

BEECH HURST NEWS



Cover picture: -

New Look: After nearly two decades, our website has recently undergone a refresh and shown above is the new home page. Built by young member Tom, the website is now up and running, and is administered by Andrew S. The web address remains: beechhurst-railway.org.uk

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Editor's Notes

We have now arrived in metrological spring, the days are getting much longer and with our AGM past, thoughts are turning to a new running season once again. After some record breaking late February warmth, the topsy-turvy weather has seen us return to more average temperatures for the past week or so and a sign that winter is not done with us just yet! The later start to our 2019 season may be a blessing and hopefully it will not be as cold as Easter 2018 – we can but hope! Looking back over the past 5 months or so, and without any major weather events, our closed season has been productive and most of the routine jobs have been completed without significant impedance. Hopefully summer 2019 will be likewise and we can enjoy a fruitful running season – seemingly our last at the £1 fare.

On a brighter note I am pleased to have used the new website homepage as the latest cover picture and it is scary to think where the intervening years have gone since our first website was launched! It is true to say that social media now plays a much bigger role than ever it did all those years ago when sites like Facebook were still on the drawing board – how far we have come and hopefully we will not be ill judged on social media for the decisions we make. I am certain the website will continue to play a pivotal role in helping us to promote our club and may well outlive the social media sites which have now become king!

From the December newsletter, I would like to thank Andrew S & Dan for their contributions in what was a bumper Christmas / New Year edition.

Partly due to work commitments, and the timing of the committee meeting where the 'Officers and Other Positions for 2019' are decided, I have held this edition back to include the changes for this year (**see page 5 for an updated list**). In addition, there are also short pieces by Andrew S, Mike W & Stephen about the website, workshop and library respectively, a report from the Alexandra Palace show, numerous small updates on Winter Work and from around the park, as well as an updated Diary for 2019, so please read on and enjoy...

Andrew

Chairman's Notes

With our AGM approaching rapidly and winter beginning to fade out, it is time to start thinking about the new running season 2019. The running book has already been made up and our operations managers invite you to sign up for duties. The main running begins Easter weekend (4 days).

I have been asked by the Committee and Operations department to remind and update you about a few matters regarding the coming season and passenger working:-

If you are running a 'steamer', please check your boiler certificate validity and if necessary book in a boiler test in good time with one of our boiler inspectors. If you are requiring a hydraulic test, I would remind you, it's up to you to prepare all the necessary bungs and connections to enable the inspector to do the test. Please DO NOT expect the boiler inspector to do this.

Following comments made last year, John B has made modifications to the speed signal at the back of the clubhouse. This now has 2 white lenses (instead of the yellows) and if you are travelling at walking pace they will remain unlit. If you are travelling too fast, they will flash and sound the alarm buzzer in the clubhouse. Please keep your speed down here so as not to trigger the signal. It is for safety reasons. The section triggering the signal has also been extended a little nearer to the signal and point, in line with member's suggestions.

John B has produced a new risk assessment concerning our steaming bay area. Following comments and dangerous situations last year, we need to keep members of the public, especially young children, out of the steaming bay compound when we are operating the railway. Extra signs are available this year, along with a couple of light chain barriers. If a member(s) of the public enter, please ask them (politely) to wait / stand / observe from behind the railings / chains. For steam drivers, please take care when cleaning down, not to blow hot ash, hot water or soot towards anyone.

Lastly, as always please, drive at a moderate pace with passengers and be especially careful through the cuttings and tunnels, and within the park where children or the public are walking (or playing) close to the line side. We enjoy an open park with no fencing around the railway, so let's keep it that way please.

Over the winter, maintenance work has taken place on the track and to the trucks, along with the building of a new 3 car set of carriages. The new trucks may not be ready for the start of the season but should be operational later this year. All the usual gardening and leaf clearance has continued throughout. We also held a fireworks night, winter lights festival, a New Year's Day get together and exhibited at Alexandra Palace. I would like to thank everyone for all the hard work over the last 5 months.

I wish you a good start to the coming running season.

Mike

Library

Following the decision by our magazine binder to retire and close his business, the committee has taken the opportunity to review our subscriptions for the model engineering magazines. This has resulted in the Model Engineer not having been renewed and those of you who regularly attend the club may have noticed the last issue received was back in the autumn. However it was felt the subscription to Engineering in Miniature should continue. The latest two editions should be available in the clubhouse, after which they will be put away for safe keeping.

A friendly reminder that unbound magazines (Engineering in Miniature, Model Engineer or Steam Railway) should not be removed from the clubhouse without very special permission. Bound magazines can be inspected by talking to any Librarian. They can also be borrowed by any member (as can almost any book) for a period of up to three months by asking a Librarian to book them out to you. At the end of that period they can be renewed, subject to no other member having requested it, by returning it to the clubhouse and talking to a Librarian.

