

WASC 2061

Museum Guide
incl. Walther Jolley
in 'Old Glory'
August 2004

Royal Gunpowder Mills

Waltham Abbey, Essex

Here's a heritage day out with a difference - and one that's sure to go off with a bang!



The Royal Gunpowder Mills has been involved with the manufacturing of gunpowder at its Waltham Abbey site since the mid-1600s, when they were owned and run by the Hudson family.

Some time in the 1700s the mills were purchased by the

Left: All especially-built for the safe movement of gunpowder - trains, lorries and...a gunpowder boat!

Below: Foden nitro-glycerine lorry on display.

Walton family who ran them until their purchase by the Government in 1787, when the mills received its 'royal' suffix.

Gunpowder is a mixture of 75% saltpetre, 15% charcoal and 10% sulphur and its first recorded use by English troops was at the Battle of Crecy in 1346 - at that time it was hand-mixed. By the 1500s, water and animal-powered mills were in use, but the age-old problem of powder separation was still present. The date that a simple

Dingles
Sicam Village
Lifton, Devon
Tel: 01566 783425 or
www.dinglesteam.co.uk

OPENING TIMES
MONDAY-THURSDAY
24TH MAY - 30TH SEPT
WEEKENDS
17th JULY - 29th AUGUST
FAIRGROUND WEEKEND
29th & 30th SEPTEMBER



The 70 ton per sq. ft. press. 44 people lost their lives between 1858 and 1870 in this dangerous operation.

STRUMPSHAW OLD HALL
STEAM MUSEUM
AND FARM MACHINERY COLLECTION

OPEN
29th May till 1st October
Sunday to Friday (closed Saturday)
Opening times 11am till 4pm

- Steam Engines & Working Beam Engines
- Mechanical Organs
- Narrow Gauge Railway
- Engines in Steam last Sunday in month
- Working Toy Train layout for children
- Café • Gift Shop
- Picnic in the Park • Free Parking
- Free access to all static displays

Coach parties, evenings and out of season visits welcome by arrangement

Follow Brown Tourist signs, off A47 between Great Yarmouth and Norwich
Tel: 01603 713392 or 714535

ELLENROAD ENGINE HOUSE
Elizabethan Way, Millrow, Rochdale, Lancs, ENGLAND OL16 4LG

Home of the World's largest Steam Mill Engine and the Whitelees Beam Engine.

Original cotton mill Engine House complete with coal-fired Lancashire Boiler plus other cotton mill & steam artefacts

In steam on the first Sunday each month from 12 noon until 4pm

Car park, café, books and souvenirs
Sited at Junction 21 off the M62
Telephone: 01706 881952
Recorded message for steaming details and special events
WEBSITE - <http://www.ellenroad.org.uk>

MILTON KEYNES MUSEUM
SPECIAL EVENT DAY
Sunday, 19th September
Vintage Transport & Engines

Housed in beautiful Victorian farmstead with 1.5 hectares of grounds, this large and constantly changing museum has something for all members of the family.

Open: Wed to Sun (Plus Bank Hols) until the end of Oct. 11am - 4.30pm.
Adults £3.50 Concessions £2.50 Family (2+4) £8
McConnell Drive, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5EL
Tel: 01908 316222
www.mkmuseum.org.uk

Crofton Beam Engines 2004

Open Daily:
10.30am-5.00pm
April 9 to Sept. 26

In Steam:
July 24-25,
August 28-29-30,
September 25-26

Enquiries and further information:
Reg Paynter, Warden, Crofton Pumping Station,
Crofton, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 3DW
Tel: 01672 870300
www.croftonbeamengines.org

Summerlee Heritage Park
Heritage Way, Coatbridge ML5 1QD
Tel: (01236) 431261

'Best Working Attraction'
Award Winner

Open 7 days a week
10am-5pm
to 4pm Nov-March
Admission Free

screw press was employed has been lost in the mists of time but things changed dramatically with the invention of the hydraulic press by Joseph Bramah in 1795.

In 1854 the first of two waterwheel powered hydraulic presses came into use, bringing about a dramatic improvement in the quality, quantity and performance of the gunpowder.

The surviving remnants of one of the waterwheels and press were supplied by William Fairburn & Sons of Manchester and is believed to be the only one of its type still surviving.

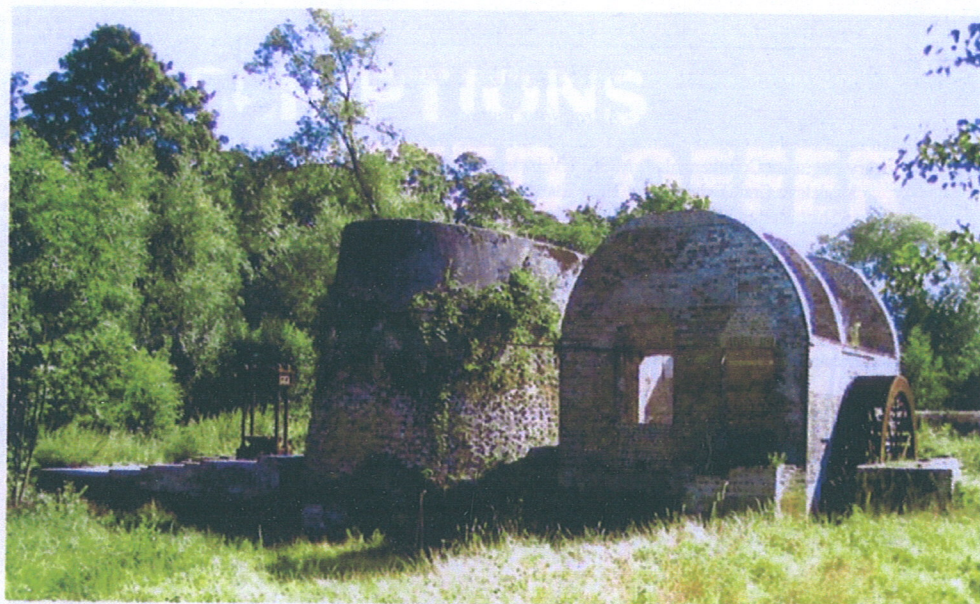
Entry to the site today is via one of the cordite drying stoves and a short introductory film gives a brief history of explosives.

