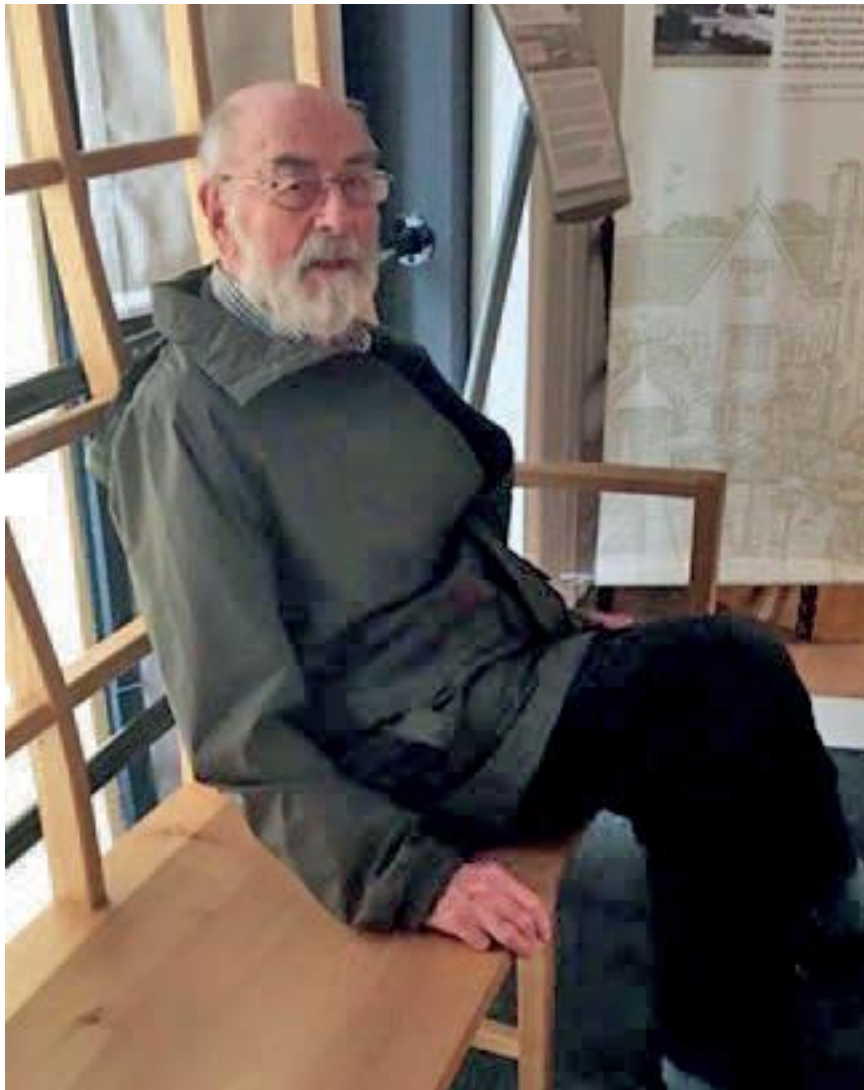


**The AW 55 Apollo.** The latest paper from John Willock gives us a look at the short lived Armstrong Whitworth AW 55 Apollo - 'The Forgotten Airliner'. Click [here](#) to read the full article. *29th December 2021*



**The Late Richard Hartree.** Many will remember Richard Hartree, who died in March 2020, as splendid company, genial at all times, and ever-willing to share his knowledge with others. Richard made the journey from his home in Sibford Ferris, Oxfordshire to most WIAS meetings. He was also the society treasurer for a number of years. A full obituary, detailing a distinguished career, is now available at [this link](#) and a pdf version of his excellent book, *The Aluminium Works at Banbury 1929-209*, can be read [here](#). *17th December 2021*

**Winter Steam on Saturday 11th December.** If you are a steam enthusiast, there is a treat in store on Saturday.

1) 44871 *Black Five* will be passing through Leamington Spa on a northbound 'Christmas Market Excursion' from Paddington to Birmingham and then on to Shrewsbury. It returns via the same route in the evening. **NOTE** - Loco change - *Duchess of Sutherland* is replaced by *Black Five* 44871.

***Timings - Northbound, Leamington Spa at approx 1009hrs, Southbound at approx 1948hrs.***

2) 7029 *Clun Castle* will be heading south on 'The Merchant Venturer' stopping at Leamington Spa having already collected passengers at Solihull, Dorridge and Warwick Parkway. It's final destination is Bristol.

