

# Sussex Miniature Locomotive Society



## Wharfedale News. Issue 20

6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020

Dear all,

Hope you are all well.

Here it is, week **Twenty**, did I think we would reach this many when I started, I think I would have to say, no, I did not.

I have enjoyed producing Wharfedale and I am happy to continue producing them but we have very little feedback from you as to whether it is a welcome document each week. It is reliant on a few contributors to whom I am very grateful. Have we got the content right? Please let us know.

Stay safe

Mike

### **Brief club house NEWS**

#### **Roofing Progress**

Thanks for the offers of support to remove the articles up in the roof at time of writing I think we now have a full team of people to help.

Now we find out what treasures we will have up there!

This has been a great team effort to come to this point and I would again like to thank Andrew S for his efforts in communicating with all and those that have help guide him through the paperwork. To Roy Preston, for making a comprehensive list of the areas we needed to cover, John Baldwin for talking to contractors to ensure we understood their quote, and Howard Strongitharm for reviewing in detail the quotes including where the supplier would be sourcing their tiles. Thanks also to Howard who has also agreed to oversee the site during the re-roofing process.

## **70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Many ideas have been put forward for this day, including cavalcades, displays, visitors, double/triple heading & much more, and we are in the process of looking into what can be achieved on the day. One of the ideas would be to end the day with a meal.

The thinking is that this would be initially members plus partners & helpers only plus our official guests if they want to stay on. We may be able to extend this invite at a small cost depending on numbers.

Subject to approval of the council the idea is to look into the hiring of a marquee to exhibit displays and model railway layouts etc. that the kids can operate along with other activities for the public to enjoy.

At the end of the day convert to tables and chairs and have a food and chat time. The aim would be to start this between 6.30 and 7.00 pm

This would be at minimal cost and cater for special diets.

Before we move forward at looking into prices and suitability, we would like some feedback from the members on the options available.

The food options put forward to date are as follows:-

1. Hog Roast
2. Pizzas
3. Fish /Chicken and chips

How well would this be supported?

Please respond to Andrew S with your thoughts and what your food preference would be. Also, if you have any ideas for the day that you would like us to hear please do let us know.

Many thanks.

I understand the gardening team is having a slightly easier time at the moment since, due to the long dry spell, the growth of plants and grass has slowed right down

Great work teams thanks to Mike P, Graham Miller, Dave Mattingley Andrew S, Roy P, Mick Robinson, Sam Hope and John Green, for continuing to offer their services and thanks to Tom and Andrew S and Andrew B for continuing to maintain the security patrols.

## Wharfedale Article 19

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Nick Edwards Santa 2015



Santa Dec 2015

## Mike P.'s Musings No. 18

My last encounters with main line BR steam locomotives were not such happy ones. By summer 1967 steam was over on the southern region, and, more or less, over everywhere else too! My last visits to Salisbury shed were between 1-7<sup>th</sup> August of 1967 with my summer "southern rover" ticket, and by this time most of the locos in the shed had been stripped of their rods and lined up ready for towing away for scrap. The line up in this photo I had listed as 76064,41319,80012,34044,80019,73119,82029,41284,30072,34040,30064,80154





