

LEISTON WORKS RAILWAY

NEWSLETTER



Moving the Project Along

LWR members Jim Girling and Neil Ridgeon building the retaining wall alongside the track-bed.

Number 3



June 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Planning Permission for Track Restoration

Progress is slow, but I guess we'll get there eventually. Since a part of the track bed is located in a conservation area, specific rules and regulations have to be complied with. We also need to share the application with Adnams - owners of the section in the Engineer's Arms garden - who we hope will grant us "easement." Once granted and permission obtained Sirapite can then be driven from the Old Post Office Square up to Buller Road.

Housing Sirapite

Following several meetings between Denis, Trevor, Andrew and the Long Shop Museum, together with David Madden, a Heritage Railways Advisor, the Museum Trustees decided to keep Sirapite housed at the far end of the Museum's car-park. Thus it will continue to run up and down the track there on Special Event Days but this will also make it relatively easy to put it onto a low-loader to take it out of the Museum. However, as there is a sharp bend on the down slope, Trevor will have to shorten his low-loader. So, once track restoration has been completed, Sirapite can then be taken across Main Street and put on rails.

The Transport Trust Loan

As a result of very considerable local support at fund-raising events together with the continuing growth in membership and donors, we have been able to pay off a further £1,000 to the Transport Trust, thereby reducing our initial loan of £5,000 to £2,000. This is extremely encouraging, especially as it reduces the amount of annual interest we are committed to paying.

Charitable Status

This is an important part of our ongoing work, since being approved as a Charitable Trust by the Charity Commission will enable us to claim Gift Aid leading to a considerable increase in our overall income. However, dealing with the red tape is no easy task and we are very grateful to James for all his efforts in pursuing this.

Track Clearance and Restoration

Work has slowed down somewhat over the past couple of months as the weather conditions - especially at weekends - have made hands-on work more difficult. However, Jim Girling and volunteer Neil Ridgeon have now managed to complete the building of a stretch of retaining brick wall (see front cover.) Trevor and a group of volunteers have transferred some redundant old Garrett railings from the Long Shop to the track bed, where they await de-rusting and repainting before being installed at relevant points along the track. Vegetation has started to grow again at increasing speed as the summer temperature increases and Stephen has kindly strimmed it back. However there is still a great deal to do before ballast, sleepers and rails can be laid and volunteers will be contacted shortly when convenient weekend dates for further work have been determined.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

If you could help with regular strimming of the track bed we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact JOHN KEEBLE on 01728 830665

If there is anyone experienced in metal-working who could restore the ex Garrett railings, which will eventually be mounted on the new wall, please contact TREVOR WRENCH on 07999 668597

Rails, Sleepers, Ballast and Brake Van

There is little to report at present, as we are still awaiting delivery of the rails and sleepers. However, we are currently exploring possible options for buying ballast including the National Rail Storage Yard at March. We have also been tipped off about several possible brake vans, but as yet none have been appropriate for the LWR.

Increase in Subscription

To meet increasing postage and printing costs the Committee decided to increase membership subscriptions for 2013 from £5 to £6. This will have to be approved at the AGM on 22nd November.

Denis Gahagan

REVIEW OF EVENTS

LWR QUIZ NIGHT SUCCESS

The LWR held a very successful Quiz Night on Friday 17th February 2012 at Knodishall Village Hall. Altogether there were fifteen teams that took part and the evening included supper and a successful draw. Quizmistress Pat Challis and scorer Mary Rolph kept everyone on their toes, and also made sure the evening was a fun time for all to enjoy! All together the evening made a profit of £ 418.04 for LWR funds. Thanks must go to Pat and Mary and to all the other helpers on the night. Also thanks to everyone who supported this event and also those who donated draw prizes.

LWR BARN DANCE

The LWR Barn Dance organised by Jim Girling took place on Saturday 10th March 2012 at St Margaret's Football Club in Leiston. The excellent music was provided by popular band "Syzewell Gap" with many people having a "good go"



at the dances.

There was a draw and LWR member Richard Ellis kindly donated a bottle of drink for everyone to take part in the "Roll a Pound and see who gets Closest to the Bottle to win it" competition!. Although the evening was thoroughly enjoyable

unfortunately ticket sales were down with only a profit of £ 20 being made.

Thanks must go to Jim Girling, Richard Ellis, Syzewell Gap and everyone else who supported the evening.

