



Dear Tony

A few weeks late, but none-the-less engrossing, our current newsletter announces an event rescheduling, illustrates our last seminar, new grants, a colour campaign, evidence of our growing influence, new blood, and don't miss the ancient iron artefacts for those patient enough to scroll to the bottom of the page...

BathIRON rescheduled

The Trustees of the NHIG have, after much consideration, taken the decision to reschedule BathIRON for early Summer 2018. As a small but dedicated band of volunteers, we have made significant progress in developing what is to be a unique event but we now find that the original date does not allow us sufficient scope to do BathIRON justice. Rescheduling the event for 2018 will give us the necessary time to secure additional funds which will make BathIRON the spectacular, landmark event it deserves to be. We will be working on BathIRON throughout 2017 ready for delivery in 2018 and very much value your continued support and interest. We look forward to updating you with further details in the near future. If you or anyone you know would like to be involved in the preparation work for BathIRON 2018, please do get in touch.

Ferrous Metals Seminar draws a crowd

Our Ferrous Metals Seminar, held at the National Maritime Museum in London in February, drew a large crowd of architects and conservation and restoration professionals ready to broaden their knowledge of our favourite subject. There were presentations by our board of experts and plenty of questions and comments from the audience.

The seminar was followed by a tour of the first classically inspired building constructed in England, Inigo Jones' 400 year old Queens House.

The focus of our interest in this was the Tulip Stairs, with their superb blue-painted wrought iron balustrade, restored recently by Hall Conservation, who recreated the "smalt" paint technique of the time, which involved grinding up cobalt glass and sweeping the dust into the paint base in situ to create the tactile matt surface and subtle colour.

Don't miss the next seminar on



Recording & Surveying at Hartlebury Castle - keep an eye on the website for more details.

Grants awarded



NHIG's ongoing funding drive has resulted in a number of grants recently, including, from The Foyle Foundation towards publication of a Glossary of Ironworking Terms, and from the Lord Farrington Trust towards publishing our Colour Guidance booklet (historically, as we keep saying, ironwork was anything but black!). We are hoping to secure the rest of the funding necessary to complete these projects in the near future. Get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

Any colour you like

Which brings us, or brought us, as the case may be, to the Traditional Paint Forum Conference, where we set up a stand manned with expertise and samples and generated a great deal of interest.



Left, Geoff Wallis mans the NHIG stand

NHIG Conservation Principles gain traction



The project manager on the renovation of some 19th century cast iron market hall gates (as part of the Holyhead Townscape Heritage Initiative - a £3.2m conservation-led regeneration grant scheme) recently used membership of NHIG as a requirement in the tendering process. He said: 'As an HLF funded project, where the gates are such a significant feature of the listed building, we felt NHIG membership was a clear means for firms to demonstrate their understanding of conservation principles, which is so important in sorting the wheat from the chaff.'

This is an example of how [NHIG Conservation Principles](#) are increasingly being referred to in commissions for restoration work, which we take seriously as evidence that we are having an impact on the proper protection of our ironwork heritage. However, we cannot as yet recommend individual smiths for restoration projects, as we do not yet have an accreditation and vetting scheme in place. Such a scheme is one of our more challenging projects, which we are researching presently, but it will take time. In the meantime, an insistence that those who tender for contracts abide by our Conservation Principles is a good practice - and an increasing number of smiths voluntarily follow these. The Principles codifies the practices of many careful smiths across a broad spectrum of experience over many years. It is a robust document, endorsed by the National Trust, English Heritage, Icon, The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers and British Artist Blacksmiths Association.

NHIG adds a new Councillor

We are proud to announce that Chris Blythman has joined us, with responsibility for Education (with Dave Field moving to Events). This is one of our key posts, and Chris is eminently qualified. Chris is a member of staff at the National School of Blacksmithing at Hereford College of Technology where he currently works with BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing students. He has had very broad experience in the heritage sector, in which field he has reproduced ironwork from practically every era for museums and heritage sites in the British Isles, Europe and the United States. Other work has included restoration work on gates, period ironmongery for furniture makers, demonstrations of historic blacksmithing, barn conversions and listed building restorations. We welcome him!