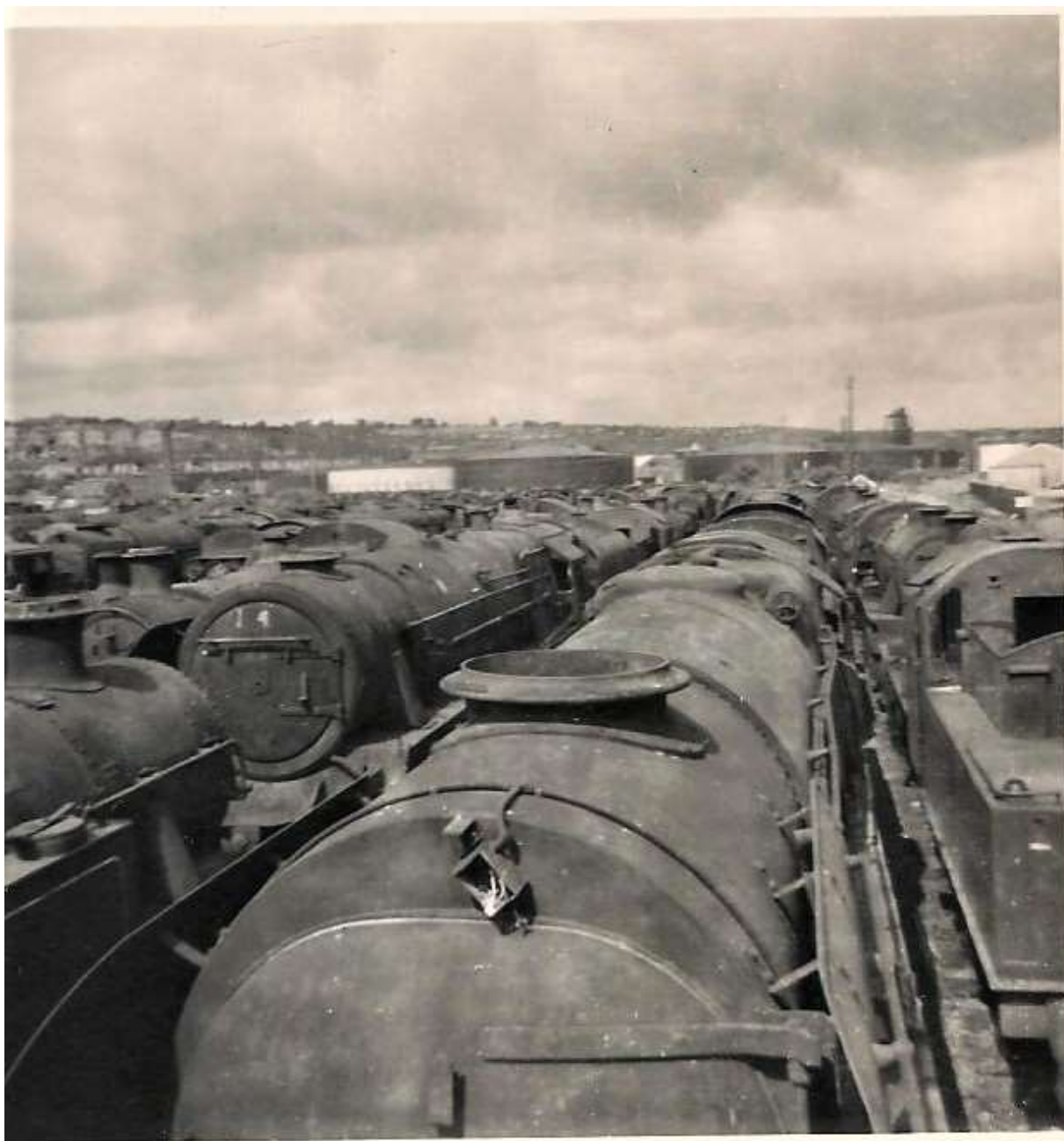
The sorry state of them is shown by these two pictures of 34006 "Bude" (a Brighton built loco).



We were still free to climb all over them, and my brother is posing as driver on this engine...perhaps the last to sit in that seat! We were three lads together, my school friend, my brother and me. My brother was just 11, we were just 14. Such freedom and no worries! Just amazing by current standards.



Many, if not all, of these locos went from Salisbury to Dai Woodham's scrap yard in South Wales. They were dragged away in 3's, 4's, and 5's, the groups of 5 having an extra brake van or two attached because each loco could be about 100 tons, so five of these was like a 12 coach train in weight, without brakes! I believe it might have been 1968 when my friend and I followed the trail to South Wales. His auntie lived in Swansea, so we went to stay with her for a week in the summer holidays. I wrote to Dai Woodham, and he sent my letter back SAE, (stamped addressed envelope for the younger ones!) with the letter stamped "passed". This meant we could go and wander around his yard with complete freedom and no hard hats or high viz in sight! I took this last photo from the top of a tender in Dai's yard. Engines buffer to buffer as far as the eye could see!



So, that was that! Preservation had hardly been thought of, or was just struggling to get going. No more steam! There seemed no alternative but to try to build a small one of my own. The seed to do this was planted one day when my father came home with four second hand copies of Model Engineer from a jumble sale. One of these contained the first episode of LBSC's beginners loco "Tich". I believed LBSC, that someone with no knowledge could build one! It turned out to be a lot harder than I could ever have imagined, but I was on my way to building my first steam locomotive.



**Andrew Ellis.**

This week Andrew has included from his gallery and to quote “Here is another older picture but I like its sunny feel, even if the buildings are a bit more wonky than the originals.”



Above is also another older painting of the Old Maids Cottage in Lee, North Devon. It was derelict at the time and covered in keep out signs. It was a feature of my childhood holidays with my Nan and feeling rather sentimental I took a photo to give it a face lift.



### Dolls House continued:-

The first two photographs are ones I took of an award winning tapestry from the Kensington Dolls House Fair last year. Note the price, offers over £4800!!!



