

WE GOT THE GRANT

£22,500

See page 3



**MEMORIAL GARDEN
UPDATE**



PARTNERSHIPS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10am

SATURDAY

21st November

NEWSLETTER

Reflecting on the year so far by the Chair

We started off the year on a high, building on the success of the Heritage Open Days in 2019, where had just under 600 visitors coming to see the site and over 100 on the reserve list. This encouraged us to open up on the First Saturday of every month, using the Safe Route. Then unfortunately Covid hit the headlines and like many other groups around the country, we closed down. This led us to having to cancel the Saturday tours, group tours and the 2020 Heritage Open Days, which meant our friends and supporters could not explore the site. On the downside we lost out financially with new members joining and donations being given.

The 'Friends' formed a small working party and have been regularly meeting on site every Thursday and Saturday morning since June. If you follow us on Facebook, you will see some of the results of our labour, especially in the Remembrance- Memorial garden.

We have also embraced technology and have regular Zoom meetings with the Committee, our local Member of Parliament, Local Council Officers and Historic England. It is just a pity we can not open the site YET !

We have some exciting things happening involving ITV and the BBC, we have applied for grants and been successful with two and are awaiting the results of one other. So as we keep saying ONWARDS AND UPWARDS.....

On behalf of the 'Friends' thank you for your support.....

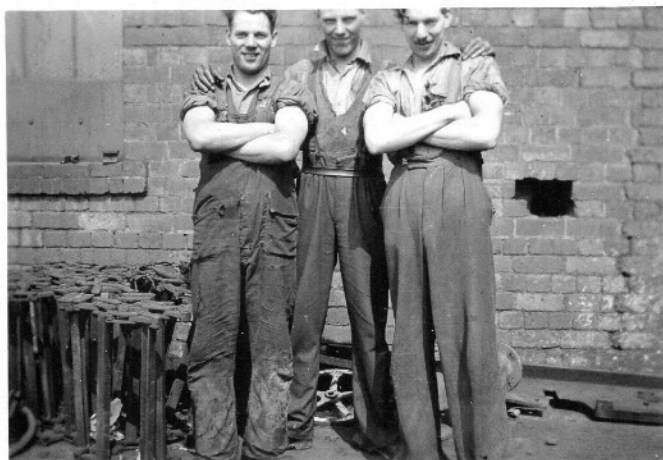
Nigel Bowers (Chair)



AGM

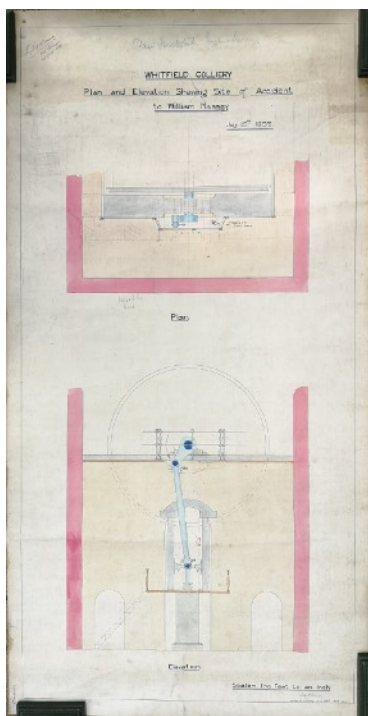
10am
Sat
21.11.2020
by
ZOOM

The Work Goes on !



Our Archive Team continue with archiving our collection and also cataloging new items donated to us. The work on the maps in the Deployment Centre has been put on hold. But it never ceases to amaze us when the team come up with documents, maps, that are unique and have not seen the light of day since the museum days in 1993.

For instance...



A record of an accident in 1898 showing the side view of the Institute Winder which was in steam till the late 1950's, before being demolished and replaced with an electric winder.

They also get emails from all over the world, mainly from people asking about their ancestors.

The documents were saved by the 'Friends' a number of years ago and we are now in a better position to record them digitally.

Preserving the Past for the Future.....

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

Intruders and liaising with the Council



We have a lot of issues with intruders, especially Urban Explorers who have been getting into the Underground Experience, Hesketh, Walker Fan Lamp House and climbing the Hesketh and Institute headgear.

Thanks to the council we have been given a Permit to Access so we patrol the site fixing fences etc on a regular basis. This has lead to a better working relationship between all concerned.

Membership Update

Our membership fees are collected annually via Pay Pal and we are now looking at Gift Aid, where we receive 25% back from HMRC.