***Timings - Southbound, Leamington Spa at approx 0902hrs, Northbound at approx 2123hrs.***

More timings are available via links on the [Rail Advent](#) website. *9th December 2021*

**WIAS Meeting.** I write with details of the next WIAS meeting on Thursday December 9th. at 7.30pm delivered by Zoom, where Dr. David Eveleigh will give a presentation 'Bogs, Baths and Basins: the history of domestic sanitation'. Services utilised by us all every day have an interesting history and Dr. Eveleigh will explore this and the associated developments in technology. He is the leading expert in the UK on this subject, well recorded in his highly-regarded book. Martin Green. *6th December 2021*

**LMS Princess Coronation Class 46233 Duchess of Sutherland** coasts down Hatton bank and through Warwick Parkway Station on a glorious November morning. The locomotive was re-positioning from Tyseley, Birmingham to Southall, London prior to hauling Christmas excursions over the coming weeks. There was a notable absence of people at Warwick Parkway! *22nd November 2021*

**'FLAG' meeting on Tuesday 18th January 2022.** '18th Century Coventry Silkmen - Masters of the City's Industrial Universe' by David Fry. If you were unable or chose not to join in this presentation to WIAS via ZOOM earlier this year, this is an opportunity to see and hear it again '*in person*'. FLAG (Friends of Leamington Art Gallery) presentations take place at Dormer Conference Centre at 7.30pm. All welcome. *30th October 2021*

**The Late Ivor Jones, 1927 - 2020.** An obituary page is now available to view at [this link](#). *30th October 2021*

**Crossness in 1961 by George Sayell.** From 1957-62 I did a Student Apprenticeship with English Electric, Rugby, manufacturers of steam turbines and large slow revving static diesel engines for power generation. In the Spring and early Summer of 1961 I was sent down to the 'Southern Outfall Works' (Crossness) where the company was in the preliminary stage of installing diesel engines and associated equipment in the new power house. (In fact the power house was then an empty building. The engines would not have appeared until the following year). The engines were to be 'dual fuel' in that they would start up on oil and then run on methane gas. During my time there I took a number of photos on 3 films, the script provides information on the films. It must be appreciated that these are my recollections after 60 years. To view the full article and photos click [here](#). *26th October 2021*

**Coventry Transport.** A nice trip down memory lane for transport enthusiasts! This gathering of Coventry Transport vehicles was photographed over the late summer bank holiday weekend outside Yardley Wood Garage in Birmingham. *21st October 2021*



A collection of Coventry Transport vehicles at Yardley Wood Garage, Birmingham. Photo © Chris Riley

**WIAS MOLE.** The WIAS MOLE, (Monthly On Line Edition), was launched in September 2021 to keep the WIAS on line community in touch with news and views on the industrial heritage of Warwickshire and beyond. A printed version was sent to those without internet access. It was always intended as an experiment and after the first three issues, we are in a position where social distancing is diminishing and access to sites, museums etc is easier, so we shall not continue with further editions. Any crucial pieces of information will be sent out by e-mail, but only on an occasional basis. The 3 editions of the MOLE are reproduced at [this link](#). Use the small tool bar at the bottom of the screen to enlarge, zoom, flip pages etc.

*Martin Green, WIAS Chairman, 13th October 2021*

**“Regent of London“ David Strasburger Limited, Leamington Spa.** This new contribution from John Willock describes the history of a fascinating Leamington Spa manufacturer of fancy goods. Do you still have any of the items they produced at home perhaps? Click [here](#) to read now. *30th September 2021*

**Derek Billings.** A tribute to the late Derek Billings has been added to the website, [click here](#) to visit the page. *18th September 2021*

**The WIAS Database.** The database continues to grow and WIAS welcomes new contributions. If you know of an *existing* piece of IA, that is not already listed, please send us the details and a photograph if possible. Complete the simple form at [this link](#) to submit a new entry. *11th September 2021*



The Engine House © Kempton

Steam Museum

**Kempton Steam Museum and Hercule Poirot.** What's the connection you might ask? ITV3 and Drama, amongst other channels, are showing the brilliant Poirot series starring David Suchet. If you saw the episode '*The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*' this week, you might have spotted that the enormous 'factory' in the story was in fact the Engine House at Kempton Steam Museum, home of the world's largest working triple-expansion steam engine. Worth watching on 'catch up' if you missed it. Click [here](#) to visit the Kempton web site. *11th September 2021*

**46100 Royal Scot passing through Kenilworth on Saturday 4th September 2021**





46100 Royal Scot creeps under Common Lane bridge into the passing loop at Kenilworth Junction on Saturday 4th September 2021. This was an excursion from Crewe to Salisbury which travelled south via Birmingham, Coventry and Leamington Spa.