Mathias Heit screen

The Reverend Alan Walker of St. Jude on the Hill in Hampstead, contacted us about some fascinating screens in his church. *"My church has some extensive wrought iron screens and gates inscribed 'Mathias Heit Schloser Meister 1710'. They are used as parclose screens to the high altar and gates to the adjacent chapels. They appear to have been given to the church shortly after its opening in 1910/1911 but we have no other information. We are thinking about moving them, but feel we should try to learn something about them before we do so. Would you be able to direct towards an appropriate body or scholar who can help us with this?"*

Chris Topp commented that they are "a superb example of what could easily be very ancient German ironwork." In this instance the NHIG pointed Rev. Walker in the direction of the [The State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology](#) in Germany.



Detail of the Heit screen, above.
The detail seen in context, below.



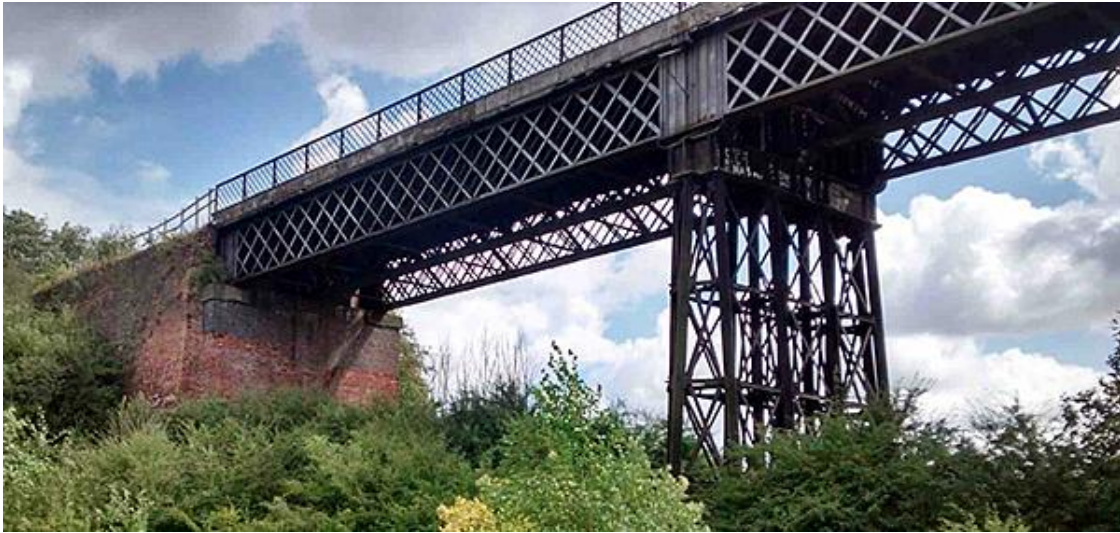
Bennerley Viaduct

We were contacted recently by Sustrans, who own Bennerley Viaduct, to provide training in wrought-iron restoration. This is "one of only two remaining wrought-iron viaducts in England, Bennerley Viaduct is a grade II* listed structure dating from 1877 and spanning the Erewash Valley for 440 meters (approximately 1/4 mile) between Cotmanhay in Derbyshire and Awsworth in Nottinghamshire. The viaduct deck is some 18 metres (60 feet) above the River Erewash. The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct are dedicated to restoring, conserving and celebrating this impressive structure and supporting Sustrans with their plans to give it a new lease of life as a cyclepath and footpath."

The stewards of this structure need training on its restoration and upkeep, and NHIG Councilor Geoff Wallis has stepped in to help.

You can find out more about this structure [here](#).





Images still needed

NHIG always needs copyright-free photos for use in our publications, especially photos of your conservation or restoration projects to populate our Illustrated Principles book, along with any write-up you'd like to contribute. You will receive in return credit for your efforts as well as a warm feeling akin to working at your forge.

Advertising in the NHIG newsletter

Ads cost £50 per issue, but there can be exceptions at the discretion of the Editor if the ad is deemed to be in the specific interest and well-being of NHIG's cause - for instance, a forum held by another group on ironwork conservation.

If you want the complete policy document, or want to place an ad, please [email the editor](#) with your request.

Support NHIG - Become a Member Today!

NHIG invites you to support the charity by becoming a member.

NHIG is the first organisation worldwide focused solely on historic ironwork. Your support is vital in order for NHIG to become the organisation for historic ironwork care and a hub for research and advice, thereby creating a secure future for heritage ironwork.



For full details please visit the [Support Us](#) page of our website.

Many thanks for your continued interest. Please do forward this message (via the link at the bottom of the page) on to anyone you know who may be interested in supporting the NHIG and ask them to [contact us](#) so I can add them to our mailing list.

Proctor Taylor
Publicity, NHIG

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