

# LIMELIGHT

**AMBERLEY**

MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

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*Limelight* is the magazine for members of Amberley Museum. It is published twice a year.

Issue 6 Summer 2017

Looking back at 40 years of Amberley Museum

Stationary engines at work

Meet the Museum's trustees

Spotlight on the Fire station

A feast of events for 2017



Are you ready for the Robots?



New and updated exhibits this year





# Welcome...

...to the sixth issue of *Limelight*, the magazine which is sent to members of the Museum twice a year.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Rebecca Main for stepping into the breach last edition and producing a great magazine in my absence.

This year we have seen a lot of changes, particularly on the staff, and we are beginning to see the benefits of fundraising work done at the start of the year.

We are always looking for help in many ways - new volunteers, people to distribute posters and leaflets, help at events - if you might be able to help, please contact the office. Whether or not you can help, we really appreciate your membership and the support this gives the Museum.

Please drop me an email to [ruth.tyrrell@amberleymuseum.co.uk](mailto:ruth.tyrrell@amberleymuseum.co.uk), by 1st September 2017, with any contributions for the next edition.

**Ruth Tyrrell, *Limelight* Editor, Communications Manager**

## ***Greetings from our new director, Leanne Clements***

Amberley is buzzing today as I write, with visitors, volunteers and staff all enjoying this glorious weather.

The Museum is a wonderful venue for sunny days like these, with lots to see and do outdoors... including peaceful walks along nature trails as well as noisy fun with engines!

But Amberley is just as exciting on the rainy days too with so much to enjoy undercover, such as following the story of electricity, journeying below ground to discover communications, or simply enjoying a tasty lunch in the Limeburners restaurant.

I joined the team as Director in mid-May and have had a great time discovering the highlights and hidden gems Amberley has to offer. I still have lots to learn and explore and I'm really looking forward to my first vintage bus trip!

The greatest find of all for me has been the team... the people who enthusiastically share their passion, knowledge and experiences with visitors every day. Amberley's staff and

volunteers are its greatest asset and I am really excited about playing my part in leading the team to a bright future. A future where Amberley brings our industrial past to life in modern and thrilling ways, where Amberley thrives financially and provides inspiring experiences for even more volunteers and visitors.

Your membership is as essential as ever, and valued so greatly by all the team and indeed all of Amberley's other visitors.

Your support, through subscriptions and visits, help keep this magical museum open for everyone.

**Leanne Clements,  
Locum Director**



*Front cover image: a visiting engine at the recent Mid-Summer Steam Show, taken by Ruth Tyrrell*

*Back cover image: amateur radio volunteer Pete Penycate hard at work, taken by Neville Bridle*



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# New electricity storage building

The electricity group opened a new building on 11th July.

This replaces a Portacabin, is timber-framed and clad in larch weatherboard with a pent roof. Thick insulation has been incorporated in walls, roof and floor, and heaters and dehumidifiers with automatic controls fitted to ensure that the internal environment meets museum archive standards.

Julia Edge, curator said, "The building is a credit to the volunteers who have researched, designed and built it to a high standard to preserve the objects for as long as possible."

Generous support was given by UK Power Networks, Thakeham Homes, Target Timber Systems and Silvatec Design, whose help made the project viable. Our thanks go to them all.

Matt Rudling, director of customer services at UK Power Networks said, "We aim to educate young people about energy efficiency, which is something that this museum does in an exciting way... That is why we were delighted to help preserve for future generations the reserve storage building for this unique collection."



In order to keep costs to a minimum, the entire construction, apart from the initial foundation pillars, was completed by volunteers from the electricity hall, with much-appreciated help from the rail group and others.

Work has begun to transfer the reserve collection to its new home.  
**Ruth Tyrrell, Editor**

## Polar Bear celebrates 50 years in preservation

Polar Bear, the Museum's favourite steam loco, celebrated 50 years in preservation on 3rd June. This date marks the 50th anniversary of the loco's purchase by the Brockham Museum Association (later the Brockham Museum Trust).

Polar Bear was built by Bagnall's of Stafford in 1905 for a short tourist railway, The Groudle Glen Railway just north of Douglas on the Isle of Man. She was the second locomotive built for the line and joined a similar though slightly smaller engine called Sea Lion, built in 1896. The locos were so named because they served a small zoo out on the sea cliffs where there were, you guessed it, sea lions and polar bears.

The Groudle Glen line was very popular throughout the Edwardian period through to the 1920s and 30s but after the second world war, the line suffered from the general down-turn in visitor numbers to the island and closed after the 1962 season. By this time Polar Bear was the only working locomotive.



