Heritage of Industry Tours. Details of forthcoming tours in 2024 are now available at this link. Click here. *24th December 2023*

WIAS Newsletter. The December 2023 Newsletter, (Edition No. 80), is now available. Thanks to those who help prepare the newsletter, more help is always welcome. Click here. *15th December 2023.*

"On This Day". Barry Franklin has supplied a link to this fascinating 5 mins film - "1963: In Shipston-on-Stour, England's smallest gasworks produces gas for 150 locals. It's literally a one man operation – the same man lays mains, stokes the furnace and carries out inspections. Before nationalisation, he was also the owner". Click here to watch the film. *15th December 2023*

Death of WIAS member. With much sadness we record the death of Elizabeth Margaret (Liz) Sayell, 21st June 1939 - 17th September 2023. A service in memory of Liz was held at All Saints' Church, Emscote on Tuesday 17th October 2023". Liz and her husband George have been active members of WIAS for many years and for a long time prepared the refreshments at our monthly meetings. She also embraced the 'Zoom' technology to follow WIAS during Covid and our current monthly schedule. *23rd November 2023*

New WIAS Zoom Recordings. We are very fortunate to have been able to record our last two WIAS meeting speakers. Victor Riley's talk in October, *'The Riley Story'* and Chris Clack's talk in November, *Harry Ferguson 'Man of Vision'* are now available on our web site at this link. Sub-titles are available. *14th November 2023*

Database of Warwickshire Bridges. WIAS member Roger Cragg has now compiled a comprehensive list of the bridges throughout Warwickshire. The list is similar in format to our main database project. There are no plans to link photographs at this stage. You will find links in the main drop down menu and at the foot of the Database page. *2nd November 2023*

RAF planes that won the Battle of Britain were built on German machinery: How Jewish refugee engineer, Ludwig Loewy, was crucial to the war effort. This was the subject of a recent meeting of the Newcomen Society, Sheffield Branch, presentation by Dr Jonathan Aylen. Thank you to Alain Foote & John Willock for bringing this to our attention. The talk was recorded and it is hoped will be available at a later date. In the meantime the full story is available at this link and is well worth reading. Our onetime WIAS member, the late Richard Hartree, and Banbury Aluminium are mentioned. *2nd November 2023*

From Stuart Roberston of WIAS. The November auction of classic vehicles, held at the NEC, contains amongst many other things, the Rolls Royce of fairground dodgem cars! Built in Warwick to very high standard, this model named 'Fats Domino' comes with its electric motor and pole. Re-live those innocent days of head-on crashes, whiplash and steering wheel spinning induced sprained wrists. In need of a little care to bring it back to its former glory days. Click here to view the lot.

Stuart has also found this great photo, left, featuring the AP offices and vehicles in Leamington Spa. *31st October 2023*

