

MOVING A PUMPING STATION FROM LEOMINSTER TO HEREFORD



In July 1990, Museum-member Paul Allen reported to the Trustees that Leominster's historic water pumping station was about to be demolished to expand a business park. Knowing how important the pumping station had been to the health and well-being of the town, enquiries were immediately made with a view to saving the building for posterity.

The owners, Bonar Polythene Films, readily agreed to donate the structure to the Museum if we would take it away. None of the historic machinery associated with the pumping station was *in situ* and the building was an empty shell with its 60ft (18m) deep well capped.

Having taken specialist advice, the Museum raised sufficient funds to engage a contractor to dismantle the two-storey building and boiler house and salvage the whole of the first-floor section. This included the triple windows and the roof structure for reconstruction at the Museum.

The building was reconstructed using the original bricks, slates, stonework details and tiles and it was completed in July 1992. The main architectural feature of the building would be the triple Venetian-style windows in the east façade.



The building, which quickly came to be called the Tangye House because of the historic Tangye engine and pumps it houses, became an important addition to the range of Museum buildings and it is a fitting display centre to commemorate the history of water supplies in Leominster.

