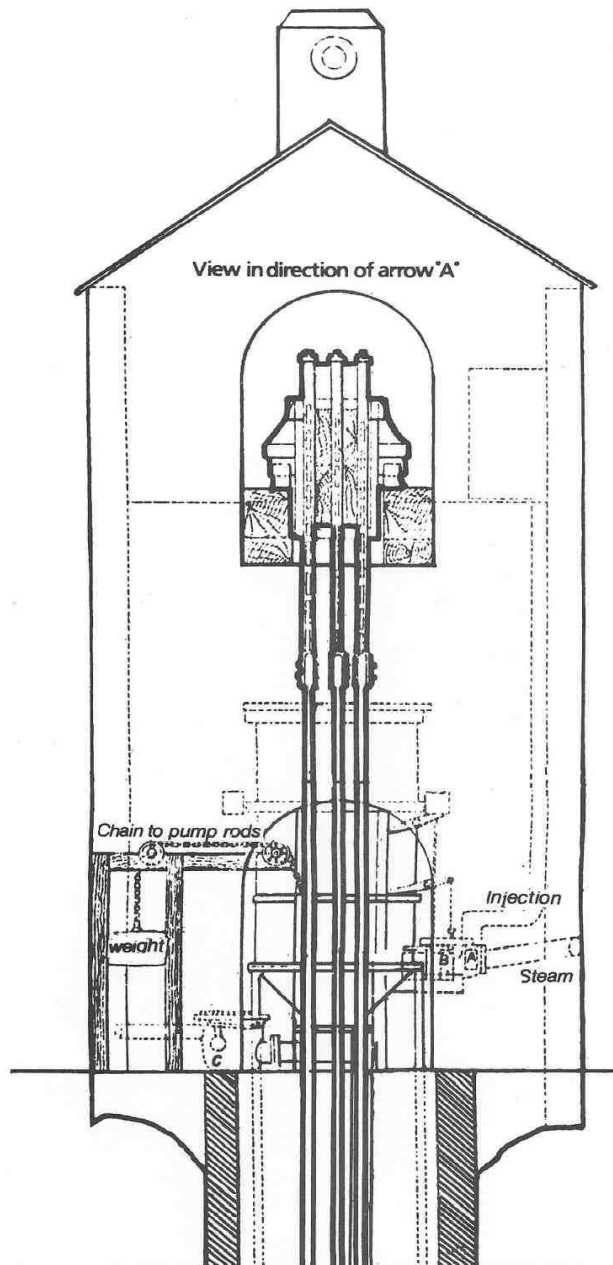


**Our Cover Illustrations**

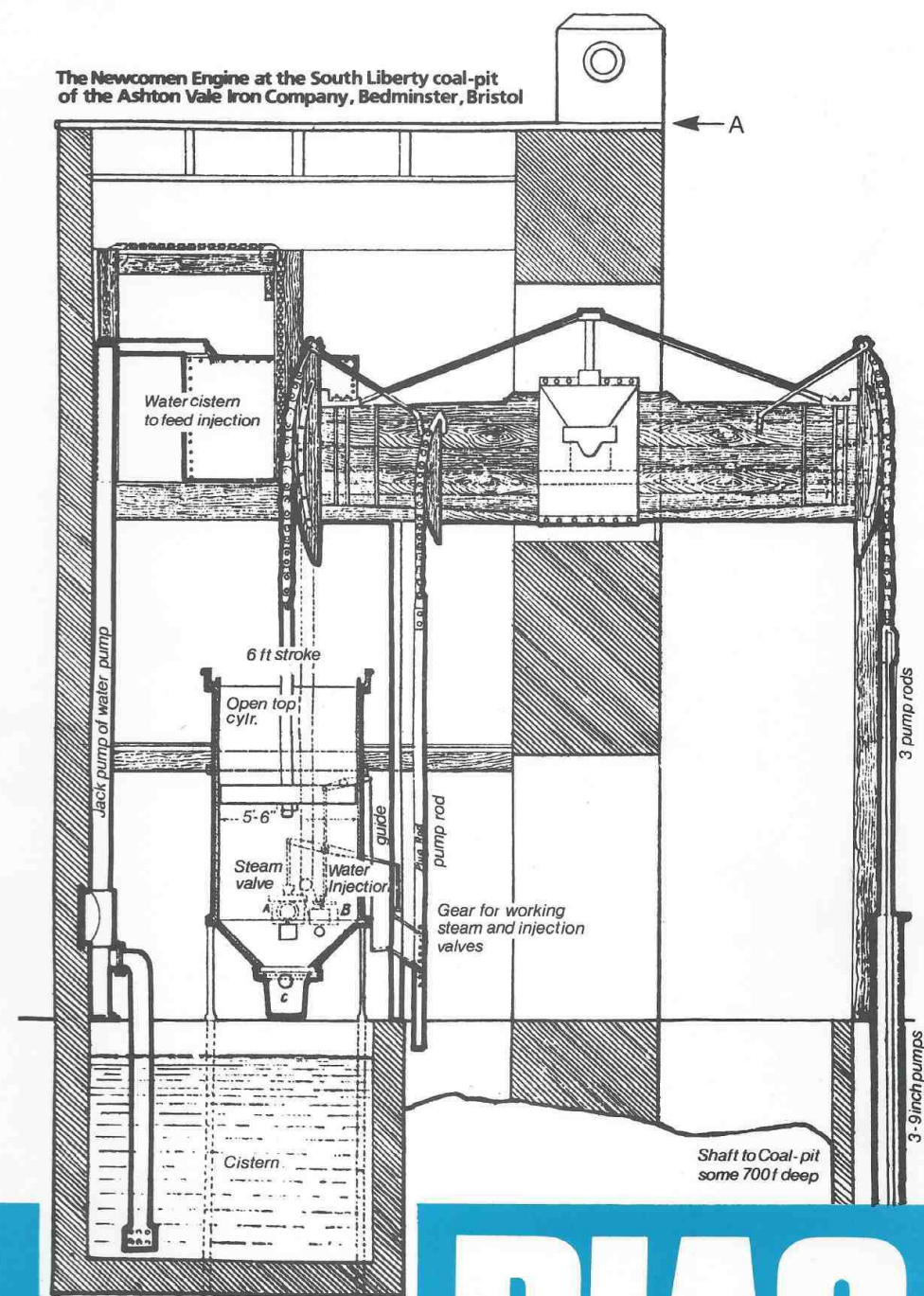
The drawings on our front and rear covers come from an *Engineering* article of 25 October 1895, 'Notes on an old Newcomen Engine at Bristol', by Bryan Donkin MICE. They were brought to our attention by Kenneth Rogers's excellent book, *The Newcomen Engine in the West of England*, 1976 which includes a full account of the engine's history at South Liberty Colliery in Bristol.

Bryan Donkin, when writing in 1895, had recently inspected the engine while it was working and described it in detail (some of his facts are included in Roy Webber's article on Ashton Gate). Donkin then acquired copies of the drawings here, made by staff of Bristol Waterworks and several of their photographs which also appeared with the article, a valuable record of an important survival of Bristol's eighteenth-century mining installations. Donkin records that the engine was still working with an open-top cylinder using atmospheric pressure. The old man whom he saw attending it had been driving the engine since a boy, when he had stood on a block of wood to reach the valve handles. His father and grandfather had worked it before him. It would be interesting to know if his descendants still live in the area.

Copies of *Engineering* are a valuable source of accurate technological descriptions of the past. Bound volumes may be consulted in the Reference Department of Bristol's Central Library at College Green, and we acknowledge that source with our thanks for these reproductions. -



The Newcomen Engine at the South Liberty coal-pit of the Ashton Vale Iron Company, Bedminster, Bristol



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