

SD 100 THE BROADWAY HOTEL SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2022.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SHELVOKE & DREWRY Ltd. AND THE ALMOST SEVENTY YEARS IN WHICH THE COMPANY PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LETCHWORTH AREA. PRODUCING HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS.



I want to try to give those who were unable to join us for the SD 100 Event an idea of the features of this enjoyable day. It should also serve as a reminder to those who have memories of the happy gathering on that day.

We had an early start from home and arrived in Letchworth at 10.30 am. Very soon things started to happen and we watched as a transporter driver skilfully manoeuvred his vehicle with the ex-Folkestone "1922" Freighter brought by Malcolm Bates.

Letchworth area if we were to succeed in celebrating the Centenary of the founding of S&D.



Shortly afterwards Terry Prince arrived with one of his SD EX-London Fire Brigade WX appliances.



From L to R:- Steve Woodward, Yours Truly & Bill Stimson making an early start at the Broadway Hotel.

Entry to the Function Room at the Broadway Hotel is via a Bar area. A table had been set up on the right hand side where our son, David, his partner, Linda, and myself welcomed our visitors. An alphabetical list enabled names to be quickly checked.

Members of the Organising Committee began to arrive and we started to set up the displays. All the members of this committee had been SD apprentices, and in all we held fifteen meetings via Zoom.

The other members of the Committee had had better experience that I and I soon found myself not only the Secretary but also in the Chair and the Treasurer. Never mind, as they say:- "You decide whatever you like, but I do the Minutes and it's that record that counts!"

Seriously though we worked well as a group and we had some difficult decisions to make. I definitely needed people in the



In this area an AV display showed on a continuous loop three films..

A 1970 publicity film commissioned by S&D when the NY Revopak was in production.



The Salvage Squad TV programme first broadcast on Channel 4 in January 2003 showing the restoration of ex-Isles of Scilly Revopak Reg. No. SCY 786 X



This photo taken during filming of the programme.



And a video made by Mike Mullarkey at the 2004 Event at Letchworth Hall Hotel.

This AV display created a lot of interest with former SD employees adding their comments and recognising former work colleagues on the 2004 video.

As you moved from the Bar area to the main Function Room a pull up banner gave you a welcome to the event.



In the Function Room three rows of tables ran down the centre of the room with tables at right angles to them on the left and right. Round tables for socialising were along the sides of the room. At the far end the stage area carried two three panel display boards. Two of the rows of tables displayed four models of SD vehicles. These were made by Jack Kirby, a demonstrator driver. A newspaper report says 80,000 matchsticks were used to create just one of the models. During the year the models had been restored by Ray Kilby, Jack's nephew. They consist of:-



The ex-Folkestone Freighter restored to 1922 condition in the 1960's by the apprentices.



A 'W' type Fore & Aft tipper.



A TY Revopak with the early type driving mechanism for the tines.



An NT (Triple axle) Revopak.



This photo is taken from the stage area looking towards the entrance to the Function Room.

The magnificent models have many working parts and Ray Kilby gave a demonstration of these to the assembled guests.



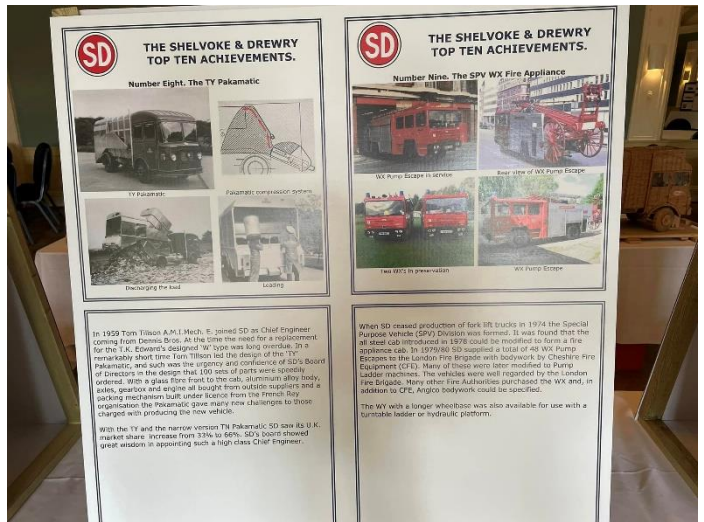
Here Ray demonstrates the Fore & Aft tipper with onlookers Elizabeth and Chris, the grandchildren of Morris Davenport and Val and Dirk Withy.



The Fore & Aft tipper was also demonstrated to Daniel Allen the Vice Chair of North Herts Council .who represents Letchworth's Grange ward.



Sue and Dave Chapman and Rose and Malcolm Easton look on as the TY Revopak is demonstrated.



Achievements numbers 8 & 9.

Around eight tables were used to display items loaned for the event. Those lending items included:- Roger Morrisroe, Bill Baker, Steve Woodward, Malcolm Bates, Brian Carpenter, The Garden City Collection, the North Hertfordshire Museum, Hitchin, and Malcolm Easton



Malcolm Easton takes a keen interest in the packing mechanism of the NT Revopak.

Ray Kilby and his cousin Phil have arranged for the models to be on permanent display at Stotfold Mill.

Between the two lines of tables where the matchstick models were displayed a central table portrayed the Ten Top Achievements of Shelvoke & Drewry. These had been printed onto one metre square boards by Phillips Digital Print of Letchworth and were supported on wooden triangular frames. The Organising Committee had named this part of the display as 'The Giant Toblerone'.



