

Sidcup Literary and Scientific Society Speakers Information



| Date: | 12/11/24 |
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| Title: | Henry Ford's 1928 holiday in England |
| Speaker: | Prof David Perrett |

Photo:



CV:

David Perrett B.Sc. Ph.D. FRSC

Professor Emeritus of Bioanalytical Science, Barts & the London School of Medicine, Queen Mary University of London

An active biomedical researcher with over 250 publications, his interests relevant to this talk can be traced to an upbringing in a coal mining community in Yorkshire, namely Pontefract. He was President of the Newcomen Society from 2007 to 2009 and from 2020- 2023 Chair of the association for industrial Archaeology. His interests include stationary steam engines especially the Newcomen Engine and Industrial Archaeology in London, where he is President chair of Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS). He lectures frequently both nationally and international not only on the biosciences but also on the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology.

Picture:



Fairbottom's Bob before removal to USA

Synopsis:

In April 1928 Henry Ford and his wife travelled in secret to England. He was not here to study motor car manufacture but to look for early steam engines. Guided by an engineer from his works in Manchester, Herbert Morton, they travelled over The Midlands and the North visiting engines and attempting to acquire them. They eventually acquired 45 steam engines, other machines and historic buildings that were dismantled and shipped back to Ford's home town Dearborn. I have assembled the story of their holiday from archive material held in Manchester and the USA.