Polar Bear and Sea Lion at Groudle Glen, 2016

That was not the end of the story for Polar Bear (or Sea Lion and the Groudle Glen for that matter) and although the

£50 being asked for the purchase of the whole line, locos and coaches could not be raised, Brockham Museum Association was able to purchase Polar Bear and some coach parts for preservation for the princely sum of £25, and these were brought back to their base at Brockham, near Dorking.

Polar Bear came to Amberley in 1982 when the Brockham organisation merged with Amberley and Polar Bear was returned to steam in 1982. After five years of use, the boiler was condemned but in 1993, with a new boiler, Polar Bear was back in service painted in her original yellow livery.

Since then, she has been a regular on the Museum's narrow gauge passenger railway and is very popular with our visitors. Two coaches were also restored and two more built at Amberley, one of which was specially designed to carry wheelchairs.

And what of the Groudle Glen Railway? This reopened in 1986 with the original locomotive, Sea Lion. Polar Bear has returned to the Island to work there on four occasions, in 1993, 1996, 2005 and most recently in 2016.

Sea Lion also visited Amberley in 2005 for Polar Bear's 100th birthday. Polar Bear was one of the guest performers at the recent Ffestiniog Railway's Quirks and Curiosities event in April this year, the first time she has run at any line other than the GGR or Amberley.

**Gerry Cork, Joint Head of Rail Group**

## Connected Earth gets an expert visit

Bill Burns, an international authority on cable ships and transatlantic cable laying, visited the Museum in April and met with long-standing Museum volunteer John Cooper who used to work on the cable laying ships in the Atlantic. They have been corresponding over several years, but this was the first time they have met in person.

After a photo opportunity, they had a chance for an in-depth look at some of the items in the collection. Bill was visiting the UK on a three week research break from his home in the USA.



## New traditional crafts

The Museum welcomes David Batchelor and Steve Clarke who are setting up a traditional glass workshop on site, in the space which used to house... the stained glass workshop!

# Work-Experiencing Amberley

During the gap between school and college I decided that I would like to fill this time at Amberley as work experience.

The Volunteer Co-ordinator organised an extensive programme of experiences within the Museum. I was warmly welcomed by volunteers and staff, and encouraged to participate in most aspects of the Museum's work including putting things in envelopes in the office!

On my first day, Richard Ratcliffe showed me round the site and engaged me in sanding down the mudguard of the tandem, which was to be completed by Allen.

I spent time at the Wheelwrights' where I learned about the materials used in the making of wheels and how to restore them. I discovered what a bodger is and used a lathe to create a chair leg. The railway group got me to work by cleaning the wagons in the railway shed and assisting them with a track inspection. I joined the bus crew as a bus conductor

for a day. At TATHS I learned about historic tools and the work they do for the charity.

In the printshop I discovered the fascinating world of fonts, settings and printers that put ink to paper. The curator got me to work on cleaning and checking artefacts in the brewery display. I assisted the Education Department with their activities. The site manager set me to work on de-rusting a wagon chock and painting a frame (I never did discover what it was for).

At the stickmaker I made a stick using files and sandpaper to create the handle and attached it to the shaft. This now sits in pride of place in my room. The hurdler showed me how to make a pig that did not oink and gypsy flowers that smelt of wood.

Since completing my work experience I have become a cycle shop volunteer and have worked with Richard and his team in all aspects of restoration and maintenance. Richard guided me

in the restoration of a child's 1950 MOBO tricycle. Our first task was to dismantle the trike, sand down the existing layer, repaint the frame, then cover it with a layer of red oxide paint (which I now know does not come out of clothes).

New, appropriate screws and washers were required to replace the old, rusted ones to give the bike a moderately new appearance. Richard then sprayed the tricycle with a metallic blue, close to the original colour. He also managed to acquire some stickers identical to those originally on the trike. It was then reassembled carefully so as not to scratch the paint work.

My work experience and volunteering has given me a new-found confidence and fired my interest in history. I would like to thank Richard and everybody who warmly welcomed me and demonstrated their trades and interests.

**Charles Paddick, Museum Work Experience candidate**

# New and rejuvenated exhibits



## At Risk Buildings: Loco Shed and Smithy

The development phase for this project is almost complete, with the repair work due to start at the beginning of September. We have a grant from Historic England to cover some of the costs and have applied to a number of other groups for funding to cover the shortfall. The Friends of Amberley Museum is also generously supporting this project.

## Billingshurst Signal Box

The levers are now in position in their frame. The next job is to replace the flooring of the operating room. We have postponed the official opening to March/April 2018 when we re-open after winter. This will allow us to present a completed project, rather than having to cut corners to get it open sooner. Thank you to all volunteers working on this project for their hard work.

