

BEECH HURST NEWS



Cover picture: -

Many Congratulations: Pictured above are Jim and Helen Green, plus a few rogue souls who ventured up to Bedford for their big day. The picture above was taken at the Swan Hotel in Bedford, before our banquet started. A short piece about the day is included inside.

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Editors Notes

Well here we are then, our mid-summer edition is now present, the summer solstice is just a week away and we are sliding back towards darker days already. It is hard to believe that we are best part of 3 months into the running season and just over 3 left! It's been a good start, lets hope for more to come! Thanks must firstly go to those who contributed to the April edition of the news, those people being: Alan Temple, Bob Youldon, Don, Enid Marten, Mike, Ray & 'Us', hopefully another enjoyable edition.

This edition is slightly slimmer than some, with articles by Bob Youldon, Enid Marten, Mike, Ray and 'Us'. There are plenty of jokes to be read, and article on the visit to the loW, congratulations to Jim and Helen Green on their recent marriage (see cover picture), thanks to Allan Killick for completing 50 years active service at the club and also an updated diary of events. We have gone as far as is possible with the calendar for the diary, so have a look and also if you're interested have a read of the piece underneath the diary as there are two planned visits to the 10 ¼" railway at 'Manor School' near Billingshurst in the near future, details are provided inside. Please keep articles coming if you would like them published in the newsletter, August's will hopefully feature an article about a certain 'King' class locomotive that has recently been finished, thanks Ron! Please read on and enjoy...

Andrew & Mark

Chairman's Notes

It is important to remember that we are a club that has a close relationship with the general public. Not only do we run trains for them to ride every weekend in the season, but also, our clubhouse is located in the heart of the park! It behoves us to retain the public's respect, confidence and support, in all our club activities within the park and on the track itself, in fact, in this litigious age, it is essential that all our actions are carefully considered.

With all the above in mind, and following comments received by the committee, the following points are brought to members attention:

- Motorbikes, please, to be ridden only as transport, to and from the club and not ridden on site.
- The incineration of rubbish in our burner to be limited to club kitchen/small quantities of paper waste only and burning to take place in the evening only. (Logs, household rubbish and gas canisters etc... are not included!)
- All locomotives should be moved manually on & off the traverser and not under their own power, as this is far safer.
- All drivers are once again reminded to maintain a "steady pace" in passenger service. Young or old, if you are asked to "ease up a bit" by the TC or Ops Managers, please take it in good spirit and comply.

On a lighter note, many congratulations to Allan Killick on completing 50 years active service at the club! We thank him for all his hard work and especially for keeping our signalling system operating for half a century! A great achievement, and we hope he will be able to contribute for many years to come!

So far, too, this year, the weather has been kind to us, and the Station Masters are doing a good job with the fares!

Looking ahead to the summer, two things come to mind:

- The first is that we are moving into “peak vandalism” season. Last year the long lighter evenings brought us some damage, with large numbers of young people in the park late at night. On a couple of occasions a few of our members, working together, had to call the police, especially on Friday evenings. We may have to mount a similar “watch” again, but I do not advocate any member acting alone or confronting someone directly.
- The second item is that we have a few jobs to do around the clubhouse that are best done in the summer, but as we run at the weekend, we must tackle them during the week. A few of us can find some time in late July/August and if anyone else might be available to give a few hours, I’ll put an “invitation” up on the blackboard, nearer the time! Perhaps we can get a summer working party together on a few days, on the basis of “many hands make light work!”

Mike

Social Scene – Visit to Beech Hurst by Pinewood, IoW & Maidstone

Our early June invitation to Pinewood, IoW & Maidstone clubs to visit Beech Hurst was again well patronised this year, with around 25 members and 10 or



12 engines making the trip to SMLS. Starting early at around 0930 last Saturday, the track was already busy with engines by 1030 and during the day a succession of engines, large and small, electric or steam had runs around the track. The weather, which really was quite mixed, made things interesting at times, with warm sunshine and frequent short sharp showers. Fun running continued until about 1400, when the

larger engines started our passenger service for the afternoon session. Loadings were quite light, with the often inclement weather putting off only but the most hardy of riders, some seemingly enjoying the rain more than the dry! Running continued towards 1630, when there was a flurry of retiring engines and everyone made their way to the clubhouse for afternoon tea and cakes. Ian continued the passenger service till 1700, when a mass degreasing session commenced on the track in readiness for passenger hauling on Sunday afternoon. Our guests very much appreciated their day out and we were very thankful for their willingness to continue with the passenger service in the afternoon, thanks also to all those who helped set up, run & put away the railway and to Sandy Clarke for the catering in the afternoon. **(Picture Above:** A superb 5” 0-8-0 ‘Netta’ by Edgar Playfoot from Maidstone).

Visit To loW – 24th April 2005

Our annual visit across the Solent to the loW was well attended again this year. Three cars went, with Vince, Dave, Claire and Linda + Geoff and Bob Youldon going from Portsmouth and Andrew, James and Phill going from Southampton. Motive power was provided by Josh's 'Polly' that was 'borrowed' for the day, along with Andrew's '125' and the 'Pump Trolley'. Geoff also took his Tug for use on the boating pond. The day turned out to be bright and sunny, with just the hint of rain as we left later on, which was quite lucky as the mainland seemed to have had its fair share of rain during the day and it seemed to have skirted us.



