

Twyford Parish AGM

Twyford Waterworks Trust

Twyford is most fortunate to have one of the best and most complete examples of an Edwardian Water Pumping Station on its doorstep. The Waterworks has been providing water then for well over 100 years, and remains an important site for Southern Water. What is unique about the Waterworks is that all the original buildings, machinery and equipment remains in place, and with the buildings surrounded by a few acres of wildlife-rich precious chalk grassland, it is a very special place indeed.

Twyford Waterworks Trust was formed to preserve and restore all the parts of the Waterworks that were no longer required, and this year celebrates 25 years of leasing these from Southern Water. In that time, in common with most preservation groups, there have been many twists and turns and today the Trust is poised to bring the Waterworks to life again by returning the site to steam. For the last 10 years the dedicated band of volunteers has toiled to bring this about, and in that time the Waterworks has seen:

- removal of all the asbestos associated with such sites
- a complete reroofing of the main buildings together with repairs to the brickwork and fittings, and external redecoration
- management of the whole site, including a large part for wildlife with professional monitoring
- instigation of all the admin, volunteer induction and Health & Safety needed for such an organisation
- creation of highly successful Open Days which attract visitors from far and wide
- attraction of major funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the Trust to restore the original steam equipment, build a workshop, build new toilet facilities, rewire the electrics, redecorate internally and provide visitors with top-class interpretation. Including our award-winning animation film which was created with help from St Mary's Primary School

All this has been possible thanks to major funding from Heritage Lottery and Southern Water plus grants and donations from our councils, local organisations and many individuals, for which the Trust is most grateful.

So, now we stand on the brink of returning the Waterworks to steam, and we hope to start public steamings later in the year. We've got a great team of volunteers who between them can turn their hand to any aspect of running the Waterworks. Many volunteers are local, with others travelling quite large distances to play their part in things. We are always looking for more people to join us, and if this appeals to you do please take a leaflet or come to a Waterworks Open Day and make yourself known.

Thank you.