

NEWS ARCHIVE 2011

Aero Engine Choir

Brian Mills, who brought the Bristol Hercules engine, send us this You Tube link to the engines running at the museum on Saturday 29th October. [Click here](#) to view it.

Napier Lion Engine - Update

29th October

We have just been updated that the Napier Lion will only be at the museum on Saturday 29th October (not on Sunday 30th) but the good news is we will also have a Bristol Hercules 14 Cylinder sleeve valve radial engine, originally out of the Hastings, running that day too.

The RR Griffon engine will be running both Saturday and Sunday this weekend.

Steam engines ready for the season finale

The Stott mill engine; the Fowler beam engine and the A frame engine are going to be "in steam" this weekend (29th and 30th October) to help the final week of the season go out on a high. Museum open from 10:00 - 17:00 both days - remember the clocks go back this weekend. Do come along and join us and see the steam section in all its glory.



Slumbering giant turns over "in steam"

The Stott engine was started by Walter Higgenbotham in front of an admiring crowd. Walter was one of the volunteers who helped dismantle and move the engine to the museum 27 years ago. For more details of the fascinating story [click here](#)



Here is a [link to a video](#) of the engine starting, courtesy of the Manchester Association of Engineers.

Bank Holiday Fun

The museum is open from Friday 26th until Monday 29th for the bank holiday. As well as having a great many engines running at the museum we will be supporting the Poynton Show at Poynton Park on the Saturday with an engine, stall and presenting the Les Cawley Memorial Trophy. See the [show's website](#) for more details.

On the Monday our Craft Centre will be in full swing. With "bodgers" demonstrating the traditional craft of working with green-wood using portable tools including a pole-lathe to turn chair legs, etc) while another volunteer, will be working at the forge. The power hammer has been installed, a wheelwrights shop is under construction and a tool shed is complete.

Be sure to also see our scale model of Poynton as it looked c1900. For a preview of this follow the link to see how one of our talented members of our "Friends" association allows you to zoom in on every detail. It is fantastic interactive photograph and we recommend you [click on this link](#) to go and study it. We are indebted to our teenage whizz kid for giving us access to such a fantastic tool. Thanks must also go to the volunteers who have painstakingly put the model together, taking over 4,500 man hours to date.

Stott Mill Engine to be "in steam" 24/25 September

The volunteers have made great progress with this engine which we believe is the largest steam engine in Cheshire. It will be in steam on Saturday/Sunday 24/25 September. Museum open from 10:00 - 17:00 both days.

Sunday sunshine for the 1000 Engine Rally

After a grey and drizzly Saturday the sun shone all day on Sunday 26th June. It turned out to be the hottest day of the year and there were many pink shoulders and noses to be seen as you wondered around the engine pens. There was a great turnout of engines and everyone seemed in great spirits.



It had been good fun too seeing so many of the exhibitors at the museum the previous evening when they came on their annual pilgrimage. We had engines running everywhere you looked including two steam engines. The hotpot proved popular as ever and many people commented on the changes we had been making and the many engines we now had in running order. The giant model of Poynton also proved popular as did the demonstrations down in the Craft Centre.

A great rally once again and we'd like to congratulate the FCVMO Committee for all the work that went in to running such a successful show. We are delighted to be able to offer any support we can and always enjoy working with the committee to provide a show for everyone to enjoy. It takes a great deal of work to organise anything this big so congratulations and here's to next year.

Tickets for Saturday night of 1000 Engine Rally

We now have tickets on sale in our on-line shop for the coach to the museum on the Saturday 25th June, the night of the 1000 Engine Rally. [Click here](#) to order.

Due to the generosity of the coach company, [McCarthy Coaches of Macclesfield](#), we are able to hold the prices at the 2010 level. The coach ticket includes return trip from Astle Park and entrance to the museum.

Those of you that have been before will see significant changes made over the winter period to enhance the appearance of the Museum and the exhibits, including:-

- Cover over the line of engines between the two main buildings

- Brotherhood engine now running

- Steam to our steam engine area

- Extending the scale model of Poynton down to the current railway station

- Massey Power Hammer in operation in the Craft area

- Ealing studio Ruston engine in its new permanent position

- and many more

For more details of the 1000 Engine Rally itself, see their [website](#)

It's been moved - Ealing Studio Ruston Engine

[Part 3a](#) and **[Part 3b](#)** tell you about the move that happened 3rd May working with Ainscough and a 250 ton crane. To see a video of the move on You Tube [click here](#). To read the history see parts 1 and 2 below.



NB these are large files and may take a while to open, if you need latest Adobe Reader click on link above for a free download.

For a direct link to our donation site that will help us restore this engine to running condition please [click here](#).

Steam engines running - Saturday 14th May

There are few people who are not moved and enthralled by the sight and sound of a giant steam engine in motion. The power and majesty of the spinning flywheel ignites a spark deep inside and makes you wonder about the work and history of these industrial giants.

On the evening of Saturday 14th May we will have running the Fowler Beam Engine (built c1872) on loan from the Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery. And the A-frame steam engine that was used at Adlington Hall to run various machinery (eg saw bench) in, what is now called, the Hunting Lodge.

Come and join us for the Engines at Twilight event we are running from 17:00 - 20:00 as part of the International Night of Museums. For more information click on the logo.



This is the first publicised date for engines in steam at the museum. To see our first trial run of the Fowler in steam [click here](#).

Latest news of Ealing Studio Ruston Engine

We have now moved the engine onto its permanent base and can start on the restoration of this magnificent engine to return it to running condition.

You might want to refresh your memory on how the engine came to the museum so click on the links.

[Part 1](#) tells the story of the engine at Ealing Studios through to it being loaded on a trailer to come to Poynton.

[Part 2](#) tells the story of the journey and unloading at the museum.