Stephen

New Website

The SMLS website has been in need of an overhaul for some time and during the past 12 months Tom has built a new website from scratch. I have now taken on the job of publishing the new website under the original web address which is: www.beechhurst-railway.org.uk I would like to thank Steve Allen (Mark's Dad) and Stephen Hutton for their help in completing this task as well as thanking Stephen for all the work he has done to maintain the old website and for keeping it up to date. The password to access the members area remains the same and if you require the password then please contact me via the website.

Andrew S

Memorial Bench

Following the passing of Peter Chapman in November 2016, his family thought it would be nice to have a permanent memorial in the park where Peter spent so much of his later years. As such, they commissioned a bench to be built with an inscribed plaque, part of which reads 'Husband, Dad, Granddad and Engineer'. The bench has been mounted on a newly cast concrete base adjacent to the 'Tennis Court Straight' (**picture below**), facing south and with perfect views of the railway, station area and South Downs in the distance. A very fitting tribute to one of our most hard working members of recent years and a true 'club' member. Each and every time I pass the bench I shall be reminded of Peter and the many happy, and often amusing, memories I have of the time he spent at Beech Hurst.



Andrew

Election of 'Officers' and 'Other' Positions for 2019

At the first Committee meeting following the AGM, members are elected to fill the 'Officer's' & other 'Working' positions within the Club, this list is for 2019:

President: Ray Parsons

Vice-Presidents: Geoff West & John West

Chairman: Daniel Evans

Vice-Chairman: Mike Porter

Secretary: Andrew Strongitharm

Minutes Secretary: Mike Wakeling

Treasurer: Graham Miller

Other Committee Members in Addition to the Above Officer's:

John Baldwin, Nick Edwards, Steve Steer & Geoff West

Operations Managers: Tom Broome, Nick Edwards & Daniel Evans

Signals Engineer: Graham Mundy

Assistant Signals: Steve Turner

Workshop Manager: Mike Wakeling

Assistant Workshop: Steve Steer

House Manager: John West

Catering Manager: Val West

Stores Managers: Nick Edwards, Steve Steer & Geoff West

Librarian: Stephen Hutton

Assistant Librarians: Ray Parsons & Geoff West

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Brock

Boiler Consultant: John Richardson

Boiler Coordinator: Steve Turner

Boiler Inspectors: Mike Porter, John Richardson, Steve Turner & Geoff West

Custodians of Wharfedale: Nick Edwards & Daniel Evans

Assistant Custodian: Sam Ridley

Custodian of LNER Tank: Mike Porter & Steve Steer

Custodian of Club Electric Locomotives: Graham Mundy

Carriage Valeters: Sam Hope, Graham Mundy & Sam Ridley

Webmaster: Andrew Strongitharm

Clubhouse Cleaners: Nick Edwards & Mike Porter

Track Maintenance: Roy Preston

Carriage & Wagon Maintenance: Andrew Brock

Carriage & Wagon New Truck Development: Steve Turner & Geoff West

Carriage & Wagon Painters: Geoff West

Exhibition Coordinators: John Baldwin, Andrew B, Andrew S & Mike Wakeling

Facebook Administrators: Nick Edwards, Daniel Evans & Andrew Strongitharm

Disciplinary Sub-Committee: John Baldwin, Chris Saunders & Mike Wakeling

Data Production Coordinator: John Baldwin

Person of Significant Control (for Companies House Register): TBA

Any changes to the above will be communicated through the newsletter.

Committee

Alexandra Palace

Hot on the heels of our New Year's Day event, the Alexandra Palace Show normally follows just a couple of weeks later with preparations already underway before Christmas. For 2019 we had another good mix of models and a different layout due to the withdrawal of the Northern Association stand in its own right. This meant for the first year ever our stand had a 360 degree view with no option for backing boards. Despite initial misgivings at this revised layout it actually worked well but meant that seating for those manning the stand was very limited. This year we took the following items for display: 5" BR '9F', 5" BR 'Standard 4', 5" LMS 'Jinty', 5" 'Dougal', 5" Oil / Petrol Tankers (2 off), 5" Guards Van, other 5" Wagons (4 off), 5" 'Pump Trolley', 3 ½" 'Pullman Coach', 2 ½" GWR 'Grange', Test Boiler + Fittings and Hydraulic Test Pump – a nice overall selection.

