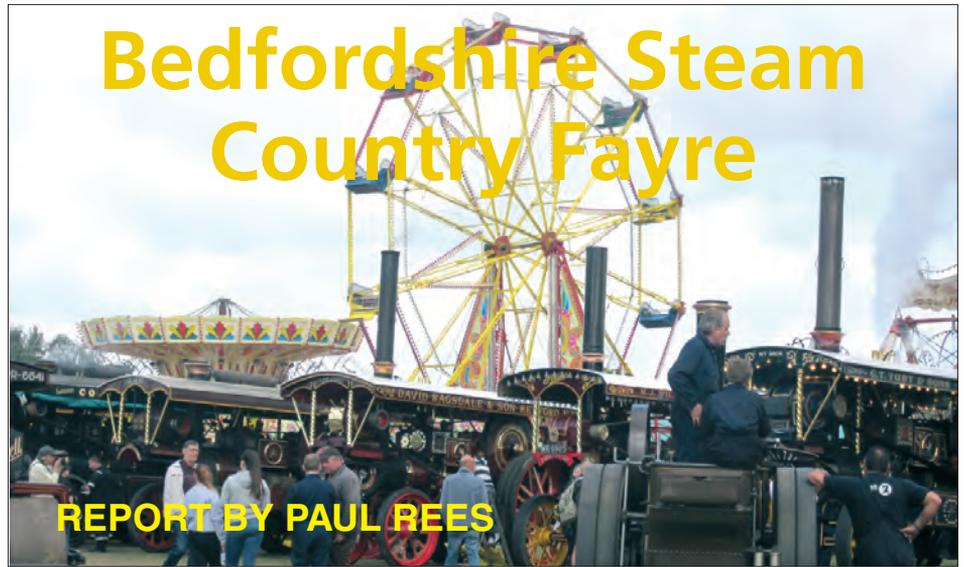


The Bedfordshire Steam and Country Fayre, organised by the Bedford Steam Engine Preservation Society, was held over the weekend of 16-18 September on the magnificent Shuttleworth Park, near Biggleswade in Bedfordshire by kind permission of the Shuttleworth Trust.

This was the 58th Annual event and each year the Society like to provide something new and this year, to celebrate the Society's 60th Anniversary, they pulled together a magnificent display of Showman's Road Locomotives, that once powered and hauled the many fairs around the UK and beyond. Many of the engines were making their debut at the event, and some have not been seen in the area for many years, if ever. It was reported that over 55 full size Showmans engines of all makes, including one named 'Queen Elizabeth II' in honour of

# Bedfordshire Steam Country Fayre



REPORT BY PAUL REES



Her 90th Birthday'. There were also 11 scale replicas, six 6 inch and five 4 inch, in attendance including our own 4 inch scale Burrell Scenic Showmans Engine, 'Henry VIII'. There were also many vintage fairground rides and organs on show throughout the weekend.

In recent years the Show has been open to the public for three days and this year it was a real benefit as the weather on the Friday was so bad that all movement of vehicles on the showground was halted for safety reasons. Fortunately the weather improved and by Saturday the ground was drying out and the sun shone for the day and Sunday was sunny and dry all day.

As well as the Showmans engines there was a vast collection of other steam





traction engines, wagons, farm tractors, motorbikes, commercial and military vehicles, and many other road and farm vehicles. There was also a good selection of demonstrations showing off timber sawing benches and rock crushing for road work, etc.

In the main ring there was a range of events including:- Falconry Demonstration by the English School of Falconry; Parade of Car & Motorcycles; Parade of Commercial & Military Vehicles; Parade of Miniature Steam Engines; Parade of Vintage Tractors; Heavy Horse Display; Sheepdog Demonstrations; and The Welsh Axemen

There was a very large selection of trade stands selling everything from secondhand books up to cars, trucks and



much more were open for business.

There was no shortage of food and drink stalls as well as two beer tents with musical entertainment during the day and evening.

For visitors to the show, and for a small extra charge, the Victorian Gardens and the Shuttleworth Aircraft Museum were open and on the Saturday the main estate house was open to view.

The weekend campsite was full to overflowing by the end of Friday so it had to be closed from Friday night to any late comers. So, if you wish to stay for the weekend on the campsite next year, get in early.

All in all it was a great weekend for visitors and exhibitors alike and we are all looking looking forward to the 2017 show.

