

The Jetty Museum on Windermere

At the end of June my wife and I visited Ambleside in the Lake District for a bit of walking. All very pleasant of course. On one of the ferry crossings we took the captain pointed out a smart new looking jetty between Windermere and Bowness and told the passengers about how a new museum had opened there in March 2019. This had me interested as it was about Windermere boats! Fortunately I managed to squeeze in a visit on our last afternoon.

It turned out that the museum, called the Windermere Jetty, had a history. You can get the detail here <https://windermerejetty.org/aboutus/> but in a nutshell, from about 1940 onwards, George Pattinson built up a collection of important boats and this collection eventually become the first incarnation of the museum. This museum was open for about 29 years and closed in 2006 when the Lakeland Arts trust decides to build a new museum. That new museum is the one that opened in March of this year at considerable cost, however it is very well done! Included in the admission ticket is access to the restoration workshops.

Many of the boats awaiting restoration are in storage on a different site, so you can't see them all yet but they do have some very interesting craft on display and one in action, Osprey a fully restored 1902 steam launch. A trip on Osprey costs an additional £10 but is well worth it. I have uploaded a video to Youtube of [Osprey's engine running](#).

So if you are in the lake district I highly recommend giving it a visit.

The following pages have some pictures and descriptions courtesy of the museum's information boards:

1 Raven Engine

<https://windermerejetty.org/items/raven/>

Single-cylinder steam engine from cargo ship Raven, 1871

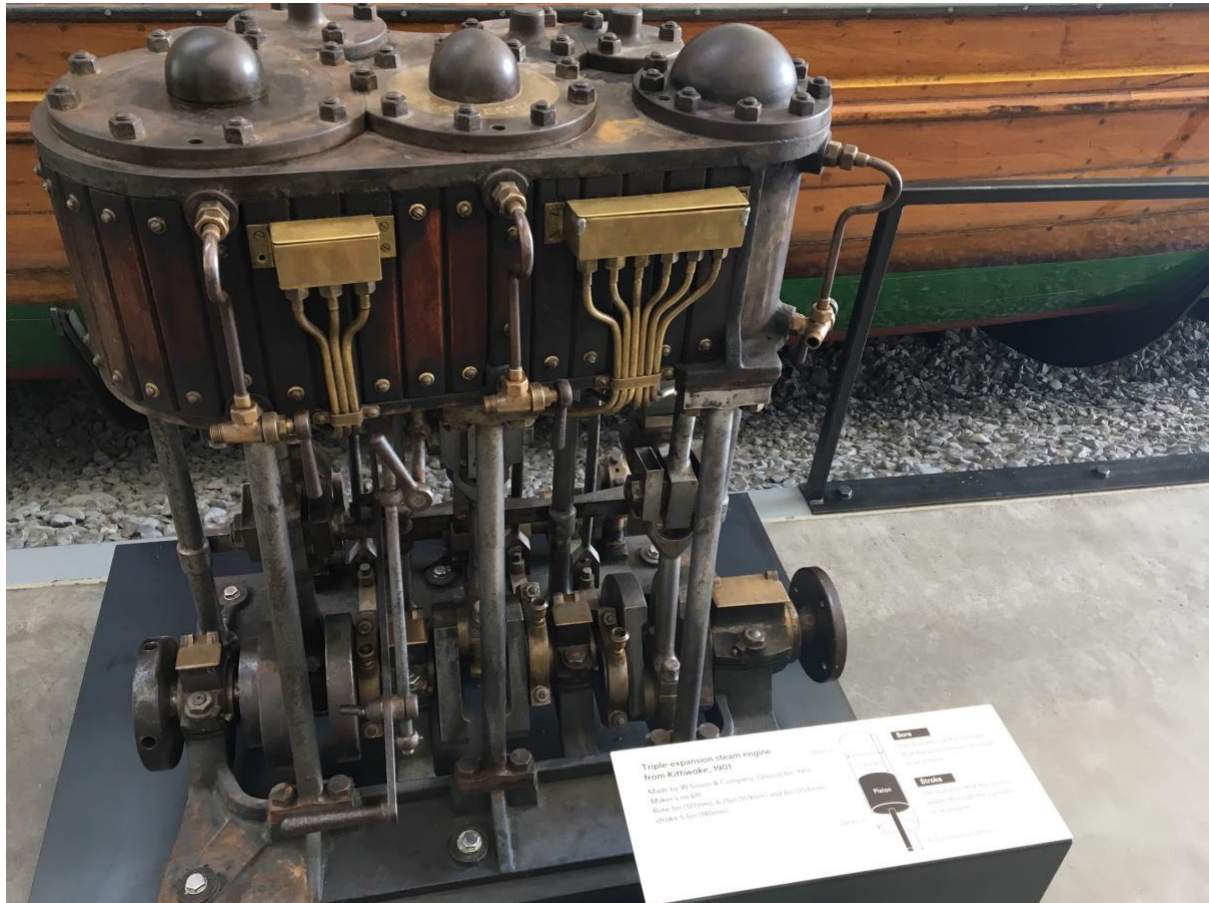
Raven was built for the Furness Railway Company. It carried coal, timber and produce from Lakeside station to houses and hotels around the lake. This engine was built by A Campbell & Company of Glasgow. Its 8in (203mm) bore and 12in (305mm) stroke gave Raven a speed of 10mph (16kph). The boat itself is outside the Conservation Workshop.



