

# Sussex Miniature Locomotive Society



## Wharfedale News. Issue 4

16<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear all

I have had a call from Val this week who has said would I please pass on her grateful thanks for the card and the flowers sent on behalf of the club. A lovely thought and very welcome.

Val has also asked me to pass on her thanks to all of you for your cards and wishes at this time. She has also proposed that when things get back to normal we must arrange some sort of memorial event for John which I am sure you will all fully support.

Another week passes by with little sign of a let up on our need to stay at home. I hope you are all well and now slowly getting used to no days out and doing jobs around the home.

I have to post some of the newsletters to those that do not have email and I look forward to Friday evening when I go out in the dark in the car to a letterbox to post them. I do this for two reasons one to post the newsletter and the second reason is to give the car a spin to keep the battery charged. Also I was told, when I had the Jag and complained of vibrations that with the heavy engine you should not leave the car standing in the same place for long periods as the tyres will go out of round.

Our road now gets very noisy on a Thursday at 8.00 pm when everyone is now going out and clapping for the NHS. Seen more of our neighbours in the last two weeks than for a long time.

Thankfully the weather is holding up and we can get in the garden. Even my weeds are beginning to moan because I keep digging them up!

Enough of this muttering.

Keep Safe all

Mike W

## **Brief club house NEWS**

Update on our report of last week that we have been informed that someone was spotted looking into the clubhouse and trying the doors.

I have reported it to the police and we have an incident number and the local prevention officers have been notified. The Young man has been seen again in the park and my thanks to Joanna and Dan for keeping us informed.

All the internal keys are now off site and Andrew Strongitharm is now custodian of all keys including the spare keys.

To increase security of the engine shed steel door we have now fitted four anchor points on the inside of the door so that if the hinges on the outside were cut off the door will not fall out. These have been fixed in place for the duration so access to locos now is limited.



Andrew S has now met several security companies and awaiting quotes for monitored systems, the committee is aiming to have a virtual meeting in the near future when we will decide how to proceed with increasing our alarm security system.

I am conscious that many of us are on lockdown and definitely do not want to get Covid – 19 so are limited on what we can do to help at this time so I pass on again my thanks to Andy S, Andy B and Tom for doing the Security checks, fitting the anchor points and meeting the Security Companies.

## John Baldwin has a concern??

Be careful because people are going crazy from being in lock down! Actually I've just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The vacuum was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to pull myself together.

He has also caught us out as to the real reason we have rehung the toilet door.



### **Wharfedale Article 3**

It has been around 17 years since I had my first ever drive on Wharfedale, our club engine now for 60 years. 60 years ago this year, the engine was donated to the club by Mrs Hebblethwaite, the widow of the builder Mr Hebblethwaite. It was his wishes for the engine to be donated to the society. It won a silver medal at the London Model Engineering Exhibition around that time.

For the last few years myself and Nick have been custodians, keeping on top of maintenance and servicing. It is a pleasure to look after such a grand piece of kit and something we both very much enjoy.

Wharfedale is very unique, firstly it has a soft soldered boiler which isn't very common as the solder melts at a lower temperature, which is why most boilers are made with silver solder to withstand higher temperatures. The key with any locomotive but particularly one with soft solder is not to run the water too low, that will likely cause long lasting damage that will almost certainly ruin the boiler, especially with a good fire and high pressure. As we've all been taught when driving steam engines, keep the water level up, not too high, not too low. That would be the case with Wharfedale, she has been protected from too much general use for that very reason over the years. The other interesting factor is the donkey pump on the side of the boiler which uses steam to pump water from the side tanks into the boiler, this is a lovely bit of kit but in some respects not very practical on maintenance grounds. It is used little, mainly just to prevent seizure. The size of the engine too is particularly robust and bulky, Halton tanks aren't that common but they are big and heavy. Wharfedale on a good day will pull four coaches fully loaded but we have limited that number to three and only on odd occasions will we use four. Extra wear and tear appearing on the engine sooner than later is not practical for us at all. It was decided that it would be painted in BR black livery after it's rebuild in 2001 for the 50th anniversary of when the society was founded. 71960 is a made up number and this is a reference to the year it was donated to the society.

I think the livery suits Wharfedale and it still looks very smart. It is also named after one of the Yorkshire Dales. It is situated within the boroughs of Craven and Harrogate in North Yorkshire, and the cities of Leeds and Bradford in West Yorkshire. It will need a bit of a tart up in the next year so, another job added to the list of many that we have.



Circa 16 years old.

Over the years I've had many happy trips driving it around the track, it's very reliable and only has problems on very rare occasions. I look forward to many more trips in the future.

