

Visit to Claymills Pumping Station 30th August 2026

A group of 15 Historians had a fascinating visit to Claymills Victorian Pumping Station on Sunday 30th August. The site was having a 'steaming weekend' when the volunteers work hard to get as many of the original 33 steam engines working as possible. The group was welcomed by a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide who has been involved since the early days of the restoration.

In the mid-19th century the River Trent was badly polluted by waste products from the many breweries in Burton on Trent, so the pumping station was built to remove this waste from the river and also to pump the sewage from the town to the nearby sewage farm at Egginton. The pumping station was closed down in 1971 and the site fell into severe disrepair; however, a preservation group was started in the early 1980s with a view of preserving the beam engines and workshop. The whole site was then listed Grade II* resulting in the buildings being repaired and the chimney restored and the site was then handed over to Claymills Pumping Engines Trust in October 1993.

The Trust's volunteers have worked continuously since then to relocate the equipment, restore it, construct buildings to house it and present the site to the public. They certainly deserved to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and there are now more than 50 volunteers who work in the workshops, boiler rooms, forge and dynamo house. Funding has been received from English Heritage, the owners Severn Trent Water and the National Lottery. The site is a monument to Victorian craftsmanship and technology and to the skills and commitment of the volunteers.





