

# Hastings Tramways Club

March 2011  
News Sheet  
No 48

## Tramways Meeting

Sadly we had to cancel the last Tramways meeting in November due to the severe weather. This must have been the first time that this has happened.

## Meeting People

We have had several people who have either visited us at Robertsbridge, or contacted us otherwise. Some who just have an interest in trams to those who have found a project similar to ours and would like to compare notes and maybe have closer links with us. A group from Brighton have found a tram, No 53, in much the same condition as ours and talking to their Chairman, Guy Hall, we could see that we had this common interest and maybe by helping one and other it could benefit us both. Visits to one another seem possible in the near future.

## The Robertsbridge End

Some of the items mentioned in the last Newsheet which we had planned to do unfortunately were not completed, although the painting of the wagon has been done there is still the chassis to be painted. There is work to be done to the roof to stop the leak and the 'new fire' is not new but only a second hand replacement, not perfect but is much better than the last one we had. We seem to get many members from both R.V.R. and our own members, coming in for a cosy warm up with a nice cup of tea and biscuit. We have now been given the name of 'Cosy Club'.

In the last Newsheet No 47 it was mentioned that we thought how the R.V.R. had disappointingly shown little progress after all the years on site. The closure of the buffet and the hastily converted wagon to a temporary canteen for the workers, and the wasted time spent doing up the Mk 1 coach into a canteen which they had hoped to replace as a new buffet and which then fell foul when the owner of the coach decided to take it away (after he had given his consent for them to use it) - much time and money had been spent on doing this. I had helped to scrape off the old paint and clear out the gutters on the Mk 1 coach and repainted most of the roof, this all proved to be just a waste of effort, the coach has now gone and been replaced by the PLV wagon which is owned by the RVR Supporters Association and is currently being fitted out for the new canteen.

## The Big Change

After all what has happened over the past few months at Robertsbridge and the lack of real progress in trying to reopen the railway even for just short trips to the first bridge, talk of operating a Diesel locomotive with a open wagon for passengers and a brake van has not happened but then out of the blue a members meeting was called and, to be brief, it seems that there are going to be very big changes to

the railway from now on with large amounts of money being invested in the reopening of the railway from Bodiam to Robertsbridge and with the link up with the K.E.S.R. Already, as most of us know, the section from Bodiam to Udiam Farm is about to be reopened and already clearance of the track from Northbridge Street to the first bridge has been done.

### **Miniature Trams and Railways**

Recently I have been discussing with a Mr Steven Woods about the prospect of running a miniature tram /railway. As most of you know we already have some track laid down with the intent to extend further on the R.V.Rly site at Robertsbridge so that we can push our 1/4 scale tram along. Maybe some day we may be able to get it motorized or get something more suitable that we can use to carry a few people along the seven and quarter inch gauge track. At the present time we are awaiting news of the new plans the R.V.Rly may soon be implementing at their site, we need to know the outcome of this before we can consider any of our future plans. I will inform our members as soon as I have anymore news.

### **Mini Trams of St Leonards**

A short while ago I attended a slide show evening at West Ham, Pevensey near Eastbourne. The person presenting the show showed pictures from the late Jack Turley collection of prints and negatives. Jack, who lived in Tunbridge Wells, was a keen photographer of transport subjects including Trains, Buses, Trolleybuses and Trams. Most of his filming was done in the southern area including Hastings where he had taken many pictures of the Hastings Trolleybuses in and around the 1950's. To my surprise that evening I saw some pictures that he had taken at, or near, the bathing pool site near Grosvenor Gardens, St Leonards on part of the sea front promenade, showing Claude Langs mini trams, one double decker and one single deck Blackpool type boat tram, both working it seemed on the overhead wires. It seems I will have to wait for some time before I can get any prints from them, also I will need their permission to do so. It appears that Claude Lange ran the trams there for a year in the 1950's then later went on to Eastbourne to a site near to Princess Park.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Saturday 9 April 2011	Model Railway Exhibition at Eastbourne.
Sunday 15 May 2011	HTRG Bus Rally, The Oval, Hastings.
Saturday/Sunday 21/22 May	Model Railway Exhibition at Robertsbridge.
July 2011	Appledore HTC Stall.

---

**ROY AUSTEN 01424 751798**

**DEREK MASTERS 01424 752668**

**<http://hastingstramwaysclub.tripod.com>**