

# Hawley Collection Trust Newsletter

## Winter 2015

### IN MEMORIAM

#### KENNETH HAWLEY 1927 – 2014

It is with great sadness we have to report that Ken Hawley passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014 aged 87.

He was 14 when he joined his father's metalwork business making machine guards before working for an ironmonger and others. He opened his first tool shop in Button Lane, Sheffield and moved to Earl Street in 1961. "We sell nowt but tools."

His tool collection began when he visited an undertaker to sell him a machine for planing coffins and came away with a 19<sup>th</sup> century joiner's brace. He devoted his lifetime to amassing his unique tool collection that has been housed at Kelham Island Museum since 2010. He also inspired efforts to restore the 17<sup>th</sup> century iron forge at Wortley for which he was awarded the MBE.

His legacy is the tools, the tools that made the tools, catalogues, photographs. A major pillar of the city's reputation for high quality skills and craftsmanship has been preserved.

He leaves his wife of 60 years, Emily, two sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

#### CHRISTINE BALL

**Christine Ball** died this summer aged 65. Her interest in archaeology and local history, particularly industrial history, led her to take on voluntary research work with the Ken Hawley Tool Collection from its beginnings at its first home in Mappin Street, University of Sheffield and then at Kelham Island Museum where her work involved the documentary side of tool-making. Her knowledge of the collection after so many years was extensive and invaluable.



Ken talking to the Duke of Gloucester and Keith Crawshaw the Chair of the Trust, October 2013

#### MEMORIAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE KEN'S LIFE AT KELHAM ISLAND MUSEUM IN OCTOBER 2014

Around 200 people listened to an array of speakers talk about Ken's passion for the city of Sheffield's metalwork, tool and cutlery trades. There was a lot of laughter as they reminisced about Ken's blunt, no-nonsense attitude but also admiration for his knowledge and determination that helped to build his collection, and his ability to communicate his enthusiasm to others. His sons paid tribute to Ken the family man and Duncan sang "When I'm a Man", one of his Dad's favourite songs about the ambitions of Wadsley cutlery little mesters.

Everyone gathered afterwards for refreshments, to swap memories and look around the collection.



# GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

## NEW

### Nicker Pecker Story - February – August 2015

This exhibition highlights the skilled work of Sheffield's file cutters. Prior to the advent of precision engineering, files were needed by many trades across the world for shaping and finishing. Hand cut files made in Sheffield were renowned as the finest and were much in demand.



Find out how Sheffield files were cut using the very distinctive tools of the trade. A file cutter's hammer is like no other and is absolutely useless for any other task; the origin is a mystery.

See examples of some of the different types of files that were produced ranging from the needle files used by jewellers to an intricate exhibition file.

## CONTINUING

### Magnets – in the Shop Window

## NEW BOOK

### BRITISH SAWS AND SAW MAKERS FROM 1660 by SIMON BARLEY

The first comprehensive historical study of the industry, with a directory of makers, the whole illustrated with almost 2000 photographs.

Over 15 years ago Simon Barley was asked by Ken Hawley if he would like to catalogue the saws in the Collection. At that time the Mappin Street premises had about 500 saws of all kinds. In the course of this, and because of a more or less continuous conversation about all aspects of saws and their manufacture with Ken, Simon became so interested in the subject that he enrolled to do a research degree with the University of Sheffield. He also began to collect saws himself, and at the Kelham Island site there are now two collections of saws in the one Saw Shop on the Little Mesters Street.

Contact us through the Contacts Page on the Website.

## KEN'S TOP 10 AT KELHAM ISLAND MUSEUM

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|---|--|
| Kelham Goit   | Hawley Gallery Films   |
| Melting Shop – children made into steel!                    | Embroidery Scissors 1851 Exhibition                                    |
| Bessemer Converter  | River Don Steam Engine   |
| Hawley Gallery Showcases (Sanderson Saw and Machine Knives) | Hawley Picture Gallery   |
| Bramah Press (for large-scale maps)                         | Saw Shop, Little Mesters Street – 1000s of saws from Hawley Collection |

**Website:** [www.hawleytoolcollection.com](http://www.hawleytoolcollection.com)

You will soon be able to make a donation to help volunteers continue their preservation of the collection through our **Collection Page**