This lovely large scale model of a 'W' type with Chelsea type body was lent to us by the North Hertfordshire Museum via the good offices of the Museum at One Garden City's curator, Josh Tidy. The model was made by Bassett Lowke of Northampton around 1946 so that the SD salesmen could show off the new 'W' type before production vehicles became available to demonstrate. The model used to be on show in the Tool Room at the Icknield Way Works.

In the background is Brian's display table. Malcolm Easton's table included his recent biography of his grandfather, James Drewry, a model of an early Drewry railcar and some items made by James himself.

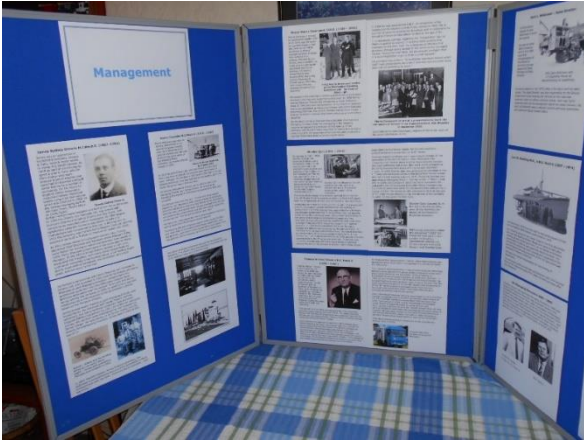


The Giant Toblerone.



These items were loaned by the Garden City Collection.

At either end of the room 3 panel Display Boards carried documents relating to the Company. Board 1 concentrated on the personalities who had held significant positions in the company, Board 2 concerned the Service Department, the Joiners' Shop and three photos from the Garden City Collection. A third Board had a variety of items about SD history including an account of the World War II Welfreighter submersible. The final board carried copies of documents about Brian's Uncle George Carpenter who was an SD apprentice and later Service Manager.



We now move on to the timetable for the event. We announced a start time of 3.00 pm with the doors opening at 2.30 pm which, by and large, prevented a bottleneck as our guests arrived. There was time to chat outside before going in for the event.



A little after 3.00 pm I gave a welcome to everyone.



Then Malcom Easton, the grandson of James Drewry, declared the event open.



Then to my delight and surprise, Malcolm and his daughter Rosemary presented me with an engraved Dartington Crystal vase.



The wording is:-

To Brian Carpenter in thanks for all your time over many years promoting Shelvoke & Drewry to its many enthusiasts.

Presented by Malcolm Easton, grandson of the co-founder

James Sidney Drewry, on the Centenary of the formation of the

Company, at Letchworth 25th Sept. 2022.



Such an unexpected gift and much appreciated.

The next event on the timetable was the group photos when at 4.30 pm everyone was asked to go outside into the car park. Malcolm Bates can be seen perilously perched on the car park wall.



And here is the result.



For this photo the committee were joined by Councillor Daniel Allen North Herts Council.

It is less easy to portray here the numerous conversations that took place during the event. But maybe this selection gives a flavour.



Bill smith took further photos of the Organising Committee.



Malcolm Bates on the left talks to two guests.



From left to right:-

Bill Stimson, Brian Carpenter, Steve Woodward, Bryan Hawley & Roger Morrisroe. All the committee were former Shelvoke apprentices and we met regularly throughout the summer with meetings held via Zoom.

Bill was the Event organiser and Bryan the exhibits officer and they both were our link with the Broadway Hotel. Brian was the secretary to the committee.



Daniel Allen on the left and Vic Beckwith get acquainted.



June Ticker (former secretary to Stan Quin) catches up with Roger Morrisroe.



Elizabeth Elsworth and Chris Yeadon are the grandchildren of Morris Davenport SD's Managing Director from 1949 until 1969.



Russell Townley and his father, Dennis, talk to me.

Due to the generosity of several benefactors we were able to invite as our guests representatives of the families of several people who held significant positions in the company.



Paul, Paula and Natalie Quin along with Natalie's partner Harvey Bishop. Paul is the son of Stan Quin SD's Managing Director from 1969 to 1980 when he became Chairman.



Malcolm Easton, the grandson of James Drewry, co-founder of Shelvocke & Drewry, seen at the controls of the Drewry designed Freighter alongside James Drewry's great granddaughter Rosemary and Brian Carpenter and the vase presented to him



Janet Bell, the daughter of Tom Tillson, Chief Engineer from 1959 to 1979, joined us for the event with her husband John.



Bill Smith is the son of Ken Smith, Joiners' Shop Superintendent was busy recording the event on his camera. He sported his father's SD 40 tie.

At 5.30 pm those attending the event enjoyed a buffet supper and memories continued to be shared until the event closed at 7.30 pm.

Many messages of appreciation were received which included:-

It was a fabulous event with great displays and so many memories for me and my father. **Ian Morrow**

Thanks for organising such a great Centenary exhibition for everybody. Well done. We certainly enjoyed it and found the exhibits very interesting – especially the amazing matchstick vehicles.

In our daughter Rosemary's own words "Yesterday was lovely - it was so nice to be able to share this with you and, as you say, learn even more about my wonderful great grandfather".
Best wishes, **Malcolm Easton**

We had an absolutely fabulous time we shall definitely be at the next one.

It was a real pleasure to finally meet you and thanks a million for all your hard work in making this event happen Dad and I really appreciate you.

Kind wishes **Dennis & Russell Townley.**

And to Finish off three more photos from the Event.



The photos in this account were provided by Bill Smith, Malcolm Bates, Terry Prince, and David Carpenter.

My sincere thanks to the Organising Committee for producing such an excellent celebration of the founding of Shelvoke & Drewry and an acknowledgement of all that the company means to so many people.

Brian Carpenter
October 2022.