



# Friends of Chatterley Whitfield

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk.

## Heritage Open Day Weekend 2016

**WELCOME** to the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield Heritage Open Day Newsletter 2016



The Chatterley Whitfield Colliery site is acknowledged to be the most comprehensive survival of a deep mine site in England, with a range of surviving structures and buildings unequalled in any other former or surviving coalfield site in Great Britain. It is not usually open to the public, however this FREE guided tour by The Chatterley Whitfield Friends will allow you to appreciate the array of buildings on site, which makes Chatterley Whitfield Colliery so unique. Please come and join us before, or after your tour for a chat and a cuppa!

Sorry but no underground tours.

### HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This year we have decided to open the site up on two days and have six tours per day. This will give the guides more time on site and also give people the opportunity after the tour to look at some of the work, especially archiving the 'Friends' have been doing. We are looking at the following tour start times: 10.00 - 10.45 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 1345 - 14.30



Contact Details;

[www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk](http://www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/ChatterleyWhitfield](https://www.facebook.com/ChatterleyWhitfield)

[www.twitter.com/chatt\\_whit](https://www.twitter.com/chatt_whit)

### WHAT HAPPENS ON HERITAGE OPEN DAY?

- Print your ticket off
- On arrival at Chatterley Whitfield you will be booked onto the site on presentation of your ticket booking confirmation.
- After parking up if travelling by car make your way to the enterprise Centre to book in for your tour.
- Your Tour Guide will give you a Health and Safety Briefing before your tour commences.
- The Tour will take about 90 minutes, all above ground on a designated Safe Route, which includes access to a few buildings.



- Only children aged 7 years and over allowed on site.
- Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- The site has uneven ground and steps so we regret that there is no disabled access.
- Due to the nature of the site - sturdy footwear (no open-toed footwear) must be worn at all times.
- Suitable clothing should also be worn

We reserve the right to refuse admission, alter or cancel the event without notice.



*Please be aware that the event may be cancelled if there is heavy rain or wind speeds on the site that exceed 30 mph*

We will endeavour to contact you (via email) if the event is cancelled. It would be advisable to check the weather forecast for North Staffordshire and if it is poor be prepared for the event to be cancelled.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION.....

### FOCW Colliery tour 2016

#### *Chatterley Whitfield Friends*

The Chatterley Whitfield Friends are a group of volunteers who have been given permission by The City of Stoke on Trent City Council to access the colliery and former museum. The main aims of The Chatterley Whitfield Friends are to preserve the heritage of the site. Every year the site is made available to members of the public via English Heritage, Stoke on Trent City Council and the Chatterley Whitfield Friends. The site closed as a museum in 1993 and since that date no access has been allowed. However by working closely with the City Council there has been a designated safe route authorised around the site. This allows visitors to see some of the buildings close up, enter a few buildings and see what the site is like today. Remember to use your imagination to 'days gone by' when it was a working pit.

Whilst on the site please be aware of your own and other people's safety.

- **Trip Hazards** = Vegetation / debris and entry to some of the buildings (Steps)
- **Viewing Hazards** = Lighting sources will be made available inside building 32 (Middle pit winding house)
- **Structural Hazards** = 'Out of Bounds' areas will be cordoned off to prevent access. Fencing has been erected to prevent close proximity to restricted buildings.
- **Hazardous Materials** = The site is a haven for wildlife and is the home for a large number of pigeons. This has resulted in areas on the site which have guano present. **DO NOT TOUCH!**



**DIRECTIONS: Off A527 Biddulph Road at roundabout between Fegg Hayes (Chell) & Brindley Ford. Parking available on site. Satnav - ST6 8UW - LOOK FOR THE HERITAGE OPEN DAY FLAGS AND BANNERS AT THE ROUNDABOUT.....**



**Remember we have a  
WEB SITE :**

[www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk](http://www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk)

#### **MEMBERSHIP .....2016/2017**

You can become a member on line  
now.....via PAY PAL

**ONLY £5.00 A YEAR**

We would like to use the internet more  
to keep you informed about what is  
happening.

Oh nearly forgot.....

Email Nigel Bowers, at:

[membership@chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk](mailto:membership@chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk)



#### **Behind the scenes at Chatterley Whitfield**

When you pass Chatterley Whitfield Coal mine and former museum, nothing appears to be going on. The buildings although deteriorating are still imposing and remind us of our industrial past. It has been a few years now since I became a member and GOT volunteered for various roles and placed onto the committee, ending up as the Secretary ?

