



Friends of Chatterley Whitfield

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk.

Newsletter - December 2015

Merry
Christmas!



WJ

from THE FRIENDS OF CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD

WELCOME to the December 2015 Newsletter.

We are still very active and continue to meet on a regular basis every Thursday morning. A big THANK YOU to all our members, old and new, supporters, volunteers and other agency workers who have made 2015 another good year. We still continue to attract new members, develop the web site in conjunction with the Facebook page and have continued to work closely with the City Council.



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

Heritage Open Day 2015
Membership Update
The Future of Chatterley Whitfield
Chairman's Report 2015
What have the 'Friends' been doing
Facebook

CHATTERLEY  WHITFIELD
FRIENDS

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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

Heritage Open Day - Chatterley Whitfield Saturday 13th September 2015



On Saturday 13th September 2015 'The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield' organised the annual Heritage Open Day.

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 Britain. Not usually open to the public, the FREE guided tour by the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield allowed access to the site so the public could appreciate the splendid array of buildings on site, which makes Chatterley Whitfield so unique. All tours had to be pre-booked. in advance

This year was a challenge as the City Council had been a great help in previous years by organising advertising and the pre-booking arrangements. However this year due to financial cut backs and staff being made redundant they could not help. So the 'Friends', made a decision to organise the event itself, which this year consisted of ten tours, catering for two hundred and fifty people during the day. Alan Smith from the Council was very supportive.

We made use of our social media sites and the website for booking the tickets, Eventbrite. The ticket allocation was oversubscribed with all the tours being booked within twelve hours of the website going 'live'. During the next 6 weeks week had numerous requests for tickets and had a reserve list.

Two members (Patrick Halfpenny and Nigel Bowers) administered the bookings, the social media site (Facebook and Website) as well as organising the tours, guides and helpers etc. We were kept very busy answering queries and reallocating tickets right up to the Friday night before the day.



On the day the weather was not kind to us, after a very damp start and a few showers, the tours guides were kept busy throughout the day and we managed to do all the ten (10) tours.

We managed to get our heads around the booking system, and even welcomed some 'walk-ins' on the day.

We used the Enterprise Centre as our administration centre and canteen before going around the site. We were allowed access to the Lamp House, the Area Shaft Building, the rear of the Hesketh complex before ending up in the Deployment centre where we had a few displays, artefacts etc.

This year we were again joined by our young helper John Cope, now in his mid nineties and in the Deployment Centre a new member Roy Kirkham who started at Chatterley in 1950 at the age of fifteen greeted all the tours.

It was very nice to families with young children taking an interest as well as seeing some former miners who were able to share some stories.

The day was a great success made possible by the 'The Friends', (Some travelling from Southport and Stroud), local councillors, and support from, helpers and friends.

It is hoped that we will be allowed to arrange the event next, subject to the condition of the site.





MEMBERSHIP UPDATE.....2015/2016

STILL ONLY £5.00

Membership is for 12 months from date of joining.....

You can renew your membership on line now..... at

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

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

So if you have not already done so please let us have your up to date :

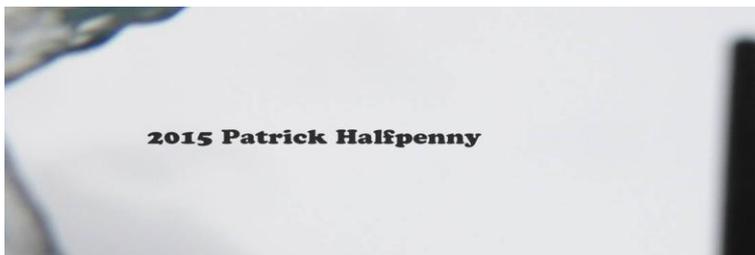
email address and mobile phone number

Oh nearly forgot.....

Email Nigel Bowers, at:

membership@chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

THE FUTURE OF CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD



2015 Patrick Halfpenny



John Adams has been working hard behind the scenes, so to say, liaising with Alan Smith and contacts within the Princes Regeneration Trust. In November he was in London and visited the Trust. He also attended the Industrial Heritage Conference at MOSI in Manchester. One of the presentations was from the people at Ancoats Dispensary. He had seen these people very week for the past three years and they were the people who made him realise that Chatterley Whitfield can be saved.....

