

DOGYDKE PUMPING STATION PRESERVATION TRUST

Newsletter No. 5

September, 1975

Dear Member,

First, please take this as formal notice of the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of the members of the Dogdyke Pumping Station Preservation Trust which will be held on Friday, 21st November, 1975, in the Fortescue Arms Hotel, Tattershall, Lincoln at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies and Correspondence.
2. Annual Report and Balance Sheet for year ended 31st October 1975.
3. Chairman's remarks.
4. Resolutions if any.
5. Election of chairman for 1976.
6. Election of Honorary Treasurer for 1976.
7. Election of Honorary Secretary for 1976.
8. Election of 12 other members of the Executive Committee for 1976.
9. Appointment of Auditor.
10. Subscriptions for 1976.
11. Any other business, for discussion only.

Guest Speaker, Mrs. C.M. Wilson A.M.A., Curator of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life.

Visitors are welcome, and the meeting is open to anyone interested in the Preservation Trust.

Anyone wishing to book meals and/or accommodation may care to get in touch with the Fortescue Arms Hotel, Mr. & Mrs. Scarborough, Coningsby 42364, or the Lodge Café, Mr. & Mrs. Ward, Coningsby 42510.

During the last half year, some of your Committee, the Working Parties, individual volunteers, friends and helpers have taken restoration some further stages nearer to steaming the pumping engine. A whole history is covered by these few words, some of which is recorded in the Trust Log book now being kept.

Two regular workers were down in the pit whilst a casual worker hauled on the pulleys to remove the cover of the pump casing in the hotwell next to the condenser. As it came away, revealing about 30 gallons of liquid that had been there since before 1940, Harry looks across it saying, "This is distilled water you know Frank".

Briefly, the vertical boiler is in position with its chimney erected through the roof, and the removable archway aperture now protected by doors and frame. The engine is promised to be ready by the time the boiler and working party under the acting leadership of the Chairman has steam up, and the scoop wheel, although not yet completely restored, is ready now for being driven.

One Working Party Leader, who often does more to help others than himself, was one day leaning over the scoop wheel when his cheque book fell out of his pocket and down into the lower reaches of the raceway. Fortunately, it was recovered for its special value as not only an account book, but for various key plans, drawings, and specifications thereon and maybe even a number of hot tips.

Open Days have produced much the same profits as last year, i.e. not many visitors, far too few stewards, and a little hard earned cash, but a lot of genuine interest.

A small piece of history was made on 14th June, 1975 when we had our first known visitor in a Rolls Royce: the fact it was circa 1928 with one rear door off and a sheet tied over the vacancy in no way lessened the pride and pleasure.

Almost without exception, all visitors say, "Get steaming and we will come again". We have promised them we will for next season, and must keep that promise regardless.

Believe it or not, but it is true, one of the Committee when taking turn for Open Day stewarding, travels over 20 miles by bicycle and in a sun suit too.

Grateful thanks are offered to all who have helped, often at very short notice, Under perhaps more pressing conditions of business, seasonal demands etc. notably:

J. Van Smirren Ltd. For long loan of the boat trailer upon which they had kindly loaded and secured the vertical boiler.

Messrs. R. Harness and Sons for haulage and subsequent return of trailer.
Messrs. A.N. Means, H. Owen, B. Bavin, H. Holmes, H. Rear and R.H. Hill for mixing and laying concrete base.

Mr. G.J. Means for bringing 4 x 4 tractor and pulling trailer with boiler on to bank top in readiness.

Roger Windley Ltd. telescopic crane with drivers Tony Wells and Colin for getting boiler through chimney arch into position, all during flying exercises and Coningsby and Tattershall Festival week, together with some of the longer-toothed (and maybe longer-headed) members of the Committee.

"Instant readiness" back-up assistance has been on hand at all times from H. Parker. Patrick Vallance and Tony Hadley for help to Chairman in setting and

levelling boiler ready for chimney to be fixed. A certain grandfather fisherman/ex-RAC for secret mission successful operation.

Members G. Crow, J. Parkinson, N.G. Pettefar, G.E. Taylor, and Colleague, plus a few old faithfuls for erecting the steel chimney and re-fixing the roof around it.

The Bouchier family for spending parts of their seaside holiday at the pump cleaning, polishing, carrying heavy grate bars, and helping with serving teas and refreshments.

Thanks of the trust are also due to the following for various gifts:

B. Eyre for visitors book and useful sales display folders.

H. Palmer for old print of Hornsby engine from Whaplode.

E. Clipson for AGM minute book and another to be used as a log book.

H. Rear for 3 excellent doors, two now being used for boiler arch doorway.

J. Goose for 5 mirrors.

A.C. Smith for turning out to photo boiler through Boston, and for slides of same.

R. Carr for another safety helmet and electric fire.

P. Swinbank, S.E. Brown, L. Brackenbury, Witham Joint Angling Committee and others for handsome cash donations.

Encouraged by these generous responses to his "scrounging" column, the editor is continuing unashamedly to keep asking for more:

WANTED TO SCROUNGE

Large flag for Open Days.
Good quality steam coal.
Several old firebars approximately 2 ft. 1¾ ins.
Strong table.
Outside seats.

WANTED VOLUNTEERS TO:

Make sectional drawing of Pumping Station, for reproduction and sale.
Do out room for museum and display.
Glaze 3 broken windows.
Make plan in colours of original circulation of water and steam etc and return to horizontal boiler, for reproduction and sale.
So some heavy digging.
Painting.

Suggestions from members are always welcome, and the Editor would especially like to hear ideas of simple competitions that might be run through the medium of this newsletter.

Please renew subscription early for 1976. Your Executive Committee are going to recommend to the AGM that rates stay the same for one more year, but in any case, renewals prior to the AGM will stand.

Those without a valid card for 1976 will be required to pay for admission to steaming Open Days.

Individual visitors and parties by special arrangement during the working week, when flying may be taking place from RAF Coningsby, are strongly recommended to take simple precautions against being exposed to sudden excessive noise. The hazard is said to be slight at this extreme outer edge of the noise area and in any case will only damage sensitive hearing over a long period. The Authorities tell us that it is quite safe inside a building or car with the windows closed and if outside, one only needs to put fingers in ears whilst the aircraft passes over unless already wearing ear defenders.

Finally, remember the AGM is the ordinary member's chance, so do attend and voice your opinions. All Committees inevitably come to have their quota of dead wood and all organisations their passengers, and this one does not claim to be an exception, so make a special effort to interest yourselves in the affairs of the Trust and ensure it is active, vigorous and with the right blend of virility, experience and wisdom.

I expect you know of this type in every Government Department or similar office: "Take no notice when he seems to be about to boil over, he's only letting off his self-esteem".

Yours sincerely,

EDITOR