The biggest change we have seen is social media, with a revamped web site, online membership renewal, new accounts with Twitter, Youtube and the very active page on Facebook. The updating of these sites keeps me very busy and it does generate a lot of emails for various requests, such as access to the site, historical research and also a place or people to share memories and photographs.

So far this year 2016, we have had a couple of local students on site filming for their respective college film projects, students from as far afield as Edinburgh and a local pop group doing some filming for a promotional video. Only recently we had a visit from the Evans brothers, who were well into their seventies, one brother George, visiting from Australia. So as you can see we are still getting a lot of interest, so much so we made a big decision to have Heritage Open Day on two days this year, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th of September. All the details on the Heritage Open Days were posted on the website and Facebook and within twelve hours of going live, all 240 tickets were allocated. This then generated a waiting list of over fifty people.

We have been working very closely with the City Council, mainly on the Health and Safety issues onsite and this has enabled us to start emptying a large shipping container in one of the buildings. The container has been storing maps, books, artefacts rescued by the 'The Friends' when the museum closed in 1993. Once this is complete we can start archiving, which will take a fair bit of time. We have started by putting up more storage in the Deployment Centre and also through the work of a committee member Brittain Adams have been looking at how to tackle the massive job. In April he arranged a visit by Conservators from Staffordshire Archives and Heritage which consists of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service with the William Salt Library and the County Museum Service. The talk and demonstration on preservation was very well received and something the 'Friends' will be actively looking at. The problem you get with all the material around you, you delve into the boxes and you never know what treasures you can find. Well recently we found a book called Exemployees Book One and it contained all the names of the miners from Chatterley Whitfield who left between 4.1.1965 and 18.1.1965. Then no more entries until 1.1.1972 to 21.1.1978. Our aim to record all the information onto computer..... Then in another box, found some diaries from 1913 up to 1928. In the same box was a years record of pay slips for the year 1913. In the name of W. Brown, an average week of between fifty six to eighty five hours paid at seven and a half OLD PENCE an hour..... and then you find something else.....

We are planning to run some restoration courses, in preparation to clean and scan all the documents we have, hopefully with the assistance of grants.

Nigel Bowers

Secretary

Friends of Chatterley Whitfield

## THE FUTURE OF CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD



The Friends have been actively looking at archiving over the past year and in April Britain Adams organised a visit by Conservators from Staffordshire Archives and Heritage which consists of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service with the William Salt Library and the County Museum Service. The visit was very informative and like all things will involve money to do any future archiving effectively.

In the Deployment centre we have amassed a bit collection of maps and the Chatterley Whitfield Document Collection, which have been supplemented by recent work with the City Council.

### LIASING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

In building 15, the Mechanical and Electrical Fitter's Shop is a large shipping container which until recently has been inaccessible due to a number of Health and Safety issues, mainly asbestos and concerns for the glass paned roof. Working closely with Alan Smith from the Council and with Anthony Botham a Health and Safety consultant, who is also a 'Friend', access was granted. So we had a couple of working party days on a Saturday and gradually the container is being emptied and revealing artefacts from the past, which have not seen the light of day since the Museum closed in 1993



### INSIDE THE CONTAINER.....



One of the most recent finds..... After we had got all the boxes out, at the back of the container we found some large display boards which used to be in the Lamp Room.

These display boards have now been relocated in the Deployment Centre



## Chatterley Whitfield fund raising Strategy.



On April 21st this year, a small group of renegades known as the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield were introduced to the joys of collection management, document storage and conservation.

So seems that we should dry clean the maps with vulcanized sponge and wrap them around cardboard tubes, then wrap them in tyvek. Then we were shown how to properly wrap a book up and avoid inhalation of mould spores.

Thanks to the folk at the Staffordshire and Stoke Archive service and Anthea from Twelvequarters

Take any heritage project in the UK and you will find that that our mine ticks every box in terms of eligibility. It is clear that the UK heritage industry which consists of organizations like Heritage England, the Princes Regeneration Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund, are right behind us in spirit.

The problem the site has had is summed up by its designation as former mine and museum.

As a coal mine it did more than produce lumps of coal it provided the energy which enabled the industries in a wide area around.

As an industrial site, it still has a lot to offer and in this role it can thrive again.

I was recently talking to a lady from about her business she lived in Alsager, I suggested she should get an workspace at the Middleport pottery, she said it had a 3 year waiting list.

It is clear that merging heritage with new business endeavour can work. So in the case of the Chatterley Whitfield mine, the large empty industrial spaces can be productive in a way that support the restoration of the scheduled sections.