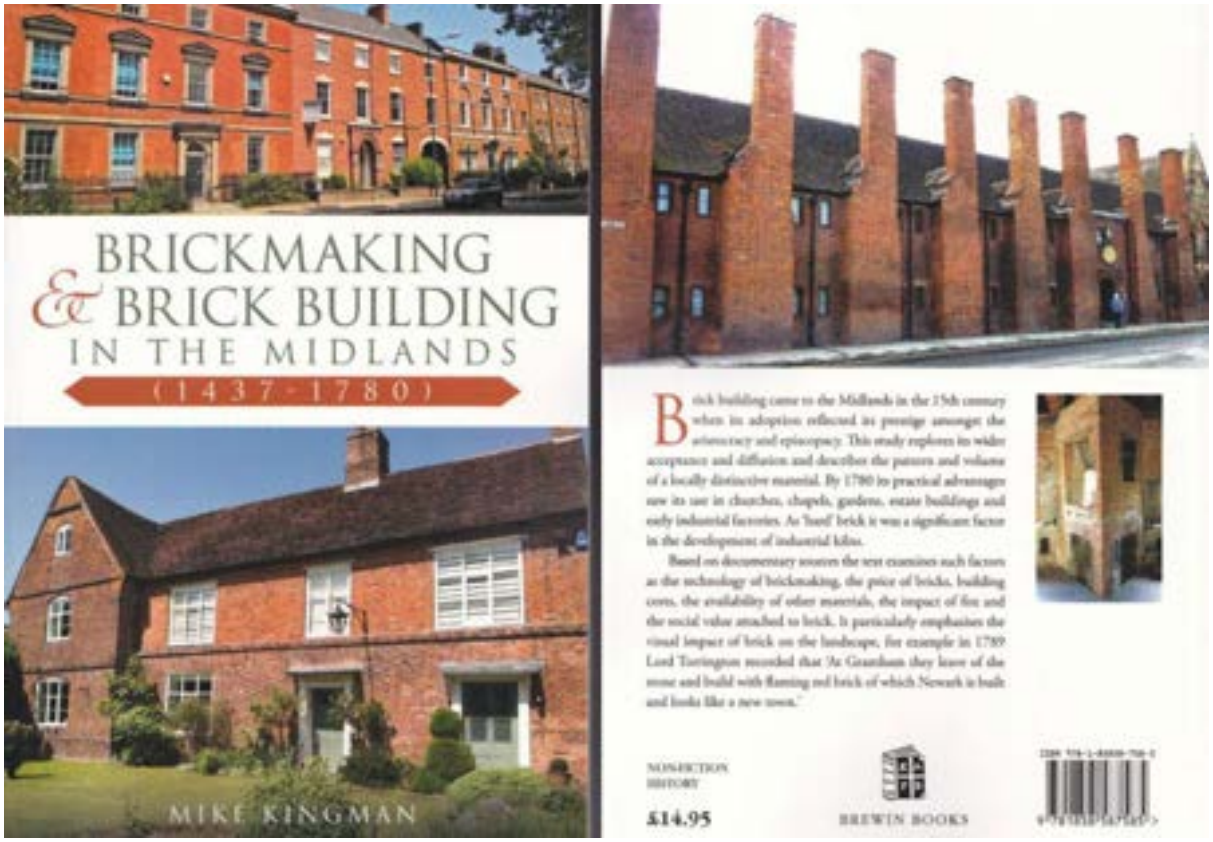
WIAS October Meeting

There was an excellent attendance at the October meeting to hear Victor Riley, grandson of the founder of Riley Cars, talking about the history of the company which was started in Coventry. Two visitors very appropriately arrived in a magnificent 1949 Riley RMB 2.5-litre!

Members and visitors are encouraged to visit the Riley Archive Project at Coventry Canal Basin. Visit the website here. *13th October 2023*

Steam Launch "Consuta". A new contribution from John Willock about this interesting steam powered launch built in 1898. Click here. *3rd October 2023*

Newsletter 79. Thanks to our Newsletter editorial team, edition 79 is now available on the website at this link. All our newsletters are available on the 'News and Retort!' page of the website, click here to visit. *27th September 2023.*



Brick Making & Brick Building in the Midlands.
This is an academic study which explores the question Why did People Build in Brick? It discusses the pragmatic answers of availability, price, building costs and transport but also emphasises the social value attached to brick and its impact on the visual landscape. It contains evidence of brick technology, the fuels employed and the range of bricks produced (over 40 are listed). It discusses evidence from Warwickshire, eg output of the Strelley kilns at Sherbourne and the relationship between brickmaking and coal mining. *ISBN -1-85858-758-5 Copies available from booksellers or the author. Thank you, Dr Mike Kingman. 19th September 2023*

Leamington History Day
Some photos from Martin Green showing the WIAS stand at this event and a splendid view from the top of All Saints Church tower! *16th September 2023*

IMPORTANT - WIAS NEW MEETING VENUE - Over the summer the Warwick Junior School Playground has been re-surfaced, trees planted, and playground equipment installed such that it is no longer available for us to use as a car park. After discussions with the School, it has been decided to move our venue for meetings from the Halse Pavilion to the **Warwick Prep School Hall CV34 6PL**. This is at the far western end of the school site, accessed from the Banbury Road. The Prep School Hall has a large amount of adjacent parking spaces, with the offer of reserved space if required, and six disabled spaces. The hall itself has many advantages, both on the technical side and in terms of space available.

(CLICK HERE TO VIEW MAP OF LOCATION & PARKING).

