



Chatterley Whitfield Friends

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

Summer 2020 Newsletter

'ONWARDS AND UPWARDS'

Registered Charity 1183093

Patron: Sir Neil Cossons, OBE, FSA, FMA



Message from the Chair.

Summer Newsletter,
After such a promising start to the year, we started our open weekends again. We had a Local photographic club visit development work on the Memorial Garden, more archive work carried out, had a ministerial visit and were planning for a multi agency meeting with the council and Historic England in March. However we find ourselves, like many other people in the United Kingdom on Lock Down. We have been doing weekly security checks on the site and helping the council identify areas where we are still getting problems with intruders.

We are still active and progressing the partnership with Keele University, but physical meetings have not been possible. They got me into Zoom and we have had several committee and trustees meeting using this. H.O.D. no decision has been taken. Chatterley Whitfield Friends are still more active as ever and your continued support is very much appreciated.

Nigel Bowers
Chair

HELPING WITH THE VISION 2020 -2025 !



The Chatterley Whitfield site is in a serious state of decay and it is being consumed by mother nature. The trees are taking over. Is it so bad that the trees are starting to take root in the guttering and walls of many of the buildings. The Hesketh is looking very bad for it.

Hopefully this year when things get back to normal, we will be able to address some of the issues with the trees.

Our biggest stumbling block is Health and Safety, as quoted by the council, which know can be overcome with hopefully the appropriate Permit to Access being granted.

CAN YOU HELP.....?

**Are you a member that is good at submitting bids for Grants, are you a member with a specialist skill we can use ?
READ ON !!!!!!!**

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP.....

- Do have experience in writing Grant applications ?
- Do you know where we can get grants from ?
- Do you have any specialist skills we can use /

Specialist Skills:

Tree Management - Qualified Tree Surgeons
Health and Safety

Asbestos Surveyors

Building Conservation

Building Restoration

CONTACT THE CHAIR AT:

chair@chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

Contact Details;

Social Media Contact.....

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

www.facebook.com/ChatterleyWhitfield

www.twitter.com/chatt_whit

We have gone technical and had a few meetings with ZOOM !

One organised by our local MP Jonathan Gullis on the 21st April 2020.

It was a very positive meeting that has resulted in developing a better working relationship between all concerned and generated some tasks to be completed before the next meeting. This is what Jonathan said on his Facebook page...



Last week it was great to talk with [Chatterley Whitfield Friends](#), [Stoke-on-Trent City Council](#) and [Historic England](#) about coming up with a vision and phased approach to protecting and preserving our industrial heritage at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery.

Some work has been assigned and we will meet up again on October 2020 to create the long term plan. We have in principle agreed to focus on an Industrial Park like they have in Luxembourg and Germany, that also links in the Chatterley Whitfield Heritage Park next door.

I will continue to lobby for an adjournment debate in the House of Commons, once we resume to normal working practice, and lobby the government for their support.

Jonathan Gullis MP



So what has happened

- Well couple of council staff looking at funding streams.
- Councillor Jellyman asked to look into long standing issue we tree removal.
- A Tree Management Report is being complied, but any work can not be commenced till Autumn.
- Jonathan Gullis MP, still mentioning Chatterley Whitfield within his government circles at every opportunity.

2020 AND BEYOND....

MISSION STATEMENT:

