WIAS Newsletter. December Newsletter No.84 is now available on our website. Detailed reviews of recent meetings are included as usual. A huge thank you to those that record the meeting and prepare this valuable record of activities. Click here for link. *12th December 2024*

WIAS has pleasure in inviting you to join our December Meeting on Thursday December 12th at 7.30pm when our Chairman will give a presentation on the History of Price's Candleworks. This well known brand has a long and interesting history revealing many aspects of the industrial heritage. It will be a very accessible talk and we do hope that as many as possible will attend. It promises to be a suitable prelude to the Christmas Festivities. (ZOOM Only).

Lowestoft's lost Fishing Industry by Stuart Robertson. After graduating from Lanchester Polytechnic, (now Cov Uni) in 1969, my first job was a Metallurgist/Manager at British Heat Treatments (East Anglia Division). This was a subcontract metal heat treatment company in Whaploud Road, Lowestoft, it catered for the widely dispersed engineering company's in Norfolk and Suffolk. I used to manage a workforce of ex-fisherboys who were now running heat treatment furnaces. The factory was located right next to the north beach area of Lowestoft under the cliffs and lighthouse. We used to go swimming in the sea at lunchtime in the Summer. The fisherboys talked to me about the Beech Village, (Also known as The Grit), where most of them used to live and work. Its now the industrial area of Lowestoft where our factory is now. Attached is a link to a 2020 YouTube tube video of The Grit which is a brilliant history of Lowestoft fishing industry from 1900 to 1960's and its decline. Look out for the broad Lowestoft accents ! *1st December 2024*
https://youtu.be/jHnmgMk8O3Q?si=w4aHhq0xtYXEVjNj

WIAS Database Project. The database of over 500 Warwickshire locations has recently undergone a complete overhaul. It is now searchable and sortable in an easy format and has a photograph linked directly to each record. WIAS is still on the lookout for new entries which are very easy to submit. Click here to visit. *24th November 2024*

Lighthorne Rough. This interesting site, once a nuclear bomb store for 'V Bombers' at nearby RAF Gaydon, is now the secure home of the British Film Institute Archive. Some years ago, one of the storage facilities was demolished to make way for a state of the art archive store. Before removal of the colossal amounts of concrete took place, Warwickshire County Council commissioned a full archaeological recording, complete with diagrams and photographs. The full report is available at this link. *(Note - the site is extremely secure and no visits are permitted). 10th November 2024*

Chipping Campden Silk Mill and the Coventry Ribbon Industry. If you were unable to attend our October meeting, or join by Zoom, our speaker, Dick Cluley has kindly made his illustrated talk available to WIAS. Thanks to Dick for putting this together for us. Click here to visit the page. *28th October 2024*

Steam at Warwick on the 21st October 2024. An autumn afternoon at Parkway station starts with a Chiltern train, northbound to B'ham Snow Hill, shortly followed by a southbound service to London Marylebone. A few minutes later, Castle Class 5043, *'Earl of Mount Edgcumbe'* makes a spirited climb up Hatton Bank and through Parkway station en route to Stratford-upon-Avon. 5043 had travelled down to Didcot the same morning from Tyseley with empty stock. This was the return journey hauling a 'William Shakespeare'

