



SHELVOKE & DREWRY ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 2. Issue No. 47.

Autumn 2022.

From the Editor.

In just over three week's time I'm hoping to meet some of you at the Broadway Hotel in Letchworth as we celebrate the centenary of the founding of Shelvoke & Drewry and the way that for almost 70 years the company provided employment and training for so many people. In this issue we look back to an enjoyable weekend at Gaydon also celebrating the Centenary. We also have the customary news items etc.

Brian Carpenter Editor 1st September 2022.

Cancellation of the Proposed Exhibition at the Museum at One Garden City, Letchworth.

On 30th June we received the devastating news that for financial reasons the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation had instructed the curator, Josh Tidy, of the Museum at One Garden City to cancel the proposed autumn exhibition about Shelvoke & Drewry.

Within a month we had re-arranged our plans for the SD 100 event at the Broadway Hotel on Sunday 25th September to accommodate at least 75% of the planned contents of the exhibition.

This means, we believe, that our guests will be able to see a thorough account of the history of S&D all under one roof. If you want to join us tickets are only available up to 12th September.

Classic & Vintage Commercials Magazine June 2022

In this issue over three pages Malcolm Bates outlined the centenary of the founding of Shelvoke & Drewry. He optimistically, as it turned out, anticipated a large display at Gaydon on 11th & 12th June. Various factors combined to reduce the number of SD's attending that event – see the following account on pages 2 to 5.

Malcolm very kindly described your Editor as “giving “faultless stewardship” to the Enthusiasts' Club. Thank you Malcolm.

When I posted a photo showing Malcolm at Gaydon on Facebook one response was “Good to see the world famous photographer”.

It's always pleasing to see SD getting national publicity.

A Surviving Freightlifter Fork Truck.



Alastair Lees has purchased the 1962 Model 82 Freightlifter shown at the bottom of the previous column with the intention of preserving it. It will be among the last Freightlifters produced as in 1962 the Defiant range was introduced.

Alastair would welcome any information about the vehicle, such as the original owner, and a copy of the Operators Handbook if anyone has one. It's great that this truck will be another survivor.

Photo in the Summer Issue from Nigeria.



This photo in the Summer Newsletter brought back memories for Malcolm Bates of his trip to Nigeria in 1977 to the Lagos Trade Fair. He has written to me to say:- “The guy in the photo is Tom Onyada who owned the SD Agents for Nigeria :- Advance (Nigeria) Ltd. He cleverly was both an importer of SD vehicles and a refuse collection operator around Lagos. So he benefitted from a discount on the vehicles!

Malcolm travelled to Nigeria with Tom Hall, SD's Export Sales Manager. On their way to the showground they were stopped by armed guards. Tom calmly suggested to Malcolm that they quietly get out of the car and walk away. Tom Onyada had a furious confrontation with the guards and eventually roared off in his car and approached the showground from a different direction.

A salesman's life has it's sticky moments!

SD CENTENARY YEAR. GAYDON 11th & 12th June 2022. By the Editor.



Derek
Coulson
Photo.

For tennis fans it's Wimbledon, for gardeners Chelsea and for football fans it's Wembley for the FA Cup Final, but for those with an interest in classic and vintage commercial vehicles it's the annual Gathering at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, which is the highlight of their year.

In 2022 it was my first visit to this event and to the Museum, since Peter Johnston and Malcolm Bates had arranged for a 'Grand Display' of preserved SD vehicles to mark the centenary of the founding of Shelvoke & Drewry Ltd. This was first mooted in the Summer of 2020 and it seemed a very long wait for 11th June 2022 to arrive.

Our son, David, collected me from home at 8.00 am and we arrived at the Museum around 11.30. Malcolm Bates had advertised the event in the June issue of Classic & Vintage Commercials magazine where he optimistically expressed hopes for over 20 SD's to appear. Sadly, for reasons entirely beyond the control of the organisers, only four vehicles managed the trip to Gaydon. But whatever the display lacked in quantity it excelled in the variety of the vehicles and the sheer fact that they have survived.

On both the Saturday and Sunday the sun shone on the visitors to the Gathering and the sight of four SD's created great interest. In age order the vehicles on display were as follows.

The "1922" SD Freighter.



The ex-Folkestone 1927 Freighter which was restored in the late 1960's mainly by SD apprentices arrived on the back of a low

loader where Malcolm Bates skilfully unloaded it despite the engine refusing to fire up. I think it was the second oldest commercial vehicle on display – but more about that later.

