

Hastings Tramways Club



c. 1930



2010

October saw Hastings hitting the national news - unfortunately for all the wrong reasons. In the early part of the morning of 5th October 2010, Hasting Pier was 95% destroyed by a fire that quickly spread, destroying the majority of the main buildings on the pier. The Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust say that, pending a structural survey, the substructure may be salvageable, but only time will tell whether it will ever return to its former glory.

Work at Robertsbridge

Work is slowly progressing at Robertsbridge. Roy and Derek are currently constructing a mock-up controller for car 56 and looking into the possibility of adding some longitudinal seating and bells to the tram body to 'entertain' visitors. They are currently looking for some bits of equipment such as old style switches - if anyone out there has any thing which might be of use and they don't want any more, please let us know! All of these are being added to make the tram more realistic to visitors. Roy and Derek have also been looking to repair the PMV wagon to help prevent leaks and the inevitable damage it causes to its contents. There have been some problems with the metal gutters over the doors, leading to water leaking in around the doors; this is currently being looked into. The exterior of the wagon was also in need of some attention. Roy and Derek have undercoated the wagon, which was very time consuming since the whole wagon was stripped down to the bare wood/metal before the actual painting began. The top coat has now been added and it is planned to add some lettering to the sides of the wagon. Internally, a display board has been constructed to display photographs and information to visitors and a new fire has been installed to keep the wagon warm during those cold winter days!

Rother Valley Railway is still a bit of a sticking point since they are not progressing as fast as we would like. On top of that, the buffet has now been closed due to an environmental problem on the site. RVR has hastily converted an old wagon to a temporary canteen for the workers but this is not open to the public. None of this helps us! Roy has, however, been recently looking into the possibility of adding some miniature railway track around the site to add an extra attraction for visitors - this is currently being looked into.

Blackpool 125



On 29th September 1885, the first section of the conduit tramway, operated by Blackpool Electric Tramway Company, opened between Dean Street and Cocker Street along Blackpool promenade. September 2010 saw the 125 year anniversary celebrated in Blackpool, as only Blackpool can! The week of 23rd - 29th September saw special tours, vintage services, depot open days and a grand procession. Nearly 20 'trams of special interest' (including Sheffield 513, Liverpool 762, Manchester 765 and Stockport 5) were the stars of the week, touring the streets and taking part in vintage services. The final day of the week show the main event; the grand procession. 7 trams showing the evolution of the Blackpool tram travelled from the Pleasure Beach to Bispham with crowds of onlookers watching the event. The whole week was very successful celebrating the past and looking to the future of the tramway.

Brighton tram 53 society

Back at the beginning of October, the club received an email from the President of the Brighton tram 53 society, Guy Hall. The newly founded group is looking to restore the last remaining Brighton tramcar number 53 which is currently being housed on the outskirts of Brighton. As we know as a society, this will not be an easy task and the society are always on the look out for members, financial help and volunteers. Anyone who would like more information about the group can contact Guy on 01273 486099 or visit www.brightontram53.org.uk.



Date and time of next meeting

The club will be holding its regular meeting at the RAFA club, Hastings at 8pm on Tuesday 22nd February 2011. The meeting is open to all members.

And finally...



On behalf of Hastings Tramways Club, I wish all our readers and members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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<http://hastingstramwaysclub.tripod.com>