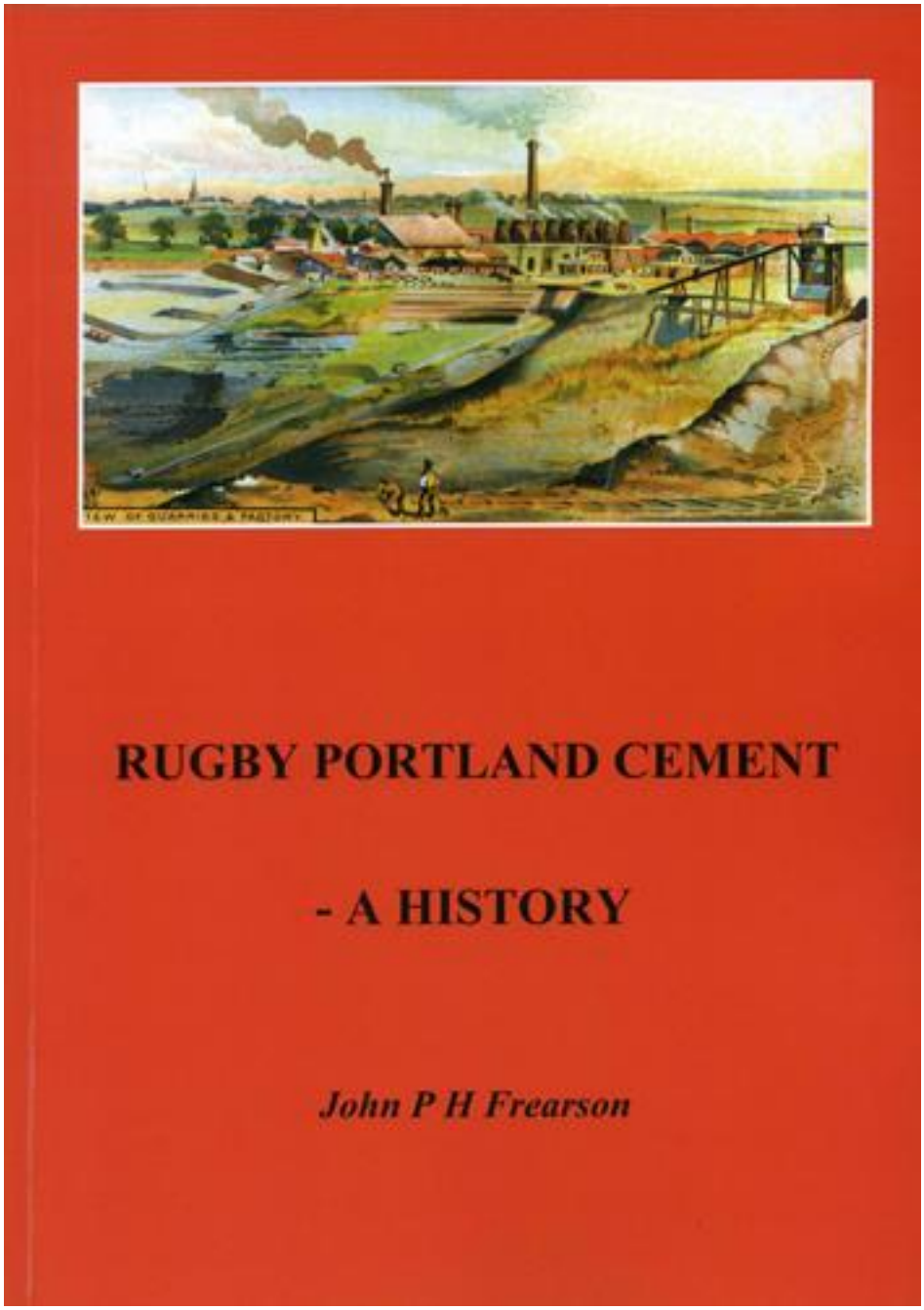
private charter. After leaving passengers at Stratford it returned to Tyseley with the empty stock via the North Warwickshire line. Turn up the sound and listen for the slipping, (shortly after the trailing diesel passes), quickly controlled by the driver. The exhaust echo can be heard for sometime as the train ascends the mainly 1 in 105 climb. *21st October 2024*

AIA. The latest edition of the AIA e-news bulletin is now available. I do hope you find items of interest. Click here. *18th October 2024*

Janine Wiedel. In 1977, documentary photographer Janine Wiedel set out in her VW campervan to photograph industry in England's Midlands – once the heart of the Industrial Revolution. A region that was home to thousands of businesses – from potteries and jewellers to coal mines, steel and iron works and chain-making – was in steep decline; underinvestment over many decades in both premises and machinery had created a depressing situation where once world-leading businesses were no longer competitive internationally and facing a grim future.

Janine realised that this was a critical turning point in Britain's industrial history and she set out to document the workers within their working environment. She was given remarkable access by the factories and was welcomed by the workforce, who greatly appreciated her interest in recording not just their daily work routines but also the bonding and social interaction that was so important in often grim factory environments.

