

## WADIHS INDUSTRIAL HISTORY WEEKEND

FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012

### CESHIRE AND CLWYD

The broad itinerary for our weekend this year is now in place.

We will be staying at the Cheshire Cat, Whitchurch Road, Christleton, Chester CH3 6AE, which is on the A41 just outside Chester.

If you wish to book you can do so by phone on: 0845 1126 022, or on line by going to <http://www.innkeeperslodge.com/chester-christleton/>. Accommodation is limited so do not delay in making a booking.

If you find that the Cheshire Cat is full when you try to book there is a convenient alternative close by. This is the [Mercure Chester East Hotel](#), Whitchurch Road, Christleton, Chester CH3 5QL. You can book by phone on: 0844 815 9001, or by e mail to: [001rs@jupiterhotels.co.uk](mailto:001rs@jupiterhotels.co.uk)

If you do decide to join us for the weekend, please let me know so that I can keep a check on numbers. My e mail address is: [george.crutcher@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:george.crutcher@tiscali.co.uk)

The broad itinerary is as follows:

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 14.00:** [Hooton Park Airfield](#), The Hangars, South Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 1BQ. This is an historically important site for the aviation industry, comprising three pre-WW1 aircraft hangars - one in a state of collapse, built with “Belfast Truss” roofs. The airfield has been out of operation for many years and is now in the hands of the Hooton Park Trust. The two standing buildings are used to house collections of historic aircraft and other aviation items, and historic vehicles. There is no public access to this site but we have arranged a visit with the Trust whose members will give us a guided tour of the buildings and collections.

**N.B.** If you decide to come early, or drive up on Thursday, and have time to kill in the morning the [Ellesmere Port Waterways Museum](#) is close by and is well worth a visit. It is at the point where the Shropshire Union Canal meets the Manchester Ship Canal and contains a range of

interesting 19th waterways buildings and an excellent collection of vessels from the “canal age”. Details can be had by phoning the Museum on 0151 355 5017.

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>: Northwich and Anderton Boat Lift**

Northwich was at the heart of the Cheshire Salt Industry and benefited from its location on the navigable River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal, and in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by the arrival of the London North Western and Cheshire Lines railways. A range of industrial activities making use of the availability of limitless supplies of rock salt grew up in and around the town including the major ICI and Brunner Mond Chemical plants at Winnington.

We shall ride on the [Anderton Boat Lift](#), CW9 6FW, which connects the canal with the river, visit the [Weaver Hall Museum](#) CW9 8AB which, amongst many other things, includes an excellent section on the local salt industry, and view the locks and bridges of the [Weaver Navigation](#).

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>: [Bersham Ironworks](#) ([more here](#)) and the [Minera Lead Mines](#) district – Wrexham**

Wrexham is about 10 miles south of Chester and was an important centre for coal mining, iron and steel manufacture and lead mining. There are a number of important remains of these industries in the area – including winding and blowing engine houses, and the building which housed John Wilkinson’s first gun barrel boring machine. A number of these sites are in the beautiful Clywedog Valley and linked by the Clywedog Trail. We shall have local guides to lead us and interpret the remains for us.

I hope you will be able to join us.

Best wishes,

George Crutcher