

THE TREVITHICK SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 1.

DECEMBER 70.

SINCE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER YOUR COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT HAS HELD TWO MEETINGS. AT THE FIRST THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES WERE ELECTED; THE FULL LIST IS NOW AS FOLLOWS :-

CHAIRMAN	MR J. HODGE
VICE CHAIRMAN	MR T. TANGYE
HON. SECRETARY	MR D.S. JENKIN
HON. TREASURER	MR A.T.J. FURSE
HON. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MR R. THOMAS
HON. PUBLICITY OFFICER	MR P. YOUNG

ENGINES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN MR F.B. MICHELL
 HON. SECRETARY MR D. HARRIS
 HON. CURATOR MR J.H. TROUNSON
 MEMBERS MR J.C. BENDLE
 MR J. BULLEN
 MR H. HODGE
 MR R. LAW
 MR R.W.M. NANCE
 MR W.M. SYMONS

WATERWHEELS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN MR N. TANGYE
 HON. SECRETARY MR M.J. MESSENGER
 HON. CURATOR MR J.C. BENDLE
 MEMBERS MR L.J. BULLEN
 MR D.A. HILL
 MR A.K. HAMILTON-JENKIN
 MR R. THOMAS
 MR W.D. WILKINS
 MR P.D. YOUNG

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS :-

72 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD,
CAMBORNE.

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS :-

CHY MENGLETH,
TWELVEHEADS,
TRURO.

EACH COMMITTEE WILL DEAL WITH PROJECTS AND QUERIES IN ITS OWN SPECIALISED SPHERE AND ANY CORRESPONDENCE FROM MEMBERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE FIRST PLACE TO THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY CONCERNED.

AS MR MESSENGER WORKS FOR PART OF THE WEEK IN NORTH DEVON THERE MAY BE SOME SMALL DELAY IN DEALING WITH ANY POST, FOR WHICH HE APOLOGISES IN ADVANCE.

ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, POLICY, FINANCE ETC. WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT. ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE HON. SECRETARY D.S. JENKIN, CHY WHEFFES, PROVIS ROAD, PENZANCE, CORNWALL.

ENGINE COMMITTEE NEWS

NOW THAT THE EAST POOL ENGINE HOUSE IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC WAYS AND MEANS ARE BEING CONSIDERED AGAIN TO GET THIS ENGINE TURNING ONCE MORE. MEMBERS OF THE FORMER C.E.P.S. WILL REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THE PISTON IS FREE IN THE CYLINDER - SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO SOME OF US SINCE THE ENGINE STOPPED WORKING IN 1921 - SO THE NEXT STEP IS TO FREE THE OTHER MOVING PARTS AND SEE IF THE ENGINE IS REASONABLY BALANCED. THIS IS IMPORTANT IF THE ENGINE IS TO BE TURNED OVER EASILY EITHER BY LOW PRESSURE AIR OR BY OTHER MECHANICAL DRIVE. THEN THERE REMAINS THE QUESTION OF PROPER ALIGNMENT OF THE BEAM, PISTON AND SWEEP ROD. SOME DOUBTS EXIST ABOUT THIS ALIGNMENT AND VERY CAREFUL CHECKS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BEFORE THE ENGINE CAN BE MADE TO WORK UNDER POWER.

ALL IN ALL A LOT OF WORK HAS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THIS ENGINE AND PROGRESS IS LIKELY TO BE VARIABLE DUE TO THE WINTER WEATHER AND THE AVAILABILITY OF MR G. RICHARDS OUR ENGINEER AND ADVISOR ON THIS PROJECT.

AT TAYLOR'S ENGINE HOUSE THE NATIONAL TRUST IS UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE RENEWAL OF THE EXTERNAL WOODWORK. APART FROM THE EXTERNAL PARTS THIS ENGINE IS IN VERY GOOD ORDER.

THE BOB PLAT AND POSSIBLY THE SPRING BEAM ENDS OF THE ROBINSON'S ENGINE AT SOUTH CROFTY HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE ROTTEN AND IN NEED OF RENEWAL. AS THESE TIMBERS ARE DIRECTLY OVER THE WORKING SHAFT THIS POSES A PROBLEM FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST AND THE MINE MANAGEMENT.