The annual fee is still £5.00 and this goes towards the running costs of the Charity, mainly the Heritage Centre. In 2019 our accounts were boosted by a couple of grants and the successful Heritage Open Days, which brought in just over £1,400.00 in new membership and donations. **That is 277 members.....** If you paid cash at the Open Days and want to renew your membership here is a link:

<https://chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk/become-a-member/>

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AT CHATTERLEY ?

Where do we start.....

Since June this year a small group of members have been meeting on a Thursday and Saturday mornings. They have been concentrating on the Memorial Garden and unauthorised site access. Behind the scenes they have been having weekly Zoom meetings and also liaising with a number of outside agencies. It has been no stop for some of us, but all the effort has been worthwhile with the news that we have been successful in getting a grant to repair entrance roof area of the Pit Head Baths. The small team of Mike, Alan, Glyn and Lloyd have worked with Steph and Jane from Stoke On City council resulting in £22,500 being awarded.



Pit Head Bath Grade 2* Listed



Nigel Bowers Photography 2019

Entrance to Pit Head Baths



The problem with the roof.....



Memorial Garden taking Shape

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE.....

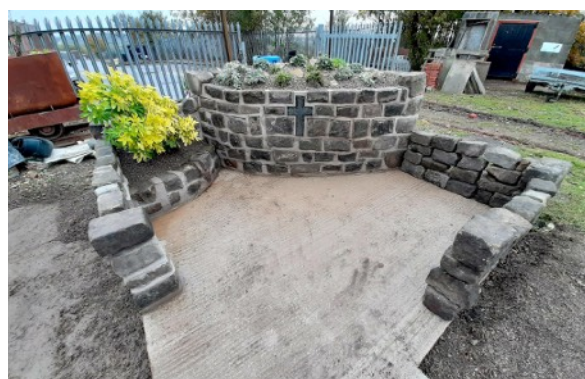
The members have been busy this year transforming what what could have only been described as a scrap yard behind the Heritage Centre.

Work has continued on at a PACE and a Tub Way has been constructed, new mine tub built and another recovered from the site.

Jack Dayson has designed and built a memorial for the 1881 disaster.



Original Memorial



Jack's 1881 Memorial



The War Memorial has been moved, and the base is being enlarged, slabbed and awaiting a memorial stone.

With the help of Councillor Ann James we have been able to contact Unitas who will help with the construction of disabled access through the gates and hard standing for the Roy Neate Arbour.



Early days of the Tub Way

With winter approaching work in the garden may well slow down, but there are plans for the paths to be block paved and an old main line wooden wagon chassis to be moved.

Also we have been successful in getting permission to use some material stored in one of the buildings - Metal Garden Seats etc....

PARTNERSHIPS

Over the years Chatterley Whitfield Friends have stood alone when it came to trying to promote the site. Things are changing.....

FANTASTIC NEWS:

Chatterley Whitfield Friends - Stoke on Trent City Council Historic England

Securing funding from the Covid-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund. The historic Chatterley Whitfield Colliery will benefit from a £22,500 boost after Stoke-on-Trent City Council was successful with a bid to the Historic England fund, which is giving out £3 million nationally.



Grade 2 * Pit head baths complex

The fund, launched in direct response to the pandemic, awards grants to help cover urgent maintenance and repairs at some of the country's locally-cherished historic building and sites. Grants of up to £25,000 were made available to fix urgent problems such as damaged roofs, masonry and windows, to hire scaffolding to prevent structural collapse, or commission surveys necessary to inform urgent repairs. Chatterley Whitfield Colliery is the most comprehensive surviving example 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.

The city council worked closely with the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield on putting the bid together. The money will see the following work carried out:

- Stabilise concrete spalling and carry out repairs to the former pithead baths entrance, which will allow access to the canteen meaning visitor tours can safely resume with more space available for social distancing;
- Creating a one-way system into the archiving centre so it can still be accessed safely under coronavirus guidelines.

Last year the site, half of which has been designated by Historic England as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, was opened up to above ground tours as part of Heritage Open Days, with all 600 available tickets snapped up in a matter of hours. The city council owns the former mine that closed down in 1977. A host of buildings on the site have Listed Building status.

Cllr Daniel Jellyman, cabinet member for infrastructure, regeneration and heritage, said: "I'm delighted we've been able to work closely with the friends group to put forward a successful application which has now received financial backing at a national level. We're all working hard to raise the profile of the site, to secure its future not just for North Staffordshire but the entire country."

“It’s a site with big challenges but also big potential, however, the project is too big for the council to do on its own. We had a positive site visit with Historic England and the minister for arts, heritage and tourism at the start of the year and the local MP is now pushing the case for the site in Parliament. This funding is certainly a step in the right direction as we continue to work on a long-term solution for Chatterley Whitfield.”

