

## The Long Shop Visit – 9 June, 2019

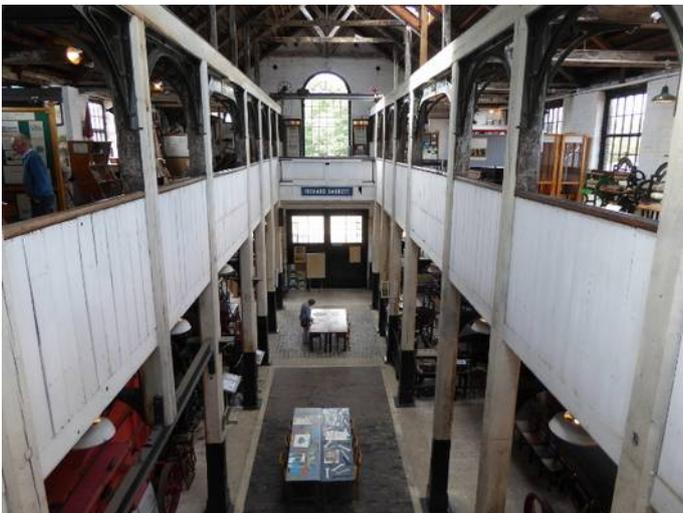


The NES visit started at 11:00 with coffee and biscuits and a talk by Penny Hurt and Bob Jardine, we were then given a guided tour of the museum. For a 'normal' group this would take about an hour, but NES are no normal group with all our questions we were still deep in discussion at 13:30, before breaking off for lunch.

Most of the members opted to visit the White Horse Inn very nearby where we continued the discussion over a drink and bar snacks.

The Long Shop Museum site covers over an acre and includes eight historic buildings, one which is grade II\*. It started as Leiston Works, or "Garretts", a family business from 1778 to 1932, after which the company passed into the hands of Beyer Peacock. At its peak it employed around 2500 people. The works finally closed in 1981. The historic core was preserved and opened as a museum in 1984.

The Long Shop is the world's prototype assembly production line, long before the process was made ubiquitous by Henry Ford. A machine would start at one end of the Long Shop and as it progressed through the building it would stop at various stages where new parts would be added. There was also an upper level where other parts were made; they would be lowered over a balcony and then fixed onto the machine on the ground level. When the machine reached the end of the shop, it would be complete.



Richard Garrett and Sons (the sons were also named Richard Garrett) are perhaps best known for their steam traction engines and ploughing engines. However they also made steam rollers, portable engines, electric vehicles, such as trolley buses and were pioneers in diesel powered road vehicles having built two Crude Oil Wagons in 1928.

The Museum houses collections relating to Garretts including machinery, tools and many items that were made by the works during its over 200 year history.



*Garrett trolley Bus Chassis*



*Garrett Road Roller*



*Garrett Portable Engine  
with unique steam cut-off governor*

---

My thanks to Stuart Hines of the museum for his help in setting up our visit.

Timothy Birt, June 2019