

HASTINGS TRAMWAYS CLUB NEWSLETTER

No 140

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Welcome Around the trams 48 & 56

On our last Newsletter in December '07 we could see from the plan how we hoped to resite our two tram bodies. With the aid of a few railway members we were able to move them to their new positions. The start of this operation didn't go too well due to the amount of rain we had had. The clay ground around the trams gave way to the jacks that were in place which sank deep into the clay but with the use of a large steel plate which spread the load we were able to continue with the lift, then we slid them into position on some scaffold poles which had been placed underneath at the start of the operation.

The original plan to site the tram truck alongside No48 may now have to be revised as there may not be enough space as first thought. Other things to be done now are the rebuilding of the parts of the lean-to that are exposed to the elements including the section around the front 'A' end of No 56.

News from members

It was good to receive news from member Paul Barratt, from Thames Ditton, Surrey. He reminded us of several events later in the year - our stall at the Bus Rally in May and the Volks Electric Railway's anniversary this year in Brighton to name but two.

Nigels mini tram

After being turned down for a site at the Brede Pumping Station late last year Nigel had high hopes of a site near Hadlow Down, nr. Heathfield, Sussex with good prospects of running his tram there. There was already a narrow gauge railway there that ran on the same gauge as Nigel's. Things looked good as it was thought Nigel may have been able to run his tram alongside, or within, the tracks but unfortunately this was not to be and yet again sadly for Nigel the whole project was again doomed. If any member can help in Nigels plight please give him a call, the situation has become very urgent. We all wish you good luck in your search Nigel.

In memory of Reginald Chatfield

Once again we have to report the very sad loss of a friend and member Reg Chatfield. We were deeply saddened to hear of his death shortly before Christmas from his son Steven. Reg had been a Tramway and Trolleybus member for many years. He had helped in the return of our two tram bodies and had worked on the interior of No56. He and his family often helped out running our stall and also supplied us with goods to sell. Reg will be missed by us all.