The result was a critically-acclaimed Exhibition (entitled '**The Vulcan's Forge'** at the Photographers' gallery in 1979) and a new book (of the same title) published by the Bluecoat Press celebrates that exhibition in a large format monograph with excellent print quality and around 300 photographs. It also has 2 pull out sections on After Hours and Industrial Landscape as well as some of the Workers Stories. Price is £50. Further details from https://bluecoatpress.co.uk Martin Green, Chairman, WIAS. *15th October 2024*



Many will know of John Frearson's work in recording the history of Warwickshire's cement industry. He is now is glad to report the publication of his magnum opus' '**Rugby Portland Cement – A History'**. A 300 A4 page soft cover book, with 139 colour and 138 black and white illustrations and some 1500 references. It includes all the previously published Kayes and Nelsons material. The official price is £40.00 but thanks to some grant aid he can sell it direct for £25 [collected from John in Rugby] or posted 2nd class for £30.00. A copy of the cover is attached. Contact: johnphfrearson@btinternet.com if you would like to buy a copy. *10th October 2024*

Local History Day - Saturday 14th September 2024. This annual event took place at All Saints Church in Leamington Spa between 10am and 4pm. A large number of visitors were able to browse around the 25 or so stands form a variety of organizations, including WIAS. Many thanks to the members that came to help or just say hello. The stand generated a lot of

interest, including 3 potential new members, books were sold and leaflets & newsletters distributed. The interior of the church looked splendid and those brave enough were able to climb to the top of the church tower to be rewarded with magnificent clear views of Warwickshire. View all the photos in our gallery here. *14th September 2024*

Leamington History Day Stands in the Church

The View from All Saints

2024 - 2025 Season. The full programme of meetings is now available at this link. Please visit our 'Membership' page to renew your membership or to join WIAS. **Gift Aid.** Have you added Gift Aid to your membership yet? If you can Gift Aid your membership, WIAS will receive 25p in the £1 from HM Government. Our new 'on line Gift Aid form' is available now at this link and only takes a minute to complete. (A paper form is also available to download and print here). Thank you for your support! *5th September 2025*

Shelsey Walsh Watermill. Alain Foote has asked me to remind you of the following WIAS visit. Following on from Max Hunt's talk last year, a visit to Shelsey Walsh Watermill is arranged for Tuesday 17th September at 11 a.m. Numbers are limited so early booking is advised. Cost is £5 per head. Alain Foote's contact details: alain.foote@outlook.com 07801 774277. There are still places available for the visit to this very interesting site. Visit https://www.shelsleywatermill.com/ for further info. Please support the WIAS Visits Programme! Martin Green, Chairman, WIAS. *29th August 2024*

WIAS Newsletter. The latest two newsletters, No. 82 and 83, are now available on our web site. Number 83 is special edition recording 'WIAS at 35 years!' Click here. *16th July 2024*

Heritage of Industry. The latest list of walks and trips from this organization are available to view at this link. *30th June 2024*

WIAS Industrial Walks. A collection of 8 walks devised and lead by the late Peter Chater and undertaken by WIAS members during the 1990's and 2000. Some items of interest and access may have changed somewhat during the passage of time! There are 8 walks in total. (Please ignore the WIAS contact details as they are out of date!). Click here to view the walks page. *19th June 2024*

Death of WIAS Member. It is with much sadness that I have to pass on the news of the death of Trevor Daw. He was a great steam enthusiast, a loyal supporter of WIAS, and was highly regarded by those who knew him, both for his knowledge and for his helpful and courteous manner. I have passed on condolences to the family. Martin Green, Chairman, WIAS *6th June 2024*

WIAS 35 Years! I write to remind you of the next WIAS Meeting on **Thursday June 13th. at 7.30pm** in the Warwick Preparatory School Hall, with a simultaneous delivery online via Zoom, when the Chairman will be offering some **Personal Reflections on 35 Years of Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society**. Martin Green, Chairman WIAS *5th June 2024*

BALH Newsletter. The latest e-newsletter is now available at this link. *5th June 2024*

Hampshire Water Works. John Willock recently visited Twyford Water Works in Hants and took some excellent photos of the triple expansion engine there. Visit our gallery pages to view at this link. *5th June 2024*

