) 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.