

NAILSEA AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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“This has been a good year for the Society; possibly even an exceptional one”.

With these words I headlined my Chairman’s Report at the 2003 Annual General Meeting.

For the benefit of those not at the October meeting, the opening paragraph was as follows:- *“The Glassworks site has been scheduled, significant progress made with Middle Engine Pit, the horse whim on Scotch Horn rebuilt and we have made a video. As a result of this and an explosion in the sale of publications, the Society received unprecedented exposure in the local media. Visits have been made to Tyntesfield and the Bristol Old Vic, and an extra meeting held in Backwell. All this on top of an excellent monthly programme of speakers.”*

Although the making of money is not one of our constitutional objectives - research and the dissemination of information is - it is a fact that the more successful the Society, the greater the need for funds to finance our activities. This is particularly true when we look at our publications programme for 2004/5. No longer can we wait for one book to

make a significant profit before printing the next - the schedule now fills an A4 sheet!

“Nailsea - Bottle Green and Coal Black” is a name I conjured up for an article in the Town Guide. This was then adopted as the title for the Local History video made in association with 1st Take Video of Yate - produced at no cost to ourselves, apart from time and the sourcing of non copyright photographs. Location filming took place over four days in June. For each day we produced a shooting schedule, each film sequence being allocated a number for ease of identification when it came to editing. Two of the four days were real scorchers, but one day of drizzle did mean some later re-shooting. A certain amount of liaison work was necessary in seeking permission to film on private property, scheduling interviewees and complying with “Safe from Harm” requirements when filming schools.

In between filming, the voice-over for each sequence had to be researched and typed up. The final computer editing of film and commentary, still photography and archive film, took place during July. Sales to date have exceeded expectations, and the royalty on each

video sold will help finance our 2004/5 publications programme.

BOOK SALES

Thanks to the efforts of Peter Wright and Patrick Feakins, sales of Pennant Nos. 32 and 33, together with Pennant Special No. 8 - all three focusing on Tyntesfield - also exceeded all expectations, and resulted in several re-prints.

***Books by Peter Wright
available now from the Society
or through the usual retail outlets.***

***NAILSEA & THE GREAT WAR -
the village, its people
and a memorial to the fallen.***

***NAILSEA 1916 - 1923
The Great War and its aftermath
through the pages
of Christ Church magazine.***

***Price £5.00 each
postage & packing 50p per book***

GLASSWORKS

As reported at the AGM, the excavated site alongside the Royal Oak Garage has been scheduled by English Heritage and now enjoys statutory protection. It has already been indicated by E.H. that it is unlikely to agree to any development of the site and that it should be landscaped for public viewing and enjoyment. Development of the Royal Oak Garage itself - once part of the Glassworks - will however be encouraged. Possibly we could see the return of glassmaking to Nailsea as part of this venture, and it is understood that

discussions are taking place between all parties involved in the marketing of the site. Tyntesfield with its projected 150,000 visitors a year, has focused minds both in Nailsea and at North Somerset Council.

RURAL BLUE SKIES

ATTRACTIONS - a North Somerset Council initiative to promote tourism. Initially Nailsea was not included since it was deemed to be a residential area. Currently Nailsea Town Council with our support is actively seeking to reverse this miss-representation and to make the case for tourism centred around the towns rich industrial legacy. The long-standing aim of our Society to establish a Heritage Trail may well become a reality sooner than expected.

***“FUR TILE FORTUNE”
the story of Tyntesfield
by James Miller***

***178 pages, lavishly illustrated
with B & W and colour
photographs.***

***Published by the National Trust
with proceeds going to Tyntesfield.***

***Available from Nailsea Bookshop
in the High Street, priced £19.99***

LOCAL HISTORY WEEK

during May 2004

8th May

Society Exhibition

Christ Church Vestry Hall

10th May

Public Lecture

“Nailsea Coal and Glass”

Nailsea School, main hall.