*A very short video clip 46100 Royal Scot passing through Kenilworth Station at about 2045hrs on Saturday 4th September 2021. This was a late running return working of an excursion from Crewe to Salisbury which travelled south via Birmingham, Coventry and Leamington Spa on Saturday morning.*

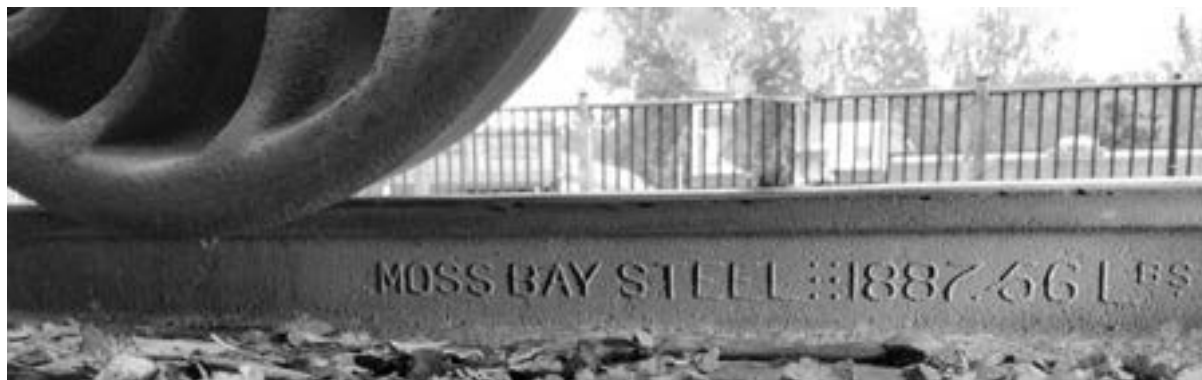
**WIAS Newsletter No. 73.** The latest newsletter is now available on the website. Click [here](#).  
*9th September 2021*

**The Pioneering Life of Peter Kirk--From Derbyshire to the Pacific Northwest.**

**Pages:**318

**eBook ISBN:**9781098370923

**Paperback ISBN:**9781098370916



I have recently published a biography about Peter Kirk, a 19th century industrialist who manufactured rails and sold them around the world. He incorporated at least 15 of his own inventions into his products and the machines that produced them to fuel his success. His knowledge base came from his Derbyshire family who had been in the wrought iron business since at least 1770.

Even though this story encompasses Peter Kirk's life, including immigration to an American frontier to build a large-scale steel mill in 1886, there are many anecdotes of interest to industrial archaeologists. Some of these include: the Industrial Revolution additions his ancestors put to work to advance the forge, his family's work philosophy, an incident after the 1842 Mines Act passed, how he and his brothers tackled the chemistry problems of the different ores and other resources needed, descriptions of his inventions, and how rails were made.

My book is titled The Pioneering Life of Peter Kirk--From Derbyshire to the Pacific Northwest. You can read the first ten pages at Book Baby Bookshop: <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/the-pioneering-life-of-peter-kirk>. It is offered on Amazon, Waterstones, Baker & Taylor, and Bookshop.org.

Best regards,  
Saundra Middleton

**Life after Victoria.** The Leamington History Group present our new film about the history of Leamington. Life After Victoria tells the story of the town in the early 20th century – its contribution to the First World War and the Votes for Women movement, the transformation in living conditions and workers' rights, and the birth of some of Leamington's most treasured cultural institutions. We also bring the long-lost Leamington and Warwick Tramway back to life! *16th August 2021*

**Water Towers in Warwickshire.** Roger Cragg has put together a comprehensive paper containing details of Water Towers, surviving, converted and demolished in Warwickshire.

There is also a photo gallery of some of the installations. The list of towers is searchable. Click [here](#) to visit the page. *9th August 2021*

**Precision Gauge Blocks.** Also sometimes referred to as Slip Gauges or “Jo Blocks”, are the foundation of physical measurement in mechanical engineering. John Willock's latest contribution explains in detail their importance in the world of precision engineering. Click [here](#) to read this fascinating illustrated paper. *6th August 2021*

**WIAS 2021 - 2022 Subscriptions.** As we move towards re-launching a season of traditional WIAS meetings, (regulations permitting), a timely reminder that subscriptions are due from the 1st September for 12 months. Full details and methods of payment are on our 'Membership' page. Click [here](#) to visit. *4th August 2021*

**UNESCO World Heritage Status for the Talyllyn Railway.** Many people will have heard that the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales was granted this incredible accolade this week. The 6th component of the application was the Talyllyn Railway, Abergynolwyn and Bryneglwys Quarry, familiar to many from the Midlands who have taken holidays in the area. To celebrate the news - the Talyllyn Railway put on a special train, with No.2 Dolgoch pulling a rake of slate wagons - just like it would have done back in the 1860's! The driver was none other than Anthony Coulls, familiar to all of us at WIAS! Enjoy the interview with Anthony and a trip up the line with the slate train in this film. *1st August 2021*