The attached map indicates the location and entry point from the Banbury Road. The entrance to the Hall is to the left of Main Reception. There will be directional signs to aid you on the night. Could I please encourage you to attend the meeting on Thursday to view this facility and to familiarise yourselves with entry and parking. It would be very valuable to have your input on the change - I feel sure that the adjacent parking will be an enormous benefit. It is also, of course, a chance to meet up with fellow enthusiasts after the summer break, to be part of the AGM and to enjoy the Members' Contributions. We greatly value the personal contact that these meetings provide. Martin Green, WIAS Chairman, *11th September 2023*

2023/2024 Season. Our full programme of talks is now available on our 'Programme' page. The new format, last season, proved successful so once again it will be a mixture of 7 Live/Hybrid meeting and 3 ZOOM only meeting. *14th August 2023*

WIAS Database Project. The Database project continues to go from strength to strength. Thanks to Roger Cragg a number of interesting new entries have been added and all versions

updated. Visit the Database page at this link and do consider submitting a few entries. There are plenty of suitable objects around the county not yet included. *16th July 2023*

WIAS Membership. We are pleased to confirm that membership fees for 2023-2024 will remain unchanged. Membership runs from 1st September each year for 12 months. £20 per individual and £26 per couple at the same address. (If you join WIAS after February, membership fees will be reduced on a pro-rata basis). *14th July 2023*

Water Towers in Warwickshire. Roger Cragg has just updated his interesting article from 2020 with new and revised information. Click here to view. *14th July 2023*

Newsletter 78 Now available on line - the June edition of the WIAS Newsletter which covers the meetings held in February and March, plus a couple of photos from each of two of the Visits organised by Alain Foote over the Spring. Many thanks to Chris Barney for taking on primary responsibility for writing up the meetings, and to Mike Hurn for putting the articles together. Newsletter 79 will be published in time for the new season, with full details of the programme 2023-2024. *21st June 2023*

WIAS Meeting - The WIAS June meeting is the last of the season and I hope I can encourage as many as possible to attend in person at the Halse Pavilion, Warwick School. It is always good to meet up with fellow enthusiasts for the industrial heritage and the meeting will focus on a family and two firms that had a very significant influence on the industrial history of Stratford-upon-Avon, a topic worthy of a wider recognition and further research. The presentation is entitled 'NCJoseph Ltd, SONA and Stratford Produce Canners'. Brian Joseph will be in attendance together with a few items from his family's collection of SONA products. It will bring back memories of searching for that SONA wedding gift on the shelves of Rackhams or Debenhams! Martin Green, *6th June 2023*

Making a Barrel! There must be many different ways to build a barrel but here is a German Cooper. Click on this link to watch. John Brace, *3rd June 2023*

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort
Saturday 6th May 2023

KING CHARLES III
CORONATION • 6TH MAY 2023

WIAS Committee and Newsletter. Edition number 77 is now available on the website at this link. The 77th. edition of the WIAS Newsletter will be the last to be edited by Mike Hurn. He is handing over the computer keyboard after 15 years as editor, having produced 45 Newsletters over that period. The Newsletter is primarily a record of all the meetings held by WIAS, and Mike's ability to accurately reflect the content and flavour of these meetings, whilst at the same time adding his own editorial style, have always made these reports a pleasure to read - as well as being a most valuable record for the Society. I am sure you would wish to join with me in offering our sincere thanks to Mike for all his efforts over the past 15 years. He should be very proud of what he has achieved in creating a lasting record of the activities of WIAS.

For the future, Chris Barney has agreed to maintain a watching brief over the role, but would very much like to increase the number of people willing to write up reports of meetings. There may a topic that is of particular interest to you - feel free to contact us if you would like to be involved. From my own experience, an occasional contribution has been a rewarding experience both in terms of coming to grips with a topic, and in contributing to the records of the Society.

In addition, at the end of the current season of meetings, our Membership Secretary Sue Hammon has decided to resign her role, after many years of service. This is a key role in the Society and her calm, unobtrusive and efficient approach has been greatly valued. We are grateful for all that she has done over a long period of time. Once again, anybody willing to consider taking on this role should contact us, and we can discuss potential ways in which

you might be able to help. The WIAS wheels need to keep turning and we rely to a large extent upon the efforts of a few. It would be very good to expand the number of people involved in running the society. Give it some thought! Martin Green, Chairman *16th April 2023*

Next WIAS Meeting: 13th April 2023 (Hybrid) - 'A View of Computing History - 22,000 Years in 60 Minutes' - Peter Hoath.

I write to remind you of the next WIAS meeting, together with the fact that the meeting will be held in the PYNE ROOM, WARWICK SCHOOL, not the Halse Pavilion. This is because the Pavilion is being utilised for an Easter Holiday Programme of Activities.