With reference to a vision for the site:

In short the idea is to build outwardly from the current development, that is the enterprise centre initially in building 23 which would provide modern workshops upstairs and traditional workshops downstairs.





Speaking with the Princes Regeneration Trust, talking through some development ideas.

John has had an agreement from the Manufacturing Institute, to look at the site, they help organisations set up FabLab's which equip a site with modern manufacturing machinery. The real advantage of building 23 is that it also allows for more traditional larger scale making. These FabLabs are mixed use facilities for people wanting to develop products and artists and craft people.

We have also had a visit from vast.org.uk the idea is for us to put more rigorous volunteer management in place if we are to request more access to the site from you. These people help prepare induction courses.

John anticipates that the 'Friends' would develop these volunteer activities into learning schemes and properly constituted training courses in building preservation, at some point we may wish to run residential courses so hence it is felt that the development of the baths building into an accommodation block would make sense.

The developers of the www.mountcook.uk adventure centre (They have just broken ground on this project) have agreed to come and look at this building with a view to considering it for further development.

John has also registered for:

<http://www.princes-regeneration.org/resources/industrial-heritage-conference-2015>

LIAISING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

John has been sent some documents regarding buildings 23 and 15 fitted in very well with some of the ideas that have evolved from meetings with the Friends.

John went through some ideas with Sue (Princes Regeneration Trust) which were based upon the "business incubation and with good job outputs" model you suggested.

Building 15 would be refurbished for the purpose of heritage projects, that is as a workshop base to restore the rest of the site.





AGM SUMMARY
Report by Chair
Treasurers Report
Election of Officials
Any Other Business

Meeting was minuted

CHATTERLEY  **WHITFIELD**
F R I E N D S

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2015

A very well attended Annual General Meeting was held in the in the weigh bridge at Chatterley Whitfield. At the meeting the following people were elected:

Chair - Gerry Etchells,
Deputy Chair - Jim McPhillips,
Secretary - Nigel Bowers,
Treasurer - Andrew Bakewell
Membership - Nigel Bowers
Committee Members - John Adams, Michael Wood,
Geoff Oakes, Margaret Oakes, Jim Worgan, Alex Cope,
John Cope, Sadie Bryson, Geoff Woodward

Chairmans Report

We retain a very good relationship with Alan Smith from the City Council and during the year we were involved with the following visits to the site:

- a) 8 English Heritage Inspectors who were looking a buildings considered for possible development
- b) 2 Students from Staffordshire University
- c) The Chief Executive of the Princes Regeneration Trust on a general site visit.

We were not invited to the site when a film crew were filming a 'Zombie' film in June 2015. We did however complain to the City Council about items being moved around the site, one man walking on the roof of the Deployment Centre/Canteen and that there was no one from the City Council supervising the activities.

In connection with Heritage Open Day we held a Working Party on the 5th of September at which 30 members were present. The H.O.D. on the 12th September was attended by over 160 people and the response from the 'Friends' acting a volunteers was superb. Unfortunately there were was some extent of lack of organisation and we have agreed to appoint a site Co-ordinator for next year. We made good sales on the books/ posters etc., with the stand being run by Councillor Anne James and David Evans, who both members of the 'Friends'.

On 22nd September the leader of the council, Councillor Dave Conway accompanied by Councillor Anne James and other councillors, along with Alan Smith. He went into various buildings and the container and asked many pertinent questions of Alan Smith. In reply to Councillor Conway, Alan Smith said that the 'Friends' could go on site on days other than Thursday and we agree to discuss it in the near future. After thanking the 'Friends' for the work they were doing on site Councillor Conway said he would set up a meeting with both Alan Smith and Jane Corfield to discuss the future of the site. It was an excellent visit. On the 14th March 2015, Don , Geoff and I attended the funeral in Brown Edge Church of John Chadwick, a former Committee Member and long standing friend.

