

DOGYDKE PUMPING STATION PRESERVATION TRUST

Newsletter No.8

April, 1977

Dear Member,

At the Annual General Meeting the following were elected to your Executive Committee: Chairman, G.A.J. Burton; Vice-Chairman, R.H. Hill (snr.); Hon. Treasurer, J.R. Goose; Hon. Secretary, J.G. Porter, F.E. Cheffins, H.N. Hawley, R.E. Hooley, R.G. Macdonald, A.N. Means, C. Antony Parker, J. Quincey and J. Taylor.

Annual Subscriptions were fixed by the A.G.M. at the same rates as previously, that is: Family £1-50, Ordinary £1, Junior 50p. Life – 20 times annual.

14 subs. are still owing for 1976 and to save postage costs and reminders please send to Hon. Secretary (Bridge Farm, Tattershall, Lincoln LN4 4JG) without delay. 1977 subs. are, of course, now due and will be gratefully received, please.

February Fillydike

With a return to Britain's more normal wet winters, the River Witham has been at almost record levels and the flood waters have found out some of the weak and low places along the banks, where the past several drier seasons have lulled all into a sense of false security and neglect – no-one excused – of our defences. The diesel-engined pump attended faithfully by Driver, Harry Holmes, has been doing valiant service. This Ruston-Gwynnes small pumping station will soon be one of the few working left for miles around, as Internal Drainage Boards continue re-equipping with electric automatic pumps.

The Witham First District Internal Drainage Board are hoping to retain Timberland Fen diesel pumps, provided a suitable responsible body can be found to take care of them.

At the risk of repetition, but for the benefit of newer members, it is a point of great interest that Dogdyke could be unique in two respects: firstly, once the 1855 engine is in steam it will be the only working beam-engines scoopwheel drainage station in this country, and secondly, if only the newly-planned electric automatic pump were to be placed adjacent to the existing diesel station, this would be the only site known of where four kinds of power for the same purpose were used in the original setting: i.e. 1796 wind-powered scoopwheel (could be reconstructed), 1855 steam, 1940 diesel and 197? electric, (reserving a plot for the nuclear one!). A wonderful opportunity occurs if the strength of pure conservationist and industrial archaeologists could be brought to bear quickly upon the bodies responsible.

Articles, requests, contributions of all kinds are welcomed by the "composite Editor" for inclusion in this twice-welcomed newsletter. (Address c/o Hon. Secretary – see page 1.)

Although existing volunteer working parties plus the C.S.O. scheme, are tackling their jobs very well, there remains, and always will, much practical work to be done. Any member able to give just a little help, in his or her own time, on things like painting, path-laying, grass-cutting, notice lettering, fencing, glazing, as well as fitting, please get in touch with Working Party Leader, Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Hon. Secretary.

Our thanks to: Castle Gravel Co. for soft sand.
Lodge Café for refreshments for season.
Fortescue Arms for A.G.M. room.
Witham 3 I.D.B. for use of cottage as museum etc.
W.H. Medlock for work on model and sectionalised drawing.
and several others

Scrounge List:

1. Steel window bars to prevent break-in, lengths: 1' 9", 2' 6", 3' 4" and 5' 5".
2. Museum exhibits appropriate to land drainage always welcomed, e.g. old tools.
3. Lifebelts, one for the drain (freshwater); two for the R. Witham (slightly salty).
4. Good quality steam coal for the boiler.
5. Photograph Album – second hand or part used acceptable.
6. Hopefully, a new visitors book for 1977.

Amongst documents and/or copies which may be seen by arrangement either with the Historian, R.E. Hooley, or the Hon. Secretary are:-

ACT for draining and preserving certain Low Lands, called the Fens, lying on both sides of the River Witham.....
(Privately owned) 1762.

Arterial Drainage – Valley of the Witham: Extracts from Report to the Board of Agriculture by Richard F. Grantham MInstt C E and Charles Bidwell PPSI 12 Feb. 1915 (Privately owned)

Kennet & Avon Canal booklet No. 6 – Crofton Pumps (p.o.)

Land Drainage Pumping Stations in England by
William Rigby MI Mech E 1957.

The Drainage of Fens & Low Lands by Steam Power by W.H. Wheeler.
The Engineer 1887.

Draining by Steam Power by Joseph Glynn. The Civil Engineer &
Architect Journal, 1937-38.

Some Notes on Old Windmills by A. Titley. The Engineer, 1923.

Bardney Drainage – Surveyor’s Report, 1881.

Waste Not – excerpts from a book of this title, being a gistory of Green, Atkinson & Co., Wakefield.

Extracts from Green’s General Journal No. 1, detailing work at Chapel Hill by their employees – mentions Mr. Bradley and Mr. Craven.

Through the Years – excerpts from the first published history of Bradley and Craven – Wakefield.

The First Hundred Years – excerpts from the 2nd pub’d. history of Bradley and Craven, Wakefield.

S. Lincs. Advertiser, June 1974 – article on Dogdyke.

Steaming, Vol. 18, No. 2, March 1975 – article on Dogdyke.

Aegre, No. 6, June 1976 – article on Dogdyke.

The Journal, Herefordshire Waterworks Museum Trust, Vol. 2, No. 2, November 1976.

Lincoln Water Festival, 1974 souvenir brochure.

James Watt and the Separate Condenser by R.J. Law. A Science Museum Monograph, 1969.

Wheeler – Description of the River Witham. Minutes of Proceedings of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Vol. XXVIII, 1869.

Gibbs, 1888. Figures 1-4.

Gibbs – Pumping Machinery in the Fenland and by the Trentside. Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Vol. XCIV, 1888.

History of the Fens by W.H. Wheeler. 2nd Ed., 1894.(p.o)

Vermuyden and the Fens by L.E. Harris, 1953. (p.o.)

Machines, Mills and Uncountable Costly Necessities by Richard L. Harris. (p.o)

Extract from the Inclosure Award for the Parish of Tattershall, 1796.

First Rate Account Book of the Tattershall with Thorpe Steam Drainage Scheme, 1855-1922. (p.o.)

The Laws of Sewers or the Office and Authority of Commissioners of Sewers ... including the Laws, Statutes and Customs of Rumney Marsh

and other Marshes and Fens. For W. Mears at the Lamb without Temple Bar, 1726.(p.o.)

Getting to know about Windmills, a Colourmaster Publication. (p.o.)

Beam Engines (Shire Books?) (p.o.)

Exploring Our Industrial Past by Kenneth Hudson, 1975. (p.o.)

The Chairman reports that Mr. Macdonald has suffered a hand injury and in order to get the Boiler connected on time for the season's steaming, our member Mr. J. Rundle has very generously stepped into the breach.

The Chairman says he would like someone to prepare a short article, in simple terms, for the understanding by laypersons, explaining the relationship between rainfall, run-off, amount to be pumped, variable head of river levels, including effect of tides at Grand Sluice upon the River Witham at Dogdyke.

Open Days in 1977 will be Easter Sunday and the first Sunday in the month, May to October, 1.30-5.30.

EDITOR