**Funeral - The Late Derek Billings.** The funeral will take place at the North Chapel, Oakley Wood Crematorium on Monday August 9th. at 10.00 a.m. I do hope that those who knew Derek will be able to attend. Martin Green, WIAS Chairman *26th July 2021*

**Industrial Explorer - West Yorkshire 9th - 12th September 2021.** The Heritage of Industry walking tour based in Bradford has been sold out for some time but, due to a late cancellation, we can now offer one place (would consider two people sharing a double or twin room) on an exploration of this former woollen town and surrounding areas. [Read full details here](#) and if you are interested email me quickly [bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk](mailto:bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk) and we may be able to get you in! Bill Barksfield, Managing Director, Heritage of Industry Ltd *26th July 2021*

**Chesapeake Mill, Hampshire.** As far as we know, there is no Warwickshire link but John Willock's latest contribution about how this fascinating mill got its name is a cracking historical story well worth reading. If you find yourself in Hampshire the mill is well worth a visit. Click [here](#) to read the story. *19th July 2021*

**The Friendly Midland Red.** In an extensively illustrated presentation, Transport Author Roger Torode, will talk us through the 70-year history of this fascinating company, covering: its substantial growth from early horse bus operations through to its segmentation prior to privatisation; its distinctive and largely self-build vehicle policy; its people; its style; and its similarities (and differences) with parallel developments in London.

**Produced by The Friends of the London Transport Museum**

Donate to the London Transport Museum at <https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/donate>

Join the Friends at <https://www.ltmuseumfriends.co.uk/>



**AIA e-News Bulletin July 2021.** This edition is now available, click [here](#) to access. *15th July 2021*

**Death of WIAS member - Derek Billings.** It is with much sadness that we announce the death of Derek Billings at 1pm on Tuesday 13th July 2021. He had been admitted to Warwick Hospital as an emergency on Saturday 10th. Derek was one of the most loyal members of WIAS, and his knowledge and photographic collection was unrivalled, he was particularly keen on Railway and Canal subjects for his camera lens. More than this, he was always courteous, helpful, and positive, ever willing to add to the knowledge of others. Our thoughts at this sad time will be with Pat, son Andrew and daughter Sarah. Further information will follow in due course. M Green & J Willock *13th July 2021*

[ngg src="galleries" ids="35" display="basic imagebrowser"]



**Ivor Jones.** Many WIAS members will remember Ivor Jones who died in 2020. Owing to the Covid-19 regulations the funeral was restricted to a limited number of family members only. Everyone is invited to a Service of Memorial to be held at St Nicholas Church, High Street, Kenilworth at 11am on Tuesday 5th October 2021, to commemorate Ivor's life on what would have been his 94th birthday. The service will be immediately followed by the interment of Ivor's ashes in the churchyard, to which all are also invited, after which the family hope as many people as possible will join them at Bubbenhall village hall for lunch. *7th July 2021*



**“A Worcestershire Wizard” The Heywood SH6 Series Air Compressor.** Members might recall John Willock speaking about this interesting piece of aviation equipment at one of our Warwick School meetings. He has now produced a fine paper giving a lot more information about the compressor and how it was used in some of our most famous WWII military aircraft. Click [here](#). *16th June 2021*

**Healey Blue Plaque.** Following on from the opening of the 'Healey Cars - For Speed and Glamour' exhibition in the Market Hall Museum in Warwick, Peter Coulls has passed on this information:



# **HEALEY CARS**

*For Speed and Glamour*

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**May 2021 - March 2022**

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**Market Hall Museum, Warwick**

Warwick Exhibition



# AUSTIN-HEALEY

GRAHAM ROBSON

SHIRE  LIBRARY

The Shire Album

*"On Saturday July 3rd there is to be an unveiling of a blue plaque at Healey Court, Warwick, commemorating the site of the Healey showroom. The organisers are expecting about 300*



*Healeys to descend on Warwick for this event and have arranged with the Town council to use part of Myton fields as a car park for the Healey cars. The organisers would like to assemble a team of volunteer marshals to keep an eye on the cars during the event. They are looking at covering a period from 9 until 5 and having two marshals at a time for 2 or 3 hours depending on the number of volunteers. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact David Scothorn at : [davidscothorn@outlook.com](mailto:davidscothorn@outlook.com)."*

Incidentally, I have been asked about an easily accessible lead-in to the Healey story and I would recommend Graham Robson's Austin-Healey (Shire Publications), available from the Museum Exhibition. I do hope the summer will give opportunities for further exploration of the industrial heritage, and that you will discover material that deserves to be shared with the WIAS community via website or talk. We are always ready to hear what you have to say! With best wishes, Martin Green, *15th June 2021*