1936 Latil Traulier.



Kaleidoscope [Captions 90, 91 & 93] record that from 1932 until 1937 S&D manufactured somewhere between 150 & 175 Latil KTL tractors which became known as the Traulier. Latil's importers were keen to overcome British prejudice against the French product and S&D suited them as a manufacturer. This Latil with the Reg. No. CYC 336 dates from 1936 and so was almost certainly built by S&D. The truck has four wheel drive and four wheel steering. The surviving Traulier seen at Gaydon is equipped with ingenious strakes fitted to the front wheels which were often specified for agricultural or forestry work to give extra traction. David King owns this Latil that he displayed.

1979 SPV WX Pump Escape ex-London Fire Brigade.



Derek Coulson
photo.

Terry and Chris Prince travelled from Chelmsford to display this fire appliance. It is an absolute credit to Terry as the vehicle is immaculate. I heard someone suggest that it was in even better condition than when it left the factory. Bodywork is by Cheshire Fire & Engineering (CFE) and YHV 187 T is one of 48 pump escapes ordered by London Fire Brigade.

1982 PN Revopak ex-Isles of Scilly.



Robert Matthews photo.

Many visitors to Gaydon recognised the PN Revopak that featured in the TV programme 'Salvage Squad' in 2002. Steve Jones brought his vehicle over from the Isle of Wight in its customary pristine condition.

A Tour of the Show.

I understand that there were over 400 commercial vehicles on show at Gaydon. All highly polished and gleaming in the Warwickshire sun over the two days. As far as possible vehicles of the same make were parked alongside one another. This AEC Mammoth Major caught my attention on a tour of the exhibits.



There were many club and organisations stands including e.g. Bedford Trucks, Post Office Vehicles, Transit vans, Scammell Lorries and trade stands selling all sorts of spares for

commercial vehicles. This trailer parked near the SD display fascinated me. When once the curtain sides of the trailer were pulled back a 'home from home' was revealed. When seen on the motorway nobody would be aware of this unusual load.



THE INTERLOPERS.

The organisers kindly arranged for two Dennis vehicles to be parked alongside the Shelvokes.



This 2 ton N type Dennis van dates from 1914 and is owned by Dennis Eagle Ltd. The oldest vehicle on display.



This Dennis Eagle 1989 Delta with a Phoenix 18 body, seen here in a Dennis Eagle Ltd. photo, only appeared on the Saturday. The Delta cab was facelifted to the square headlamp design by the company's Engineering team in 1989 and stayed in production until the Elite was launched in 1992. This represented the first real change in chassis design at Warwick since municipal vehicle production moved from Guildford in 1985.

It is thought that F 320 GTT could be the last square headlamped Dennis Municipal Delta in the world!
 The vehicle is painted in BFI – Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea heritage livery and has a Perkins Phaser 180 engine and Eaton 4106 manual gearbox.

These two vehicles gave added interest to the SD display.

Some Outstanding Memories from the Event.

I suppose the outstanding memory of the weekend is meeting so many friends – some I've known for a long time, some I'd only met before on the Internet, but sharing a common interest makes for an enjoyable conversation.

It was good to see Roger Morrisroe along with his daughter and son-in-law on Sunday.



Roger is on the left, your Editor right.



Roger in the cab of the PN Revopak

Roger became an SD apprentice in 1954 - just a year after I started my apprenticeship, and he was there right to the end in 1991. He sported his 30 year SD tie on Sunday. At one time he was the final quality control inspector of the completed vehicles and so he was delighted to be re-united with SCY 786 X Steve Jones' 1982 PN Revopak and Terry Prince's SPV WX pump escape YHV 187 T from 1979. A triple reunion for Roger – and so good to meet again. The photos were taken by Roger's daughter.

Malcolm Bates gave me a ride round the site in the SD Freighter -quite an experience!



Malcolm Easton, the grandson of James Drewry made the long journey from his home in Devon and told me that he sold a

satisfactory number of his recently published book – From bicycles to dustcarts ... and lots more, an account of James Drewry's life and achievements.

He also generously donated an engraved Dartington Crystal glass bowl for the 'Best in Show' of the SD's which he presented to Terry Prince for his WX Pump Escape.



L. to R.:- Your Editor, Terry Prince, Malcolm Easton.

Later in the day an excited gentleman came up to me with a copy of Vintage Roadscene Archive Volume 11 Shelvoke & Drewry written by Malcolm Bates. On page 57 two photos appear of a 1966 TZ gully emptier Reg. No. XTE 329 D and this had been owned by the visitor's Grandfather who had purchased it second hand. He was thrilled to see the photos. He then asked me how it had come about that James Drewry and Harry Shelvoke had parted ways. I was able to direct him over to Malcolm Easton and I think he then bought Malcolm's book to find out that story.

Into the Motor Museum.

The Motor Museum is in two distinct buildings. The first tells the story of the British Motor car and rooms on the second floor were given over to model makers and retailers. We didn't have a lot of time to spend as we wanted to get back to the SD vehicles. But I did find a old friend who is a model maker and he pointed out to me Dan Grantham's model from the Warwickshire branch of the National Association of Road Transport Modellers. A lovely little model of an NY with skip handling equipment.