## Dando Wind Pump

Thanks to the sterling work of Museum volunteer David Ballantyne, the Dando wind pump has been restored and can now be seen resplendent with newly painted blades, having undergone a full mechanical restoration, with help from the Dando company (still in existence!), B&G Machining and Blastreat (Arundel). Thanks to all for your help.

## Milk Float

We have moved our electric milk float (dating from 1954) down from the White Pit next to the No 2 kilns. It has been pressure washed by Site Services and is attracting lots of visitor interest. Here it is being donated to the Museum in 1995 (bottom left) and today (bottom right).



# spotlight on the fire station



The fire station was built at the Museum in 2008 as a replica 1950s building. Today it houses three fire engines as well as several displays and an audio visual presentation.



Did you know? The "Coventry Climax" pump which can be seen in the main part of the building (pictured above), was developed into the engine used in the Hillman Imp car.



# Amberley Museum's new curator

Ruth Tyrrell catches up with Julia Edge, who started work as the curator at Amberley in January.



I live in Pulborough with my husband and two boys. I have a lifelong interest in old things, which started when, as a child, I found an Elizabethan coin while digging in the garden. My parents are antique collectors

so I was brought up in a house cluttered with antiques and old junk!

I studied archaeology at Exeter university and then Museum Studies at UCL. I used to live in London and worked at the National Maritime Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Horniman Museum. In Sussex, I worked for a while at Storrington Museum (as a volunteer) and most recently, at Bignor Roman Villa (which I loved) part time, alongside being a Supervisor at Pulborough Village Pre-School.

I was pleased and excited to be offered this job at Amberley, as I have always loved the Museum, and had visited many times with my children. I especially like the working aspect of it, with lots of things to see in action and to experience. As Curator, it is my job to look after all the historic objects and buildings housed at

Amberley and to interpret them for our visitors. I already have some favourite objects! One is the Billingshurst signal box, which moved to the Museum in 2014 and is currently in the process of being renovated. It's just such an interesting building and still has the 1876 signal lever frame inside it.

I also like the cast iron tortoise stove in the Littlehampton Toll House, which originally came from a postman's hut. Its only small but you can imagine it being really cosy when lit! The toll house (dating from 1909) was originally used for the collection of tolls on the swing bridge over the River Arun at Littlehampton.

I am interested in learning more about all of the collections we have and I am sure that my favourites will change regularly.

There are lots of things to look forward to at the Museum, which is constantly developing. We are planning a project funded by Historic England to repair one of the original buildings (a scheduled ancient monument) on the site, dating from the late 19th century, which currently houses a loco shed, our brewery display and a working blacksmiths.

Look out for the opening of the signal box in early 2018. Longer term we are starting to plan for other new displays and whole new buildings.

**Julia Edge, Curator**

## Car in the garage

The Museum currently has a beautiful 1952 Austin A30 car in the village garage being worked on by garage volunteers, initially until the end of the season. It is on display and visitors can talk to the volunteers working on it.





## Museums on the Air

Once again our amateur radio volunteers worked tirelessly over two weekends in June to take the Museum to a wider audience than just the visitors on site. To continue this world-wide coverage, we have a video of them in action which can be watched on the Museum's Facebook page. 164 contacts were made over the four days including 23 museums participating in the event.

## International Marconi Day

We were registered as an International Marconi Day station and on the day, 22nd April 2017, 31 stations were worked, of which 7 were other Marconi Day stations.

The skip was long (the only UK stations we worked were in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and there was deep and rapid fading, so it was a hard slog.

G2NM was our special event call sign, which had been the call sign of Gerald Marcuse, who had



links both to the Marconi company and the local area in West Sussex.

The Museum houses a recreation of Gerald's shack, including QSL cards all over the walls opposite our normal operating position in the radio and TV building. In fact the confirmation cards that are being sent to our contacts on this day are based on the cards sent many years ago from that station.

**Pete Pencyate, Amateur Radio volunteer**

## New volunteer photography group

Pete Edgeler has taken on the role of Head of Group for the new Photo Group. The group's purpose is to provide the Museum and associated users with high quality images and video that can be used to promote the Museum and the work of individual groups either onsite, online or in the printed media. They also expect to work with the Curator and the Trustees as and when required.

The group has begun publishing images online using a dedicated Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/amberleymuseum/>. At present this page contains images taken in 2017 along with archive images provided by the Curator.

The images have been sorted into two collections and numerous albums and are made available free for non commercial use. New and archive material from various contributors will be added soon.