**Snow Hill Station.** If you remember travelling into Snow Hill, Birmingham, take a look at this collection of slides from Derek Billings taken in 1977. Click [here](#). *13th June 2021*

**The Water Tower, Tainters Hill, Kenilworth.** IA enthusiasts might be interested to know that Kenilworth's famous water tower on Tainters Hill is currently for sale, priced at just £1.4 million. Once home to the owner of *Druckers Vienna Patisserie* chain, there are good photographs available on the Right Move web site at [this link](#). *1st June 2021*

**Upton House & Shenington Airfield in Wartime.** Further to recent discussions, John Willock has put together a short paper about this interesting location in the south of the county. Click [here](#). *29th May 2021*

**Cherry Orchard Brick Works, Kenilworth.** There is a new request on our 'Can You Help?' page for information about surviving members of the Burgess family who owned and operated the brick works. For full details visit the page [here](#). *24th May 2021*

**HMS Hood.** John Willock has put together some information to mark the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the battlecruiser HMS Hood on the 24th May 2021. Click [here](#) to visit the new page in our 'Contributions' section. *19th May 2021*





Photo - Peter Bolton

**Drain Spotting: The people who keep their minds in the gutter!** Manhole covers, coalhole covers and drain covers all offer access to an underground world that is full of artistry, history and in many cases beauty. [Click here to visit this BBC feature on a fascinating aspect of IA.](#)

The BBC programme: 'Boring Talks' No 49, Coal Holes. "Amir Dotan explores the small metal discs on our pavements and door steps", is available via BBC Sounds at [this link](#). *15th May 2021*

**Crossness Engines.** I have received this note via Alain Foote from the Greenwich Industrial History Society concerning a Zoom talk on the crossness Engines. Crossness will be familiar to many WIAS members and this looks like an ideal opportunity to learn more. There is a limit on numbers so move quickly to register. Details are included in the message. Martin Green, *7th May 2021*

#### FROM GREENWICH INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Next Tuesday, 11 May, we are holding our eighth virtual talk. Mike Jones, of the Crossness Engines Trust, will be talking about **Crossness engines past and present**. Crossness — down the river, just beyond Thamesmead — is famous as the site of the Joseph Bazalgette sewage works. This follows the talk from Chris Binnie back in February 2021 about the history of London sewers from Bazalgette to the Thames Tideway Tunnel. (You can still see Chris's talk and all of the others on YouTube, at <http://tinyurl.com/GIHSvideo>)

As will all of the other talks in the Covid era, Mike's talk on Tuesday will be free of charge, but you must sign up in advance via Eventbrite using this

link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crossness-engines-past-and-present-tickets-153544109565>

**Two Zoom presentations** to tell you about. The second is run by AIA and takes place on Saturday 8th. May and offers a truly global view on the subject of industrial archaeology. It is *The First East-West Workshop on Industrial Archaeology*, with speakers drawn from very different parts of the world. The two speakers from the West should be familiar!

The first is closer to home. It announces the next WIAS Zoom Presentation on Thursday 13th. May when Dr. Ray Wilson will give a presentation on the 'The Industrial Heritage of Gloucestershire'. The variety of the county's industrial heritage sites will provide a fascinating evening, and hopefully may tempt you out on day trips, or even a longer 'staycation'. All are very welcome to tune in, particularly those considering joining us for the first time. Both events are free, although the AIA requires registration first. Martin Green, *6th May 2021*

Topic: *WIAS 13 May 2021 meeting*, Time: *May 13, 2021 07:00 PM* London - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88309962203>

Meeting ID: 883 0996 2203, To join the meeting using your 'phone', please dial: 03300885830 or 01314601196

**AIA ZOOM Presentation** - *Saturday 8th May 2021 10:30 – 12:30 online*

The *1st East-West Workshop on Industrial Archaeology*.

Full details and registration available at this [link](#).

**'Retort Magazine'**. The original WIAS annual publication, 'Retort', has been available to view on the website for some time. The digital copies have now been turned into 'Flip Books' so when you view them it's just like turning the real pages over. At the bottom each page there is a small toolbar where you can toggle the pages and make them full screen for easy reading - zoom in or out to make text larger or smaller etc. Click this [link](#) to view. *4th May 2021*

**For Sale.** If you are a Frank Whittle admirer, you might be interested in part of Frank Whittle Mews in Leamington Spa which is currently being advertised for sale! [Frank Whittle Mews](#) *3rd May 2021*

**Early Wooden Railways.** There is a tendency to think that railways were a nineteenth century phenomenon, the names of Trevithick, Blenkinsop, Hackworth and Stephenson, *et al*, being synonymous with their early development. However, this is a very incomplete view of the historical picture! The latest paper from John Willock delves into this interesting subject. Find it in our '*Contributions*' section or go directly at this [link](#). *3rd May 2021*

**WIAS 2021 Survey.** Thank you to everyone who took part, the survey has now closed. *18th April 2021*

**Heritage and Culture Warwickshire** have a series of Live virtual talks over the next few months. The first is on 28th April and is about Warwick County Lunatic Asylum. Details on

this talk and the others are on the link. <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/adultsandyoungpeopleevents>

We are hoping to open the County Record Office and Market Hall Museum in May if restrictions are lifted. Market Hall will have a new exhibition on Healey Cars so I hope you will be able to visit us soon.

