

The Colnbrook Fire Tender

The renovation of the Colnbrook Fire Tender took place between 3rd and 4th May 2016, this was carried out by Chris Dewitt, Peter Hood, Johnny Hood and David West with help from Roy Barwick.

Special thanks goes to Bob Gill who's help instigated a chain of events which led to this.

After 19 years in the Ostrich Inn, the Fire Tender leaves it's home



The Fire Tender arrives at it's new temporary home, were the renovation work begins



Work starts on the wheels, bearings, leather washers, brakes and turntable in order to make the Tender roadworthy



Cleaned and polished ready for its test run, pulled by horses for probably the first time in 116 years.



Decisions on what is best White or Black horses?



Work starts on the Shand Tilley pump. Built in 1839 and probably not used since 1900 or taken apart until 2016



Measuring the cylinder bores in order to get new leather cup washers manufactured, for the pistons (by the only known specialist, Green & Carter of Somerset).



Top body and pump levers removed to gain access to the pump.



Base of pump (including check valve chambers) being removed.



One of the two 6" Piston chamber being cleaned

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Old leather cup washers removed from piston (two on each split piston).

Base of pump removed and ready for to be cleaned and have new handmade leather gaskets fitted.



Pump pressure vessel and one of the two check valve covers, together with some 163 year old decayed gasket.

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New gasket being fitted to the valve chamber, inlet port.



Pressure vessel being cleaned

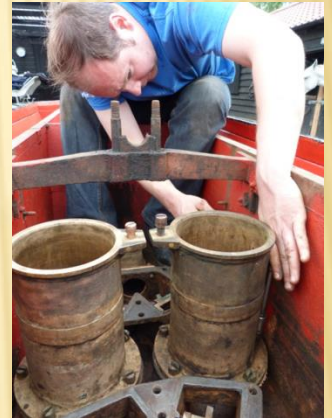


New leather cup washers for the split pistons.

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Pump body being re-fitted



Old cup washers

Drilling centre hole in washer ready to fit connecting rod



New washers fitted and piston ready to fit to bores

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Pistons going back in



Pump levers being lifted back on



The Test

It Works for the first time in a very long time



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A few cosmetic repairs



On it's first official journey

