

END OF SEASON WEEKEND 2007

We ended a very successful season with our annual "Turn the Clocks Back" rally weekend. On the Friday the museum was manned by Peter Wood and some of the volunteers. Among the visitors were several people from the local David Lewis Centre who enjoyed being shown around the museum and having engines run for them.

The Saturday started well (despite dire warnings about the weather) with several visiting rally engines on display between the two main buildings. There were also three barrel organs from John Nixon's collection on show in the Memorial building. Seeing this, one of the exhibitors disappeared into his van and came out with an unusual addition – a display of clown and monkeys playing an organ and begging for coppers. This was placed near John's organs and all monies donated over the weekend were given to the museum funds.

In the steam area in the Memorial Building visitors admired the restoration progress made on the giant Stott Steam Engine. There are several additions in this area that greatly enhance the overall appeal - beam engines and intricate models. An area was also roped off for the visiting models to be displayed too.

The Tangye Exhibition was greatly admired by those who had not managed to see it earlier in the season. The excellent DVD made by Tim Macaire was a great hit and several people have asked if they can buy a copy. Watch our on-line shop for news on its availability. www.ansonshop.co.uk

Sunday started wet and grey but by midday the sun had come out and everything looked much more festive. By the time Geoff's 50th birthday cake was cut and distributed the party atmosphere was well under way. The atmosphere was enhanced with balloons and streamers, bunting around the buildings and the Mortier organ that had arrived to entertain everyone.

Also in the car park were many more visiting engines from the North West Stationary and the Macclesfield Vintage Machinery Clubs and an open sided vehicle with steam engines running as well as the museum's own early "A" frame engine mounted in a trailer. A Junkers HK65 was running over the two days and a whole array of rally engines.

By 11:00 the car park was full and the driveway to the museum and the wooded area outside were put into service as a spill over car park area. This was despite the enormous amount of extra room that had been made in the car park during 2007.

The Milk Van was on site over the weekend, cheerfully manned as ever by Cheryl and Eric Barlow of Romiley. They kept everyone fueled with bacon butties and hot drinks. Many people declared that Cheryl's milky coffees were the best to be found. The excellent autumnal weather allowed everyone to get out enjoying the outdoor exhibits and making the last of the summer sunshine.

The "Bodging and Crafts" area were demonstrated both days over the weekend with whittling and forging on display. Also in this area were the David Brown tractor running a corn grinding machine, a Lister A and Les's Ingenco engine.

In the main building there were around 20 of the large engines running at any one time as well as the Furnival and its Printing Press. There were flywheels spinning everywhere you looked – Nationals, Rustons, Gardners, Petters, Lister, Wolseley, Bates & Scholes – it was quite a collection.

In the Gardner room the 4L2, the Robinson hot air engine, the 4T5, the 4FHM, the 6HF and the 2V were running for several hours. The Rattling Monsters were demonstrated throughout the weekend and the Atkinson engine in the same area. The display of injection systems was greatly admired along with the plans for an education area.

The sectioned Paxman Ricardo engine was greatly enjoyed by visitors, allowing them to examine the internal workings as the pistons pumped up and down.

Last October we had run a "Guess the weight of the big end" competition to boost the Save the Doxford appeal. The winner Yvonne Stott and her family came along

to collect her prize and embarrass all those engine enthusiasts who had failed to guess correctly the 12cwt answer. The Tombola proved popular with dozens of prizes being won over the two days and raising much needed funds for the museum. Our thanks to everyone who bought tickets and contributed prizes.

It can be quite tiring walking around the museum and admiring all the exhibits so for those that needed a rest various videos and slide shows were shown in the overflow cafe area and in the cinema. The comfy chairs proved too tempting for some - all these engines can wear you out.

Many of the "Friends" turned up to help direct traffic in the car park, polish engines and chat to visitors. Their help was much appreciated on one of the busiest weekends of the year.

It is not just the "Friends" numbers who are growing, visitor numbers at the museum were up again this year with several club visits also booked throughout the closed

winter period. Many visitors stayed over in the area as there was so much to see they wanted to make the most of their weekend. The local camping site and B&B's proved popular.

The Trustees and Volunteers at the museum were delighted with the turnout to help us say goodbye to another year. As the engines are drained over winter to prevent frost damage, it is not possible to run engines so the museum volunteers use this period to do much of the restoration and building work. The museum reopens on Easter Sunday 2008 for the summer.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it such an enjoyable and successful summer.



Clowns collecting



Barrel Organs



Models on display in front of Stott Steam Engine



Beam engine



Model Newcomen



Model Beam Engine



Tangye Exhibition Area



Mortier Organ



Exhibitors



Rally Engines



A-frame steam engine



George Waller Steam Engine



More rally engines



Milk Bar kept busy



Around the forge



Rod kept busy



Peter whittling



Craft area



Working on the Lister A



Corn Grinder



David Brown Tractor



Crowd watching Atmospherics



Atkinson



National coaxed into life



Many hands make light work



Winner of the Guess the Weight



Well earned rest



Birthday Cake all round

