



NORFOLK INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Notes for speakers at the monthly meetings of the Society

THE SOCIETY

We are a friendly amateur Society, established in 1971. We have about 100 members. Attendance at meetings ranges from about 20 to 30 members. Our membership profile is the same as many similar Societies.

We are brought together by a common desire to find out more of the history and archaeology of the last 250 years, from the Industrial Revolution to today. Most members have a general interest in the past and our talks frequently stray somewhat from our core interest, and time period.

The Society is a member of the national bodies, The Association for Industrial Archaeology and The Council for British Archaeology. The Society produces a newsletter and a Journal.

Speakers can be assured a warm welcome. We fully understand many of our speakers are unused to speaking to a group, and we fully appreciate your apprehension, and will do our best to assist you and put you at ease. It's your knowledge we wish to discover, not your presentation skills.

MEETING FORMAT

Our meetings are fairly informal affairs. They normally start with a few announcements, notices and such like.

The speaker would then be introduced to give the presentation in whatever way they wish. There is no prescribed format - varying from a collection of anecdotes to a more formal presentation of a paper. Some use a Powerpoint presentation whilst others just give a talk. The speaker may sit or stand, whichever they find most comfortable. Normally, if it is alright with the speaker, there will be questions at the end. We find it helps members hear if the speaker can face the audience, but this is not essential.

The length of a presentation should be from about 50 minutes to a maximum of an hour and a half. Many aim for about an hour.

Afterwards there is coffee (or tea) and biscuits, and time for some informal discussion which the speaker may wish to join in with. Where appropriate there can be the display of material for members to inspect, or publications to buy. The speaker is most welcome to join us afterwards, as a guest, for a drink in a nearby public house.

VENUE

We hold our monthly meetings either at **the Diamond Centre**, details of which can be found on the diary page of our website norfolkia.org.uk or we meet viaa Zoom.

All meetings start at 7.30pm usually on the FIRST Thursday of the month. Admission is free, and open to the general public. Speakers are welcome to bring guests. We aim to open the building before 7pm, so as to give half an hour to set up. If you would like a member to help you set up earlier please let us know.

FACILITIES

We can provide most facilities, however some equipment may need to be booked in advance as we don't keep everything at the venue; so please let us know beforehand. Our members will help with setting everything up.

We always have available a screen, a digital projector (with HDMI and VGA connections) and a lap top computer with standard "Windows" software (including office).

We provide a microphone and sound system.

There are tables available for the display of items and room for a display stand.

For Zoom meetings we have a Zoom account, and we can do rehearsals / pratice session in advance of the meeting.

CAR PARKING

Free car parking is available at the meeting venue.

EXPENSES and SPEAKERS FEES

Naturally we will pay reasonable travelling expenses and any fees agreed. As a small Society it helps us if you can give some idea of these in advance. Our Treasurer can usually pay you on the night.

OTHER HELP

We can assist with the preparation of a talk, including help preparing images or a Powerpoint presentation. Please discuss this with us as soon as possible.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY?

Well to some it's anything to do with industry, the manufacture and making of goods. Included of course are the machines used to make those goods, and the buildings which housed those machines. Machines require a motive power, and industrial archaeology certainly includes wind and watermills, as well as steam and oil engines and the electric motor.

Goods have to be transported, and so roads, rivers, canals and railways are included. From turnpike roads to railways including industrial railways.

There are of course the extractive industries, no coal mines in Norfolk, but everything from neolithic flint mines, the medieval peat diggings that became the Norfolk Broads, major sand quarries, the first major forest plantations for timber around Thetford and of course the North sea gas fields. Extensive chalk workings to make lime, many brick fields and now concrete block manufacture.

And underpinning much of Norfolk's economy is agriculture. Large 19th century farms and even larger 20th century ones. Norfolk was home until the 1960's of a major fishing industry, and there is still an important inshore industry.

We include the people who worked in these industries. The entrepreneurs who established and managed businesses as well as their workforce. Their housing, the shops, pubs, churches and chapels they used. All form part of the fabric of society that our members are interested in.

Things don't have to be particularly old for us to be interested in them. It also comes as a surprise to some, but it is rare for us to excavate something. We are more likely to record buildings, machinery and processes. Indeed today we are more likely to be researching history than recording physical remains.

St. Martin at Palace, 15 St Martin-At-Palace Plain, Norwich NR3 1RW

Contact Details

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**More information can be found on our website www.norfolkia.org.uk including
a zoomable map of our location**