

# ‘Paving the Past’ at Beamish Museum

To celebrate its Golden Jubilee in 2002, the North Eastern Branch carried out a commemorative transportation project at Beamish Museum in County Durham.

With help from sponsors, an important ‘missing link’ along the Museum’s perimeter road was completed, allowing visitors to be transported around the site in period vehicles, such as vintage buses and trolley buses. It was a rewarding project for the Branch, which left a permanent legacy for visitors to enjoy.





The transport corridor around the perimeter of Beamish Museum consists of a tramway and adjacent roadway, allowing visitors to be transported around the site in period vehicles such as vintage buses and trolley buses, along with being an important service road.

While constructed to a reasonable standard, one section in the north-western quadrant, used as the main route for visitors to the Old Town, was still unmade, with an irregular, badly potholed surface and poor drainage. This 550 metre long and 5 metre wide section detracted from the high quality of the rest of the route.

The Branch was delighted with the enthusiastic response of ten sponsors who readily offered their services to design and construct the remaining section. It gave them an opportunity to contribute to the further development of the Museum while also celebrate the Branch's Golden Jubilee.



A sustainable 'foam mix' bound road base was laid, which incorporated foamed bitumen and cement, and was produced almost entirely from secondary aggregates, to significant environmental benefit. A high quality 'Fibre-Dec' surface dressing completed the construction and sealed the surface. Reconstruction work was completed in five days, just prior to the start of the 2002 tourist season. It remains serviceable to this day, providing a smoother ride for visitors and extending the service life of the vintage vehicles.



An old stone milestone was erected on the route and engraved with 'IHT', to commemorate the Golden Jubilee and the generous contribution made by the sponsors, without whom the project could not have been carried out:

- *Bruce Cook Road Planing Ltd*
- *Roadstone Recycling Ltd*
- *Tarmac Ltd*
- *Colas Ltd*
- *Nynas UK*
- *Ballast Phoenix Ltd*
- *Lafarge Aggregates Ltd*
- *RMC Aggregates (Northern) Ltd*
- *William Smith & Sons Ltd*
- *Durham County Council*



Pictured with the milestone is the Branch Chairman during 2002/3, Jim Davidson, the former Regional Director, Department for Transport, Newcastle. The 'IHT' subsequently became the CIHT – the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation.

*Thanks to Roger Elphick OBE of the CIHT North Eastern Branch for preparing this article. Roger is the former Director of Environment at Durham County Council.*