A fine looking model modified from a Corgi Revopak.

Reflections.

It was unfortunate that the Gathering took place at a time when fuel prices had seen an enormous rise in price which must have deterred some exhibitors and visitors. But the sun shone over the two days and the event appeared to be well supported.

Among the A.E.C's. Volvos, Scantias, Bedfords and so on SD are a small player however the Freighter with its tiller controls was unique amongst the vehicles on display, with the Latil equally unusual.



Terry Prince sent in this atmospheric photo of three Shelvokes under the moonlight on Saturday evening.

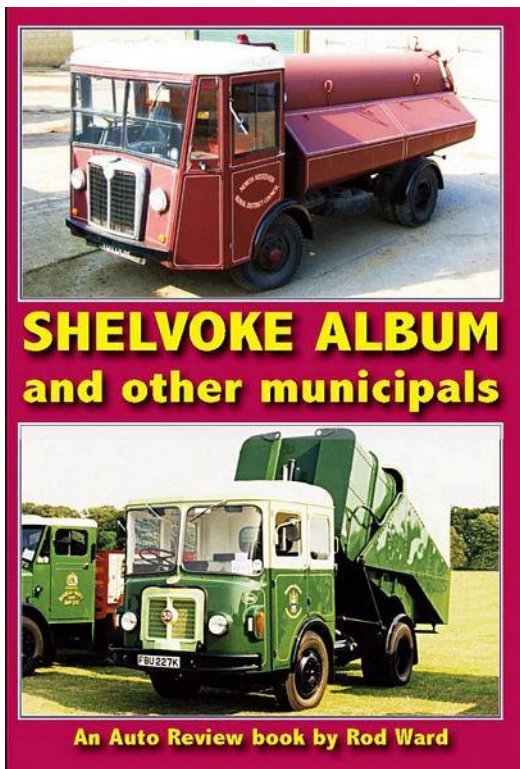


Earlier in the day this photo by our son David shows the entire line up with the couple of Dennis vehicles included.

My thanks to Peter Johnston and Malcolm Bates for organising this display. To the drivers:- Malcolm Bates, Steve Jones, Terry & Chris Prince and David King. To Malcolm Easton for providing interest with his models and the sale of his book, And to all those who showed an interest in the vehicles and who came up and talked to me about the S&D history. A great weekend!

Brian.

**Book Review – Shelvoke Album and other Municipals. Rod Ward 2022.
Auto Review No. 182 Zeteo Publishing ISBN 978-1-85482-181-5**



Just like buses when we have just celebrated the publication of Malcolm Easton's excellent biography of his grandfather, James Drewry, another SD book comes along.

Rod Ward's slim 30 page book covers a wide range and in correspondence with the author I discovered that it is intended as simply an introduction to its subjects. The book is packed full of facts including details of Lacre Ltd., the Drewry Car Co. and other manufacturers of R.C.V.'s and has many thumb nail sized photos. It is a further resource for anyone wanting to know more about Shelvoke & Drewry. Sadly enjoyment of this publication was marred for me by far too many errors and editing mistakes.

Another Surviving SD – Just!

Martin Norris posted this photo of an Ex- Hambleton District Council 'T' series taken about three years ago.

He wrote that it had been there for been there for about 40 years now and a small woodland area has actually grown around it.. It hasn't a body on so just a cab and chassis.



A Reader's Request.

Graham Grummitt asked on Facebook in June:- "Does anyone remember my dad Harry Grummitt? He was a carpenter on cabs . One of his work mates was Larry Phillips." I'm sure Graham would love to hear from anyone who knew his Dad.

Mike Mullarkey Remembers.



Mike Mullarkey, the former manager of SD's Exeter Service Depot found this photo among his collection. In the Shelvoke Dempster days it was thought that something extra was needed to attract visitors to the SD vehicles at the annual show at Paignton. The extra was this young lady – a professional model and a friend of Mike's partner Susan.

It isn't recorded how many extra sales this generated!

The SD Centenary.

Two events to celebrate the centenary of the founding of Shelvoke & Drewry take place this month. On 3rd September a road run finishes at the Titanic Quarter of Belfast featuring vehicles from Peter Johnston's fine collection. On Sunday 25th September we meet at the Broadway Hotel, Letchworth Garden City for an afternoon/evening of celebration and sharing memories.

The Shelvoke & Drewry Enthusiasts' Club Newsletter is published four times a year on 1st March, 1st June, 1st September and 1st December. Next Issue Winter 2022 will be published on 1st December. Items for inclusion may be e-mailed to me at: [pinnerboy\[at\]btinternet.com](mailto:pinnerboy[at]btinternet.com)