LWR AND FRIENDS OF THE LONG SHOP COTTAGE PIE EVENING

This was a joint fundraising event for these two organisations, to help raise some funds for both. Once again Ann Davis cooked a delicious supper of cheese topped cottage pie with seasonal vegetables followed by apple pie and vanilla ice cream. Everyone had a very enjoyable evening and all were able to catch up with friends for a bit of fun. There was also a table quiz of "Guess the name of the car by looking at each car badge on the quiz sheet". The "themed in" prize of a sachet of windscreen wash (per person!) was won by Simon and Linda Middleditch (Yes, and there were only two on their table!). Well done to them. There were two draws running during the evening, the main draw and a Special Draw of afternoon tea for two kindly donated by the White Lion Hotel in Aldeburgh. Both of the organisations ran their own separate fundraisers - the LWR, their Sponsor-a-Sleeper campaign (find out more about this in this Newsletter) and the Long Shop Museum launched their "Building Booster" Appeal on the night - sponsor a pantile for the Long Shop roof. As this was a 50/50 split, each organisation made a profit of just over £186, excluding the two separate fundraisers mentioned above. Both organisations would like to say a big thank you to Ann and Terry Davis for their work in the kitchen, the White Lion Hotel for the afternoon tea draw prize, other people who donated draw prizes, everyone who helped on the night and of course to the people who supported the event.

COMING EVENT! LWR FUN AFTERNOON

Glen Chandler, landlord and LWR committee member, and his landlady partner Jan Banks have kindly offered to organise this event for the LWR in the garden of the Engineers Arms in Main Street for a fun afternoon.

This will take place on Saturday 4th August 2012 from 2pm until 5 pm. As well as the LWR, the East Anglian Air Ambulance are holding a tombola as this is the very important charity that the Engineers Arms are supporting this year. There will be many other attractions as well including games, children's games, cake stall (cakes would be appreciated, bring on the day), a draw (draw prizes also appreciated). Trevor Wrench is hoping to bring along a steam engine and Glen is going to do a BBQ. The lovely enclosed garden is behind the pub and we hope to be able to show people where the LWR railway line will run along the garden. So why not come along and support this event which sounds like it's going to be a good fun afternoon!

COMING EVENT!

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AT THE ENGINEERS ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE

If you want to come back in the evening on Saturday 4th August 2012
Glen and Jan have organised an evening of music with local band
"Making Waves" whose music styles include Rock'n'Roll, Blues,
Covers etc. Once again Glen is doing his BBQ.
No charge to get in – just turn up on the night.
For more details phone 01728 830660.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR LWR

As you are probably aware, in order for the LWR to achieve its aims we have a lot of fundraising to do. So far, we have put on a few events and in the main they have returned the LWR a good profit. However, we have a long way to go. That's why we need your help as a member of the Leiston Works Railway - help in one or two or both ways.

Firstly, we need ideas and inspiration from you. If you have any good, unusual and fun ways we could fundraise, we would love to hear from you – here's your chance to have your say on what you would like to see in order to quicken our aims. Perhaps you have or know of an idea which you have seen work before and produces a good result; maybe something themed in with our cause or something different which would capture everyone's imagination.

Secondly, how about running a fundraising event on behalf of the LWR, for example, a coffee morning with some side stalls or an evening talk on railways? Of course, you would not be on your own and would get support from the LWR committee.

The more money that we can raise, the sooner our vision will become a reality. If any inspiration has come to you through reading this, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Stephen Ginger on 01728 831902 where your call and ideas will be gratefully received.

Stephen Ginger



SPONSOR A SLEEPER CAMPAIGN

THE LWR Sponsor a Sleeper Campaign was launched at the Long Shop Museum in Leiston on their 2012 Season Open Day on Saturday 31st March 2012. Many people sponsored a sleeper at the Open Day and since then the scheme has really taken off well, capturing people's imagination. All the sleepers are numbered and many people have chosen a number which has a significance to them. The sleepers are £35 each to sponsor. Please contact Stephen Ginger on 01728 831902.

TRACK BED VOLUNTEER WORKING PARTY DAYS

Following on from our previous successful track bed clearance days, we now have two more Volunteer Working Party dates for your diary. They are Saturday 21st July and Saturday 25th August 2012 both starting at 9.00am meeting at the Buller Road end of the track bed.

This time it looks like we will be concentrating our efforts on repairing the original walls along the track bed. To this end we will be 'raking out' the old mortar joints that need to be repointed and in some cases carefully removing the bricks and cleaning them, to take out the large ivy roots and branches that have grown into the walls over the years. Please note that this job requires a certain amount of care, as it is important not to damage any of the bricks, because we plan to reuse them to remain faithful to the historic look of the walls. Of course, there will be people there to help and give guidance to anyone who feels they may need it. Tools for this work will be provided.

We will also tackle any ongoing work such as removing ivy and other vegetation from the walls and any other works that may be appropriate. If any volunteers have any secateurs or other useful tools please bring them along and remember to bring your gardening gloves as well. So once again those dates are Saturday 21st July and Saturday 25th August. So why not come along for a few hours (or more!) and help progress this exciting project forward! You will be made most welcome.



HARDWORKING GANG!

Here are LWR members Stuart Green, John Keeble, Richard White, Trevor Wrench and Tim Bissell removing the old Garrett railings ready for restoration. See appeal within if you would like to help.

CONTACT US BY PHONE, EMAIL OR WEBSITE

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