



# SHELVOKE & DREWRY ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 2. Issue No. 25.

Spring 2017.

### From the Editor.

The growing popularity of the Enthusiasts' Club Facebook Group, which now has 155 members, has provided some interesting items for this issue of the Newsletter. And Bill Smith has sent in several photos of SD's new office building in 1969. On page 4 I have an appeal to former employees in relation to material I'm producing for the Garden City Collection. Quite a variety again which I hope my readers will enjoy. My thanks are due to the many contributors mentioned in these pages.

*Brian Carpenter. Editor.*



During recent weeks some fascinating photos have been posted on the Enthusiasts' Club Facebook page. I particularly liked the one shown above of a 'T' type Pakamatic in service with the Borough of Hendon in the 1960's. Colour photos from this time are rare. Darren Perry sent in the picture and commented that it towed a trailer for collecting waste paper.

programme where the ex-Isles of Scilly PN Revopak was restored. The broadcasting of the programme, 14 years ago, in January 2003 gave priceless publicity in getting the Enthusiasts' Club known to a wider audience.

Then Terry Prince posted this delightful picture of his preserved WX Fire tender making some couple's special day extra special.



Shaun Taylor posted a photo from Steve Jones' collection taken during the filming for Channel 4's Salvage Squad



My thanks to these three contributors for these fine photos.  
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## BUILDING WORK IN 1969.

This 'P' series Intapak leaving SD's Icknield Way works shows the new office block built in 1969. Bill Smith, the son of Ken Smith SD's Joiners' Shop Superintendent at the time, photographed the new building and kindly sent the photos to me.

I suspect they were taken on a Saturday morning as the offices appear to be very quiet. When I joined the company as an apprentice in 1963 this end of the works housed the Works Manager's office and the assistant works manager, then came the Tool stores with a basement area. Around 1958/59 the tool stores was moved into the Machine Shop and the area refurbished as the Drawing Office, Jig & tool design office and the planning department. In total I spent around four years working in this area.

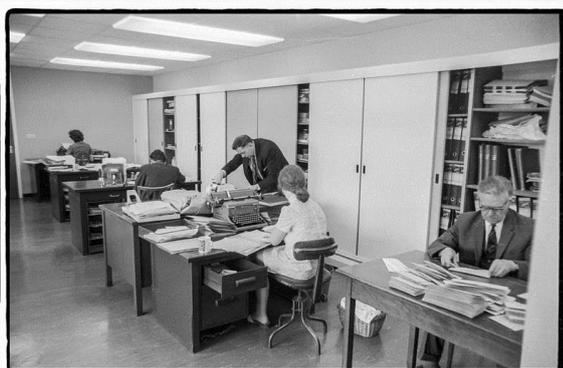


The new Accounts Department shown bottom left seems to have a full complement of workers.



A new Board Room was also incorporated, presumably replacing the 'mock Tudor' Harry Shelvoke Board Room. Bill Smith commented: "1969 was a time when anything traditional was seriously undervalued, just 'old fashioned' and ripe to be swept away. The new boardroom table shown is an example of my father's work."

The above two photos show the new Drawing Office accommodated in the new block. I believe the young man at the rear of the lower picture to be Geoff Lovatt, a fellow apprentice, but have failed to have his identity confirmed.



In this final picture the ramp down to the basement is shown. I was amused to see the collection of brake drums. In the 1950's these were stored in this area to 'weather' before machining. It was nine years since the 'W' type which used them went out of production but a few still remained.

## THE CHANGING FACE OF REFUSE COLLECTION.



When Stuart Allen posted this photo on the SD Enthusiasts' Club Facebook Group in January it created a great deal of comment from those who know a lot more about today's methods of refuse collection than your editor does.

The photo appears in a brochure from the 1970's and Stuart identified it as being taken in Oldham market. Clearly those were the days when summer really was summer!

The number in the crew and their clothing attracted James O'Rourke's attention. One operator has no shirt on, no safety boots, no high viz jacket, but he does have a pair of gloves. A four man crew to collect one Paladin container? Trade waste today sometimes operates with just the driver. And look at him! Just sitting there in his cab. Tony Cauchi suggested that perhaps the hand brake was dodgy and he needed his foot on the brake. More likely, I think, that in those days if you were a driver you drove the truck. Full stop.

