

# NOTTINGHAM INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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[www.niha10.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.niha10.btinternet.co.uk)

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

### Spring 2009

The Chairman and Committee hope that all members enjoyed a happy Christmas and can look forward to 2009 being a successful and pleasurable year. We have an interesting programme of activities planned and look forward to sharing it with you.

### Programme

It is intended that further items will be added to this programme and details of additional events, along with those listed below, will be circulated nearer the event, but please enter these dates in your diary now.

**To keep up to date with Association events and activities visit**

**[www.niha10.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.niha10.btinternet.co.uk)**

Please note that, unless stated otherwise, all meetings will be held at Nottingham Central Library and commence at 7.45pm.

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Thurs 22 Jan</b>               | <b>Through Great Central England</b> Dave Ablitt tells the story behind his newly published book   |
| <b>Tues 27 Jan</b>                | <b>Social</b> King William IV public house, Manvers Street on Tuesday 27 January. Come along and bring your friends to enjoy good food and drink in the convivial atmosphere of this friendly pub ( for full details see page 6) |
| <b>Thurs 19 Feb</b>               | <b>My Life as an Engineer (pt 2).</b> Richard Potter continues the fascinating story he began at the Oct 2008 meeting.   |
| <b>Late Feb /<br/>early Mar</b>   | <b>Visit to Loughborough Bell Foundry (Details to follow)</b>  |
| <b>Thurs 19 Mar</b>               | <b>Arnold Tinn</b> The life and achievements of this eminent local meteorologist will be described by John Wilson  |
| <b>Thurs 16 April</b>             | <b>The Great Central Railway - Sheffield to Nottingham Victoria</b> - a journey on this late and lamented railway described by Ken Grainger  |
| <b>Wed 13 May</b>                 | <b>Annual Evening of Readings of Prose and Poetry with a Theme of Transport or Industry</b> This popular event is due to be held again at the King William IV  |
| <b>Sat 4 July<br/>(afternoon)</b> | <b>Chairman's Garden Party</b> All members are cordially invited to enjoy an afternoon's refreshment in the extremely pleasant surroundings of Richard and Marjorie Potter's garden, at Burton Joyce                             |

## **Annual General Meeting Report**

The 2008 AGM was held on 27 November, at the King William IV, was a convivial occasion even though primarily concerned with business matters. The main points of interest arising from the meeting were:

**Chairman** - Richard Potter was re-elected unanimously

**Committee** - John Hose retired and Ken Tantum was re elected. No nomination was received to fill the vacancy created by John's retirement and any member interested is asked to contact the Chairman or secretary

**Membership**- a slight improvement on the previous year

**Finance** - Funds are reasonably healthy, largely due to members paying their subscriptions more promptly than previously.

**Membership**- no change proposed for 2009 / 2010

**Fee**

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary reported that activities had largely followed the pattern set in previous years and the level of activity remained similar. However, he felt that our work was on a firmer footing than it had been a year or two ago - the decline in attendance's at meetings seemed to have stopped, as had the slow reduction in membership that we had been experiencing. But more needed to be done to increase the level of participation in our activities.

The committee recognised the problem and one result had been the questionnaire, which had been sent to all members a couple of weeks previously. The results were to be analysed and were expected to provide a very useful guide to the committee in planning future activities. (Note: key points are listed in this Newsletter)

Over the year, we held eight meetings with speakers. All of the talks were of a high standard but the talk on mining by Keith Stanley was especially worthy of mention. Partly because it had been so difficult to find someone to speak on the subject and, when we did, we were fortunate to have a speaker of such high quality and with such a high level of enthusiasm for his subject.

Two other talks which deserved mention were the ones given by our own members - Geoff Pike with his experiences as owner of the Midland Magneto Co and the Chairman, who spoke of his experience in the engineering industry ( in the last century!) and, of course as a National Serviceman.

We organised three visits during the year - to the East Midlands Aeropark - Wollaton Hall, to see the restoration work - and to the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust's Museum at Hucknall, where we were made very welcome by the Trust's members.

The number of trips was less than a few years ago but, sadly, there seems little support for visits further afield. Possibly because the cost of coach hire had increased so much.

Other activities had included a successful social evening, held last February. It had

proved to be most enjoyable and a repeat was planned early in the 2009.

The evening of readings of poetry and prose, with an Industrial or Transport theme, had been held in May and again proved to be thoroughly enjoyable - attracting people from a wide area. This event was now well established and greatly enjoyed by those taking part - and one that it was planned to repeat next May.

Finally, still under the heading of other activities, the Association's key involvement with the Nottingham Station Joint Committee had continued. This is an organisation which we set up in 2002, when plans to "improve" the Midland Station were announced. At that time "improve" meant the creation of something resembling a clone of Birmingham New Street. The Association felt the need for local organisations to co-ordinate their responses to these plans and was successful in setting up a committee representative of ourselves, Nottingham Civic Society, Nottinghamshire Campaign for Better Transport and the Meadows Partnership. These organisations have co-operated admirably within the remit of the NSJC and the station proposals have improved considerably since 2002. However there are still outstanding issues - the main one being a proposed multi-storey car park of almost unbelievable ugliness. The Committee is doing its best to influence the City Council.

To sum up, the Association is doing better than it was a year ago. It has an effective committee which recognises the need to get ahead rather than just tread water - and there is a good core of loyal members supporting our activities.