THE NATIONAL TRUST HAS BEGUN REPAIRS TO THE EMPTY WHEEL PROSPER ENGINE HOUSE ON RINSEY CLIFF. THIS HOUSE ON N.T. PROPERTY WAS IN DANGER OF COLLAPSE BUT SHOULD NOW REMAIN AS A NOTABLE FEATURE OF THIS PART OF THE COASTLINE FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. MEMBERS WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE SOCIETY MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE TRUST'S APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR THIS WORK.

THE JARVIS MODEL PUMPING ENGINE

THIS MAGNIFICENT MODEL HAS AT LAST ARRIVED AT THE HOLMAN MUSEUM IN CAMBORNE AND IS AT PRESENT BEING CHECKED OVER AND INSTALLED BY MR R. THOMAS WHO IS THE MUSEUM CURATOR.

THE ENGINE SHOULD BE WORKING FAIRLY SOON UNDER EITHER VERY LOW PRESSURE AIR OR ALTERNATIVELY A VACUUM APPLIED TO THE CONDENSER. IT IS WELL WORTH A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM JUST TO SEE THIS ENGINE - TO SAY NOTHING OF THE OTHER INTERESTING EXHIBITS.

THE GAWNS, BLISLAND

MEMBERS WHO WERE AT JOHN KEAY HOUSE IN SEPTEMBER WILL HAVE HEARD THAT ENGLISH CLAYS LOVERING POCHIN & CO. LTD. THE OWNERS OF THIS WATERWHEEL, HAVE VERY KINDLY AGREED TO DISMANTLE THIS MAGNIFICENT RELIC AND PLACE IT IN STORE PENDING RESTORATION. THIS 50 FOOT DIAMETER WATERWHEEL, THE LARGEST IN THE COUNTRY, IS IN VERY BAD CONDITION AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO E.C.L.P. FOR THEIR GENEROUS OFFER WHICH WILL ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE WHEEL. IT HAS BEEN AT BLISLAND SINCE 1917 PUMPING AND LATER GENERATING FOR A CLAY WORKS BUT WAS ORIGINALLY ERECTED IN 1865 AT THE EAST LAXEY MINE, ON THE ISLE OF MAN, WHERE IT WAS KNOWN AS 'ELLAN VANNIN'. IT IS ONLY EXCEEDED IN SIZE IN THE BRITISH ISLES BY THE 72' 6" 'LADY ISABELLA' AT LAXEY AND THE WIDER 50' WIDE WHEEL AT DINORWIC QUARRY, NORTH WALES.

TREAMBLE

THIS WATERWHEEL, AT THE OLD FULLERS EARTH WORKS, WAS DISMANTLED AND REMOVED IN A COUPLE OF WEEKENDS WITH MOST COMMENDABLE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY BY MR. DON WILKINS AND HIS SON RALPH. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO HYDRAULIC TIN LTD. FOR THE LOAN OF A LORRY AND TO THOSE FEW MEMBERS WHO CAME FORWARD TO ASSIST. THE WHEEL IS AT PRESENT IN STORE AND WE MAY USE THE SHROUDS FOR THE REPPERS STAMPS WHEEL (WHICH SEE). IT WAS CAST AT REDRUTH FOUNDRY IN 1904.

REDRUTH TRACTION ENGINE RALLY

THE SOCIETY HAD A MOST SUCCESSFUL STAND AT THE SINNS BARTON SHOW WITH MR. WILKINS' STAMPS AND WATERWHEEL FORMING THE CENTRE ATTRACTION. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAD DIFFICULTY PROVIDING ENOUGH WATER TO TURN THE WHEEL CONTINUOUSLY BUT NEVERTHELESS THE PUBLIC SHOWED CONTINUOUS INTEREST. MESSRS. BENDLE & WILKINS PUT IN A LOT OF HARD WORK PREPARING THE SITE AND GAVE US A FIRST CLASS DISPLAY.