The 'Polly' was already in steam when we got there (**See Picture Left**) about 1100 and with a few engines on, the '125' and 'Pump Trolley' awaited their turns on the steaming bay. The driving was shared around during the day, with the '125' appearing after lunch (**See Picture Below**), along with the Pump Trolley. Geoff found the boating pond too weedy for his boat, it seemed to very full of weed, which resulted in damage being sustained to Geoff's Tug, whose visit on the water was short lived to say the least. The afternoon went by very quickly, I was offered a drive on Steve Titley's B1, which took me back as it used to be owned by Dave Lewis and I have driven it several times around Beech Hurst when I was much younger. The draw for the raffle made about 1500; Beech Hurst did quite well with the prizes this year, with Andrew scooping a

Whisky decanter full of 'Skittles' sweets, 660 in fact! Everybody was certain that there was only about 250 or so in there, I guessed 400 and was still the closest, they didn't last long though and were mostly cleaned off before we had left! 'Polly' was withdrawn shortly afterwards, with the '125' and 'Pump Trolley' which had been lost to other 'native' drivers long ago, were also taken off ready for us to leave around 1630. The journey back was ok, except that Dave & Co got stuck in Ryde for nearly 2 hours as they had not booked a return boat and for some reason that Sunday evening was exceptionally busy, to the point where several earlier boats were full!

Thanks are expressed to the loW for their excellent hospitality, food and as always friendly welcome. We look forward to welcoming them on a return visit to Beech Hurst in June.

Andrew

Celebrations

With reference to the front cover picture, congratulations go to newly weds Jim and Helen Green. They were married at Oakley Methodist Church, near Bedford, on Saturday 14th May. A dinner and reception then followed at the Swan Hotel in Bedford. Vince, Linda, Dave, Claire, James, Brian and Andrew represented Beech Hurst. Jim and Helen were then off to Venice via the VSOE train for a week away and then flying back by BA for their honeymoon.

Andrew & Mark

Many Thanks

Having delved through the club records the committee acknowledged that Allan Killick has been an active member of the club for 50 years around May this year. The committee felt that this achievement was notable, particularly as Allan still attends the club on most Saturdays and has done so for many years. As a result it was arranged that Allan would be at the club on Saturday 21st May, for a meeting with Steve Turner with regards to the signalling system (at least that is what he was told!). It was also arranged that as many



regular members as possible were available to attend at 1200 for Allan to receive a card signed by members (**See Picture Left**) and to receive a short thanks from Mike Porter. It was also decided that we would give Allan a cheque, with which he could take Grace out for a special meal or two as thanks from the club for all his efforts over the years, with driving engines and maintaining our signalling system.

Through these pages we would like to thank Allan for this efforts over the years and in reaching this milestone. Few regularly active members will ever get to this stage and it is nice that we appreciate the efforts of members that do. Well done Allan!

PS. Sorry the photo Andrew took was a little 'under-exposed!' The miracles of 'Paint Shop Pro' nowadays allowed for it to be 'brightened' up a little, so that at least Allan & Mike are visible!

Andrew & Mark

Jokes

A market trader is selling 'The Cheapest Hearing Aid' in the market! All it consists of is a bootlace with a knot at each end. When challenged by a trading standards officer he explains "one end in your ear & one end in your pocket ensures that everybody shouts at you!"

Ray

Jokes

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

Bob Youldon

This has got to be one of the cleverest
E-mails I've received in awhile.
Someone out there either has too much
spare time or is deadly at Scrabble.
(Wait till you see the last one)!



DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters:
DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN:

When you rearrange the letters:
BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER:

When you rearrange the letters:
MOON STARER

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters:
A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH:

When you rearrange the letters:
HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE:

When you rearrange the letters:
HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:
CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY:

When you rearrange the letters:
IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters:
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

When you rearrange the letters:
WOMAN HITLER

SNOOZE ALARMS:

When you rearrange the letters:
ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:
IM A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:
TWELVE PLUS ONE

AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE:

PRESIDENT CLINTON OF THE USA:

When you rearrange the letters
(With no letters left over and using each letter only once):
TO COPULATE HE FINDS INTERNS

Yep, someone definitely has waaaaay too much time on their hands!

Enid Marten

Diary Of Events

12th June 2005 – Invitation to BBQ at ‘Manor Railway’ – details below, TBC.

18th June 2005 – ‘Bring Your Own’ BBQ evening – Will start from approx. 1830.

18th & 19th June 2005 – Invitation to Canterbury Club special day.

3rd July 2005 – Invitation to Pinewood Club, details TBC.

7th July 2005 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

10th July 2005 – Invitation to ‘Manor Railway – Billingshurst’ see details below.

23rd/24th July 2005 – Special Running Weekend – details yet TBC.

4th August 2005 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

27th August 2005 – ‘Bring Your Own’ BBQ evening – Will start from approx 1830.

3rd or 4th September 2005 – Special Running Weekend – details yet TBC.

N.B. Other events are not always shown in the diary of events because they have been arranged at short notice; check black/notice board at the clubhouse for more details.

Andrew & Mark

EdNo.

The diary above is as advanced as we have at this time. There are two visits advertised to the ‘Manor Railway’ at Billingshurst. The one on the 12th June is an evening invitation, which we plan to go to after running at the club, from say about 1830-2030ish, some transport could be provided dependant on room in cars.

The visit on 10th July has been specially arranged by John Ely and is open to all members. Again transport has to be arranged and space is subject to seats being available in cars, this is planned for late afternoon/evening and as we are also running at Beech Hurst fewer people are likely to be able to attend. For this visit if you are interested then please put your name on the blackboard at the club ASAP, so John has some idea of how many are likely to attend.

Andrew & Mark