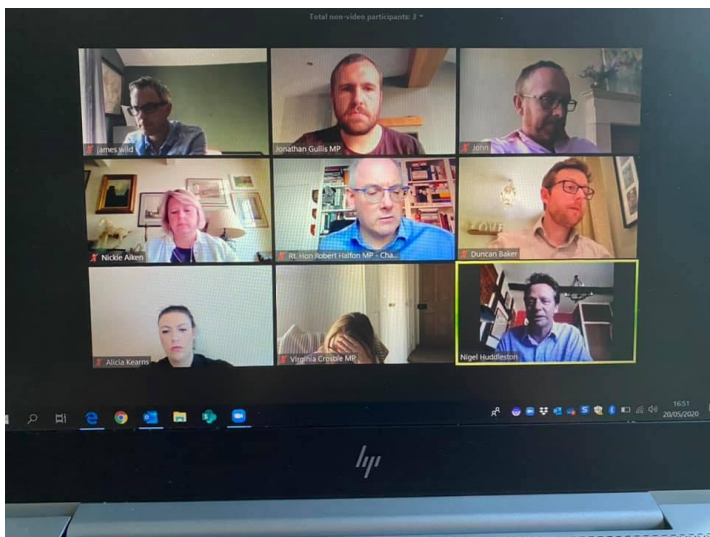
"To archive, share and preserve memories and practices of our coal-mining heritage through active participation of members, associates and the community working in unison"

VISION STATEMENT:

"Grow to become a leading Heritage site within Stoke- on- Trent and the UK, which will educate and involve people in preserving the cultural importance of coal-mining for future generations".



Vision 2020-2025



So you can see there is a lot of things happening but:

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A MEMBER ?

OBJECTIVE

*The object of the CIO is to advance the **education** of the **public** in the **history of mining** at the former Chatterley Whitfield colliery by the **demonstration of mining methods** and the **exhibition of machinery** and **ancillary matters** connected with **mining transportation**, **social conditions** and **industrial archaeology** and in such other ways as the trustees consider appropriate”*

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN.....UPDATE

OUR VISION:

Community Asset Transfer is in process with the council. No update.

Everything has been put on HOLD because of Covid 19.

We will need help when we return



WHERE ELSE MIGHT YOU SEE CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD FRIENDS ?

We are on, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Trip Advisor, Google and Instagram.....

Search the internet to find us.....Here are some links:-

INSTAGRAM.....ETC....

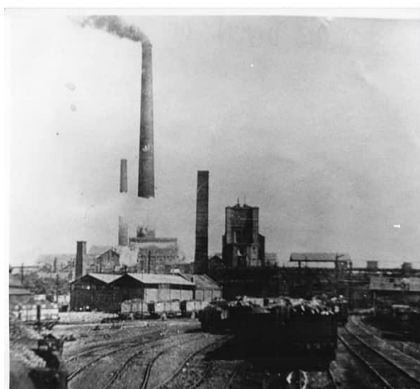
Yesterday I spoke with the Nigel Huddleston, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

In the meeting I raised the following issues:

- ☐ [Chatterley Whitfield Colliery](#)
- ☐ ☐ [Kingsgrove Sports Centre](#)
- ☐ Silicon Stoke

With regards to Chatterley Whitfield Colliery I was pleased the Minister continues to want to help in protecting and preserving this important piece of our industrial heritage. He has confirmed the National Lottery Heritage Fund will be able to help for [Historic England](#), [Stoke-on-Trent City Council](#) and [Chatterley Whitfield Friends](#) in being able to submit bids.

Jonathan Gullis MP 21.5.2020.



Liked by bectothefuture2 and 46 others

chatterley_whitfield_colliery Chatterley Whitfield view looking east
#chatterleywhitfieldcolliery #chatterleywhitfield #mining #museum #miningmuseum #coal #stokeontrent #stokeontrentlive #history #tour #photooftheday #blackandwhite #blackandwhitephotography #industry #industrialarchitecture #industrialarcheology