### **Austin Healey Motor Company**

**Wednesday 9 June 8pm - 9.15pm Cost: £3\***

Join us for this virtual talk on the archives of the Donald Healey Motor Company, now part of an exhibition at Market Hall Museum. The Donald Healey Motor Company is best remembered for the world famous Austin Healey sports cars but did you know that the company was based in Warwick? Rob Eyre, Senior Archivist explores the history of the company and its founder Donald Healey, with reference to the archive material now held at the County Record Office.

[BOOK YOUR TICKET HERE](#)

Louise Louise Jennings

Development Coordinator (Marketing and Fundraising)

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire (HCW)

Email: [louisejennings@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:louisejennings@warwickshire.gov.uk) 15th April 2021

**WIAS 2021 Survey.** There are only 2 days left to complete the survey. If you haven't already done so please consider doing it to help plan the future of the society. Click on [this link](#) to complete the on line form, it only takes 2 or 3 minutes. 15th April 2021

**Underfloor Hypocaust Warm Air Heating System.** There is a new request for information about this heating system that was installed in some south Warwickshire churches on our '[Can You Help](#)' page. Two Leamington builders were responsible. Click [here](#) to read the full request. 14th April 2021

**Heritage of Industry - Latest Trips.** The latest newsletter from this organization detailing events planned for later this year is available at [this link](#). 13th April 2021

**Donations.** Thank you to those who have donated to WIAS recently. Although we are not meeting in person yet, the society still has running costs. All support is very much appreciated. 12th April 2021

**Swing Bridges & Burning Issues!** Paul Waller thought the attached eventbrite event might be of interest to members

[Burning Issues: The Future of Fossil Fuels in Heritage](#)

Pater Coulls has supplied some photos of the Anderton Lift which are now up on the website and I include two shots of the Northwich Swing Bridge on the River Weaver, plus a YouTube video. Feels like a return visit to Cheshire is coming on!

[PreviewPreview3:14Northwich Town Swing BridgeYouTube · mykaskin7 Oct 2014](#)

Best wishes to all, Martin Green, Chairman WIAS. 12th April 2021

[ngg src="galleries" ids="34" display="basic\_thumbnail"]

**Anderton Boat Lift.** After mention of the Anderton Boat Lift during this months Zoom talk, 'The Salt Archaeology of Cheshire', Peter Coulls supplied these photos he took on a visit in 2014. *10th April 2021*

[ngg src="galleries" ids="33" display="basic\_thumbnail"]

**European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards.** Although the award winners cover all sorts of structures – the majority have some sort of industrial interest. Those that don't are still worth looking at. There is not a lot of text (in three languages) but the pictures are splendid. Something over 200 pages but well worth downloading. It highlights 50 winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards from 19 different countries. As such you would expect 2 or 3 from each country, but there are in fact 12 winners from the UK! Click on 'Further information on the publication' and then under 'Object Links' on the righthand side, click 'Download' to download a pdf of the publication, but be aware it is about 440MB! It takes a while for the document to open. [Link](#). Chris Barney *4th April 2020*

**Thank You!** to all those who have supported WIAS with donations during the difficult period of lockdown and subsequent restrictions. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to all those who have returned the Survey forms. We have heard from several of our more regular supporters, but we are equally keen to hear from those who are occasional visitors or, indeed, new contacts. The information about the [Survey](#) and [Donations](#) can be found on the website. *3rd April 2021*

**Next WIAS Zoom Lecture** is on Thursday April 8th. at 7.30pm, when Dr. Mike Nevell will speak on 'Cheshire's Salt Archaeology'. Dr Mike Nevell is a landscape, buildings, community, and industrial archaeologist with more than 30 years experience, and has become one of the country's leading figures in the field of industrial archaeology. He was Chairman of the Association for Industrial Archaeology from 2017-2020, and he is currently Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England, a project funded by Historic England. *3rd April 2021*

**Coventry Singer.** On a rare trip out to the local farm shop today this beautiful Singer pulled into the parking area. This particular vehicle is a Singer 10-26 (1926), Engine 1308cc S4 OHC, Production 15500, Registration Number RU 3845. A modernised version of the Singer 10 with four wheel brakes from 1926 as indicated by the red triangle on the rear bumper Cost for complete car £220 in 1925! *30th March 2021*