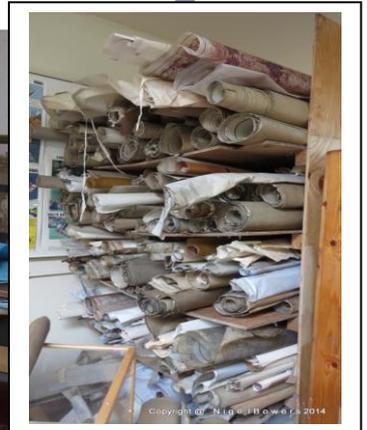
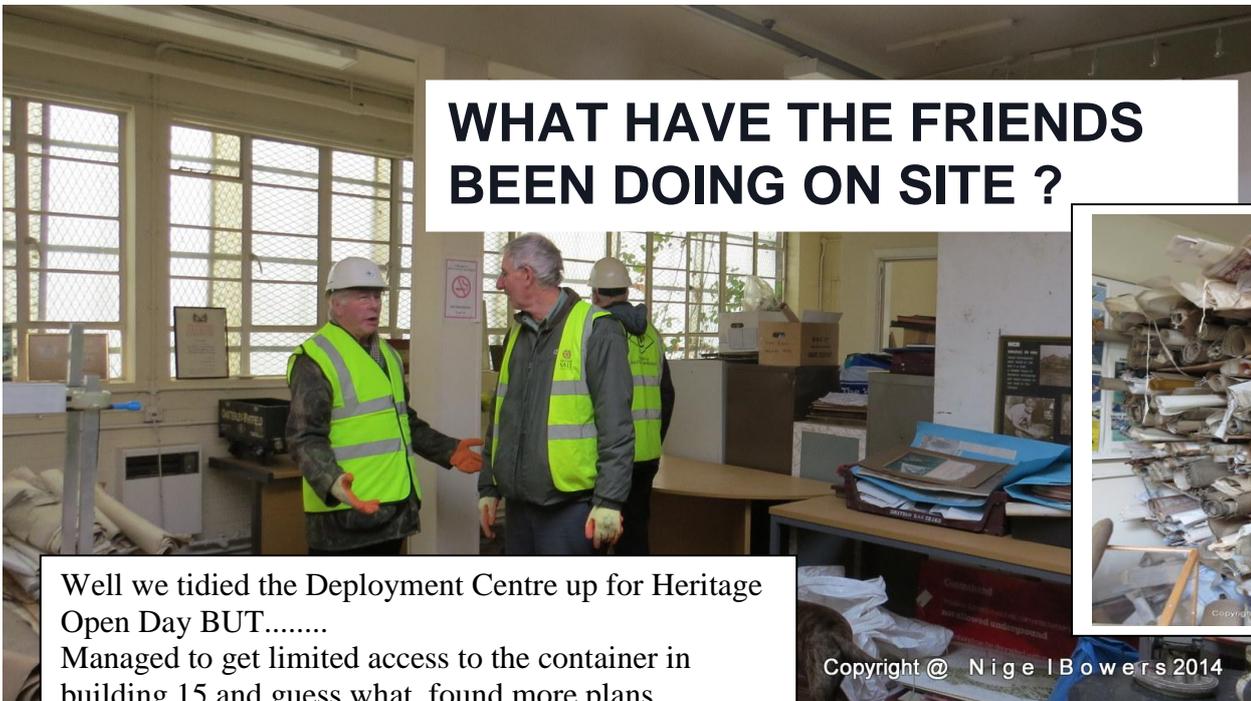
As you are aware I am standing down as Chairman this year and would like to thank all the officers and members of the Committee for the tremendous help and assistance they have given me over the years. I would like to particularly mention our Treasurer Geoff Oakes who is standing down and has been in post since the inception of the 'Friends' in 2001

Our constitution allows for Honorary Life Members and I would like to propose the following people: Sadie Bryson, Margaret Oakes, Geoff Oakes and John Cope

Jim Worgan

November 2015

WHAT HAVE THE FRIENDS BEEN DOING ON SITE ?