The Thursday (set up) dawned bright but with showers looming and a cold northerly breeze! I picked up the van early that morning and was lucky to be trusted to look after a basically new '68 plate' Ford Transit with barely more than delivery miles on the clock! I then met Adam, Alex, Mike W & Nick at the club to load up. After the usual head scratching and re-packing we got everything in, nice and tight, and ready for the 90-odd mile drive round the motorway and dreaded North Circular! Keeping to within an inch of the speed limits and a near perfect run we made the exhibition hall in 1h 45m, a near record! Unloading was easy and by 15:00 we were done and dusted with our stand set for the 3 days.

Friday, I met Alex, Mike W & Nick for the journey by train to London and then we joined Adam & John B at Alexandra Palace. After a breakfast we were set for the day ahead and another busy one it was. Despite a slow start the hall filled quickly and we were kept on our toes talking to friends, as well as strangers. All of the exhibits created interest and with a good size crew we had time to engage with visitors as well as spend time looking around the show ourselves.

The Saturday crew consisted of Andrew S, John B, Ken, Norman, Sam's H & R, and me. Equal or perhaps a little busier than Friday, Saturday was another very good day and it was hard to get a break from the stand! Likewise though, we welcomed some familiar faces as well as many passers-by too. Again we had time to engage with all of our visitors, including spending time with people new to the hobby who were seeking advice on many aspects of model engineering.

Sunday, and we were back to Adam, Alex, Fraser, Nick & I, and later joined by Andrew S. Assuming an under-40 is considered 'young', even if relatively, I am proud to say that our Sunday crew was entirely 'younger' members. How many clubs can boast this, let alone manning an exhibition stand? Although a bit quieter, Sunday was still very steady and soon enough it was nearly 16:00 and time for breakdown to commence. After a fairly speedy exit, we were on the road before 18:00 and back by 20:30, including a trip via John B's in Caterham, which did not go entirely to plan and the detail of which shall be consigned to history! Having unloaded I finally dropped off the van (still in one piece) about 21:00 and time for home. Thanks to all those who contributed to a very successful weekend. It was as ever very worthwhile; if hard work at times and well done to Adam, Andrew S & Nick for their mentions and picture in the latest EiM. Here's to 2020...



Pictures above and below: Our 2019 stand at Alexandra Palace.



Andrew

Winter Work

Further to the previous newsletter, a handful of small jobs have been completed and of course there will be numerous commissioning jobs before running starts.

On the track, Roy P, Graham Miller & Dave M have completed some final levelling along the 'Nursery Straight', as well as fault finding a signal / track problem in section 3. The track is otherwise ready for running to commence.

The 3 new trucks are progressing well with Steve T recently testing the new brake mechanism, which requires some minor tweaks to finish. Of the existing fleet, Andrew S & I have been working our way through brake pad and bearing changes in time for the start of the running season. This work continues...

Inside, Mike W has continued the overhaul of the workshop with new labelled tool trays and a general tidy up. This too is work in progress and will continue as time permits. In the next edition I shall round up our full winter programme...

Footpath Work

MSDC contractors have now completed a new footpath, which starts at the bottom of our driveway, runs parallel to it, past our car park and then beneath the station to a point below Joanna's café (**picture below by our car park**). Hopefully this has created a useful diversionary route to circumvent our busy station area but please do not advise those with pushchairs or wheelchairs to use it if headed towards the café because at the end there are only steps to the patio!