*RU 3845 Singer 10-26 (1926)*

**Martin Green, WIAS - Old Warwickians Talk, March 2021** - Thanks to Anne Douglas, Alumni Relations, Warwick School, WIAS is able share the following film. 175 OWs from across the globe and decades zoomed in to Martin Green's fascinating talk on Warwickshire's Industrial Heritage and Warwick School. From Scotland to San Diego and

Sydney to South Africa, OWs reconnected with each other, with Martin and with the school.  
*29th March 2021*

**WIAS 2021 Survey.** The survey is now available to complete on line. Please help define the future of WIAS by giving us your views. Click [here](#). *27th March 2021.*

**Gloucester-Whittle E28/39 'Pioneers'.** In the latest paper in our Aviation section, John Willock concentrates on the development of this incredible jet powered aeroplane. Although not actually constructed in Warwickshire it made many flights from RAF Shenington/Edgehill across the Warwickshire countryside. Click [here](#). *27th March 2021*

**Guestbook.** Our WIAS Guestbook page is now available, click [here](#). *19th March 2021*

**Bentley Cars.** Following on from our January "Bentley Boys" talk I remembered taking these photographs which might be of interest. Better late than never! *19th March 2021*



*1929 Bentley 3 litre DS 6579 at Le Touquet beach in 2006 and  
1930 Bentley 4 1/2 litre GF 3372 at Stowe on the Wold in 2013*

**GPO Marker Post etc.** This web site is dedicated to those cast iron pieces of street furniture that almost always go un-noticed, but are reminders of our social, technological and physical past. Marker posts of a standard design were used by the Post Office (later known as the General Post Office, or GPO) from the earliest days of telecommunications, when they ran the fledgling telegraph network in the UK. There is an interactive UK map showing positions of markers and cables and a detailed section on Manhole covers. Well worth a visit. Click [here](#). 16th March 2021

**WIAS March Talk.** Our speaker this month, David Fry, has very kindly made the text of his talk on the '18th Century Coventry Silkmen' available to us. Click [here](#) to view. 13th March 2021

**WIAS Database.** More contributions to our IA database are always welcome. If you have a photo of IA that still exists and can be seen today you can complete a simple form on our



database page and send it to us. The database team will do the rest. Just click on the link in the main menu for full details. You can also search the database by, industry, location or photograph. The database has just been updated with a number of new entries. *10th March 2021*

**Coventry Factories** - Long gone Coventry Factories including, MF, BL Triumph, Rootes, Coventry Climax and Hawker Siddeley feature in this Coventry Telegraph album. Click [here](#) to view. *2nd March 2021*

**Jet Man: The Making and Breaking of Frank Whittle, Genius of the Jet Revolution** by Duncan Campbell-Smith. This new publication has now been reviewed by John Willock. Click [here](#) to visit our 'Book' page and read it. *22nd February 2021*

**R F Brookes Pie Factory.** Following on from Martin Green's research, Paul Cooke sent the following information.

*I found you story “ R.F.Brookes, Pie Factory “ very enjoyable, I started working there in the latter part of 1969 as an oven operator. Both a Mr Stewart and a Mr J Griffiths worked in a management capacity, if I remember correctly Mr Griffiths was the factory manager.*

*A few months into my employment I can remember that we were told to expect a important visit, the visitor was a Mr Rick Turnbull who was a Canadian by birth and a relative to Mr Brookes. We later understood that Mr Turnbull was to takeover the running of R.F.Brookes. I never saw Rick again and later found out he was based at Wigston, Leicestershire.*

*Shortly after his visit there was a restructure and a change of management, one or two moving over the canal to start Shire Foods. Sometime after we were taken over by Avana Meat Products. At sometime I had started the management training program and part of that role was to represent the management on the social club side.*

*As far as I can remember it was always called R.F.Brookes social club, but I'm not sure if it didn't have or was possibly going to have a name change to Avana Products ?? I think it was turned down as everyone knew Brookes or pie factory. We did have a football team which was called Avana, I do have a photo of the team which was near all Warwick based.*

*I left Brookes in 1976 and moved away to Ross-on-wye, only to return a couple of years later to work for Rick Turnbull at Wigston. 17th February 2021*

**Hydro Electric Power & Aluminium Production.** Stuart Robertson & Martin Green highly recommend this 30 mins video. To read Stuart's notes on the area and the process click [here](#). *13th February 2021*

**Transporter Bridges.** Following the interesting talk on Thursday night, Peter Coulls has supplied these excellent photos of Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge which he took in the 1980's. *12th February 2020*





OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA



OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA



OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA



OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge in the 1980's

**WIAS February Meeting.** Don't forget our Zoom meeting this Thursday 11th Feb, Margaret Ingham, *'The UK's Forgotten Transporter Bridge and the Campaign to Save It'*.