The new group is looking for members so they can provide an official photographer at all the special events and other requirements, so if you have an interest in



video or stills photography and would like to be part of the Photo Group then please contact Pete on 07831 696568 or by email to [peter.edgeler@amberleymuseum.co.uk](mailto:peter.edgeler@amberleymuseum.co.uk).

**Pete Edgeler, Head of Photo Group**

# A feast of events for 2017: choose

The year may be part way through, but we still have lots of exciting events planned in 2017.

## Sunday 23rd July – Classic Car Summer Show



Our annual summer car show will bring a wonderful collection of classic cars from 1955 – 1992, with some exhibitors dressing up in the period costumes to add to the atmosphere. Enjoy a ride around the site on the steam train.

## Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July – Robots Live



New for 2017, an action packed day with Robots from Robot Wars. Come and watch the battles! If you are planning on bringing friends we recommend buying tickets online in advance, as we expect to be busy this weekend.

## Monday 14th to Friday 18th August – Activity week



All about print, pattern and design: this event will help you explore the Museum to gather ideas and create. The week results in an exhibition and participants work towards the Explorer Arts Award.

This event is pre-bookable only due to limited spaces each day. Please contact the office to book.

## Saturday 19th August – Art@Amberley



New for 2017, come and explore a new interest or skill, or just have fun with art. Each Art@Amberley event will explore a different skill. This month we will be looking at mosaic coaster making, at a cost of £4 per coaster.

Pre-booking is advised as you are guaranteed a place and you will benefit from reduced entry pricing (if not already a member). Please contact the office to book.

## Sunday 20th August – Petrol Locos Day



A chance to see petrol locos not normally out and about, in motion on our narrow gauge railway, and of course ride on the trains and enjoy the rest of the Museum.

## Monday 28th August – Story Book Day with Alice at Amberley



Come and join Alice and friends. Have a go at the puzzles around the site, enjoy a game of croquet and join in the Mad Hatters tea party. Enjoy a ride around the site on the steam train.

## Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd September – Ale at Amberley



Join us for our 12th annual ale festival, with local beers, ales and perries, and musical entertainment. The event is pre-booked tickets only for the evening sessions on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd. The Museum is open from 10am to 5pm on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday daytimes, with drink up day on the Sunday. Bars open at 12 noon.

## Sunday 10th September – Historic Cycles Day



# your favourites, bring your friends!

See bicycles from 1800 to the present day: visitors are welcome to come in period dress. Watch the bicycles in an afternoon procession around the Museum. Enjoy a ride around the site on the steam train.

## Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September - Miniature Steam Weekend



See visiting exhibitors with their working miniature steam engines. Enjoy a ride around the site on the steam train.

## Saturday 23rd September - Art@Amberley



This month we will be looking at glass painting, at a cost of £3 per item. Please contact the office to book.

## Sunday 24th September - Amberley Autumn Bus Show and Running Day



Our ever popular bus rally returns for another year, with static displays and the opportunity to ride on buses that are not normally available to the public.

## Saturday 30th September - Classic Scooter Day



We welcome a display of classic scooters along with some 60s classic cars including the iconic Mini. We aim to have a grand parade around the site at 4pm as they prepare to leave. If you have a classic scooter you wish to exhibit, please contact the office.

## Sunday 8th October - Autumn Historic Transport Gathering



Our grand end of season event, with the opportunity to see all sorts of vehicles from commercial transport to classic cars.

## Saturday 14th October - Communication Day



Come and discover what life was like before the internet. Learn about the history of radio and television, and explore the Connected Earth building and the history of the telephone.

## Sunday 15th October - Industrial Trains Day



Steam, diesel, petrol and battery locos will be out and about, featuring our eclectic collection of passenger and industrial rolling stock, as well as demonstration runs with the Road Machines contractors' monorail.

## Sunday 15th October - Classic Land Rover Day



After a popular 2016 event, Land Rover Day will be returning for 2017. See a wide range of exhibiting Land Rovers from across the series, some original and some unique in design. If you're a Land Rover owner and would like to exhibit, please contact the office.

The office can be contacted on 01798 831370 and [office@amberleymuseum.co.uk](mailto:office@amberleymuseum.co.uk)

And that's not it... turn over for more Museum event listings for the rest of 2017...

**AMBERLEY**  
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Station Road, Amberley, Near Arundel  
West Sussex, BN18 9LT  
01798 831370  
office@amberleymuseum.co.uk

## Robots Live at Amberley Museum



**Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July**

Amberley Museum is hosting a special event with Robots Live. Come and watch the Robots battle against each other in live action packed shows throughout the day, and meet the teams from BBCs Robot Wars, including Champions Apollo.

**Buy your tickets now!**

Adults £11.50, Children £7.00

Visit the website for more information.

