



47th South Wales & West of England Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference.

**Saturday 16 April 2016 at Rednock School, Kingshill Rd,
Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 4BY**

Brief Outline of the Talks and Field Visits

The Talks

The Restoration of the Cotswold Canals

Ken Burgin Chief Executive, Cotswolds Canals Trust

The ambitious scheme to restore the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames and Severn Canal (now often referred to as the Cotswold Canals) began in earnest in 2003. There have been numerous problems, but the first phase, a 4½ mile stretch through Stroud, is at last nearing completion. The talk will provide a brief outline of the history of the canals, a progress report on the restoration works carried out so far, and a glimpse of the plans for the future. The programme is heavily dependent on the result of the current bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund which is due to be announced three days after the conference.

Cast Iron Lamp Posts in Clifton and Hotwells, Bristol

Maggie Shapland BEM, Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society

The origins of this talk go back about ten years when Bristol City Council proposed the replacement of the traditional cast iron lamp posts and their lanterns, in the historic suburb of Clifton, with incongruous modern designs. This spurred on the speaker to research the manufacturers of the wealth of different types of posts in the area. The talk will cover the development of lighting in Clifton, cast iron lamp post styles, manufacturers, accidents, and the Council saga which has ultimately led to a good relationship with the City Council's lighting department.

Watkin George and the Pontypool Aqueduct

Malcolm Johnson and Lionel Milsom, Oxford House Industrial History Society

This talk will tell the story of Watkin George, the notable engineer in South Wales in the latter part of the 18th C and early part of the 19th C. Particular attention will be paid to his contribution to the development of early iron bridges and the re-discovery of a possible aqueduct across the Afon Llwyd river at Pontypool

Scout Motors of Salisbury 1902-1921

Jim Watkinson, South Wiltshire Industrial Archaeology Society

The author of an historical monograph on the subject will relate the story of a small Salisbury firm, founded in 1902, which built cars and commercial vehicles from about 1909 to 1921. It is believed just two Scout cars survive today, one of which has recently been purchased by the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

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Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

Listers of Dursley: History and the GSIA Project

David Evans and Frank Colls, Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

In 1867, R. A. Lister founded a small engineering company which had developed by the mid-20th century into one of the UK's major producers of small diesel engines. In May 2014 the factory closed and had to be vacated within a month. GSIA members literally rescued 19th century company minute books out of skips along with photographs documents and cine film. The first part of the talk will deal with the history of the firm and the second part will look at some of the many applications of their products and the project GSIA is carrying out in conjunction with Gloucestershire Archives.

Worlds apart: the West Country stone quarries of George Harris in 1893 and 2015

Dr Peter Stanier, Dorset Industrial Archaeology Society

The working methods at a variety of stone quarries recorded by a late Victorian geologist are compared with those at the same sites just over a century later. This is the subject of the speaker's new book 'South West Stone Quarries'.

Post Conference Field Visits (Own transport required: full directions will be provided)

A. Visit to Cotswold Canals at Stroud

The walk will complement the opening talk on the restoration of the canals. It will be a short gentle walk of about one hours duration along the The Thames and Severn Canal in the centre of Stroud. It will pass the newly restored Wallbridge Lower Lock, the new Stroud Brewery Bridge and the most significant of the engineering works in the current phase of the project, the diversion of the canal at Capel's Mill. The leader will be Nick Brojer, a GSIA member.

B. Dursley Town Walk

The walk will be about 1½ hours in duration and will take a look at some of the industrial and social history of the area. It will of course include the site of R. A. Lister, the engineering firm that is the subject of one of the talks. Other topics will be the history of cloth, pin and carpet-making in the town and the unusual but now highly sought after Pedersen bicycle. The leader will be Andy Barton, chairman of the Dursley and Cam Society and a GSIA member.

C. Visit to Halmore and Coaley Mills

These two mill sites have a rich history going back to the 17th century and in the case of Coaley Mill, much earlier. In 1977, a new Ossberger crossflow turbine was installed by Osman Goring at Coaley Mill. Utilising a 4.85 m head it generates between 4 and 24 kW of electricity depending on the flow rate in the River Cam. Half a mile upstream at Halmore Mill, Geoff Vatcher has constructed a 15 foot diameter waterwheel that generates up to 8 kW. Visitors will be able to see both installations and hear all about them from the two owners. Geoff Vatcher is a member of GSIA.

D. Visit to Sharpness Old Dock

The opening of the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal in 1827 permitted vessels to reach Gloucester without navigating the final 25 miles up the River Severn. The gentle walk of approximately 1 mile will take 1½ hours. It will take in the tidal basin with its massive retaining walls, the dock entrance, the former stables and the two locks, not to mention the stunning scenery across the Severn to the Forest of Dean. The leader will be Ray Wilson, Honorary Secretary of GSIA.