The Friends Chair Nigel Bowers said: “The £22,500 grant is fantastic news and a credit to the team from the city council and from Chatterley Whitfield Friends who made it possible.

It will hopefully be a catalyst for the remainder of the site.

Chatterley Whitfield Friends - Keele University Urban Wilderness



Activities will be taking place both in person (socially distanced) and online.

Chatterley Whitfield Colliery still sits at the centre of the vast North Staffordshire coalfield, its derelict chimneys and winding gear a defining landmark for local people and visitors alike. Yet this was also a centre of global connections – of movements of people, things, ideas and innovations, and a workplace that linked local families to world commerce. Come and hear some of these stories – either on a self-guided walk around the Whitfield Valley Nature reserve adjacent to Chatterley Whitfield Colliery or via [the](#)

[website](#). Share what you think of them, and if you wish, share your own journey to the site!

The Information boards and QR codes for podcasts to guide you on your walk will begin at the Whitfield Valley notice board next to the colliery site entrance. After 10:00 on Thursday 12 November these will be in place and you can pop along for the walk any day throughout the festival. While not mandatory, you can sign up for this event to receive the weblink for the QR codes and so that the organiser can contact you with any updates on the event.

Information Boards will be sited on step-free paths in the Whitfield Valley Nature Reserve. Please note that the path will not be lit and therefore it is recommended that you leave ample time to complete the walk before dusk. Due to the nature of this event if you have any questions about accessibility we recommend getting in touch directly with the organiser.

Book your tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mining-migrations-tickets-123218553009>

Chatterley Whitfield Friends - Keele University - Fawley - West Burton

Decommissioning the Twentieth Century - An ongoing project which has been delayed because of CoVid..... **WATCH THIS SPACE !**

CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD FRIENDS - STOKE ON TRENT CITY COUNCIL

HISTORIC ENGLAND - LOCAL MP - LOCAL COUNCILLORS



Over the years the communication between the 'Friends' has not been good, but recently that has all changed.

There is a good working relationship developing which has resulted in 'The Friends' being given more access to the site, subject to Permits to Access.

It has also meant that the site has become more accessible to non members, for example Television Crews. The latest being ITV Central, who did a feature on the site and it went out nationally - All Around Britain.

VISION 2020 - 2025

Over the last few months the Vision team of Mike Ansell, Lloyd Boardman, Dr Glynn Skerratt and Alan Danby have been working very closely with Historic England and Stoke on Trent City Council. They have worked together on a Vision for Chatterley Whitfield which was initially progressed by Jonathan Gullis, MP. The funding was secured by Historic England, numerous positive Zoom and Team chat meetings were held and it was put out to tender. The successful company who got the tender were Fielden, Clegg and Bradley.

Exciting time for Chatterley Whitfield ahead.....

CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD FRIENDS - STOKE ON TRENT CITY COUNCIL

HISTORIC ENGLAND - REASEHEATH COLLEGE



It has taken along time, but at long last 'The Friends' got permission from the council and Historic England to start a Tree Management program on the site. which is being slowly consumed by vegetation, mainly trees.

Reaseheath College were on site and started removing trees which were effecting the structural integrity of the buildings, starting with the Old Power House. It is going to be a big project and eventually it is hope the tress which are growing out of the buildings may be removed. Only after one day the Old Power House Frontage emerges from the undergrowth.....



COVID 19 UPDATE LOCKDOWN 5.11.2020 TO 2.12.2020

The ever changing situation with Covid 19 has had an effect on Chatterley Whitfield Friends. We were unable to offer our successful monthly Saturday morning tours and had to cancel Heritage Open Days in September.

We closed down in March and returned to the Heritage Centre in June but only in a maintenance and security role visiting every Thursday and Saturday mornings.

We anticipate, all being well to start offering tours again in March 2021.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020



The Annual General Meeting is fast approaching and the date has been set:

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2020

AT

10AM

THIS YEAR IT WILL BE BY THE POWER OF THE INTERNET IN THE FORM OF A ZOOM MEETING - FULL DETAILS WILL BE CIRCULATED IN SEPARATE EMAIL.....

OUR SOCIAL NETWORK

Our new website <https://chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk> was launched in 2013 at the same time we went onto Facebook with:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChatterleyWhitfield> followed by

<https://www.facebook.com/Chatterley-Whitfield-Friends-Heritage-Centre-2428951253844977> in 2018

Our Facebook pages attracted over 7000 'views' in the last month.

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE2Q1pnCcwj0sBUFq7tdD1g>

GALLERY (Some restricted areas Permission given for access)