**WIAS in the past.** Do you ever wonder what we were doing years ago? Have a look at our *'Index of Meetings'* page and you can see all our meeting and events back to 1993. Use the search box in the top right corner to search for a word or year. Link [here](#). 10th February 2021





**More Aviation - Own a V Bomber!** Our aviation enthusiasts might be interest in a forthcoming auction to be held by the well known auctioneer Charles Hanson. ([Link here](#)).

*'We are pleased to be offering a unique private collection of part restored V Bomber cockpits, along with many additional individual items from the collection. This is a rare opportunity to own a collection accumulated over many years. We are currently inviting offers on the entire collection, with a view to going to auction as catalogued if the complete collection has not been sold. From left to right, Victor B2 XH670, Vulcan B2/K2 XH560, VictorK2 XH669 At rear Valiant B1 XD826'. 1st Feb 2021*

**The Castle Bromwich Aircraft Factory.** The latest paper from *John Willock* in our Warwickshire Industries, (Aviation Section), is now available here. Another excellent read from our aviation expert! Click [here](#) to visit. *25th January 2021*

**Newsletter No. 71.** Thanks to Mike Hurn the latest WIAS newsletter is now available to read on the website. Visit the 'Newsletter' page [here](#). By the way, many of the latest web browsers and pdf readers now offer an audio function should you prefer to listen to it being read to you! *21st January 2021*

**Diana Barnato -Walker The Powder Compact Incident.** Born in 1918 Diana Barnato was the daughter of playboy “Bentley Boy” racing driver Woolf Barnato and his wife Dorothy. The Barnato family, who were extremely wealthy, had made their considerable fortune in the diamond mines of South Africa. Consequently, Diana had something of a gilded upbringing being a debutante and had the means to learn to fly privately before the Second World War broke out. She was an extremely attractive young woman and this contributed to her persona.

*If you joined our WIAS January Zoom meeting this week, you may have noticed John Willock holding up a sign with 'The Powder Compact Incident' written on it! Unfortunately John had no working microphone so he was unable to tell us the story. He has since written it down and this fascinating incident is now available [here](#).*

**Fine Porcelain.** Members may be interested in this piece of porcelain which features the Iron Bridge at Coalbrookdale. It is a superbly painted and extremely accurate image of the Iron Bridge based on the William Ellis engraving of 1782 - itself based on an original painting by Michael Angelo Rooker. The item is a porcelain tray, part an Imperial Vienna Porcelain Factory Cabaret Set, comprising: Tray, Coffee Pot, Coffee Cup & Saucer, Sucre and Milk Jug, Circa 1801. Only the tray carries the image, which is set against a lovely Mazarin Blue ground. The inscription is in French. The set is displayed in the Museo delle Porcellane, Pitti Palace, Florence. Porcelain comes quite high on my set of interests and it doesn't come much better than this. Its rather a pity its not on a piece of English porcelain – of course one would immediately think of Coalport. I wrote about this item in the Caughley Society Newsletter No71, August 2017. Industrial Archaeology comes in many forms, as we all know!





*(The original engraving, shown above, was acquired by the British Museum in 1870 but is not on display. For full details click on this [link](#)).*



A saucer made at the Caughley factory circa, 1782-94 - (Image by kind permission of Caughley Society)

This rather naïve mostly printed, but with some hand wash, image of the Iron Bridge on a saucer was made at the Caughley factory circa, 1782-94. It is extremely rare with only one example known to date. The image contains one little known feature of the bridge when it was first built. If you look at the third, innermost, rib it will be seen that it does not continue right through to the base. This rib continuation was added subsequently. This feature can be most easily discerned in a 1780 print (woodcut) made by J Edmunds, from which this ceramic print was most likely made. John Willock, *14th January 2021*

**AIA Newsletter.** The latest AIA newsletter is available to read [here](#). *9th December 2021*

**WIAS Zoom Meeting 14th January at 7.30pm.** David Skillen - *'The Bentley Boys'*. The Bentley Boys were a group of wealthy British motorists who drove Bentley sports cars to victory in the 1920s and kept the marque's reputation for high performance alive. In 1925, as the marque foundered, Bentley Boy Woolf Barnato bought the company, leading to the creation of the famous supercharged Bentley Blower car. *8th January 2021*

## **WARWICKSHIRE AVIATION**

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If you are considering buying a copy of this excellent publication you can now read John Willock's review of the book on our 'Book' page, click [here](#). *8th January 2021*