Andrew

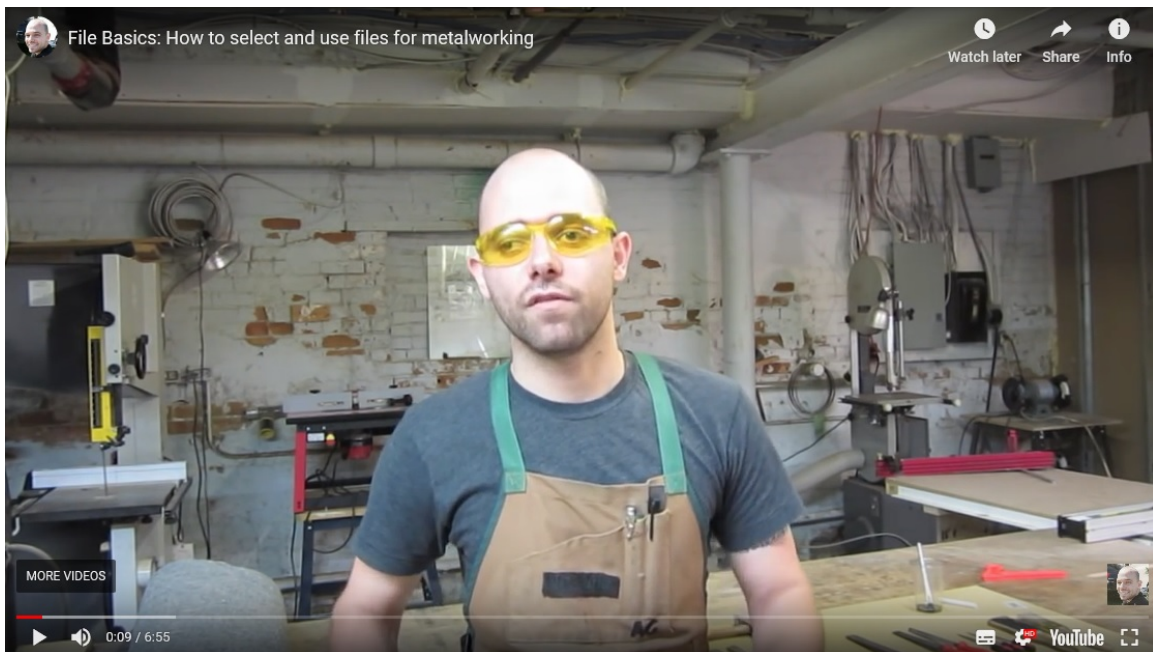
From The Workshop – Mike W

Over the last few weeks I have noticed a serious deterioration in the state of the files that are hung on the wall in the main workshop. The rat tail file has had its end broken off and what remains is bent (**picture below left**). The flat file is seriously worn from bad use (**picture below right**). These files are relatively new which can only mean that we have people that do not know how to use them, or far worse are deliberately misusing the files.



The following website link (**screen shot below**), although American, gives a very good guide on how to maintain and use files, although it does end abruptly.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+to+use+a+file&docid=608041022733488009&mid=74DEC23C3306E99A00B774DEC23C3306E99A00B7&view=detail&FORM=VIREHT>



Keeping and leaving the file teeth clear of debris is a very simple process and should always be done when you have finished using the file. We do have file card brushes available (**pictures below left & right**) and for the more stubborn chips you can use a piece copper or also thin aluminium plate (**picture bottom**). Using the copper or aluminium, push it across the file in the direction of the teeth cut lines and this will remove stubborn chips. I have just purchased new files and I will put them out soon. I do not purchase cheap files as I am fully aware the quality of the file is important for longevity, so please look after this set and ensure that you only use them for their intended purpose.



For Sale – 5" Gauge 'Model Works' 'Black 5'

After many trials and tribulations, I have now decided to sell my 'Model Works' 'Black 5'. The locomotive has been transformed from the original kit and is now fully operational. It has just completed its second full season of passenger hauling. Finished in BR black (**picture below**), the locomotive has current hydraulic and steam tests, and is available to view at Beech Hurst by prior arrangement. The asking price is £7,000 o.n.o. Please see me at the club most weekends for more information.



Mike W

Work in Progress – 'Royal Scot' & Wagons

Following their successful run on New Year's Day, the two oil / petrol tankers were hastily cleaned up and prepared for display at the Alexandra Palace Show back in January. I had hoped to fit the brake gear in time for Ally Pally but a couple of minor setbacks meant this was not possible and I was not prepared to rush the final pieces for the sake of it. Nevertheless, and even without the brake gear fitted, there were some very positive comments at the Show but no firm offers of intent! I am not sure I could contemplate selling either with all the work that has gone into them! Since Ally Pally, the remaining brake gear components have been fabricated and are now being trial fitted. I said in my last article that 'the little things in life matter and when it comes to model engineering they often take the most time', and the brake gear is of no exception! Of course when you make more than one model at a time, the multiples of components add up too!

Picture below: The ensemble of brake parts and when you consider the actuation / pivot bars = 1 hour each, the pivot blocks = 1 hour each and finally the fitted pins = 30 minutes each, it is not hard to see where the hours go! I hope the effort is worth it when these are assembled during the coming couple of weeks!



Andrew

Forthcoming & Diary of Events

Below is an updated Diary, which takes us through to the next edition, due to be released around the Easter weekend towards the end of April. Further items will hopefully be added in the April newsletter and please note that the previously advertised Club Nights will no longer continue during 2019 due to low patronage.

22nd June 2019 – Mid Summer BBQ – Will start from 18:00

30th June 2019 – Under 30's Day – Will start from 14:00

31st July 2019 – Focus Model Engineers to visit SMLS – Will start from 10:00

24th August 2019 – End of Summer BBQ – Will start from 18:00

NB. Certain events may be organised at short notice and will not therefore appear in the newsletter. Please check white / notice boards in the clubhouse for details of such events.

Andrew