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of Model
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Free to members

The Prospectus

April 2022



Testing times! Mike Strain's new Class 5 and his North British 4-4-2 at the track on Saturday 12 March. Bill Piner's Sweet Pea cools down in the background.

**TRUSTEE NEWS
SUBS 22/23
THE RAILINGS
BOILER SUCCESS
STEAM IN 1962
BRESSINGHAM PICTURES**

A VIEW VFROM THE CHAIR

John Billard

Because of an absence from the editorial chair this edition of Prospectus is being created in the middle of March. However the diary is up to date and shown on page 8.

The trustees again met on 14 March with a detailed agenda as usual. We were pleased to hear that the raised track platform alteration has been completed and plans are in hand to improve the loading bay. We heard of new fire extinguishers and electrical testing required under the terms of our lease. The public running on 6th March was very successful with almost record takings for which the new ticketing arrangements played a big part. Peter Culham reported on an extensive programme of birthday parties for the season that has now commenced. Stephen Millward has taken over running the revised website and this is work in good progress.

Once again our lease with the council is expiring and we hope that it will be possible to negotiate a longer extension this time. As already reported the trustees are preparing a set of working rules for RSME members under the terms of the constitution. This helpfully brings together everything contained in separate documents and reflects existing practices. This will be made available for members to see shortly.

Finally I can report that it was decided to revert to October for our annual general meeting at a date to be announced.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees for all the work they do in the background to keep everything running smoothly. I called in to see the club running last Saturday and what a picture the site was with the spring flowers blooming. Nigel was busy with boiler testing for the new season and members were enjoying the track. With all the awfulness going on in the world at the moment this was an oasis of happiness.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022/3 ARE DUE ON 1 APRIL.

**AN APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FORM IS BEING
CIRCULATED SHOWING RATES AND FOR YOUR SIGNATURE.**

**PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY BACS TO THE BARCLAYS
ACCOUNT IN THE NAME OF RSME
BANK SORT CODE 20-78-58
ACCOUNT NUMBER 70796077.**

**COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORMS SHOULD GO TO THE
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY BY E MAIL
michael.manners2@ntlworld.com OR POST TO
257 LODDON BRIDGE ROAD, WOODLEY, READING, RG5 4BL**

IN SHOPS THIS MONTH—BUILDING A CLAUD

by John Billard
The Boiler Part 8

Last month we left the boiler construction at the final stage. No boiler is a boiler without this the final shell test. In preparation I made plugs for each bush together with a fibrous washer and blanked off the dome opening with a steel plate and gasket.

The first testing was done privately to check that the boiler held water. This was encouraging so a pressure test was applied gradually increasing to 135psi. This revealed three no more than pinhole leaks externally in the barrel that were sealed with higher melting point soft solder. At that point I was confident enough to call in the club inspectors.

It did not take them long to set up their apparatus and soon the full twice working pressure was reached and held at 180 psi. All dry particularly around the tube plates. So I had a certificate! Job done!

When I started this project nearly two years ago I was really at a loss where to start. The best moment was when I invited RSME members to join in with their own projects. I must thank Peter Harrison and Stephen Millward for all their encouragement and to see their work flourish as well. And Nigel Penford has always been on hand to offer advice on what ever problem we put to him.

Would I do it again? Yes, taking account of everything learned. Alan Thatcher gave early advice which was “ It’s not difficult, plenty of flux and have plenty of heat”. We had the largest 81 kw propane burner together with a number 18 oxyacetylene nozzle in use on the larger assemblies and I was lucky enough to have an old stock of Easyflow solder to use up.



I believe that both Peter and Stephen would go on to more boiler making of their own. I hope that we have increased the knowledge and capacity within RSME to go ahead with this work. There are few disadvantages if you have the courage to start, and we are there to help. And it will be cheaper and quicker than a commercial job.

So what next? I have a hydraulic due on the Manor and then to return to the Claud tender for final completion and painting when the weather warms up.



