



the Bulletin

Arcs and Sparks success



TWAM Science & Industry Curator John Clayson reports that the FODMs supported Arcs & Sparks

electrical collections project has been a great success. In its first year of operation 321 people visited the accessible store and saw one of the best collections of early electrical equipment in the country. Fourteen public tours and five specialist group tours were led by FODMs members Ed Dinning and Bob Heslop. This included sixty students from the Newcastle University Singapore Campus. Four tours were also provided for school groups. As part of the TWAM First World War remembrance a "soundscape" installation was created in the collection store to dramatically emphasis the

role of electrical technology in WW1. The Arcs & Sparks tours take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are free but booking is essential. Tel 0191 232 6789 or discoveryevents@twmuseums.org.uk



Hi all, in March I attended the TWAM Friends Groups annual meeting where I met people from the groups which support the other TWAM museums. I was able to hear first hand from the Director Iain Watson how much TWAM will need Friends support to help maintain the high quality of the different museums and galleries. At our A.G.M / Quarterly Meeting on 9th June I will tell you how how FODMs will be helping the Discovery Museum so I hope you will be able to attend

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Chairman
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Message from the Manager — Carolyn Ball

It has been great to see and hear the engines running in the Science Maze Gallery. Unfortunately it has not been possible for TWAM to run the engines recently so the FODMs team are really helping to bring the gallery back to life. During the Easter holidays many visitors said that they understand the engines much better when they are running. The Science Maze Gallery is very popular and well used so I am looking forward to more running sessions
Carolyn is seen here with engines team member Ed Dinning

RUNNING THE ENGINES

A group of FODMs members are now running the Science Maze Gallery engines during the school holiday periods. The gallery has four working engines which are driven by electric motors. Chris Watson is seen here tending to the needs of Eunice a large horizontal steam engine which once powered a laundry in Rochdale Lancashire. The other engines are a smaller steam engine and two gas engines. One of the gas engines a Crossley Engine made in Manchester was formerly at Gateshead Tech and was used by FODMs member John Chaney during his engineering studies. John even has his original college notebooks detailing the engine and the tests he did as a student. The notebook features a very carefully done hand drawing of the engine — no computer graphics in those days! Even though the engines are now driven by electric motors the FODMs team still has a good deal of preparation work to do before each running session. The engines are running at a much lower speed than in their operational days so it is essential to ensure that the lubrication is effective. The pre running checks involve a thorough look at all the oil and grease reservoirs and delivery tubes. Once this is done the engines are given a clean to make sure they are spick and span.



Mill engines in particular were always kept in immaculate condition. In the picture above Chris is looking after Eunice in the same way that the mill engineer in Rochdale would have done many years ago. We now need a few more people to join the engines team so that we can run them more often. If you would like to find out more about running the engines or join the team please contact:

Graham Bradshaw on e-mail
bradshawgraham@btinternet.com
or leave a message on
01912772330

Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum

FODMs has joined the newly formed Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum (TWHF). The Forum which was formally launched at the

Newcastle Lit & Phil last month is made up of representatives of local heritage groups active within the N.E of England. In January 2016 the Forum will hold the "Innovation, Invention, Industrialisation Conference. This event will bring together local heritage and history groups and the public and will also mark the start of an ambitious project to engage local communities in the preservation of their heritage especially the industrial heritage. For further information about the Forum and the conference please go to their website at **www.twhf.co.uk**