REPPERS STAMPS - CHAPEL PORTH

WE HAVE BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED AT THE SLOW PROGRESS OF THIS PROJECT WHICH CONSISTS OF RE-ERECTING A WATERWHEEL AND SET OF CORNISH STAMPS ON THE NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY AT CHAPEL PORTH. THIS PROJECT RELIES ENTIRELY ON THE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS, ON VOLUNTEER LABOUR, FOR ITS COMPLETION AND MUCH OF THE DELAY IS DUE TO THE LACK OF THIS SUPPORT. CERTAIN OTHER PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN AND WE HAVE ASKED THE NATIONAL TRUST IF WE MAY TRANSFER WORK TO A NEW SITE NEARER THE CAR PARK WHICH WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLY LESS EFFORT. SO THAT WE CAN KEEP AN UP TO DATE REGISTER OF MEMBERS WILLING AND ABLE TO TAKE PART IN WORKING PARTIES WITH ALL SUCH MEMBERS DROP MR. MESSENGER (ADDRESS ABOVE) A LINE. SKILL AND EXPERIENCE ARE NOT ESSENTIAL; THE WRITER IS A BORN PEN-PUSHER BUT STILL MANAGES TO MAKE HIMSELF USEFUL! THE ORIGINAL WHEEL OF REPPERS STAMPS IS IN VERY POOR CONDITION AND WE MAY POSSIBLY USE THE SHROUDS, OR RIM, OF THE TREAMBLE WHEEL ON THE ORIGINAL AXLE.

WATERMILL AND WATERWHEEL SURVEY

IT HAS FOR SOMETIME BEEN WORRYING US THAT WE HAVE NO COMPLETE REGISTER OF WATERWHEELS IN CORNWALL AS THIS IS SOMETHING WE REALLY OUGHT TO HAVE. THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER HAVE COMMENCED A WATERMILL SURVEY OF CORNWALL AND DEVON AND WE CAN CO-OPERATE WITH THEM WHILST COMPILING OUR OWN REGISTER. THIS IS SOMETHING ALL MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN CORNWALL OR VISIT THE COUNTY CAN PARTICIPATE IN. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR LISTS AND DETAILS IMMEDIATELY BUT ARE ASKING YOU TO BEAR THIS SURVEY IN MIND WHEN OUT AND ABOUT IN CORNWALL, WHETHER ON BUSINESS OR OUT FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON DRIVE, AND WHENEVER YOU SEE A WHEEL MAKE A NOTE OF WHERE IT IS (A GRID REFERENCE IS THE BEST) AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU ARE ABLE TO FIND OUT.

THE BASIC INFORMATION REQUIRED IS :-

POSITION (SIX FIGURE GRID REFERENCE IF POSSIBLE)

UNDER, OVER OR BREAST SHOT.

SIZE; DIAMETER AND WIDTH

DATE AND MANUFACTURER, IF CAST ON RIM

USE; CORN MILL, STAMPS, ETC.

PRESENT CONDITION, AND ANY DETAILS AS TO HISTORY AND ANYTHING ELSE

STANDARDISED INDEX CARDS ARE IN COURSE OF PREPARATION AND WE HOPE BY THE TIME THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS YOU WILL HAVE PLENTY TO PUT ON THEM.

WATER MUSIC ? !

AN INTERESTING FIND IN NORTH DEVON RECENTLY WAS A WATERWHEEL INSTALLED TO PROVIDE, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, POWER FOR AN ORGAN IN THE MUSIC ROOM OF A LARGE OLD HOUSE. IT IS AT WOOLHAGER ON THE NORTH-WESTERN FRINGE OF EXMOOR AND MUST HAVE BROUGHT A SPECIAL TOUCH OF QUALITY TO THE HUNT BALLS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY ! WE ARE SURE THERE ARE EQUALLY INTERESTING ODDITIES IN CORNWALL AND HOPE OUR SURVEY WILL FIND THEM.

ALAN STOYEL

A RECENT LETTER FROM MR. STOYEL DISCLOSED THAT HE HAS SOMEHOW GOT INVOLVED IN THE FORMATION OF A SCOTTISH WATERMILL SOCIETY. MANY PEOPLE WILL NOT BE IN THE LEAST SURPRISED AND WE HOPE IT FLOURISHES AS WELL AS THE CORNISH WATERWHEEL PRESERVATION SOCIETY. ALAN STARTS THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW JOB AND WE WISH HIM WELL IN THIS, ONLY REGRETTING THAT IT WILL KEEP HIM IN SCOTLAND.

