

Spirit of the BEAMISH TRANSPORT COLLECTION

Paul Jarman

Spirit of the Beamish Transport Collection captures the extensive railway, tramway and horse drawn vehicle collections at Beamish, The North of England Open Air Museum in Co Durham. The 400 acre site has four railways, one electric tramway and over two miles of internal roads upon which both its own collection, and visiting transport attractions, can be safely demonstrated in action.

The Museum holds two major transport events every year which are also well covered in this book. Throughout the year the Museum's two miles of tramway carry over 400,000 visitors (often more than once) around the site and through a reconstructed Edwardian town, using vehicles over a century old to carry out this vital role. Passenger train rides from the 1820s and the 1920s are offered on two separate railways and two further railways recreate the typical means of distribution of coal in the north east on a wooden waggonway and Edwardian colliery railway system. Steam is also found on the road, with steam rollers and traction engines at work around the site, used on the farm and for road maintenance. Steaming for pleasure is catered for by the magnificent Savage steam gallopers which delight visitors all year round.

All of these facets are covered in this new, handy-sized hardback book containing over 60 photographs taken to show a 'typical' year at Beamish Museum.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

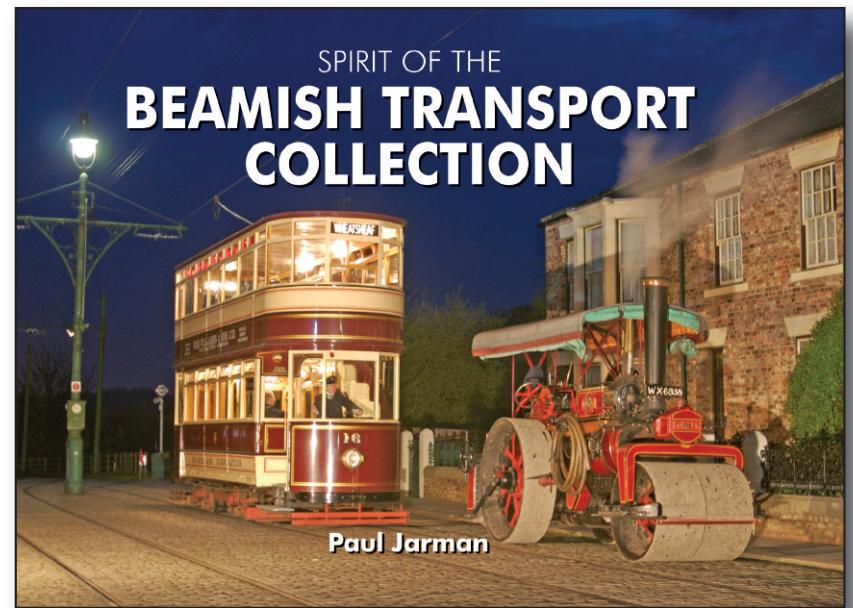
Paul Jarman has been the Keeper of Transport at Beamish for six years and is responsible for all things on wheels seen at the award winning 400 acre Open Air Museum. This includes four railways, a tramway, extensive horse drawn vehicle collections and the organisation of two major steam events each year. An Archaeology graduate from Durham University in 1999, Paul initially pursued a career in insurance and pensions brokering before turning his hobby into a new career as a museum curator in 2004. He specialises in industrial and narrow gauge railways, and the restoration to working order of mid-Victorian steam locomotives in full sympathy with best museum practice.

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'Puffing Billy' is the youngest replica of the oldest locomotive. Completed in 2005 it has proved to be a remarkably effective engine – a testament to its builder, Timothy Hackworth, two centuries ago.



As well as making short visits, some Beamish locomotives spend longer away from the Museum. 'Twizell', built by R. Stephenson's in Newcastle and which worked locally on the Beamish Railway, is based at the nearby Tanfield Railway where it has recently returned to steam.



Right: Trams make particularly good night-time subjects as they are ablaze with electric lighting. Here is Sheffield No.264 and Sunderland No.1 during an evening promotional event.



The Colliery Exchange Sidings, deliberately weed-grown and here seen host to visiting Aveling & Porter traction engine locomotive 'St Vincent'. The Colliery Sidings lie to the right, the main line extending in a straight line, towards the far hillside of Pockerley.
Inset: Another Aveling & Porter traction engine locomotive, 'The Blue Circle', leaves the Exchange Sidings area.

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As well as rail transport, Beamish has a large selection of road transport, ranging from horse-drawn carts, wagons and carriages to internal combustion vehicles.

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Example of a double-page spread.



The Museum's Fowler Steam Roller 'Rambler' parked outside the sweet shop in the Town.



Beamish has an extensive collection of horse-drawn vehicles, including numerous public and commercial examples as well as the more common private driving specimens. A loan to the Museum is this Clapham two-horse bus, seen giving rides to visitors during a special event in 2009.