[www.amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk)



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Station Road, Amberley  
Nr Arundel, West Sussex  
BN18 9LT  
01798 831370  
office@amberleymuseum.co.uk

## Classic Scooter Day

**Saturday 30th September 2017**

A display of classic scooters from the 50s to the present day



Come and meet our special guest Gary Shail aka 'Spider' from the iconic film Quadrophenia

Enjoy music, fashions and vehicles from the classic mod eras

Contact the Museum for an exhibitor entry form on 01798 831370 or office@amberleymuseum.co.uk  
**FREE to exhibit**



[www.amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk)

## 12 Days of Christmas

**AMBERLEY**  
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**Meet Father Christmas and enjoy festive activities at Amberley Museum**

**Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December**  
Christmas Craft Market

**Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December**  
Christmas Fun Fair and Games

**Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December**  
Christmas Music and Carols

**Thursday 21st December**  
Christmas Family Fun Day

See the grand arrival of Father Christmas on Saturday 2nd December.

Look out for more information on our website  
[www.amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk)  
or contact the office on 01798 831370



# A feast of events for 2017

## Saturday 21st October - Art@Amberley



This month we will be looking at scrapbooking, at a cost of £5. Please call the office to book.

## Saturday 28th October - Hallowe'en and Evening Ghost Train



Our ever popular Hallowe'en event with activities and fun for children of all ages. Come take part in festive activities and be spooked and ride our ghost train and spooky bus.

## Sunday 29th October - Members and Volunteers Day

Open for the last day of the season, come and find out what is planned for the New Year. The Museum also thanks its members and volunteers for their support.



## Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, Saturday 9th, Sunday 10th, Saturday 16th, Sunday 17th, Thursday 21st December - Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas at Amberley Museum



Meet Father Christmas and enjoy festive activities across the Museum. This year each weekend is themed, so look out for the craft market on 2nd and 3rd, fun fair and games on 9th and 10th, music and carols on 16th and 17th, and family fun on 21st.

# A big thank you to a dear supporter

Chairman of trustees, John Robbins, thanked Dudley Maynard for many, many years of support for the Museum.

Dudley helps the Museum in a great many ways, including backing projects great and small, even down to supplying the office with sweeties (and we get through quite a lot)! Thank you Dudley.



# 40 years on, we look back at the birth of the Museum

*One of Amberley Museum's longest-standing volunteers, Brian Johnson, explains how the Museum came into being.*

It was forty years ago that the fledgling Amberley Museum made its intentions known to the public at large. A Trust to promote the establishment of an 'industrial museum' in Sussex had existed since 1974 and had identified the derelict Amberley Chalk Pits as a possible site. Negotiations with the owners, West Sussex County Council, had reached an 'in principal' agreement for a lease but could go no further until planning permission had been obtained.

A planning application, reference AM/15/76, was made in November 1976. Looking back at the file one realises just how simple the procedure was in those days! No fees, no complicated environmental assessments or heritage surveys, no requirement to even consult anyone.

However, with several trustees well versed in making planning applications, and conscious that there were likely to be many people who would have concerns about the development of a public museum within the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a strategy to clearly explain our proposals was drawn up. And well worth the time and trouble that was!



We were confident that a first class open air museum could be established at Amberley. It could build upon the fascinating history and features of the former industrial site based on the chalk resources, the river, railway and the development of an industrial settlement around Houghton Bridge. It deserved preservation and conservation. That it could also house displays of other local industrial and transport history without impact on its surroundings was a unique asset.

## **We needed friends with influence**

We needed friends with influence to get this message accepted. In advance of the planning application, pressure on the government to 'schedule' the site as being of historical interest, was successful.

Much time was spent explaining the project to local councillors and cultivating interest with local people, the press and preservation societies. Funding was sought from well-wishers and just before the project went public we arranged a travelling 'road show evening' to four Sussex towns to explain what was proposed. Inevitably some people were not convinced.

Some concern was for the effect on the rare plants and natural history interest that had developed once chalk working had ceased. A resident of High Titten feared the noise from exhibits: a justifiable concern that he later admitted was not borne out. However the feared impact of a deluge of visitors and traffic into the area soon bought forth objections from several Parish Councils and residents associations in the Storrington area. A 'Disneyland in Sussex' was one observation. Static traffic queues extending for miles were feared and numerous accidents would inevitably arise at the dangerous entrance. Fortunately we could show that the station car park area could accommodate cars used by the anticipated numbers of visitors and a fair number would come by train. Some minor entrance improvements would improve



safety and a long projected road improvement between the station entrance and the pit works entrance was soon to be built – and it was.