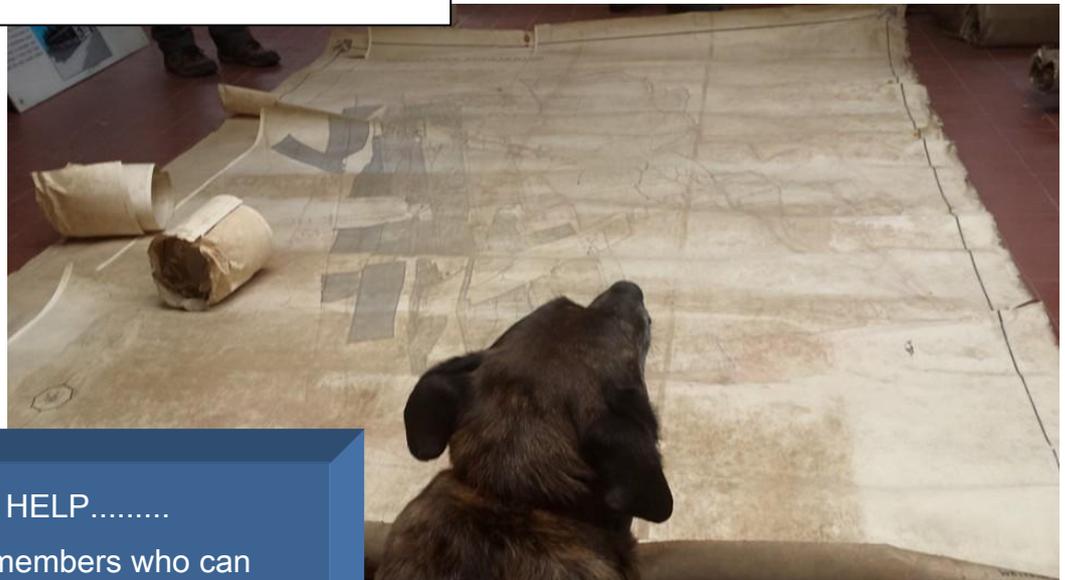
Well we tidied the Deployment Centre up for Heritage Open Day BUT.....
Managed to get limited access to the container in building 15 and guess what, found more plans, documents, artefacts and books.....

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We NEED YOUR HELP.....

Do we have any members who can help with preparing Health and Safety Access Documents for the Buildings.
Please contact us.....



We intend to digitize all the historical material, but still keep finding more.....So when we have got everything together we can start the process.
It is going to take a long time.....



We have 1041 Likes (12.12.2015) up from 422 likes (21.11.2014) and on average attract between 60 to 700visits for every item we post. The page attracts a lot of views and thanks to the efforts of Patrick Halfpenny there is always a variety of subjects being posted.

We have a number of followers who contribute to the page and post photographs.
Social Media Our Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/chatterleywhitfield

Here are some photographs, which then attracted feedback.

