

COLEHAM PUMPING STATION

www.colehampumpingstation.co.uk

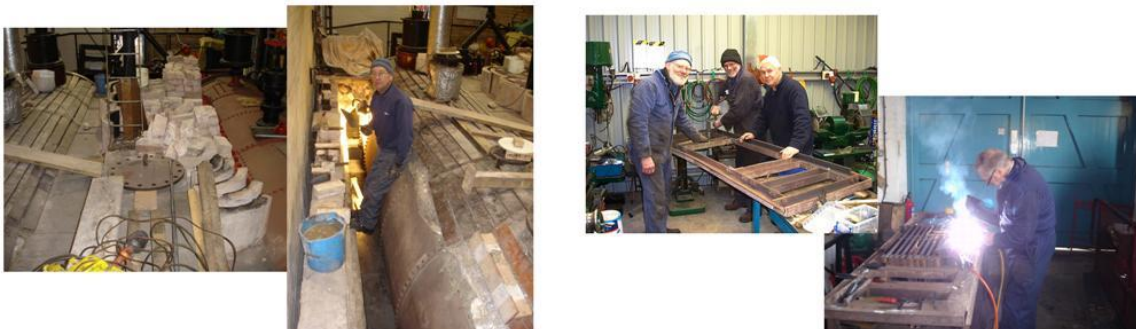
Bricks, Bars and over winter activities.

During this last winter, members of the steam trust have been engaged in extensive activities to enable the pumping station to be opened again on steam for another year.

The Cornish boiler is now one hundred and fifteen years old and to maintain it as a fully steamed up boiler two major areas concerning brickwork and fire bars have been successfully undertaken.

The brickwork on the right hand side of the boiler needed renewing. This required the lifting of the stone slabs and curved roof stones alongside the boiler before the side lower brick wall could be dismantled. Over a number of weeks the bricks were dressed and a row at a time replaced, not an easy job because Ron Targett had to stand in a narrow gap next to the boiler to complete each new row of bricks. With lots of help from trust members on Tuesdays, the curved roof stones and top slabs were replaced awaiting the new fire bars.

At the end of the last steaming in 2014 the cast iron fire bars needed replacing together with restoration of the frame which locates the bars inside the boiler. The frame has been strengthened and straightened to receive new fire bars. New fire bars have been fabricated from mild steel with spacers welded onto each bar so that they fit equally spaced in the boiler frame. Again to complete this part of the refurbishment many members of the trust were involved during the winter months making it ready for the insurance inspection by the middle of March.



The boiler was fired and the temperature raised to 90psi for the boiler inspection on Friday 10th April. All was satisfactory, so we can open again to the public for another year. More cleaning and polishing on the engines has also continued during the winter.



New publicity posters and leaflets have been designed over the winter months, printed and distributed around the county and placed in various museums to attract more visitors. The Shropshire Star and the Chronicle both ran articles about the forthcoming open day on April 12th. Two hundred and seventy nine visitors came on the day enjoying the Pumping Station and a large display of Meccano. The visitor book was well filled in and we received lots of positive comments.

England Heritage made a visit to Coleham last September with the purpose of reviewing the building and the engines to forward a report to the Secretary of State regarding the Grade II listing. The Steam Trust has recently received a full review, here is a brief extract from the report and assessment. "The Pumping Station at Coleham, is a remarkably complete example of a relatively small plant, which has survived with few losses and little alteration. Original machinery includes two Wolf compound rotative beam engines and two Cornish boilers, all of which are in working condition. Conclusion, After examining all the records Coleham Pumping Station Shrewsbury should remain listed at Grade II." (the secretary Lorraine Evans has a copy of the full report)

A survey of the building, brickwork and the windows has been recently carried out and discussed by the committee. A detailed report has been put together and the committee are currently arranging for it to be forwarded to Shropshire Council.

Keep up to date by visiting the CPS web site.

Michael Glover. editor