2 Kittiwake Engine

<https://windermerejetty.org/items/kittiwake/>

This picture shows the original Port-operated Sissons triple-expansion engine from the 1898 steam launch Kittiwake. Bore 5in (127mm), 6.25in (159mm), 8in (203mm), stroke 5.5in (140mm). The boat used a locomotive style boiler, left-hand firing, built by HA McEwan, 1983, working pressure 200psi.



3 Dolly & Engine

Dolly is a rare example of a very early steamboat with an elegant clipper bow and counter stern. After steaming on Windermere for many years Dolly was moved to Ullswater, and sank there in the Great Freeze of 1895. Divers discovered Dolly in 1960. After being salvaged in 1962 and restored Dolly steamed again in August 1965.

Dolly is of Carvel construction where the planks are fixed to a frame and meet edge to edge to form a smooth hull.



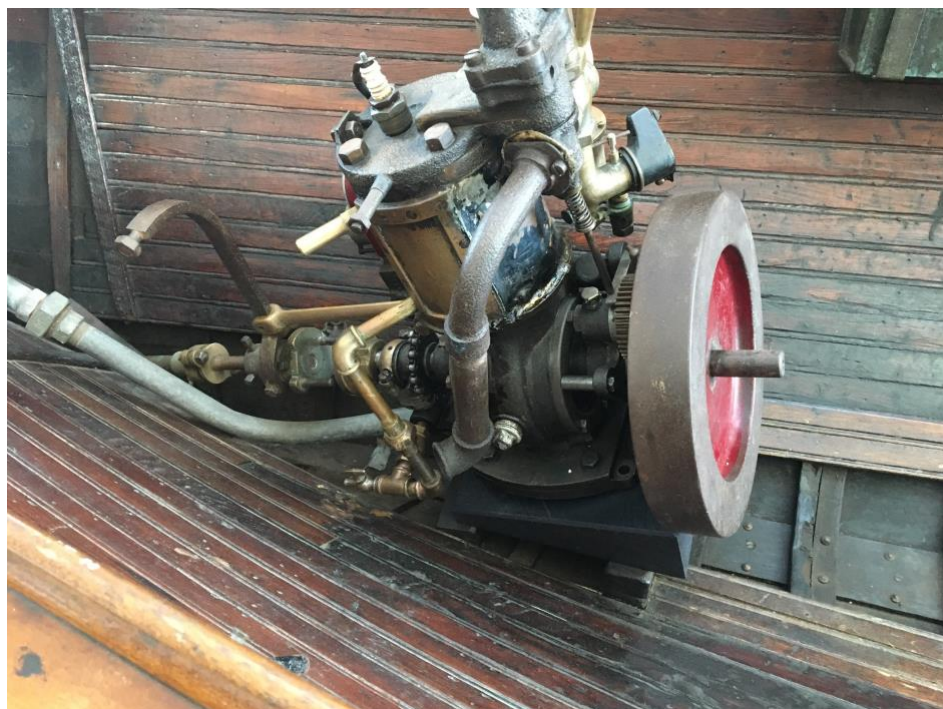
Dolly's engine is a rare example of early steam technology. It is a single-cylinder inverted double-acting engine with a 7in (178mm) stroke. When the engine and boiler were examined in 1962 they were in surprisingly good condition. To get Dolly back in working order a few parts were repaired or replaced, but the parts that had been greased before the boat sank only needed cleaning and refitting. The boiler fitted when the boat was restored was a scotch return tube built by Ocean Fleets Ltd, Birkenhead, 1975



4 Motorboat & Engine

<https://windermerejetty.org/items/motorboat/>

This is the earliest motorboat in the UK and probably the first motorboat on Windermere and the only powered boat in the collection that does not have a name. It. The boat has an early type of combustion engine (single cylinder four stroke) and a variable pitch propeller, which made reversing possible for the first time.



5 Osprey

<https://windermerejetty.org/items/osprey/>