Is it possible that the site could provide a similar level of traction to industry that it has in the past? If the answer to that was yes, then the question would be how.

The fund raising strategy is first to engage the friends in the restoration and digitisation work with professional help paid for with HLF funds.

The second stage is to answer this question how, in a detailed way we will need to suggest incremental steps of deliverable outcomes this should be fundable by a new HLF scheme which starts in July.

Please contact us if you wish to be trained up in documentation restoration. Or if you wish to be involved in building the longer term plan.

Brittain Adams



We have a number of media sites as well as the main web page. The most active being Facebook where we have over 1250 viewers and on average get over 500 views per Facebook entry. This of course generates a lot of work, but it is worth it, especially after we found the Leavers Book and the British Empire Medals.

THEN we can also post photographs on Facebook



One of the finds in the deployment centre looking through more paperwork, reference and audit documents came across this book. A record of all leavers 4.1.1965 to 18.1.1965 and then a more comprehensive record from 1.1.1972 to 21.1.1978. It records names, date of birth, address, date of leaving and then reason for leaving. It covers the period when Chatterley Whitfield was being 'wound down' and its closure in 1975. We will try and get all the information put onto computer so we can help with any enqs re names etc working at the pit in the early 1970's. We can research the names and any positive finds will be sent via private message....



Thanks to Anthony Botham a member of the friends....



The 'Friends' acknowledge Mark Cooper who posted this photograph

## Who Can Visit Chatterley Whitfield ?



The Evans 'Boys' George Evans Tommy Evans and Billy Evans

Access to the site is very limited but members of the general public can see around the place on Heritage Open Days.



Students from Staffordshire University on an Evening film shoot in April, all going well till it HAILED



So you can see we are still busy on the site, BUT remember as members you to have access. Why not get in contact and we can arrange a visit.....

There are Health and Safety issues and access to the buildings is not possible, but we still use the designated SAFE route as outlined in the Heritage Open Day Risk Assessment.

On 18.2.2016 we were visited by Emma, who is a student from Edinburgh University. She kindly sent us some photographs she took on site during the visit..... Here is some of her work.....



The Committee - 2016

Chair	Gerry Etchells
Deputy Chair	Jim McPhillips
Secretary	Nigel Bowers
Treasurer	Andrew Bakewell
Membership	Nigel Bowers

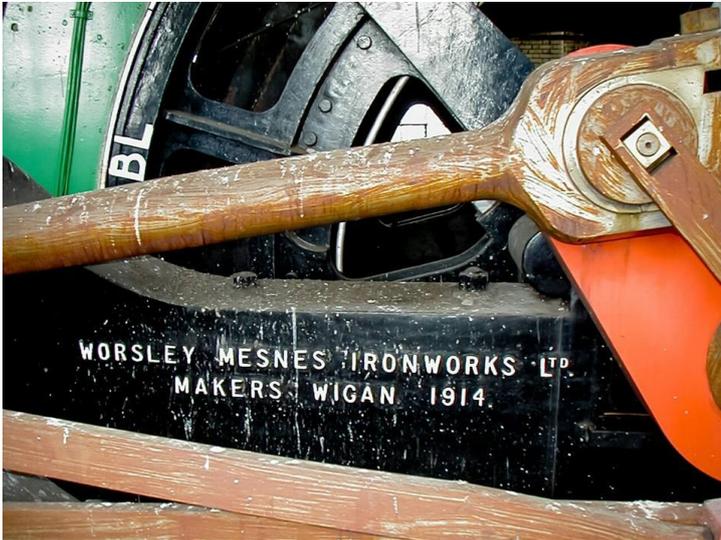
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....

1. To promote the site through the Friends website
2. To work in close co-operation with the City Council in the regeneration of the site
3. To accompany visitors to the site at the request of Stoke City Council
4. To catalogue and digitise (where necessary) the archives in the Deployment Centre

## Hesketh Engine House, Chatterley Whitfield Colliery.

No longer accessible, this amazing piece of engineering lies locked away never to be seen again within the foreseeable future. This engine wound an estimated 28, 000,000 tonnes during its working life. The following images were taken around 2002 on the annual open day.

In this megapixel obsessed times, it just goes to prove that totally acceptable images can be obtained. The following images were taken with yes a massive 2 megapixel camera.



SEE YOU ALL AT THE WEEKEND.....

**STOP PRESS NEWS.....**

**We have managed to persuade of couple of former miners, who actually worked at Whitfield to come along to the weekend and be prepared to talk about their experiences**