

Midsummer Mingle at the Anson Engine Museum

Midsummer is a time of magic and wonder-working. The museum in Poynton is planning a Midsummer Mingle on Tuesday 24th June with a little wonder-making of it's own.

Everyone is invited along - particularly anyone who has worked in the engineering/engine manufacturing companies in the area, this will make it a reunion as well as a great day out. The museum will be open from 13:00 - 20:00 that day. A special emphasis will be to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the manufacturing plant at Hazel Grove where Mirrlees Bickerton and Day opened the first diesel engine factory in the world. A display of Mirrlees memorabilia over the years will help to recognised the event with items never before shown in public. This will add a touch of magic to the evening.



100 years celebration

Peter Wood, one of the museum Volunteers and ex Mirrlees Personnel Manager, has agreed to co-ordinate and organise the day. He explains "On Midsummer's Day, many bonfires used to be burnt all over the country. Our acknowledgement of this is to have a barbeque commencing at 6pm which I think will be the main social activity of the day."

Peter also has Don Foden, Graham Wood and Ian Summerfield (all ex Mirrlees men) roped in as Volunteers at the museum and they too will be on hand at the Mingle. Since Midsummer last year the museum has made several improvements including a new generator house, a machine shop being driven by belting powered by a small National engine and a printing machine powered by a Furnival engine made in Stockport.



Albion Mill - photo courtesy of Chris Allen 2009.

The Steam Section at the museum has had many additions and the restoration work on the large Stott Steam Engine (that used to power Barton's Mill at Hazel Grove) is taking shape. It is hoped to have this engine in steam for



Stott Steam Engine being restored

Among the highlights and wonders at the museum this year is the Diesel Story Exhibition. It celebrates the invention and development of an engine that has changed the world we live in. From the beginning it has excited and challenged the way we think about power. Among its prize exhibits are:-

- Mirrlees No1 – 1st diesel engine ever built in the UK and was also the 3rd ever built in the world
- Dieselmax JCB444 engine and model car – fastest diesel engine in the world
- Examples of clean diesel engines and the use of biofuels

The normal museum entry fee of £4.50 will apply but will include a hot dog for those attending the barbeque.

sizzling sausages



getting the BBQ ready