

Welcome *(By Roy Austen)*

May I take this opportunity to thank you for re-joining the club and helping to keep alive the interest we all have in trams and tramways whether it may be past, present or future. Also a special welcome to our new members who have recently joined us.

Brighton 53 Society visits Robertsbridge

On Sunday 8th May 2011, the club was pleased to host a visit from several members of the Brighton 53 Society who are aiming to restore the only remaining Brightonian tramcar left in existence. Guy, the president of the 53 society, and several other members visited our site at Robertsbridge to see our trams 48 and 56. Hastings Tramways and Brighton 53 first made contact late 2010 but were not able to meet in person until May 2011. We hope to share experience, knowledge and help each other



where ever we can since we are the only two 3'6" societies in the south east!

Anyone who would like more information about the group can contact Guy Hall on 01273 486099 or visit www.brightontram53.org.uk.

Hastings Tramways is hoping to organise a visit to see 53 in Brighton at the end of the month - See forthcoming events, over, for more details.

News from Robertsbridge *(By Roy Austen)*

As most of you know, Derek and myself spend most of our Sundays and Wednesdays out at Robertsbridge (if we are not doing an event elsewhere), working alongside members of the Rother Valley Railway where our ex. Hastings Tramcar bodies are kept. We support them for the privilege of being on their site; if they need our help they know that we are only too willing to assist them, and likewise they to help us. There is a good friendly bond between us all at Robertsbridge which has been constant for quite a number of years and we hope will continue in the future. You may be interested to know that some of their members have also become Tramway members.

We've all, it seems, been left 'high and dry' as to what may happen to all of us at the Robertsbridge end of the line. Mike Hart, a leading figure in the progress of the railway, showed us a brief, outline plan of how they would reconstruct the railway at the Robertsbridge end, which would result in many of us having to move, including ourselves. Although the time scale for this may be several years from now, we hope this may not be the case.

Work to rebuild the bridges was to be started from Northbridge Street end and work **back up to No. 1 bridge, but now it's starting from No. 1!** Already as I write this, massive earth works are under way and track being taken up and deep holes are being dug. How long before they reach the other end I wonder!

