

## SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Advancing years seems to make one more heat-intolerant but the recent heat-wave has tested us all. Fortunately, our Visits Programme has managed to avoid the hottest days and successful trips have been made to explore Oxford's Victorian and Edwardian industrial architecture, Sandfields Pumping Station, Edge Hill Light Railway and Berkswell Windmill, as well as two visits to the HS2 Long Itchington Wood Tunnel Site. I have been available for the Edge Hill and Berkswell trips and on both occasions the knowledge of the guides and the enquiring minds of the WIAS members made them very successful and enjoyable visits. Jeanette McGarry – owner of Berkswell Windmill – wondered if anyone in the Society might like to act as a volunteer for the Windmill, from greeting people at the gate on Open Days to becoming a tour guide for the Mill. Let me know if you are interested. The visit to Edge Hill Light Railway tested the mobility of us all (including the Chairman) but it was so valuable to see the route on the ground, and to reflect on the engineering tasks involved, with, of course, Andrew Baxter as an extremely enthusiastic guide. He fully deserved his refreshing beers in the Rose & Crown, Ratley afterwards, as did his two fellow guides, who also happened to be the current owners of the land upon which the route lay. We were very grateful for their permission to explore.



Owner Jeanette and guide Neil flanked by WIAS members; and exploring the EHLR route with Andrew Baxter

Talking of windmills, the famous Sibsey Trader windmill, north of Boston, Lincolnshire has been undergoing a major restoration by English Heritage and it reached a crucial point this week when the cap and fantail were lowered into place. It is one of the very few remaining six-sailed mills in the country.



Many will be familiar with the British Newspaper Archive, but this e-mail from Louise Essex, Senior Librarian at Nuneaton Library announces improved access to those Archives via Warwickshire Libraries:

Please find below a link to a press release about the British Newspaper Archive which is now available for free at 4 libraries and the County Record Office on one computer in each location. I would be grateful if you could pass the information on to your members.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3039/the-british-newspaper-archives-arrive-at-warwickshire-libraries->

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

For general information about local studies please visit the library website.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localstudies>

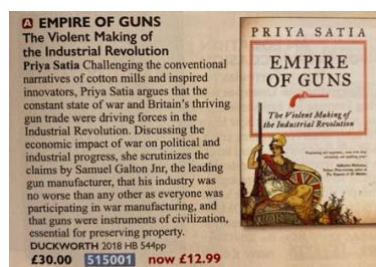
If you would like to arrange a visit to a library for your members, investigate holding a meeting for a small group of your members in a library (for free) or send us posters to promote your talks etc please get in touch by e-mailing

[librarylocalstudies@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:librarylocalstudies@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### Postscript Books [www.psbooks.co.uk](http://www.psbooks.co.uk)

Postscript Books always has items of interest, and a recent inclusion is 'Empire of Guns' which explores the role of the gun trade in the Industrial Revolution, with particular reference to Birmingham.

**Empire of Guns (Hardback)** Down from £30.00 to £12.99



### Foundry Wood

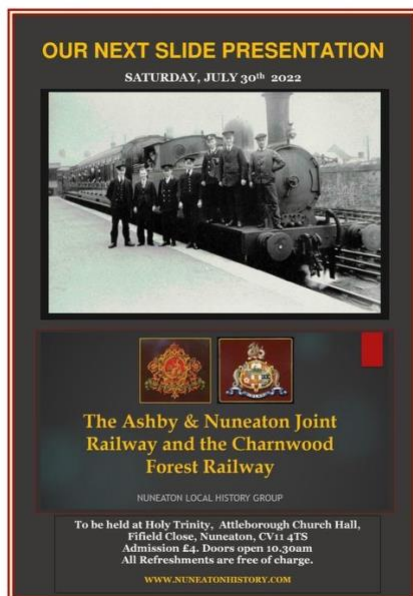
David Beal writes "We visited Foundry Wood to examine the additional land the Trustees have at long last acquired from Network Rail. There are four lines running into it with much assorted iron ware. It will have restricted access through a locked gate. We were intrigued by the old concrete structure and speculated that it might possibly be for sand to help traction as there is a slight slope? I'm sure among WIAS membership there are those who can give a more authoritative view. Access can be arranged if anybody wishes to explore."



I am pleased to report that the Memorial Event for Keith Rogers held at Hatton Locks Café was a fitting tribute to the varied interests and wonderful personality of Keith Rogers. It was attended by several of Keith's friends, some from Coventry, others from Wales, plus a number of WIAS members. The event was master-minded by Martin Woolston, who spoke with great affection about his dear friend, with others adding their thoughts subsequently. Martin had gathered together a large collection of photographs of Keith in various guises at various occasions and locations, and these reminded one of the range of Keith's enthusiasms and interests. With the locks looking at their best in the summer sunshine, it was indeed a fitting farewell to our friend Keith Rogers.



Most societies do not have meetings of the summer but the Nuneaton Local History Group continues with its slide shows. Rail enthusiasts may be interested in the meeting on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>. with a presentation on the Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway and the Charnwood Forest Railway. Details from [www.nuneatonhistory.com](http://www.nuneatonhistory.com)



The 2022-2023 WIAS Programme of Meetings has been published in the Newsletter which you should all have received. Remember that this does not mean that there will not be space for additional items and in any case, I am happy to send out small items of interest via the WIAS Circulation List. Keep sending in any items – meetings, events, visits, press cuttings - you feel might be included. With thanks.

Martin Green, Chairman, WIAS