Alyn Foundry Model

We are pleased to announce that we have taken up the supply of the castings and drawings for the Alyn Foundry series of engines. We are developing the supply and are starting with the 1/2 scale Gardner "O" gas engine.



The drawings have been re-drawn to enhance readability. There are 22 off castings and the 2 gears (shown in the centre left of the box) that are shown in the photo. There are 8 off A3 size drawing sheets for the components and 1 off A3 size drawing of the GA, 9 sheets in total.

This kit of the castings plus the two machined gears is available together with the drawings for a price of £500. The shipping of the kit is additional. For overseas delivery costs please contact jon@enginemuseum.org advising delivery address.

[Click here](#) for details of how to order.

Behind the scenes - Stott Steam Engine

BBC Radio Manchester came to the museum last week to interview the volunteers about the history and restoration work that has taken place on the giant Stott mill engine. It will be aired on Monday 4th April on the Heather Stott show between 9am - Midday. Tune in to hear the stories behind the scenes on 95.1FM. The Stott will be in steam this season, we will publish dates soon.



Thank you to all our supporters

In the entrance hall to the Memorial Building we have erected boards to express our thanks to everyone who has so kindly supported us or left us legacies. We are proud to have these names displayed so prominently at the museum. [This link](#) to the detail allows you to see the names.



The engine that changed the world

The Internal Combustion Engine - without it, we could not drive, fly, travel by train, build factories, motor across oceans, trim our lawns ... the list is endless. An international conference to be held at MOSI marks the "Piston Engine Revolution" 14th - 17th April 2011. The conference is organised by the Newcomen Society.

The conference papers cover the development of all forms of IC driven piston engines from the mid 19th century to the present day, together with papers on fuel technology, component design and biography. As well as hearing about these developments there is a visit to the Anson Engine Museum to see some of the early engines running - including 3hp Crossley Atmospheric, Atkinson-cycle engine - and the opportunity to see Crossley No1, Bisschop engine, Mirrlees No1 (first diesel engine ever built in UK), etc.

For full details of the conference and how you can book your place [click here](#).

There is also a free public lecture as part of the conference on Thursday 14th April, [click here](#) for details.

The building of Heathrow Terminal 5 allowed us to rescue a lovely Ruston engine

The public inquiry into the building of a fifth terminal at Heathrow airport began on 16 May 1995 and closed on 17 March 1999 making it the longest in UK planning history. As everyone now knows, it was agreed that T5 would

be built, but what many do not realise is that it is build on the site of Perry Oaks, a sewage sludge treatment works that lies to the east of the M25 motorway. T5 opened on 27 March 2008. For more details about the work done at Heathrow click [here](#) and/or [here](#).

Perry Oaks was dismantled and the 4 cylinder Ruston VXA that had worked so well over the years was rescued and taken to Cheshire in January 1997 and put in storage. It was transported to the museum in 2003. The engine has a 7¾" bore and an 11" stroke and weighs approx 5 tons.

Over the past 18 months the Ruston engine has undergone a complete strip, clean and rebuild by Martin Rackham one of the museum volunteers. This weekend the flywheel was brought into the workshop area from the other end of the site. Martin is now busy cleaning it and it will soon be reconnected to the engine. Apart from making new injector pipes, and a few other small pieces of work, the engine will be ready for running. We hope to post photographs/video of the first run when it takes place. We plan to have this engine running at the museum this season so do look out for it on your next visit.

Despite stripping the engine entirely we have been unable to find a serial number so cannot trace any further details or history on the engine. Thanks to Ray Hooley, we know VXAs were built between July 1926 and August 1938. The earlier 4VA engine was rated at 60bhp. If anyone does have any information we would love to receive it.

Follow the progress of the engine from when it was in situ at the sewage works through to how it looks today by clicking [here](#).

New Arrival - Hornsby Oil Engine

Thanks to Barry Job and Tony Green MBE, Friends of the museum, we have been able to rescue a nice little engine from the Broughton & Charnes Estate, Wetwood, Staffordshire. We now know (thanks to Ray Hooley) that the engine, number 54410, was sold new in December 1920. It is now at the museum and we hope to have it restored to running condition soon, the base has already been cast. See the photographs of its recovery by [clicking here](#) .

Brotherhood engine runs for the first time The volunteers were in high spirits this afternoon when they managed to get the 8 cylinder Brotherhood engine running for the first time in over 20 years, (we don't know exactly how long ago but we know it is certainly at least 20). It still has no exhaust manifold on it so the experimental first running was very noisy - and smoky!! - but this did not dampen enthusiasm. The restoration work is a credit to the skill and many hours of work carried out by the team. The fact we had just lost the daylight does make the photographs very dramatic.

The 500bhp engine was removed from Kirkstall Brewery in Leeds in 1994. The engine is a type R63/8 and was built in 1943. Below are some photographs of it's first start and do check out our [YouTube](#) videos as one of its first running will be added soon. More photographs can be found in our [Gallery section](#).

Brotherhood engine turns over

After many months of painstaking restoration work the Brotherhood engine turned over at our closing weekend, using compressed air. It is a tribute to the hard work and skill of our volunteers and the many companies who have helped us. For videos of the restoration work see [You Tube](#) We hope the engine will be running under its own power next season.



Our thanks to:-

- Elton Fay for assistance with machining
- [Precision Products](#), Chesterfield - new piston rings
- Mike Fishwick for white metal bearings
- [North Lincs Engineering](#) for new set of injector pipes
- [Ener-g](#) who have had 3 of their apprentices work alongside our volunteers - *see photo of work underway*
- [D C Woodhead & Partners Ltd](#), Pudsey, Leeds - particularly to Mark Warwicker, Chief Engineer - for fuel injection pump reconditioning work