

Conference Programme

EMIAC 79



- 09-00 Setting up Displays & Bookstalls
- 09-30 Registration & Morning Tea / Coffee
- 09-50 Welcome to Swannington
- 10-00 Leicester & Swannington Railway
David Lyne
- 10-45 Refurbishment of Swannington
Hough Mill
John Boucher
- 11-30 *Break*
- 11-45 Landscape evidence of
Coalmining in the Coleorton Coalfield
Denis Baker
- 12- 30 Any Questions.....
- 12-45 EMIAC Meeting for Notices
- 13-00 *Lunch*
- 14-00 Site visiting in and around
Swannington
Advise stout footwear

Front cover photograph Hough Mill, LIHS Archives/David Lyne

Swannington

A special village with an industrial history. Set in the heart of the National Forest, it was once the centre for all the early coal mining activities of North West Leicestershire. The first manorial rights were granted in 1278 to Sir John Talbot, who controlled the 13th century coal workings. In 1520 the manor passed to William Wyggeston, a prominent Leicester business man, who eventually set up various trusts in order to preserve Swannington's village status. Expansion of Swannington began in the early 1700s when new deep coal seams were worked, leading to an influx of miners and their families from Shropshire. A map published in 1779 clearly indicates the working of 37 mines in the Swannington district. In addition several abattoirs and tanyards operated in the village. Shoemaking was a thriving separate industry. Swannington achieved prominence in 1829/32 with the opening of the Leicester & Swannington Railway which was promoted by local mine owners William Stenson and John Ellis in conjunction with George Stephenson.

Speakers

David Lyne, retired Chartered Engineer, ex English Electric, GEC, past member of the British Standards Institution, Secretary of LIHS. David is presently involved with several groups trying to stimulate interest in preserving Leicester's industrial heritage. David holds a Leicester University Certificate in "Industrial Archaeology". As a "lad" he often laid pennies on the THEN working Swannington line at Glenfield. But that's another story.

John Boucher, Chartered Engineer specialising in industrial construction, latterly 20 years in the mining industry. John took early retirement in order to allow him to concentrate on what had previously been a hobby, restoring windmills and watermills. Contract management experience enabled him to undertake major restoration projects from feasibility reports and specifications through grant applications to overall supervision. John was in charge of the major restorations at both Heage and Moulton windmill and has been involved with the mills at Whissendine and Holgate (York). Presently he is involved with the Hough Mill at Swannington. John has now retired for a second time but continues to take a close interest in various works, especially in Derbyshire.

Denis Baker, President of Leicestershire Industrial History Society. As the first Treasurer, he was one of the founder members of the Society. Denis is an active member of successive fieldwork teams. After helping to organize an earlier EMIAC on the subject of "The Leicester & Swannington Railway" he was motivated to form a team which organized the Swannington Village Festival in 1982, which celebrated the opening of the railway 150 years before. This led to the formation of the Swannington Heritage Trust in 1984 which was recognised in 2008 by winning the Leicestershire & Rutland Museums Forum Achievement Award. The Trust has also been presented with The Dorothea Award for Conservation by the Association for Industrial Archaeology. Denis is currently Chairman of The Swannington Heritage Trust and the Coalville Heritage Society. He is the author of several publications on the history of Coalville and district.



Reconstructed horse gin, Gorse Field



Reconstructed Cattle Arch Bridge on the Swannington Incline



Engine house at the top of the Swannington Incline (now demolished)

Photographs courtesy of Swannington Heritage Trust