THE TREVITHICK BICENTENARY PROGRAMME

PLANS HAVE NOW BEEN MADE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF RICHARD TREVITHICK WHICH FALLS ON APRIL 13TH NEXT.

THE MAIN EVENTS WILL BE AN EXHIBITION AT THE CAMBORNE SCHOOL OF MINES SOMETIME BETWEEN THE 5TH AND 16TH APRIL, A PARADE OF TRACTION ENGINES THROUGH CAMBORNE ON EASTER SATURDAY 10TH APRIL AND A SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION WHICH WILL BE HELD IN TRURO CATHEDRAL AT 7.15 P.M. ON TUESDAY 13TH APRIL.

THE ADDRESS DURING THE SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN BY MR. J. HODGE AND THE LESSONS READ BY OUR PRESIDENT MR. R.E. TREVITHICK AND MR. J.H. TROUNSON. GUESTS WILL BE INVITED INCLUDING THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC FIGURES AND CIVIC DIGNITARIES OF THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE MAIN INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH ENGINEERING, EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY. TO MARK THE OCCASION A COMMEMORATIVE ORDER OF SERVICE PROGRAMME IS BEING DESIGNED WHICH WILL CONTAIN A RESUME OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF RICHARD TREVITHICK. (WE HOPE TO HAVE SOME SPARE COPIES OF THESE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND THE SERVICE). THE CLIMAX MALE VOICE CHOIR WILL RENDER TWO ITEMS DURING THE SERVICE.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXHIBITION AT CAMBORNE WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED SOME INTERESTING ITEMS BUT IF YOU HAVE OR KNOW OF ANYTHING SUITABLE - DRAWINGS, DOCUMENTS, LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, MODELS OR RELICS, PLEASE SEND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION TO MR. W.M. SYMONS 10 CADOGAN ROAD, CAMBORNE. IN DUE COURSE WE WILL LET YOU KNOW IF WE CAN MAKE USE OF YOUR OFFER.

A TREVITHICK SOCIETY MOTIF.....

AS A NEW SOCIETY WE NEED A DESIGN FOR LETTERHEADS, MEMBERSHIP CARDS ETC AND THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT DECIDED THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT. THESE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE HON. SECRETARY AT CHY WHEFFES, PROVIS ROAD, PENZANCE.

TREASURER'S NOTE

THE TREASURER WOULD LIKE TO REMIND MEMBERS THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON THE 1ST JANUARY AND REMAIN UNCHANGED AT THE RATE OF 10/6 PER ANNUM FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS AND £5.5.0 PER ANNUM FOR CORPORATE MEMBERS. THOSE PAYING AFTER DECIMAL DAY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY 53P THE EQUIVALENT OF 10/6 AFTER CONVERSION ACCORDING TO THE WHOLE NEW PENNY CONVERSION TABLE TO BE USED BY THE BANKS, AND £5.25 RESPECTIVELY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE PAID TO EITHER THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, C/O HOLMANS MUSEUM, CAMBORNE OR THE HON. TREASURER, C/O BARCLAYS BANK LTD. CAMBORNE.

NOW THAT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY IS 511, MEMBERS WHO DO NOT PAY THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS BY BANKERS ORDER ARE URGED TO RECONSIDER THE MATTER BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS METHOD ACHIEVES A CONSIDERABLE SAVING IN BOTH CLERICAL WORK AND POSTAGES. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER FOR ANYONE WISHING TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THIS CONVENIENT MODE OF PAYMENT.

ATTENTION IS ALSO DRAWN TO THE BENEFIT TO THE SOCIETY OF SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID UNDER DEED OF COVENANT WHEREBY EACH 10/6 SUBSCRIPTION BECOMES WORTH 17/10 AS A RESULT OF A REFUND OF INCOME TAX. DETAILS AND FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM BOTH THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND TREASURER.