

That was a week that was!!!

It started with a hectic Fathers Day on a gloriously sunny day. We were packed out with families taking advantage of our offer to let dads and granddads have free admission to the museum when brought along by their families on their special day. Engines were running in the Memorial Building and the Main Building all day; the craft centre was a huge attraction with wood turners and blacksmiths at the forge. Even the local history volunteers were almost hoarse talking through the detail of the scale model of Poynton with enthralled visitors.

On the Wednesday the museum opened for members of the Macclesfield 41 Club. After their visit we received a thank you email saying "They found your tour & talk particularly interesting and were amazed by the history portrayed in the Museum and the engineering heritage that you have brought back to life and arranged so thoughtfully."

On the Thursday it was the Midsummer Mingle from midday until 20:00. Again the weather was scorching so a lot of time was spent looking at the outside exhibits and hanging around the BBQ. Everyone commented that the place is looking very professional and was amazed at the number of improvement we have done in a year. Many expressed delight at being able to meet old friends in such an apt setting as an engine museum. One visitor donated us a fantastic photo album which included shots of Mirrlees No1 in situ at the factory. We were delighted to receive it. The exhibition on the Mirrlees Company went down very well bringing back memories for many. The last visitors went reluctantly back to their cars well after 21:00.

As well as keeping the museum open and running all over the weekend of the 25th – 27th, we had to take engines, etc down to Astle Park, unpack everything, then man the stall, run engines and sell tickets for our coach trip to the museum on the Saturday evening. It was certainly a hectic weekend.

The weather was absolutely amazing showing Cheshire of at its best. It was a good job we had that P20 sun cream in the welcome packs or there might have been even more people going home rather pink after the weekend. It was lovely to receive a thank you note and a great many comments about the welcome packs – we will make sure the volunteers who packed them get your comments.

We ordered three buses again for this year and tickets were soon being snapped up. Our thanks as always to McCarthy Coaches of Macclesfield who gave us a generous discount, allowing the price of the tickets to be held down. The stall at the rally field also sold museum memorabilia and proved popular with visitors throughout the weekend.

We had taken down to the show

- Crossley Portable SSNP
- Andrews gas engine - that behaved beautifully all weekend
- Ruston Hornsby IP - which had not been run for a great many years so it was lovely to give it an outing and get it fired up
- Russell Newbery genset - which run most of the weekend
- Crossley M type engine

Also outside our marquee was Geoff Baker's mobile steam display that was popular as ever with engine men and public visitors alike. Inside the marquee we also had a good display of model engines thanks to Denis O'Connell, another of our Trustees.

It was a truly great weekend and we are delighted that the Five Counties Vintage Machinery Organisation ([FCVMO](#)) has received praise and thanks in the many newsgroups and forums. They certainly deserve it for putting on such a great show for all enthusiasts and the public. Our thanks too for the help and support they give the museum. They do such a lot of hard work behind the scenes organizing a 1st class rally and often their efforts are not appreciated.

It was a great Saturday night at the museum with visitors crowding the aisles between 6pm and 9pm. A great many of our volunteers were called into service to man the shop/café, organize the car park and to get the engines running. It was a little overwhelming at times but we coped and the feedback and comments in the Visitor's Book are fantastic. Our thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a success. It was a great atmosphere and everyone appeared to be having a ball.

Over the course of the evening many engines were running including:-

- The 3 Blackstone engines which are on concrete beds between the museum buildings. A week ago none of these engines had been run since put onto their new beds some 18 months ago. On Saturday night all three were running at the same time!
- Stott steam engine was turned over on electric. Steam is now piped into this area and the plan is to have it running on steam in

the near future. We will publish dates on the website so keep checking back for progress.

- Our usual crop of atmospheric, the huge Gardner 4T5 four cylinder/two stroke, the Atkinson-cycle engine, Crossleys, Rustons, Gardners, Nationals and Furnival in the main hall
- Other engines that had been brought out of our storage area

There were flywheels spinning everywhere you looked.

Everyone was interested in the progress of the 8 cylinder Brotherhood Ricardo (progress videos on You Tube) which now has 6 cylinders back on, only 2 to go. It will be running for next years visit.

The nearby Vickers Petter progress was also remarked on – it is all nearly complete and will be running shortly.

The crafts/bodgers area was also a huge attraction, some of our volunteers entertained visitors during the evening with “whittling” and “forging” skills. Progress on the scale model of Poynton kept visitors interested as they marvelled at the patience and the 3000+ hours that have gone into its making.

All too quickly it was time to “get back on bus” many vowing to buy their bus tickets early next year so they can come again.

Our thanks go to all our volunteers who helped make the evening so memorable for our visitors and to those that kept the museum running while others disappeared down to the rally field to enjoy the many engines on display there.