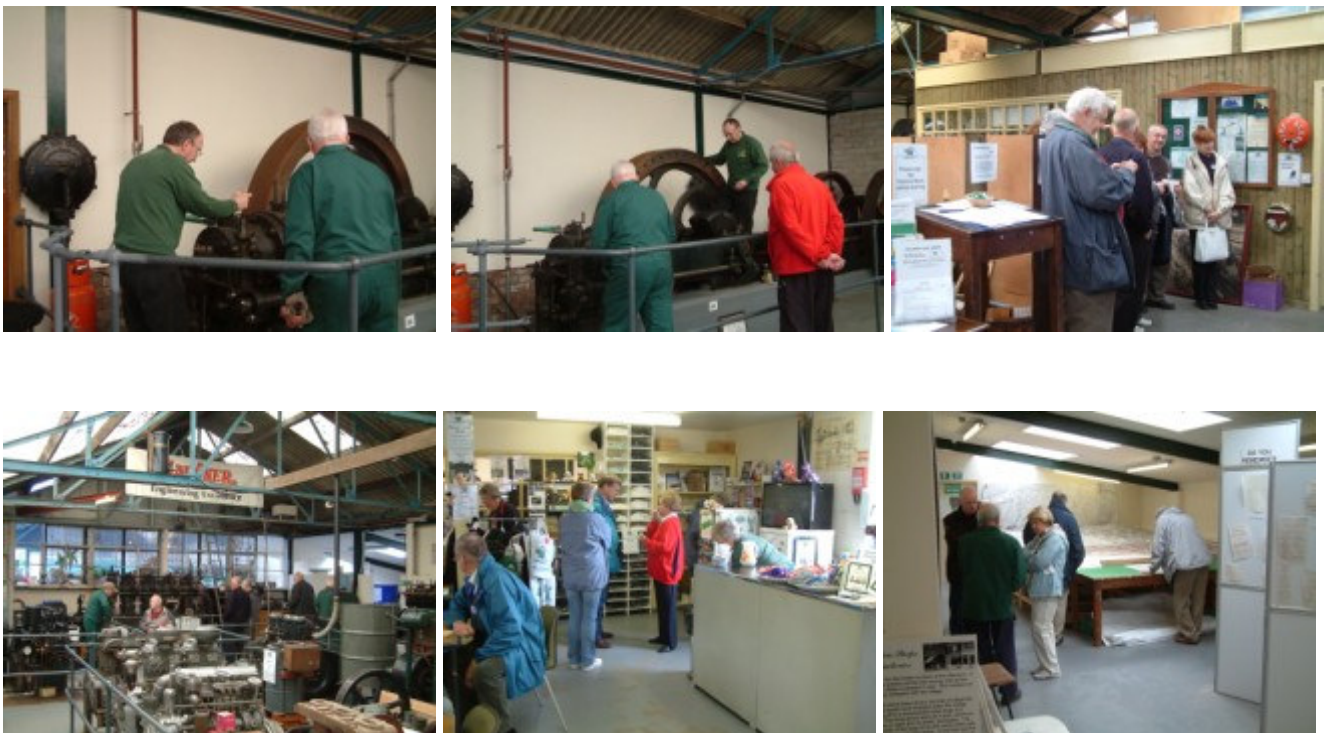


Busy weekend in May

May is Museums and Galleries Month and the opening of the Diesel Exhibition to co-incide with this certainly kept everyone fully occupied. No sooner was the Exhibition open than it was time to get ready for Night of the Museums (La Nuit des musées) on Saturday 17th May. The theme for the global event this year is Ideas and Innovation. The Diesel Exhibition fits nicely into this theme as two of its key displays exemplify this. They are the JCB Dieselmax engine that broke the world land speed record and Mirrlees No1 - this engine was the 1st diesel to be built in the UK and the 3rd ever built in the world. Rudolf Diesel spent his life chasing the idea of building a more efficient engine. He succeeded and the diesel engine was invented. Now all these years later another bright idea led to the innovation of the JCB Dieselmax engine that went on to break the land speed record. With both these engines on display it really shows Ideas and Innovation in action.



A club booking for 65 members of the Heywood Society for the Saturday afternoon/evening certainly helped swell the numbers. Many members of the Volunteers and Trustees gave up their Saturday evening plans to be on hand to run engines and answer queries.





The society members told us they had thoroughly enjoyed their time at the museum and even presented Geoff with a certificate to mark their visit.



As well as all the “usual” engines that get run, we did manage to also run some that get overshadowed by their popular neighbours. These included the two large Nationals beside the roller shutter door, the Bates & Scholes, the Forward engine and the National JE – the latter hadn’t been run for almost 5 years.

Despite the late finish everyone was up again bright and early for a sunny Sunday that brought many visitors to see the Bodging and Smithy-ing demonstrations. The young visitors were encouraged to pump the bellows and handle the wood being used for turning. One lucky young visitor even went away with a spoon made from a horse-chestnut tree that had been planted by Ena Cawley many years ago. Peter Wood had trimmed back some of the overhanging branches then used them for his wood turning display.