**Dan**

**Stephen Hutton** supplied these two photos circa 1991 during a visit by the East Grinstead club



### Mike P.'s musings No.3 Alf Funnell

Before I continue with Alf's history, I just want to say how sad I was to hear of John West's passing. John was a very likeable, cheerful, knowledgeable, and talented chap, and we are all going to miss him.

Alf was born in 1905, and obtained his first lathe in 1926, during the General Strike, and over the years he became a prodigious builder of small locomotives.

His first engines were in 2 ½" gauge, as was the fashion at that time, and included a Baltic tank and a "Fayette". He moved up in gauge to build a P.V. Baker, and then in 5" gauge in 1938 a 4-6-2 tank loco.

Interestingly, he completed a 0-4-2 Gladstone class, which ran May 8<sup>th</sup> 1954 at the Beech Hurst track opening. His freelance 4-6-0 compound had a middle cylinder 2 ½" bore and 2 outside cylinders each



1 3/8" bore and its first run on Good Friday 1963 saw it in passenger service. He went on to build an Atlantic 4-4-2, which Ray Parsons completed and ran, and a "Nelson" which Fred Bailey completed.



Whilst he was building all these engines, he was also working on the Kleinwort farm estate near Burgess Hill as an engineer.

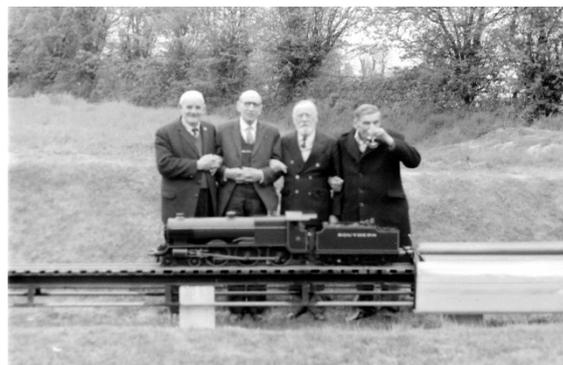
He was also on the committee at SMLS for 22 years, from 1952 until 1974.

When he retired from work, he went to live with his sister in North Chailey and came to Beech Hurst on the bus, and often Ray would take him home. A rather interesting story from Ray and Sheila about him, gives an insight into his character and the make do and mend attitude of those times. Apparently, Alf broke his plastic dentures plate in half one day, and to fix it, he drilled a series of holes down each side of the broken plate and his sister, using the holes, sewed it back together!

According to Ray, poor Alf came to an unfortunate end when moving a lathe, it fell onto him and crushed his chest, and Alf passed away at the age of 79 in November 1984.

There is a good photo of him in May 1976 with the other remaining “founders” at the clubs Silver Jubilee in 1976.

When we see Beech Hurst today, we should remember the amazing amount of work and dedication of members who preceded us, such as Alf Funnell.





From Afar 2.

**Easter 2020**

**News from - yr Ynys fawr**

**From the house.** Jobs put off for many a year have been attacked. Many hundreds of unidentified photos have gone to become landfill, that is sent to the tip. My office contents are now a third of what they were and have gone to meet the same fate. It will take me forever to find anything now!

**In the workshop** I have been making a start on another riding car for myself and for use by the club in due course. The bogies (5" ground level) are well under way and not too much is going to landfill. A lot of drilling, and I have gone to my mill to try and achieve some sort of accuracy, and have achieved same. Will attach detail as separate document.



The top picture is the basic bogie about 60% complete at 'first fit' stage so to speak.

Main chassis rails are 20mm square bar black mild steel. Wheels are from DNC System Technologies at \$13.00 each from memory. Bearings are P003 through Amazon Australia at \$64.00 or thereabouts for eight. No springs. The suspension is from rubber door stops. Nuts and bolts are all metric either 6mm or 8 mm from 'Bunning's', our equivalent of B & Q or such like. Cross plate from 75mm x 5mm black mild steel.

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Machining axles on my old 'Hercus' (Australian) lathe. Not quite as old as myself, around 1970. Purchased from a retired toolmaker. Old yes, but it suits my needs. Nothing too complicated like myself. The extra clothing as it is getting a little autumnal (18C).

With the ever increasing lock-downs the club grounds are technically closed, however with 12.5 acres the ground still requires maintaining or nature will claim it all back. A few have taken the risk and ventured out doing some basic tasks. I have been weed spraying on a couple of occasions when the weather permitted, and others cutting grass trying to keep the area looking something in the order of respectable. A tough task in tough times.

Easter will be quiet this year. Communication with family by phone and Face Time. Shopping has resumed to some new kind of sensibility.

Stay safe and more importantly well.

David - 9 April 2020.

PS David did send a set of drawings and instructions for the Bogie design from the Australian Model Engineering Magazine, but they were not clear enough to read when the article was inserted in the newsletter. If anyone would like a copy I can forward to you and you can expand up and read it.