There are interactive displays to learn about the manufacture of gunpowder, nitro-glycerine and cordite in more detail and also an interactive display on the Bouncing Bomb - the special explosives for which, were developed at the mills.

A large exhibits area in the former machine shop for the Group A Mill, houses a Ruston 18in gauge locomotive and Hudson railway wagons, both in 18in and 2ft 6in gauge. There is also a gunpowder boat, fire equipment display, model railway and a Foden nitro-glycerine lorry.

Museum volunteers are busy building a 2ft 6in gauge industrial railway and some of the original narrow gauge trackwork still survives. A tractor-driven land train is provided for ease of travelling around the complex and there is much to see of interest. There is a long-term plan to restore the water wheel and flood the mill pond, repair the sluice, gearing and even manufacture new pumps. Visitor support will see the Trust move closer towards those aims.

Visitor facilities at the Gunpowder Mills include a cafe and shop. ■



The surviving waterwheel and wheel house with the remains of the gunpowder press to the left. PHOTOS JOHN WILSON

■ Royal Gunpowder Mills, Beaulieu Drive, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1JY. (M25 Juct 6). Tel. 01992 707370. Website:- <www.royalgunpowdermills.com>

Open weekends and bank holidays until September 12. Group bookings available weekdays, throughout the year.



Right: A restored gunpowder wagon on original track.

CRICH TRAMWAY VILLAGE

Special Events

August 14th & 15th
1940s WEEKEND

August 29th & 30th
TRANSPORT EXTRAVAGANZA

Crich Matlock Derbyshire DE4 5DP
T 0870 75 TRAMS (87267)
F 01773 852326
www.tramway.co.uk

BLAGDON

BEAM ENGINE
100 YEARS OLD

OPEN SUNDAYS
2-5pm, May 16 - Sept 26

SPECIAL EVENT
Aug 29/30, 10am-5pm

Blagdon, Nr Bristol
0117 953 6470
www.bristolwater.co.uk

Rural Life Centre

All aspects of village and rural life of the last 150 years displayed in 10 acres of woodland & meadows, providing interest for all ages and a nostalgic journey back in time

- Farming • Gardening • Crafts • Village trades • Home Life • Children's Playground • Chapel • Pavilion • And Many More •

Cafe, picnic area - arboretum - light railway Sundays

April-October 10am-5pm
Wednesday - Sunday & BH Mons

Reeds Road, Tilford off A287, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DL Tel. 01252 795571
rural.life@lineone.net www.rural-life.org.uk

Send S.A.E. for diary of events

RUSTIC SUNDAY STEAM & VINTAGE
25th JULY WEEKEND
25th & 26th SEPT.

The Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft
Belton Road, Sandtoft, Nr. Doncaster DN8 5SX

OVER 50 TROLLEYBUSES & Motorbuses Exhibitions & Period Shop Windows & Pre-fab "Home" Cycle "Shop", Museum Tours, Souvenir Shop, Refreshments, Gardens, Picnic Areas & Play Area

'GATHERING 2004
Is on Sunday 25 July (10.00am - 6.00pm)
with preview on Saturday 24 July (11.00am-10.00pm)
Real Ale bar both days

Trolleydays on 14/15 Aug & Six Wheel Weekend is on 28-30 August (11am-5pm)

Information Line 01724 711391

Adult **£6.00** Child **£4.00**
Free parking

& Membership Available

E-mail enquiries@sandtoft.org.uk Website www.sandtoft.org.uk

Sandtoft Transport Centre Limited is a Registered Charity (no. 514382) run by volunteer members and established to preserve the trolleybus as part of Britain's Transport Heritage

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

More than you ever imagined!

BIRMINGHAM PALS
90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I
Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August

WORKING HORSES WEEKEND
WORKING HORSES DEMONSTRATE TRANSPORT OF A FORGOTTEN ERA
Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th August

LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND
Saturday 31st July and Sunday 1st August

Tipton Road, Dudley, West Mids DY1 4SQ
TEL: 0121 557 9643 FAX: 0121 557 4242
www.bclm.co.uk

Voted Family Attraction of the Year for Gloucestershire 2003

Clearwell Caves

- Fascinating mining museum
- Nine impressive caverns
- A great underground experience

Open daily 10am till 5pm
1st March - 31st October
Near Coleford, Glos GL16 8JR

01594 832535
www.clearwellcaves.com