

Dover Transport Museum

A talk by Nathan de Thaubrew reported by Alan Lee

The second speaker of the March meeting was also one of the youngest. Nathan started by revealing details of what his motivation was and how he had become involved with the Transport museum. At present, he is part of the curatorial team (collections).

Continuing, he explained how the museum came into being in 1980 and that until 1995 their base was at Cambridge Terrace. Then, for various reasons, they had to vacate these premises and moved to a site at Old Park Barracks. In 2004 they had to move once again and this time it was to their present location at Willingdon Road, Whitfield. Grants obtained from the National Lottery and Dover District Council, along with some excellent local sponsorship, were a great help in allowing the clearing and setting up the site.

Over the last few years the volunteer workforce has transformed this sadly neglected area with some very imaginative displays. Inside the main body of the museum they have built authentic looking old buildings; these include a bicycle

shop and a garage. As well as the static displays, the museum is home to a great many old vehicles. These include a 1924 Aveling and Porter 10 ton road roller, made at Rochester, an Austin 7 made in the 1930's and a Humber Super Snipe from 1936. A marvellous 1929 Dennis Charabanc is a must to see along with a NSU (Neckar and Sulm) motorcycle and a 1914 Pierce-Arrow truck manufactured in



1924 Aveling and Porter 10 ton road roller



Your local garage

America and shipped over to Europe to help aid the war effort during World War One. To widen the range of interesting items a SRN4 (Saunders Roe Nautical 4) hovercraft propeller from Hoverspeed is on display. A blue steam 0-6-0 locomotive made in 1927 by the Avonside Company of Bristol should also be of great interest to visitors. This was for many years in use at Snowdon Colliery.



Steam 0-6-0 locomotive, 1927

There is a Maritime room and the museum is home to the East Kent Bus Company Memorial to employees killed during the war years.

Many thanks go to Nathan for giving us an insight into the workings of the Dover Transport Museum. With the many varied and fascinating items from bygone days, this museum is well worth a visit.

The opening times are:

Easter to End September

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
1.30 pm – 5 pm

Sundays and Public Holidays

10.30 am to 5 pm

October to Easter

Sundays only - 10.30 am to 5 pm

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Summer 2008

Thanks once again to the majority who pay their subscriptions on time and thereby contribute to the financial stability of the Society. No credit crunch for us, we trust! Please note that for economic and timesaving reasons subscriptions, including those paid in cash, are only acknowledged on receipt of an s.a.e.

Our numbers hover around 460 and we are grateful to those who have recruited our thirteen new members who are lucky for us. They are :- Mrs T Roche, Mr C & Mrs S Smith, Mrs G Rapley, Mrs C Morecroft, Mrs S Jones, Mr M Fuller, Mr D & Mrs L Wyborn, Mr J & Mrs P Widgery, Mrs V Philpott and Mr A McKendrick.

Unfortunately Mr Jack Griggs was omitted from the list of obituaries in the last Newsletter.

Sheila R Cope