



Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society Newsletter

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The 2013 Heritage Open Days in Lewes featured this restored vintage mobile cinema located in the car park of Harveys Brewery.

This unit is the sole survival from an original fleet of seven built in 1967 to tour industrial locations with promotion and safety films. The film shown on the open days was compiled by the Heritage Lottery funded project 'Ale and Hearty', celebrating lost breweries and brewing in the Lewes area.

(Martin Snow)

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Editorial

Welcome to *Newsletter* 160. I expect that most (if not all) members will have ordered their new Rolls Royce direct from the modern factory at Goodwood - well in your dreams! But did you know that there was an earlier connection with West Sussex (other than WWII Spitfires)? Recently I was looking in a postcard book on the Witterings and found that Henry Royce lived and worked in West Wittering from 1917 to his death in 1933 - you learn something new all the time.

This served to remind me that far from being merely an agricultural county, Sussex has a long, and at times a leading position in industrial history, from the early flint mines, the major Roman iron working centre. Later becoming the major iron producing and working centre in the earliest part of the Industrial Revolution before it moved to the north and west with the change from charcoal to coal (coke).

Since I became interested in our industrial heritage it has never ceased to surprise me just how many important industries have been based in Sussex, indeed some (sadly few?) are still here, including the world leading motor research engineers - Ricardo at Shoreham and of course Rolls Royce - apologies to all those I have missed out.

Today's 'industries' in Sussex are not what we would accept as 'hard' (real?) IA, Tourism, Education, Finance, dormitory housing.

Another old industry that may not immediately spring to mind is pottery, not just tiles and chimney pots, but both household utensils and glazed decorative items, land drains, unglazed flower pots. The varying types of clay available in the wealden beds were used in different ways and varying colours were achieved. Today there are little remains of this industry; clearly the holes where clay was dug will remain where not used for landfill. Most buildings have been long swept away, but the former kiln at Piddinghoe in the Ouse