**FROM ROME TO FROME**

In 2018 my daughter took me to Rome to celebrate a significant birthday! At 'The Vatican Museum', our guided tour took us to 'The Gallery of Tapestries'. I was inspired to chart & stitch one of these fabulous tapestries for The Pima competition.

My tapestry is stitched with fine silk on 58 count silk gauze.

And took me over 400 hours to create.



I have also attached below some photos of a Tudor house that my mother and I decorated some years ago. It came as a kit to decorate as you please. Some items are bought over the years and we made others. Dolls are from World of My Own.







**Andrew E. To be continued.**

**Recognise this?**



**All to be revealed next week.**



## News From Afar - 5 Aug.



Wedge Tail Eagle

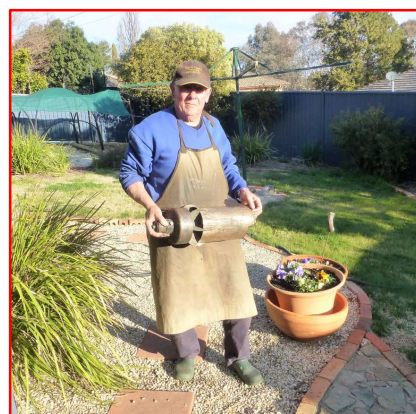


### ***Maintenance.***

Shown are checks being made on one of our tractors, fuel, oil etc and me 'adjusting' the switch on the vibrating roller. The tools are difficult to see, but one is a hammer for very fine adjustments. These pictures were taken two days after the "B...Y Winter' one. These shown are a typical Canberra winters day, cold but sunny.



### ***A purchase by our illustrious Secretary. A 'Nathan' Six Chime Whistle***



I have volunteered myself to give it a clean and polish. Some may say that is a foolish idea, but I think it could look magnificent if completed.

It is one of the bronze ones and will look and sound wonderful if we can get enough air into it. Look them up on YouTube. An amazing sound. Yes the weight is 24.6 kilograms. Heavy stuff.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0CquYOS3pU> (copy and paste into google)



**Members Day - Sunday 2 Aug.**



A good turn up for a cold day with a foggy start, with 17 members signed in. We had six locos out and about with a new 5 "purchase by Paul G out for a test. Paul has weakened and has decided that on a cold day, or any day come to that, it is a lot quicker to get on the track running with an electric loco.







Hot soup and a warm fire come in handy to make the day more pleasant.

### **Track Work.**

With one section realigned we move on to the next section, at the top of our 7.25 track. Again this is being moved outwards to provide a larger radius curve. To do this required some moderately serious earth work, beyond the capability of our little Kubota. Call in the Secretaries son for a favour with his Bobcat.





Above, David the operator, (not me) is seen pushing back a pile of soil from a datum post to give our friendly surveyor more room to operate.



Move this pile up the slope to fill in a void in a corner to allow the realignment.



Job done, the new track alignment being made just to the right of the 'star' pickets.

*Before I forget.* The Wedge Tail Eagle was flying low, about 100 feet off the ground over our block. They are more likely seen in the area in summer rather than winter. A wonderful sight at any time. When at low altitude they are forever being pestered by the smaller birds, but when high in the sky the bird life is very quiet. The picture is not mine ([bing.com/images](http://bing.com/images)) as I could not get my camera out of my pocket in time.

***Stay well. David - Canberra - 5 August 2020***

## **“Sharpthorn” and the lock down.**

**By Chris Saunders. (Jailbird & wallpaper climber)**

As some might know I started the Sharpthorn project 30 years ago in 1990. I spent a couple of years researching the engine & trying to get drawings & information. Without much luck until I discovered a single drawing in Leeds Industrial Museum.

I ordered a copy & proceeded to get a scale print from my local print shop. The information confirms it to be a Manning Wardle “K” class contractors’ engine. I had some information that alluded to the fact it was owned for a while by Firbank during the construction of the northern section of the Bluebell line.

The evidence now pointed to the fact that a 5” loco would not have the power for pulling the skin of a rice pudding, even downhill! I still wanted to build it, so I looked into an 1/8<sup>th</sup> scale for 7 ¼ track. This looked a lot better as scaling the maths showed it would pull me along a level track & probably a lot more besides.

I think I started cutting metal in the mid- 90s while I collected as many photos as I could from Horsted Keynes where it is stored. Regrettably around this time I started to have trouble with my eyesight, it gradually became worse until the optician diagnosed a nasty and rare form of cataracts. I had to wait till 2004 before the first one was operated on with the second a couple of years later. The warnings about healing & future damage meant no steam loco driving because of oil in the exhaust, and no workshop without full eye protection. Luckily about this time I had made the wheel pattern & got 6 wheels cast at a foundry in Lewes, these sat outside in the rain & sun for a couple of years weathering before a first skinning cut.