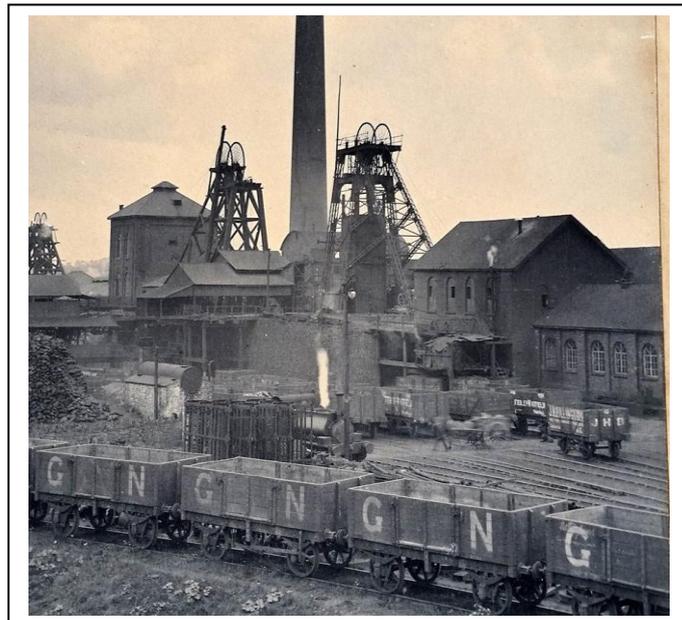
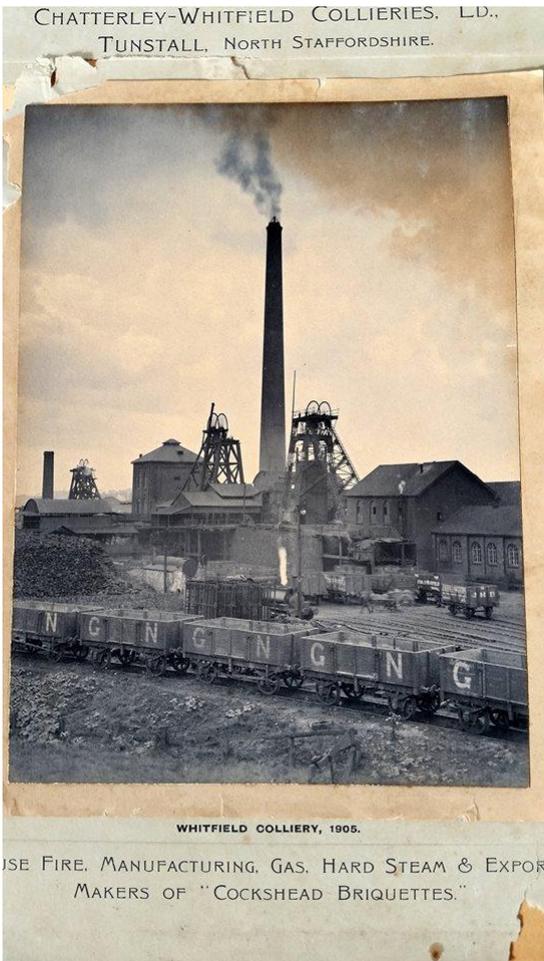
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SHARE?





Hanley Deep Pit Rescue Team 1948. My thanks to Barry Clarke who sent the image

Barry Clarke - My dad Fred Clarke I'd seated left. He started at Hanley Deep aged 16 and retired in 1965, aged 63. He was 46 when this photo was taken. He told me when I was young that he worked with 3 mates Eef, Eece, and Ace! They may have been brothers and their real names were Ephraim Esau and Aesop. He also spoke a lot about a mate named Ace Mountford would love to hear from anyone who knew him



This photograph was sent to the 'Friends' last Christmas after we had been in contact on Facebook.

It had been kept in the back of a families display cabinet in the house, before that it had spent 40 years in the Anderton Shelter....

It was in remarkably good condition and shows Whitfield Colliery circa 1905 looking towards the Platt, Institute and Engine pit heads.....



Roy Kirkham recently joined the 'Friends' and was given a tour of the site. He then found some old photographs of himself when he started at Kemble Training College in 1950 at the age of 15.....



Below left sees him in front of the blacksmiths hearth at Chatterley where he used to make chains.....



Memories from working at the Pit.....Do you have any you can share ?



Hi Nigel, I was an apprentice fitter and would often go down to repair conveyer belts and I did my face training with my father on nights at the Silvermine coalface which was only two foot high in most places. You would pick up your lamp and a brass check which was handed to the bandsman before you entered the cage, this was collected when you came back up to prove you were out of the mine. You then entered a double cage which carried about a dozen men in each side. A flimsy looking gate concertinered shut. and the bandsman rung a bell so the winding house could lower the cage, I always had that fear the rope would brake and we would plummet to the bottom. Thankfully that never happened. the brakes released and we slowly started to descend into the darkness our cap lamps shining shining on the wet brickwork of the shaft sides we picked up speed and the talking seemed to stop. As we neared pit bottom you could here the water trickling off the walls into the sump below the cage and the lights lit the cage from pit bottom. It was good to put your feet back on solid ground. The underground banksman had three or four layers of clothes on as it was so cold from the downdraft. On the coal face you were stripped to your waist as it was so warm as you where at the farthest point from pit bottom .Hope this helps Nigel as it was almost 50 years ago and the brain cells are fading.

My thanks to Mick Pyatt for sharing this

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT - HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS
LOOKING FORWARD TO EXCITING TIMES AHEAD IN 2016**