THE RAILINGS— JOB DONE

More space for alighting
passengers

Nigel Penford reports on a
busy Wednesday 9 March.



This involved Nigel Penford, Mike Manners, Dave Cole, David Scott, Peter Culham and Chris Symonds. Mike Sinclair was preparing the material for welding up the fence panel, Alf was installing the new, second hand ash bin and the gardening crew were at work and cutting the grass. Many other jobs were on going, cleaning the public toilet, sorting out the ballast store, moving ballast from bottom of hill to ballast store and Peter Harrison repairing the club Baldwin. Plus all the little jobs that keep the club going, making tea, cleaning the clubroom, disposing of builders bags and cashing up to mention a few.

Photos Nigel Penford





SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1962

Photos by John Billard

That year was the last when express steam was guaranteed on all regions.

Left is 6019 *King Henry V* as 7031 *Cromwell's Castle* starts off at Paddington on the 30th.

Meanwhile at Kings Cross on the 19th were A4 Pacific 60014 *Silver Link* and A1 Pacific 60136 *Alcazar*.

Silver Link was the first A4 in traffic and surely should not have been scrapped?



And on the Southern on the 27th with an Ian Allan railtour was original Bullied 4-6-2 34094 *Mortehoe* starting from Waterloo. I travelled on this train that had an ambitious route that took in the Great Central. We reached as far as Aylesbury on the way back where it terminated. The engine had run out of coal. I had a three-penny bit to ring home and I returned there by walking in the small hours from Harrow on the Hill.



Meanwhile on the LMR the 17th produced what I think was 46253 *City of St Albans* on a down express away from Kenton.

It was still possible to see pre-grouping types at work. **Below** is LB&SCR E2 0-6-0T 32104 shunting at Southampton Docks on the 2nd ... and

Below St Pancras produced a Midland Railway 0-6-0 No 43964 on empty stock work on the 19th, also....



.....a G2 49293 0-8-0 scuttled along its LNWR home tracks near Kenton again on the 17th. So I got around a bit that month. Two railtours, on the Great Central and to Southampton, and also up and around London. How I managed the price of film and all this on 12 shillings a week paper round money I can't think! All my photography was home processed—that saved money.



BRESSINGHAM

As visited by David and Lily Scott and described in the March issue
 Left—The Blue Engine named *Alan Bloom* after the garden site founder and steam enthusiast.



Right - London Tilbury and South-end 4-4-2T *Thundersley*, restored in its approximate original livery by BR for the line's centenary in 1956.



Left—The Red Engine
 Below—The Terrier after its steam test. And the same engine after a BR overhaul in April 1961 at Eastleigh. Photo John Billard



Right—
 "Its behind you!"
 (Sorry David! Ed)



Photos
 David and Lily
 Scott

DIARY

April 2022

Sunday	3rd	Public running	12.00 Noon onwards
			Gates open at 09 30 for setting up
Saturday	9th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Monday	11th	Special Needs event	13.30—16.00
			Gates open at 12.15 for setting up
Monday	11th	Trustees meeting	19.30
Tuesday	19th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Thursday	21st	Special Needs event	13.30 -16.00
			Gates open at 12.15 for setting up

May 2022

Sunday	1st	Public running	12 Noon onwards
			Gates open at 0930 for setting up
Saturday	7th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Monday	9th	Trustees meeting	19.30
Tuesday	17th	Club Running	10 30 onwards

Note from the Editor. Thank you to all contributors. Please remember that the copy deadline is now 20th of the month and material, unless previously notified, can be held over if received after that date.

Please provide photographs as separate files and not embedded into the text.

Further note! This April issue is produced early by the 17th March as the editor is away till the end of the month. But keep it coming!

Opinions expressed in PROSPECTUS are the personal views of the contributor and cannot be taken as reflecting the views of the trustees or editor.

The deadline for the May issue is 20 April

Contributions may be submitted in hard or soft copy to the editor.

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***Please write for Prospectus. Photos welcomed.
Comments by RSME members on any subject appearing in
Prospectus are welcomed by the editor.***