Not all the local reaction was adverse. Some residents actually favoured the plans, particularly a number who had worked there or were long standing residents. The ‘noisy’ objectors were ‘outsiders who had recently moved in’, said one. Nevertheless the letters pages of local papers had material for several weeks.

To our relief – the lobbying had paid off – Horsham District Council supported the plan in February 1977. At the time ‘major’ applications passed to the County Council for the final decision and that came on the 6th April. Their committee noted that the pit, the kilns and the historic significance of the area provided an unusual opportunity for the establishment of a museum with no impact on the area provided appropriate traffic controls were

applied. It was ‘go’ for Amberley Museum. However it was May 1979, hours before the Museum opened to the public, before we finally obtained our lease to the site. But that is another story.

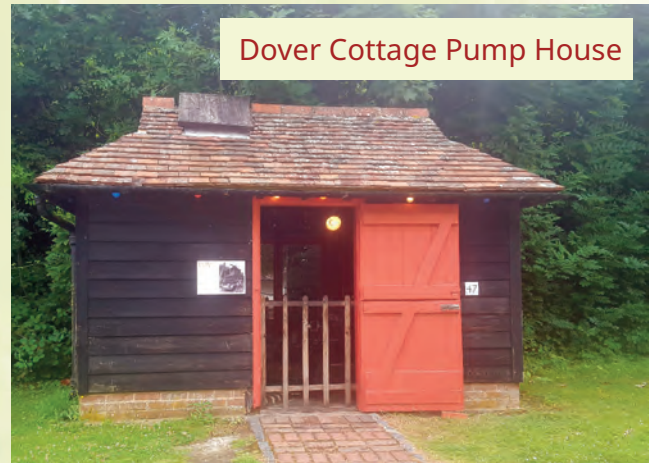
### ***We arranged a travelling ‘road show evening’ to four Sussex towns***

The Museum Trust was very fortunate that the project came forward at a time when the local councils had officers and members who were keen to assist in forwarding projects in the community to protect the heritage and conservation.

Amberley and the Weald & Downland at Singleton benefitted greatly as a result. In fact it would be doubtful today that either project would have been possible when one looks at the fees, costs and huge amount of surveys and paperwork that has to be provided in support of an application for a major development project. Perhaps the simple life of the past was not all bad?

**Brian Johnson, Amberley Museum volunteer**

# Stationary engines at work



Dover Cottage Pump House

*David Ballantyne discusses the work of the stationary engine group*

Our aim as a group is to educate the public, particularly children, on the background of stationary engines and why they created such a revolution in industry and agriculture as well as other historical information. Yes there were power systems before – steam power and water wheels – but not so easily started (how long does it take Polar Bear to get up steam?) and, equally important, not so easily stopped (saves fuel and farmers don't like wasting money).

While there are a very few visitors interested in the engines themselves, most of our visitors are not - talking to them has to be tailored to their needs. What we have found is most visitors prefer to be talked to rather than reading interpretations.

The Museum's collection includes some very rare engines such as Victoria (1912), the Robey (1929), the Blackstone (c1909) and the Loughborough (late 1940s) as well as some local ancillary equipment.

For example, many local visitors didn't know that there was an iron foundry in Chichester until the late 1930s and that our Eclipse Oil Cake Breaker was manufactured in Chichester on the site of what is now North Pallant car park. When it is explained that our now very up market "Chi" was a market town originally and that the surrounding farmers needed support, it makes sense to them (bit of drama needed in the talk here – chimneys belching black smoke, liquid metal and so on).

Local people are also interested that the deep well pump, sludge pump and the wind pump were manufactured in Littlehampton by a company that is still manufacturing there today. This takes the talk onto why such equipment was needed i.e. there were no water mains in rural areas, so what did you do when there were no taps to turn on? The same "what would you do if there were no \_\_\_" applies equally to our electrical generating sets. Children just

accept that there's electricity on tap and getting them to imagine life without electricity, when only the rich could afford it, is a pleasure to watch and engage in. Even with the adults, when pre-National Grid electricity is explained to them (different voltages and plugs in different parts of the country) they are astonished. We all take so much for granted today.

The Robey engine has a particular interest for children apart from its size and imposing nature: it was used to pump poo out to sea from Littlehampton and most kids are fascinated by that fact alone.

We can also sit for ages with children guessing which of the oil droplets will go up the wires in the lubrication tubes first. Amuses me and amuses the children – but at the same time the importance of lubrication in an engine can be explained in simple terms or in a more precise manner, depending on the audience.



