

# COLEHAM PUMPING STATION

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

---

The main engine room is having a facelift. Painting of the main girders, the crane and engine beams together with the floor on the upstairs gallery has been completed. The steelwork of number one engine is in the process of been cleaned and oiled with number two engine to follow. The large spanner box has been repaired, also the various drawings and items on the same back wall will be cleaned and rearranged ready for September opening.



Following a visit by John Wood of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the pumping station have been awarded “Engineering Heritage Status” which is a reflection of the many hours and commitment given by members past and present of the Steam Trust.

The open days in April, May and June have again entertained and impressed visitors, including some local people who did not know there was a pumping station for sewage in Shrewsbury. James Watts parallel motion bars and his pressure volume recording device that were invented about two hundred years ago are still on show impressing the visitors. Below. John MacLean explains the pressure volume recording device to an interested visitor.



During the last twelve months, some visitors on open days have made us aware that their relatives were engineers at the station. Below, is a photograph of engineer David Pannett, shutting off the steam on 7th Sept 1970 for the electric pumps to take over.



“What the Pumping Station means to me” – Ron Targett

When asked by the editor to write a piece for the newsletter I immediately thought back to 1991 when I saw an article in the ‘Shropshire Star’ calling for interested people to attend a meeting at Oakley Manor, with the hope of forming ‘Shrewsbury Steam Trust’. I have always had an interest in anything heritage and especially steam so saw this as an opportunity on my doorstep.

The meeting was well attended and the ‘Trust’ was formed. We were originally covered by County of Salop Steam Engine Society Insurance and were affiliated members for quite a few years. An appeal was put out for cleaning stuff and a date was set to start cleaning and restoring the engines and boiler. The Company I work for STADCO, donated cleaning materials and has supported us ever since.

It was ten years before we could steam. A lot of dedicated hard work and cleaning took place and now we are working and maintaining the engines and boiler which was our ultimate goal.

People travel hundreds of miles to volunteer on preservation railways and at heritage sites, ‘Coleham Pumping Station’ has given me the opportunity to work with steam five minutes from my home.

Note:- The website is updated on a regular basis, so don't forget to switch on your computer to see what's happening. Michael Glover. Editor

---