With regard to the crew number, Trevor Wood pointed out that that there wouldn't have been a specific trade waste collection. Normal household waste would be collected and emptied into the two side doors beside the bin lift on the rear of the Revopak, hence the need of three loaders.

The Paladin bin was a pre-World War II innovation and in the 1970's were still made of sturdy galvanised steel. Plastic containers were still in the future. James also noted how the Paladin bin contained re-cycleable plastic and cardboard. I doubt whether anyone knew the word 'recycleable'.

Then Kevin Murphy-Steele observed that today no manufacturer would use such a well worn vehicle in an advert in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But SD's were built to last!

I know I'll upset you, but I suggest that many of these changes spotted by the Facebook Group members are due to privatisation of refuse collection. Tissues are available for your tears!

## THE BACK PAGE.

### OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO FORMER EMPLOYEES.

#### Mick Summers.

Alan Blacklock who worked at the SD Service Depot at Birtley, Co. Durham, has written to report the death of Mick Summers at the age of 67 in November. Alan worked with Mick for thirteen years. Mick was the Leading Hand Engineer at the Birtley Depot where he was employed from 1974 until 1991. His funeral took place in his home town of Sunderland and Alan was able to attend. He had battled with blood cancer for seven years but never complained and remained cheerful. Alan clearly held him in high regard. Mick had two sons, who he brought up with the help of his sister following divorce. We offer our condolences to his family. Since the SD Service organisation was something of as "family", there will be friends of Mick's from the various branches who will remember him with gratitude.

### THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PRODUCT.



**This photo was sent in by Alan Kearns and shows the SPV Division.**

Over the years many former SD employees have sent in their memories of working at the Company. I am in the process of compiling in one volume these memories to donate to the Garden City Collection, as a resource for anyone who in the future wishes to learn something of a relative who worked at S&D. A comprehensive index will include any names mentioned in fuller memories.

If you are a former employee and wish for your details to be included in the volume which will be entitled 'The People Behind the Product' please email me as this task is beginning to take shape.

S&D gave employment to numerous people over the years in a wide variety of jobs and I feel it's important that their work is recorded.

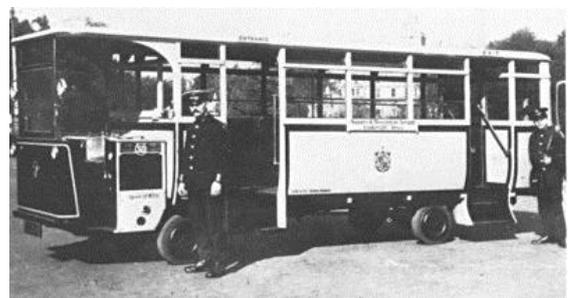
### ON THE MOVE.



Mark Kennedy from Bangor, Northern Ireland, sent in this photo of his SD Freighter chassis being loaded to transport to its new owner. This Freighter has featured in previous Newsletters. It was bought from Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 2011 where it had failed to sell at auction. Unfortunately circumstances have found Mark unable to restore it or provide dry storage. The Freighter was last used at a lead works in Newcastle.

The good news is that it is to join Aled and Matthew Rees' growing collection of refuse collection vehicles which they aim to restore. Aled tells me that arrangements have been made to store the collection at the Winkleigh (Devon) West of England Transport Collection.

On a visit to the collection Aled discovered another SD Freighter chassis, minus engine and gearbox, that was intended to be converted into a bus, similar to the Worthing Tramocars, by the Bournemouth bus society, since Bournemouth ran Freighters as sea front buses. One is pictured below.



**The Shelvoke & Drewry Enthusiasts' Club Newsletter is published four times a year on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> December. Items for inclusion may be e-mailed to me at: [pinnerboy\[at\]btinternet.com](mailto:pinnerboy[at]btinternet.com)**

**Next Issue :- 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 Summer Issue.**