### **Presentation to John Hose**

At the conclusion of the AGM, a presentation was made to John Hose to mark his retirement as Vice Chairman and committee member, positions he had held continuously since the formation of the Association ten years previously, The Chairman, Richard Potter, presented John with a bottle of twelve year old, single-malt whisky, which had been donated by fellow committee members. John was thanked for his strong and unstinting support, which goes back to the days of the Nottingham Museum of Industry and Transport project in the late 1980s. Members were pleased to hear that, although John was standing aside to make way for a younger member on the committee, he would continue to take part in our activities whenever possible.

### **Midland Station**

The last Newsletter contained details of our response, made jointly with the Nottingham Civic Society, Notts Campaign for Better Transport and the Meadows Partnership Trust, to the proposals of the City Council and Network Rail to develop the Midland Station. Following approval of the main part of the proposals, in the autumn, the developers were asked to make changes to the design of the multi-storey car park. In our view, the new proposals were not an improvement and the secretary wrote on behalf of the Association and the above organisations, setting out our view and the letter is reproduced below. Unfortunately, the Councillors, clearly working to the orders of the ruling party whip, sided with the developer - as we have come to expect. However, this may not be the end of the matter and we will be reviewing our options.

## Nottingham Midland Station - Copy of Letter to City Council

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the revised proposals for the Midland Station car park. I have seen the drawings, as have representatives of our constituent organisations, and have been authorised to convey their view as set out in this letter. As you will remember, we set out our view of the station proposals in our letter of 1 August and our view of the proposed car park was detailed in that letter. Our opposition to the design was on the following grounds:

- a) The appearance of the proposed building is grossly overpowering, it will overshadow the station and be an eyesore from all elevations.
- b) The provision of such a significant increase in parking spaces contradicts the City Council's policy of reducing car usage in the city centre.
- c) No explanation has been given for the decision to double the capacity of the car park to 1000 places
- d) If, as alleged, the car park is for the use of rail passengers, has Network Rail given an undertaking to increase the number of trains using the station by the same amount (i.e. 100%)?
- e) Residents of the Meadows are most concerned at the increase in traffic and congestion that will be generated by the enlarged parking facility.
- f) Traffic travelling west along Queen's Road and turning right into the car park and west bound traffic leaving it will conflict with the traffic flow on this very busy road, causing congestion and a serious road safety hazard.

It appears that, apart from introducing some ground floor office space on the Queen's Road frontage, nothing has been done to ameliorate the concerns set out above. Neither have we heard an explanation for the decision to build such a vastly increased car park in apparent defiance of the Council's own declared policy. In our view, the multi-coloured panels, which it is proposed to hang on to the building in a hit and miss fashion, will exacerbate the problems of the building's vast bulk and utilitarian appearance which they are intended to solve. It seems to us incredible that a building which so patently insults its surroundings should be considered for inclusion in a conservation area and as an immediate neighbour to the Edwardian railway station. We have no alternative but to express our strong objection to this latest proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Ablitt (Secretary, Nottingham Station Joint Committee)

## **NIHA MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE**

The response to the recent questionnaire was very good - the main outcome being that virtually all members were satisfied with what the Association is doing. However, many interesting comments and suggestions were received and, while there will be further discussions at the committee, Eric Simpson has initially identified the following action points for further consideration.

- 1) Continue to pressure City Council to provide site/building for industrial museum.
- 2) Organise more trips to technical locations.
- 3) Make trips evenings and weekends where possible.
- 4) Avoid several consecutive months when there are no activities.
- 5) Use public transport to keep costs down.
- 6) Involve membership more with our campaigning work.
- 7) Contact those who offered to help organise an event - Steve House, Tony Taylor.
- 8) Contact those who offered to publicise events.
- 9) Contact those who offered to give our web site a link – Geoff Pike, Steve House
- 10) Approach NIAS members.
- 11) Speak to new faces at meetings and on visits.
- 12) Increase social contact between members so that members feel themselves included among friends.
- 13) Possible future talks:  
A history of the battery-electric vehicle. Geoff Pike talk with slides.  
Robert Blincoe. Peter Hammond.
- 14) Other suggestions for talks/visits:  
Nottingham Motor Cycles.  
Hosiery and lace trades.  
Brick making, quarrying, gypsum.  
Brush / Bombardier.  
Church Wilne water works.  
Diesel/electric traction world wide.  
Industrial architecture.  
A1 Tornado.  
Ruddington Ordinance Depot.

**FOR DETAILS OF SOCIAL AND BOOKING FORM**

**SEE OVER PAGE**

# New Year Social

**Date:** Tuesday 27 January 2009 at 7.45pm

**Venue:** King William IV Public House, Manvers Street\*

In keeping with the tradition established over the past few years, we are to hold a New Year, or “Post Christmas”, Social. The venue will again be the King William IV Public House and those members who attended the recent AGM will know just what a gem of a pub the “King Billy” is. The occasion will offer an excellent opportunity to meet fellow members and friends in convivial surroundings and join in a little fun. Please come along and bring your friends - an enjoyable evening is guaranteed. Entrance costs £6.25 for members, £6.75 for guests, and includes a buffet.

The last date for booking is Thursday 21 January. Please reserve your place as soon as possible, using the enclosed booking form.

\* Note: The King William IV is situated on Manvers Street, about 100 yards from its junction with Southwell Road and is about 10 minutes walk from the City Centre. City Transport bus services 21,23,24, 25 & 27 depart King Street for Southwell Road ten times per hour and take five minutes.

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## BOOKING FORM FOR NIHA SOCIAL

Please find enclosed my/our cheque for £..... in payment for .....members (@£6.25 each) and .....guests (@£6.75 each) for the social on Tuesday 27 January 2009.

NAME..... ADDRESS.....  
TEL .....  
.....

**Please make cheques payable to “NIHA” and post to the secretary at:  
38 Forester Road, Thorneywood, Nottingham, NG3 6LP**