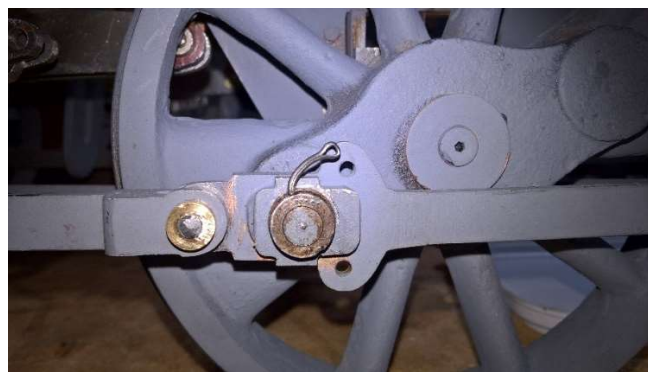
A couple of years ago I got the bug again & re-started by checking the workshop corners for boxes and bags of bits that I had forgotten. It quickly came back together with a lot of big bits already made & some part- way. The first new difficult bit was the water tank, needing the use of the club rolls to get good curves in plates & angle. This followed with some progress on the boiler plates.

Unfortunately, without the “words & music drawings” a lot of progress is bitty. Normally we build from the inside out, but I have to work from the outside in. This means a lot of stop go & what I call butterfly building.

Since the early lockdown I managed to re-start in earnest. I now have a rolling chassis that only needs the valve chambers / steam chest milling before trials



on air. The boiler is nearly dry assembled and, thanks to Geoff for second opinions and advice, is getting close to the “hot glue” stage. From time to time a partial assembly is needed (see photos) to get measurements not available from the drawing.



I must be getting old or lazy as I now find I can buy nearly dead scale components from the usual suppliers. This is a benefit of working in this scale! So, it will soon be on the home straight if I can get access to the big mill & the big Propane burners.





Then, all I will need is a short length of 7 ¼" track to run it in! After that the big decision, what colour?

**Chris S. July 2020.**

### **Surrey Regional Recipe.**

I was trying to find something traditional to Surrey in the way of food and I found this:-

#### **MAIDS OF HONOUR**

Make (or buy) some puff pastry and line some patty tins with it. Fill with the following mixture and bake in a brick oven until golden brown.

1 pint (600ml) milk, 2 eggs, 1/2 oz (15g) almonds (blanched), 4 oz (115g) butter, 1 teaspoonful rennet essence, 1 dessert spoonful brandy, 2 oz (60g) sugar, pinch salt, pinch cinnamon, 1/2 lemon.

Warm milk to blood heat and add rennet and salt. Allow to set and then drain through fine butter muslin all night. Add the butter to the curds and rub through a fine sieve. Beat eggs, add the brandy to the curd, together with the chopped almonds, sugar, cinnamon, grated rind and juice of lemon.

There's a challenge for someone! (I will let you off the brick oven)

Mike W

## Puzzle Corner.

**Lorema's last week's Challenge:- :- Anagrams of parts of the human body.**

1	abeelor	Earlobe
2	adeefhor	Forehead
3	ahortt	Throat
4	egontu	Tongue
5	deikny	Kidney
6	eelnps	Spleen
7	deeiimprs	Epidermis
8	aacenprs	Pancreas
9	abfii	Fibia
10	glnsu	Lungs
11	aehrt	Heart
12	aaellpt	Patella
13	bceeellmru	Cerebellum
14	cccoxy	Coccyx
15	eilrv	Liver
16	adeinoox	Appendix (Sorry patient Stress)
17	emnrstu	Sternum
18	eilpsv	Pelvis
19	ailnv	Anvil
20	iprrstu	Stirrup
21	aehmmr	Hammer
22	aeghoopssu	Oesophagus
23	ceilpv – degilr	Pelvic- Girdle
24	abeeerrtv	Vertebrae



## **Lorema's this week challenge.**

My stamp album looked like this, fill it in as it would look today:-

Example.	Formosa	Taiwan
1	Burma	
2	Northern Rhodesia	
3	Dutch East Indies	
4	Abyssinia	
5	British Guiana	
6	Basutoland	
7	Ceylon	
8	French Sudan	
9	Bechuanaland	
10	Siam	
11	Gold Coast	
12	New Hebrides	
13	British Honduras	
14	Southern Rhodesia	
15	Gilbert Islands	

**My thanks go to all who keep sending me the material.**

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

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