WIAS May Meeting. The next meeting of the Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society is on Thursday May 9th. at 7.30pm in person at the Warwick Preparatory School Hall CV34 6PL, with a simultaneous delivery online via Zoom. Our speaker is one of our members, David Daniel, and the title of his talk is 'I never knew BSA made cars'. David has been involved with BSA cars since the late 1960's, has a wealth of knowledge on the subject, and he will explore an aspect of BSA's world not known to everyone. I feel sure it will be a fascinating evening. Martin Green, WIAS Chairman. *1st May 2024*

WIAS Visits & Trips. 3 trips this summer are now available to book on our 'Visits & Trips page. Click here for full details. *10th April 2024*

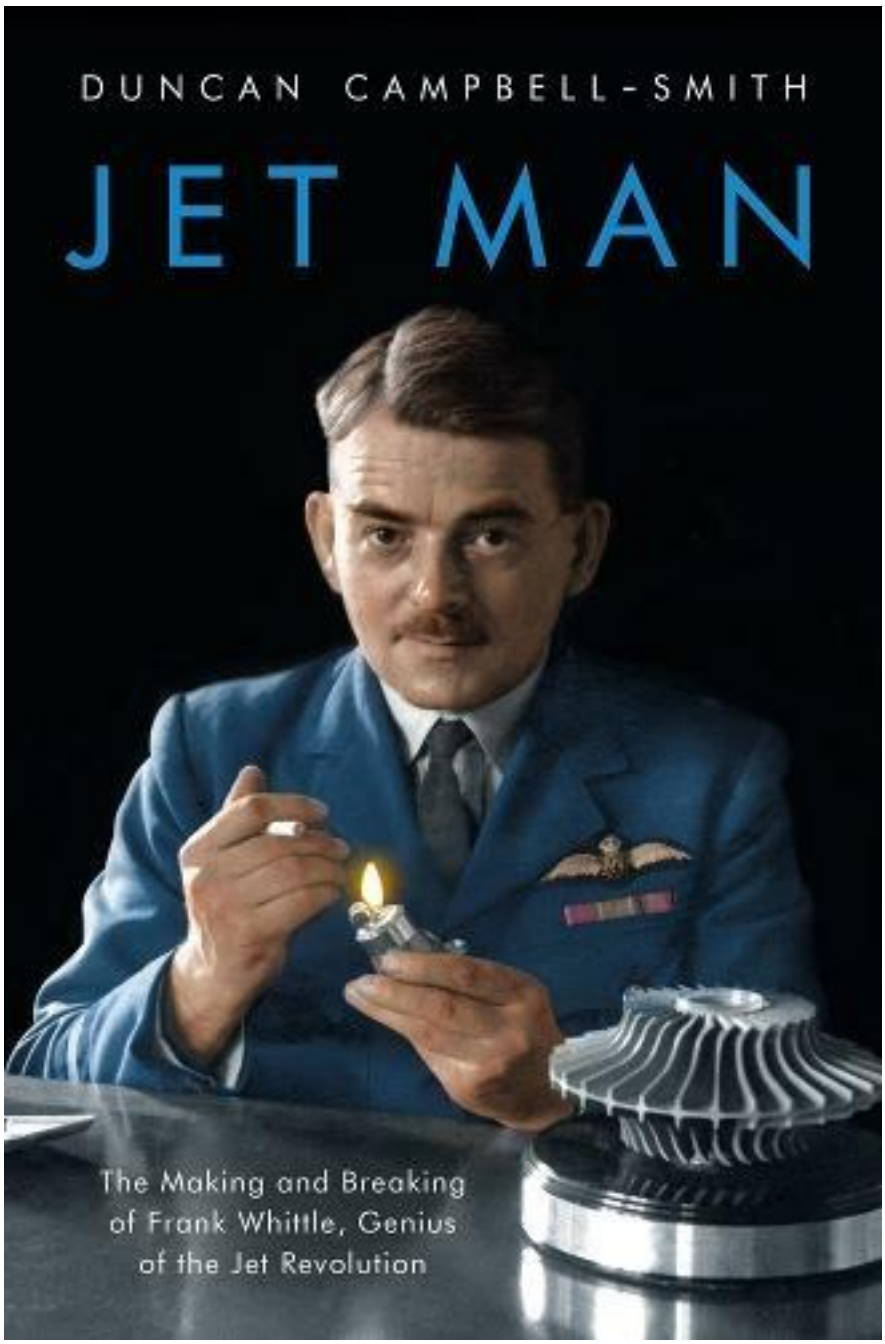
Rolls Royce. The RRHT website has been updated and now includes access to the collection catalogue. Visit their websites at https://rollsr-apw.adlibhosting.com/home and Heritage Trust. Paul Waller, *20th March 2024*