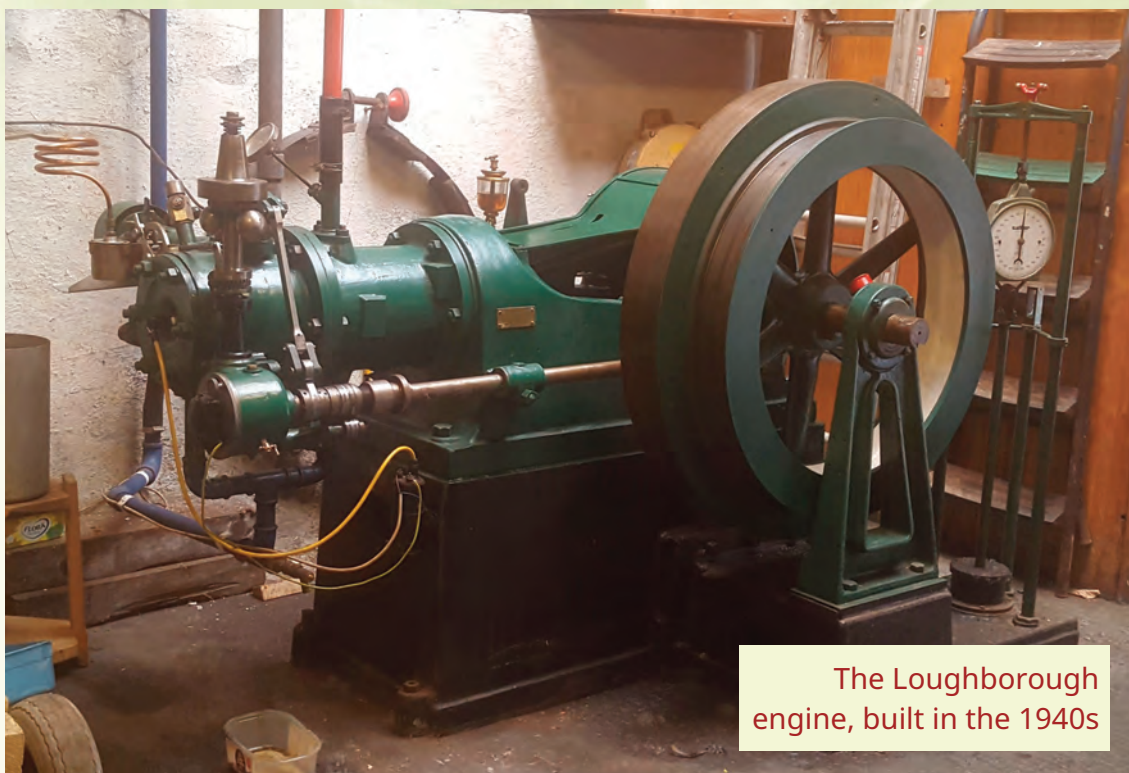
Because our engines were designed to run on various fuels, it challenges today's general public conception that there are only two fuels for engines (petrol and diesel). Our engines were designed to run on petrol, diesel, paraffin and even coal gas produced on site next to the engine!

With the public, this takes us onto what it was like before North Sea Gas, the changes that had to be made in every gas appliance in the country with the change over and could we/would we do that now? Children especially like the fact that the next time they fly off on holiday, the jet engines are running on basically the same fuel an engine was using 100 years ago – paraffin!

For those who may not know it, our group looks after the engine shed, the open engine shed, the hand water pumps, the Bamford pump below the Limeburners, the Dando wind pump, Dover Cottage Pump House and the Municipal Engine Shed.

There's a lot more to stationary engines than meets the eye and hopefully this will help dispel the idea of just a bunch of old blokes tinkering with engines.

**David Ballantyne, Head of Stationary Engine Group**



The Loughborough engine, built in the 1940s

# Goodbye to Scaldwell



On 10th July Scaldwell began its journey to Southwold Railway Trust in Suffolk. This is a 3 foot gauge loco and has been at Amberley since 1982.

Southwold has a 3 foot gauge line whereas the Amberley Museum line is 2 foot. Scaldwell came to Amberley when we acquired the Brockham Museum's collection in the early 1980s.

James Hewitt, Chairman of Southwold Railway Trust who was present at the lift said, "We are extremely pleased that Amberley believes we're the right place for Scaldwell, and thankful to everyone involved.

We will get it in steam again as soon as we can."

Rachel Spiller, recent Deputy Director of Amberley Museum said, "It's fantastic that this loco has the chance to be restored and used again. We're pleased it's going to a good home and we look forward to seeing the transformation take place."

A lot of work will be needed to get the locomotive, a 1913 0-6-0ST Peckett, running but this is good news for everyone.

