
CLUB NEWS *By Roy Austen*

Regarding the Bexhill West Station project, a number of meetings have been held at different locations, some at the West Station, others at the colleges in Hastings and Eastbourne. We arranged a small parade of vehicles along Bexhill seafront to Cooden Beach Hotel and then on to the West Station restaurant after the Bexhill carnival run on 25th July to try to promote the development.

Apart from all the interest in the Bexhill West project, there is still a firm interest in the idea I suggested to Ion Castro (HTRG) for a transport site in Hastings, next to the town's main museum off of Bohemia Road. Ion told me that Kevin Boorman (HTC) was also interested in the idea. Ion said he visualizes a building big enough to take the trolleybus 'Happy Harold' as well as one or two trams with tram track in a building designed to look like a tram building.

Derek and myself have been working at Robertsbridge building the end of the lean-to which is now finished and we have also laid 7 ¼" track to run the mini tram up and down on. We have also built a shed to the rear of our workshop which will give us extra space but there are still lots of things to be done.

We have had lots of interest from visitors to the site in recent months.

I was interested in finding out if we still had the tram chassis and small part of ex-tramcar No 43 which had been stored at a site off Rock Lane, Hastings almost 10 years ago. On making enquiries, I was told that it had all been cleared away and it was now gone, but I asked if I could check it out just to satisfy myself. The good news is I found what I was looking for, hidden away behind lots of old junk. To my surprise, I also discovered the chassis which was originally built by the Dover Museum and used on No 43. I also found a small broken bulkhead section of tramcar 43 which was also deposited there along with the chassis. This I soon had tied to the roof rack of my car and is now safely stored at Robertsbridge.

News has reached me by club member Wendy Butler that sadly ex-member Robert Carnie has died. Bob left the club and moved up to Norfolk a few years ago to be nearer his family and friends, like Ian he was blind. They both attended many of our meetings and will be sadly missed.

OVAL BUS RALLY - MAY 2009 *By Roy Austen*

It was good to see several of our members at the Bus Rally on the Oval in May despite the windy weather! If it hadn't been for Alan Humphrey, our gazebo would have probably been blown away as he was kept busy holding the sections together! We still did well with the fundraising, though; we managed to raise £37.60 from our 'pick-a-ticket', £9.55 from sales and £7.46 in donations. This gave us a grand total of £49.61 (after the pitch money of £5 was deducted).



THE FESTIVAL OF MODEL TRAMWAYS - KEW BRIDGE - 18TH & 19TH JULY 2009

Several club members attended the Festival of Model Tramways at Kew Bridge Steam Museum, which was held on the 18th and 19th July 2009. Oliver was exhibiting his 'Rural Tramways' layout along with the 'Tram Man' a.k.a. Ian and Sue Williams with their model tram stall. The weekend was a big success having over 600 visitors on both days. Some of the layouts on show included the TLRs Thames Valley's 'Kew Bridge', J.Howe's 'Dog Kennel Hill' and H.Burford's 7¼" 'Wooton Tramway'. It was good to see Roy, Cliff, Ian, Sue and Paul there over the weekend.



Roy having a go on 'Rural Tramways'. NB the 'L' Plate

APPLEDORE - 19TH JULY 2009

On the 19th July, Derek took our stall to Appledore. Despite the weather being a bit windy and lower than expected crowds, we still managed to raise some funds for the club. We raised £27.80 from our 'pick-a-ticket', £21.70 from sales and £0.12 in donations. This gave us a grand total of £43.62 (after the pitch money of £6 was deducted).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| 2nd AUGUST 2009 | The club will be having a stall at the Hooe Vintage Car Rally at the Hooe Recreation Ground. The show is open to the public between 11am-5pm. |
| 8th AUGUST 2009 | The club will be holding a stall at the Crowhurst Village Fayre, Crowhurst Recreation Ground. The Fayre is open between 2-5pm, to the public. |
| 8th AUGUST 2009 | The club will be holding a stall at the Bexhill MRC Model Railway Exhibition, St Peter's Community Centre, Church Street, Bexhill-on-sea. The show is open between 10am-5pm to the public. |
| 26th & 27th SEPTEMBER 2009 | Oliver will be displaying his 'Rural Tramways' at the Staplehurst Model Railway Exhibition at the Staplehurst Community Centre. The show is open to the public between 11am-5pm. |

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next open meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th August 2009 at 8.15pm at the R.A.F.A. Club, Wellington Sq. Hastings.

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