## **Puzzle Corner.**

### **Nick's Quiz answers for last week.**

#### **Sussex railway related questions:**

1. Name of the station which the Steyning and Cranleigh lines meet together?

**Ans. Christ's hospital**

2. Which member of the royal family attended the 1896 warm-up test match Lord Sheffield's XI vs Australia?

**Ans. Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII)**

3. Where did that match take place?

**Ans. Sheffield Park Gardens**

4. Brighton works was established in 1840 and produced in total 1211 locomotives, which year did locomotive construction cease?

**Ans. 1957**

5. The LBSCR abandoned the building of which railway in 1866?

**Ans. Ouse Valley Railway**

6. Reached by the LBSCR in 1846, name the capital of West Sussex?

**Ans. Chichester**

7. Used in the production of bread, whisky and beer and an East Sussex town?

**Ans. Rye**

8. Name in common with a 1<sup>st</sup> Brighton Belle kitchen car and a truck at Beech Hurst?

**Ans. Gwen**

9. Opened in 1841, 37 arches and built at the cost then of over £38,000?

**Ans. Ouse Valley or Balcombe Viaduct**

10. Former resident of East Grinstead and published 'The reshaping of British Railways report' in 1963?

**Ans. Dr Richard Beeching**

## Ray Parsons Quiz.

### Anagrams of Sports and Pastimes.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| CHOKEY.       |  |
| DRAT GUSH.    |  |
| REND US OR    |  |
| TALL BEN.     |  |
| LESS CORA.    |  |
| IN TENS.      |  |
| WRING LEST .  |  |
| FIT KING ELY. |  |
| THIN BAG.     |  |
| DIG NEAR.     |  |
| CHEAP PEARS.  |  |
| GUST COIN.    |  |

## Lorema's Challenge

Hope You enjoyed last week's challenge here are the Answers.

### Sussex Place Names

Example : Not dull, 20 cwts = BRIGHTON

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. A shallow river crossing                | FORD          |
| 2. Value                                   | WORTH         |
| 3. Found in a church                       | HASSOCKS      |
| 4. Creepy ?                                | CRAWLEY       |
| 5. Dignitary on a mound                    | BURGESS HILL  |
| 6. Bob's card game                         | ROBERTSBRIDGE |
| 7. Fifty female sheep                      | LEWES         |
| 8. A grain                                 | RYE           |
| 9. Replete monarch ?                       | FULKING       |
| 10. Female horses' home                    | MARESFIELD    |
| 11. Equestrian measure annoyed             | HANDCROSS     |
| 12. Dried grass and what bees do           | HASTINGS      |
| 13. Compass direction and part of a candle | SOUTHWICK     |
| 14. Gives milk and sheep's enclosure       | COWFOLD       |
| 15. Equestrian measure annoyed             | HANDCROSS     |
| 16. Fishy extremities with a Spanish title | FINDON        |
| 17. A church emblem clutched               | CROSS IN HAND |
| 18. Iron circle                            | FERRING       |
| 19. Holy Basin and feeling fit             | FONTWELL      |
| 20. Decaying church official               | ROTTINGDEAN!  |

The answers to the quiz this week all begin :- What FIR is:-

| Example | Question                                       | Answer           |
|---------|--|------------------|
|         | What FIR is the surround to heat indoors?      | <b>FIREPLACE</b> |
|         |  |                  |
|         | <b>Question</b>                                | <b>Answer</b>    |
| 1       | What FIR is in the heavens                     |                  |
| 2       | What FIR is a weapon                           |                  |
| 3       | What FIR is a decorative explosion             |                  |
| 4       | What FIR is a small barrel                     |                  |
| 5       | What FIR is business                           |                  |
| 6       | What FIR is before anything else               |                  |
| 7       | What FIR is made from wood or coal             |                  |
| 8       | What FIR Is a flying beetle                    |                  |
| 9       | What FIR is an outside staircase               |                  |
| 10      | What FIR is a type of lightning                |                  |
| 11      | What FIR is a person who causes trouble        |                  |
| 12      | What FIR is a narrow inlet from the sea        |                  |
| 13      | What FIR is another name for whisky            |                  |
| 14      | What FIR Is a source of heat for steam engines |                  |
| 15      | What FIR Is a small bird                       |                  |
| 16      | What FIR Is the home of extinguishing vehicles |                  |
| 17      | What FIR is flame protective clothing.         |                  |
| 18      | What FIR Is used to start coal burning.        |                  |
| 19      | What FIR Is a name for a tyre manufacturer     |                  |
| 20      | What FIR is emergency help                     |                  |

**My thanks go to all for sending me the material.**

**If you have something for the NEWS please contact me**

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