The loco was used in both wars and as a British made 3 foot gauge engine, is a rare beast.

**Ruth Tyrrell, Editor**

# Meet the Museum's Trustees

Trustees play a very important part in shaping the Museum. Key responsibilities are to ensure financial stability and to put in place the right director and policies so that we successfully carry out our mission. Here we introduce our board.

## John Robbins (Chair of Trustees)

John has worked in farming managing stock enterprises, he was a driving instructor, and worked in children's homes as a senior manager. John was also a Samaritan for 12 years, and became chair of the branch. He has been a Magistrate for the last 10 years. John now has a paella catering business. His hobbies are guitar and singing; he is a magician, loves cooking, walking and socialising. He also plays a bit of golf. He has a passion for heritage and countryside issues, and volunteers as a bodger at Amberley Museum.



## Steve Hale (Deputy Chair)

Steve is Technical and Business Development manager for Condair PLC having worked in the field of Humidification for the last 40 years. He is responsible for managing Sales and Market Development in all South Asian countries from Pakistan to Vietnam. When in the UK, Steve has slowly but surely restored a 1915 Marshall Traction Engine that came from the Lillywhite collection at Manor Road Garage plus collecting and restoring vintage oil lamps.



## Graham Duxbury

Graham's career has been in energy market economics and forecasting. He has developed and run several consultancy practices and worked with many international clients. He is now largely retired but still an independent market consultant. Before moving from Hertfordshire in 2015 he served as a trustee for a school and church.



Apart from enjoying the beautiful West Sussex countryside, interests include writing, industrial history, concerts of iconic pop stars and a passing interest in steampunk.

## Nigel Hartley

Nigel joined Dark Star Brewery in 2006 and has been its finance director since 2011. Prior to that he worked in insurance for 18 years. Nigel is also treasurer of his local cricket club and secretary of his snooker club.



Outside of work Nigel enjoys cycling, walking and playing snooker (badly). He is a retired footballer and cricketer, and an active bus and rail enthusiast at Amberley Museum.

## Jayne Herring

Jayne currently works full time for The Disabilities Trust as a Quality Assurance Advisor. She has been a volunteer with Samaritans for 27 years as a listening volunteer, fundraiser, trainer and national walk co-ordinator. Jayne was previously the MD of a national children's home organisation before venturing into HR and obtaining her Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources Management. Her hobbies include playing basketball, walking, making jewellery and reading.



## Brian Steele

Brian served an apprenticeship with The Rover Group, following which he worked as a designer at Land Rover. He is now Financial Director of a car dealership and a director of several property investment companies.



Brian is married with four children and is a keen walker, rock climber and touch-rugby player. He sings and plays the saxophone in his church worship band and along with his wife, leads a nightshelter for the homeless.

**John Robbins, Chair of Trustees**

# Latest membership news

## Membership Benefits

Please remember that the best benefit of membership of the Museum is that you (and anyone covered on your membership) can visit the Museum for free any day we are open including our special events, with very few exceptions.

The only events that are not covered are the evening sessions of the ale festivals, Hallowe'en evening and Christmas events. Please do support as many of the other events as you can, as well as enjoying the Museum exhibitions themselves of course.

## Membership Event

We are holding a special celebration event for members and volunteers at the Museum on Sunday 29th October, the last day of our season, to say thank you for your support and for you to find out more about the Museum and our plans for 2018. Please do come along if you can.

**Ruth Tyrrell, Editor**



## The Friends of Amberley Museum

The Friends of Amberley Museum is a registered charity which supports the Museum by giving financial and practical help to carry out repairs and restoration within the Museum.

The Friends' AGM was held on Saturday 22nd July just as Limelight was going to press, so we look forward to a report from the Friends in the next magazine.

Copies of the 2016 AGM minutes and the 2016 annual report with accounts are available from [peter.harbord@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.harbord@btinternet.com) until Thursday 31st August, should you wish to read these documents.

Meanwhile the Museum would like to thank the Friends for their ongoing practical and financial support throughout the year.

For more information on the Friends of Amberley Museum, please visit the bric-a-brac shop at the Museum, situated between the radio exhibition and the rural telephone exchange.

**AMBERLEY**  
MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE  
DISCOVER · LEARN · HAVE FUN

Ale at Amberley  
Friday 1st to Sunday  
3rd September

With over 60 real ales, ciders and perries to sample from breweries across Sussex.

Enjoy our Ale festival with food, drink and entertainment.

Fri, Sat and Sun 12noon - 4.30pm  
Standard Museum entry £11.50 (Adults)  
Fri & Sat evenings 6 - 10.30pm  
Evening tickets £5 (Adults Only)

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