Newsletter No.81. The latest edition of the WIAS Newsletter is now available on line. Many thanks to all involved its production. Help always welcome! *18th March 2024.*

Wood Tar Production. This is a recent discovery from a Spanish Archive on the production of Wood Tar. This is all news to me and very interesting. As always The Subtitle can be

opened below the screen and then converted into English using the settings to 'English Auto-Generated'. Click on this link to watch the film on You Tube. John Brace, *18th March 2024*

2024 Visits and Trips. Details of 2 new trips are available on our 'Visits & Trips' page. Use the link in the main menu or click here. *18th March 2024*



'Jet Man.' You may recall that three years ago I reviewed for WIAS Duncan Campbell-Smith's, "Jet Man," the new biography of Sir Frank Whittle. The published price in 2021 was £30. I have considerable pleasure informing you that Post Script, the discount book sellers, have "Jet Man" on offer, in hard back, at £9.99+ postage & packing. This is a very significant saving on the original published price. As of 12.00 noon on 12.02.24, Post Script had about twenty copies remaining. Post Script Order Line, Tel: 01626 897100. John Willock. *14th February 2024*

BALH Newsletter. The latest newsletter from the British Association for Local History is now available at this link. *14th February 2024*

HMS Bryony. In the 2024 February WIAS Meeting about Decoys etc, RN Q Ships were mentioned. Q-ships, also known as Q-boats, decoy vessels, special service ships, or mystery ships, were heavily armed merchant ships with concealed weaponry, designed to lure submarines into making surface attacks. My Maternal Grandfather Henry Redvers Burns was conscripted into the RN at the end of the first world war and was trained as a radio operator. He was assigned to HMS Bryony which was a Q Ship and he served all of his time on this ship. I attach photo of HMS Bryony. Stuart Robertson. *11th February 2024*

Western Power Electricity Historical Society. Peter Coulls has brought to our attention this fascinating web site and museum which is full of interest. It is well worth a visit! Click here to visit. *28th January 2024*

Heritage of Industry Tours. The 2024 tour programme is now available and open for bookings on their web site. Click here to visit. *24th January 2024*

Brickmaking in South Africa. At the January Zoom meeting Martin Green mentioned brick making in South Africa. His report on a visit to the Bredasdorp Brickworks is now available at this link. *14th January 2024*

Stratford upon Avon Canal. A stretch of canal has been drained in Stratford-upon-Avon to allow for a replacement set of lock gates to be installed as part of a £50m project. The work along the Stratford Canal near Maidenhead Road at Lock 53 is being carried out by The Canal & River Trust and is due to be completed by the end of February. Specialist carpenters have hand-crafted new gates from solid oak. More information and photos at this link. In conjunction with this work, The Canal & River Trust have organised a special weekend on the 24th & 25th February at the Wolverhampton Flight to see 'what lies beneath'. View the usually submerged unique history of the Wolverhampton lock flight, where they carrying out essential repair works and replacing lock gates. The event is free to all but booking is required. Full details at this link. *12th January 2024*

Elmdon Airport. Aviation and classic car enthusiast Gary Lewis makes a nostalgic return visit to Elmdon Airport, (3 years ago), and travels 'back in time' to take a closer look at the original 1930's Art Deco grade 2 listed terminal building and control tower, and the airport's past connection with the legendary WW2 aircraft the Lancaster bomber. Enjoy this 25 minute film which will bring the memories flooding back. Click here. *12th January 2024*