This site is being updated regularly by our secretary.....
https://www.instagram.com/chatterley_whitfield_colliery/?hl=en

chatterley_whitfield_colliery

TWITTER



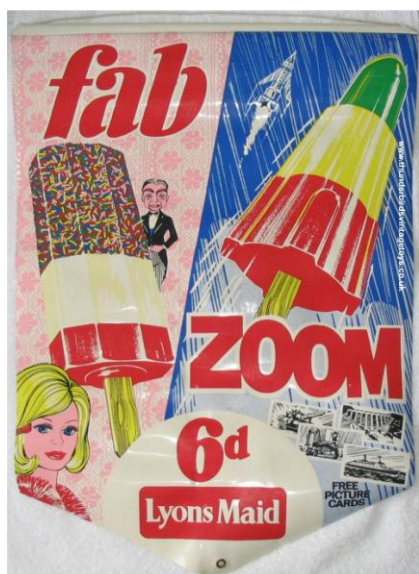
https://twitter.com/chatt_whit?lang=en

TRIP ADVISOR

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186378-d17433018-Reviews-Chatterley_Whitfield_1st_Saturday_of_month-

And not forgetting Google.....

This works very well for us, so post photographs and it you can review. It helps with our position in the search engines on the internet.



ZOOM MEETINGS.....

We have now established a weekly Management Meeting general Chit Chat which we do via Zoom.

NOW IT IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK TO THE TEAM

We are thinking of organising a Zoom meeting scheduled for 8pm on Thursday 11th June 2020 at 8pm.

If you are interested in joining us, then email the chair at:
chair@chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk
and type in subject line of message Zoom Meeting 11.6.2020
Meeting limited so if accepted a link will be send back to you.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2020 UPDATE.....

Still awaiting confirmation from the National HOD team, anticipated will know by the end of the month.



SAVE THE DATE!

FRI 11 - SUN 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

THE POWER OF THE INTERNET.....

Some photographs posted on Facebook, which feature Chatterley Whitfield, circa 1964/1965 from the Bert Bentley collection. Nice to look back...



Link to photographs:

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/gallery/25-wonderful-pictures-chell-heath-4143119?fbclid=IwAR15BVfV6pStITpyFkdDfbg4qj5RgfOMkswLjtsvfSpkIWe4prMEm1Dwu5k>

and

https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/gallery/26-wonderful-pictures-brindley-ford-4130458?fbclid=IwAR3y9i5G53D6gPjDH-5ON6M5mHBBO79j0EmXzQd9dS_E5yZS0E73JrvnYy4

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Your membership.....

Thank you for your support, membership still only £5.00.....

Editors View.....

Friends of Chatterley Whitfield 2000 - 2013 / Chatterley Whitfield Friends 2013 - 2020

I first became involved with the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield in 2012, when I joined as a member, so that I could get some photographs from inside the perimeter fence. However it soon became apparent, that once you got through the main gate the Chatterley Whitfield 'BUG' started to take effect. I was introduced to Friends of Chatterley Whitfield (The Friends). They were formed in 2000 and took an active part in the **Chatterley Whitfield Regeneration Project**. This small group of like minded people, who were either ex miners or had an interest in mining and the site, would meet weekly on a Thursday morning for a couple of hours. As the site is owned by Stoke on Trent City Council the 'Friends' had a concession to be on site for two hours per week, which was not a lot of time. Occasionally we would venture onto site and I soon saw what the 'Friends' had achieved over the years. The 'Friends' had somehow amassed a vast amount of archive material, plans, maps, documents etc, that somehow never got sold in the auction in 1994.

In 2013 the 'Friends' looked at rebranding and with the help from students at Staffordshire University, a new logo and website was created. We became known as Chatterley Whitfield Friends and we started getting noticed globally with our new website and Facebook page. Our membership started to increase and our H.O.D. open day suddenly became very popular.

Since 2013 the 'Friends' have maintained a present on site, despite issues in 2018 when access was withdrawn, because of the installation of CCTV cameras. However we were compensated and given access to a building outside of the site, which was developed into our Heritage Centre.

The 'Friends' are now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and more active than ever, developing partnerships. We have secured grants from the council which has enabled us to buy items for archiving, but we still have that age old issue of the preservation of the site. We are actively Preserving the Past for the Future and are engaged with our local Member of Parliament, local Councillors and Historic England.

Looks like it is our birthday this year, we are 20.....

ONCE AGAIN A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Nigel Bowers