



OFFCUTS



Newsletter of the Bromsgrove Society
of Model Engineers

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Time Team fail to discover ancient water pipe

Despite using the latest technology (mini - digger) and the oldest (divining rods) the team tasked with the job were unable to find the old pipe that used to supply water to the steaming bay. Therefore the decision was made to lay a separate new pipe across the field from the station.



Chairman's chunterings

Thanks to everyone who took care not to park on our site during the winter. As you can see this year there is very little damage to the site caused by cars. We will soon be busy with our annual running days and you should all by now have received a calendar detailing the days when it is your turn to help. Just a reminder that should you be unable to attend, it is your responsibility to find a stand-in. Most members are willing to swap days.

I have said above that our field is looking in good condition but, I should add, apart from the water main works.

As some of you will know in the early days of the Society, we arrived on site one Sunday morning to find that a trench three feet deep running from the telephone area to the tin chapel had been dug across the field, effectively cutting our site in half. We were told by the Museum that this had been dug by residents of Hewell Grange so that a water main could be laid down to the chapel and a proposed water mill. Once the pipe had been laid the trench would be refilled. From memory this took several years. However, we were able to connect into the main to supply our steaming bay and station.

Then last year a lake appeared in the Museum car park area. It was discovered that water from this was coming from a leak in this water main. The Museum attempted to trace the break but were unsuccessful. The only practicable solution was to lay a new main. This resulted in our having to run a temporary supply by hose from the rear of the 'String of Horses'.

Contact was made with the Museum to determine if they would reinstate our supply..... Eventually the committee took the decision that if we needed a supply in reasonable time then we should relay the pipe work ourselves. The plan was to make a connection from our club house to the station and to supply the steaming bay from there using the pipe already in place, and to find and isolate the pipe laid some years ago to avoid water flowing back into the main.

So much for that plan. The pipe-line to the station, no problem, apart from having to employ a contractor to dig the trench, as our ageing membership are probably not up to digging several tens of yard's of trench three feet deep. Pipe installed and refilled. Now to find the old supply pipe. More excavation and searching with no result. The only reasonable solution was to supply the steaming bay via a new pipe from the station area. So, more trench work and pipe laying.

We now have a new water main supplying the station and steaming bay and the evidence of the trenching, which has made something of a mess of the grass. However, you recall that last year we did extensive work on the site laying land drains, and the grass has almost recovered from that work, so all should be well in time. The water-mill was never actually built and many of the bricks were used building the supporting wall and embankment when the track was extended past the play area.

I have to say it makes me very proud to be chairman of such willing club members when I see lots of them beavering away at the numerous tasks our site demands, as you'll see from the photos on pages 6, 7 and 8.

Future Club Events

- Open day Saturday 11th May
- Modern traction day Saturday 6th July
- Wed July 31st Visit from Bromsgrove Railway Club.

Public running

April

- Sunday 31st March Mothers Day
- Tuesday 16th April Children's Activities
- Wednesday 17th April Children's Activities
- Thursday 18th April Children's Activities
- Monday 22nd April Easter Monday
- Tuesday 23rd April Children's Activities
- Wednesday 24th April Children's Activities
- Thursday 25th April Children's Activities

May

- Monday 6th May May Day
- Sunday 12th May Mills Open Weekend

- Sunday 19th May VW Show
- Monday 27th May Spring Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 28th May Children's Activities
- Wednesday 29th May Children's Activities
- Thursday 30th May Children's Activities

June

- Sunday 16th June Fathers Day

Recent Club activities

Our stand at the Fosse was a good cross section of our members' interests showing the care and attention to detail we give to our models. Much interest was shown by members of the public. A great advert!



Noticeboard

Please welcome new member Ken Clegg.

5-inch locomotives for sale

4-2-2 Stirling single. Full Southern Fed. boiler history. Well used and may need an odd bush but perfectly usable. Paint worn.

2-4-0 Metro tank Martin Evans chassis with correctly modelled super-structure. Full Southern Fed. boiler history. Runs well. Paint not of glass case quality.

Please contact Peter Dawson on 01384 873263

A note from Clive Wilson

Some hasty repairs are underway prior to the main running season commencing. Some pillars had been found to be either floating and/or twisting so urgent actions taking place. A few of the pillars on Curve B (past Steaming Bay) are being adjusted and set in concrete to stabilise these problems.



Q. Who coined the expression 'Permanent Way' as there's nothing permanent about it???

In response Dave ? came up with this note for our Facebook page. (Kindly reproduced here for those of us who can just about manage to do e-mails!)

Permanent way or not so permanent way?

Chief ganger Clive has gone all metric meaning that the rail height and superelevation of our 127mm gauge track now have to be correct to the nearest millimetre rather than the nearest inch. To achieve these improved levels of accuracy, it's become necessary to counter elevation changes caused by the intercontinental drift, so the accompanying pics show the PW gang concreting in pillars that previously had a mind of their own so far as their verticality and position were concerned. What would really please Clive, of course, would be an environment where the temperature is stable to within plus or minus 0.1 deg C with minimal rainfall and constant humidity. Maybe next winter's PW undertaking will be to build an Eden Project style dome to cover our site?"

Our refurbished trailer ready for use behind the mower thanks to the team involved including the late Phil Lamb, Brian Mould, Geoff Leigh and Richard Alton.



Willing members Brian Bain, Ron Banks and Alan Larigo moving some slabs so that the bench hiding the garden can be moved to the new position nearer the track. In the background Doug Collins and Les Coombes tamping the grass over the new water pipe trench.



Peter is working on the final connections of the new water pipes to the station and the steaming bay in this photo of Peter Dawson and Peter Maybury which has got to be a candidate for a

CAPTION COMPETITION



If you have a suggestion for a caption please send it to me by 19th September 2019.

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