Dennis Eagle Warwick Factory Tour - 22nd March 2023. A group from WIAS were indeed fortunate to enjoy a very full and informative tour of the Dennis Eagle plant on the Heathcote Industrial Estate, Warwick, part of the Terberg Environmental Group. Dennis Eagle manufactures over 1000 vehicles per year for a range of UK local authorities, and private sector contractors such as Biffa and Veolia. It is the dominant supplier in the UK market. The firm also has a continually expanding customer base in continental Europe, Scandinavia , Australia and the USA. Click here to read about the visit and view photos and a short video. Martin Green, Chairman *25th March 2023*

Windmills in Germany! Another fascinating link to watch thanks to John Brace. This film, in German, shows how the sails for a windmill are erected. Click here to view the film. *17th March 2023*

BALH Newsletter. The latest edition is now available, if you don't receive this directly click here to view. *11th March 2023*

Heritage of Industry Tours 2023. Please follow this link if you are interested in any of their planned tours as some of the dates have now changed. *11th March 2023*

Death of WIAS Member. It is my sad duty to pass on the news that John Bell has died at the age of 85 years of age. John will be remembered as a quiet, modest man who was a loyal, long-serving, member of WIAS. Alongside and beyond a career at Armstrong Siddeley, Bristol Siddeley, Rolls-Royce and Jaguar Land Rover, he was blessed with the ability to develop a range of interests from arts to the many branches of engineering, combined with the pleasure of walking and overseas travel. He shared these interests and experiences with a group of friends from Coventry and these notes are very much based on the information supplied by one of those friends, Martin Woolston. John was always on the look-out for interesting meetings or places to visit, and he was a regular attendee on John Haslam's former Heritage Coach Trips. I always found him courteous and friendly, with genuine enthusiasm for the transport and industrial heritage. He was typical of that generation that possessed widespread knowledge and experience, willing to share with others, but never in an over-bearing way. He was a highly-valued member of Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society.

John had suffered kidney problems for some time, manfully coping with the demands of dialysis, but he had been in and out of hospital for the past three months. He had a partner, Gill, for 40 years, and he is survived by two nieces. His funeral will take place at 1.45pm 0n Monday April 3rd. at Charter Chapel, Canley Crematorium, CV4 7DF.

Martin Green, Chairman, WIAS. *11th March 2023*

Five WIAS members outside Brixworth Church, in September 2021, following their visit to Sywell Aviation Museum, instigated by John. From left to right: Phil Adcock, Keith Rogers, Martin Woolston, John Haslam, and John Bell. Martin affectionately refers to this photo as "Last of the Summer
Wine".

A visit to Powerjets in Rugby, with Keith Rogers and John Bell, both of whom have sadly died since this photo was taken.

Field Event tent with model enthusiasts John Haslam and John Bell. **Martin Woolston has supplied these three photographs of John sharing interests with friends**

WIAS Website 2014. For a glimpse at how we looked in 2014 click here. *25th February 2023*

St Mary's Church, Warwick. Many of you will know Tim Clark and remember his talk on Warwick's Worsted Mill. Over many months Tim has been dedicated to recording the history of St. Mary's Warwick (embodied in a book he has written) and he comments;

"Try as I might, I can't find a connection between HISTORY 900 and WIAS, but I knew that nonetheless you'd be interested in seeing details of the programme, including the launch of the book on the history of St. Mary's on 27 April. A copy of a poster we have produced is attached, and there are more details on www.faireandgoodlybuilt.org.uk and our Facebook and Instagram pages." Martin Green, *18th February 2023*

Barford Power Station. An interesting article on a little known hydro scheme, by John Brace, is available now in our 'Contributions' section. Click here. *18th February 2023*

BALH Newsletter. The latest edition of the BALH Newsletter is now available to view at this link. As always, it is full of great articles. *15th February 2023*

Barnacle Hall Brickworks. A new paper by Chairman, Martin Green, detailing the history of this little known location in North Warwickshire. *"The unusually named hamlet of Barnacle lies on the outskirts of Coventry, and at least one site for brick-making had an*

important presence in the area during the second half of the nineteenth century through to the early years of the twentieth century". Click here to view. *9th January 2023*

Heritage of Industry Tours 2023. A new series if IA related tours including Swansea, Amsterdam and Portugal. Full details and booking information is available at this link. *January 6th 2023*