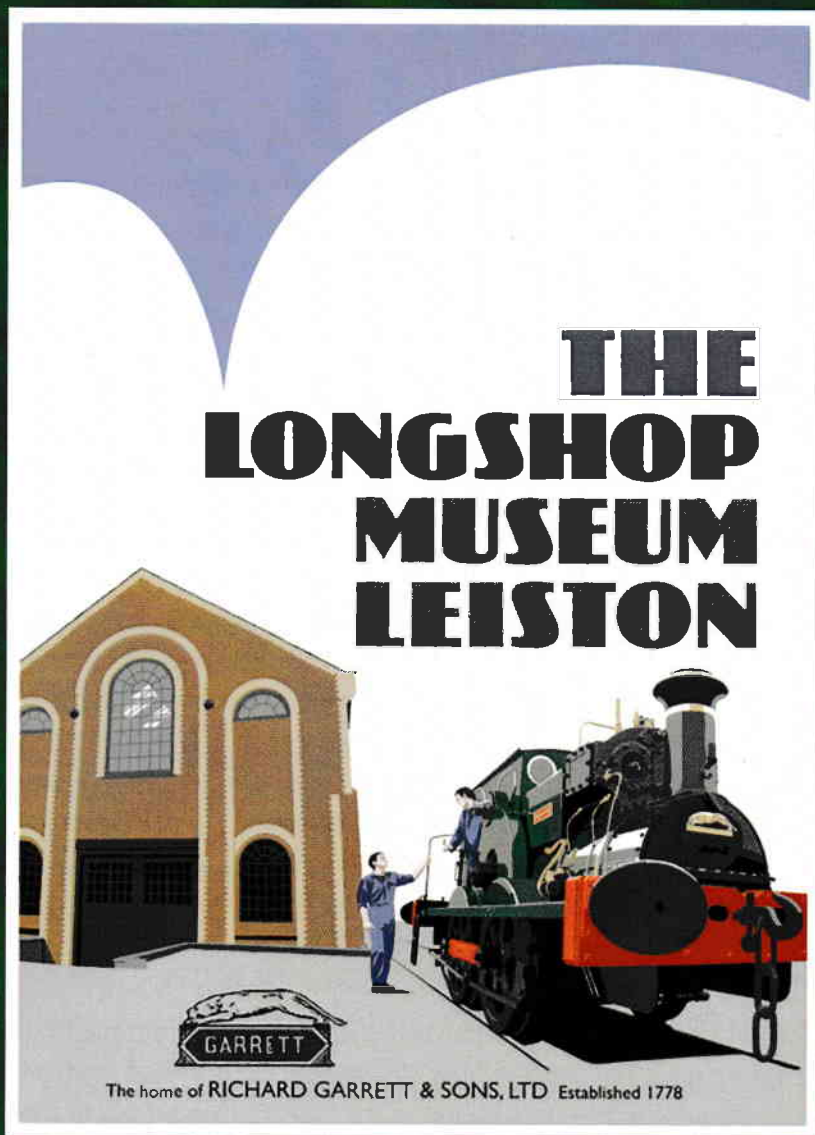


# LEISTON WORKS RAILWAY

## NEWSLETTER



# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** In our last Newsletter I mentioned that our first AGM would be on Thursday 22nd November. However, we've not been able to hire the Community Centre for that evening so it will be held the same week but on Tuesday 20th November, starting at 7.00 p.m. in **Leiston Community Centre, King Georges Avenue**. If you've already put it in your diary, then do please alter it. You can find the Agenda, New Constitution and all other relevant documents for this meeting on our website:

<http://leistonworksrailwaytrust.onesuffolk.net/welcome-to-the-leistonworks-railway-trust/>

We are hoping also to be able to project all of them onto a screen as we progress through the meeting.

**Planning Permission for Track Restoration:** Progress is continuing - but at a very slow pace. We are currently awaiting a decision from Adnams allowing us to re-lay the track through the garden of the Engineers Arms and giving us permission to then run Sirapite up and down the entire track for a maximum of up to 10 weekends a year.

**Charitable Status:** We believe that we're almost there now with our application to the Charity Commission, as it seems highly likely that, once the Members of the Leiston Works Railway Trust have formally approved our new Constitution at our the November AGM, then we shall be granted charitable status. This is particularly important for us, in so far as being a Charitable Trust will allow us to claim Gift Aid and provide a necessary boost to our income.

**Track Clearance and Restoration:** There have been two major restoration days since our last Newsletter, when a team of volunteers under the direction of Jim Girling cleared vegetation out of the brick walls and, in some cases, prepared parts of the damaged walls ready for re-pointing and rebuilding where necessary.

We are delighted to report that there has been considerable enthusiasm and hands-on support from many of our track-bed resident neighbours for which we

are hugely grateful. In particular, James Walker, who is a tree surgeon, has already very kindly lopped back the intrusive trees at the Buller Road end of the track: Peter Grimsey has supplied us with water from his property whenever Jim and volunteer Neil Ridgeon have been brick-laying, thereby enabling them to mix cement. And Peter has also kindly offered his experience and skill in hands-on metal work to cut and weld where necessary the redundant old Garrett railings. Hopefully, this will happen very soon, as we wish to make the area safer for our neighbours as soon as possible by preventing access to the track-bed without permission.

Whilst we couldn't undertake the hands-on restoration of the track-bed without the commitment of our team of volunteers, it is important for you to know that we've also had immensely generous support from several local businesses to help us with this project. A huge thanks, therefore, to Skipaway for lending us skips; to NJB for the loan of a cement mixer; and to Coastal Building Supplies for bricks and mortar.

Looking ahead, there'll need to be a considerable amount of levelling of the track-bed before any ballast can be laid, though plans for carrying out this are under way. Also, as the intruding trees at the Main Street end of the track-bed fall within the Conservation Area, we'll need to consult with the relevant authorities on how we proceed with removing the ones which currently make this part of the track inaccessible to Sirapite.

**Rails, Sleepers, Ballast & Brake Van:** There remains little to report at present, as we're still awaiting delivery of the rails and sleepers, though we understand that they may well be removed shortly from their existing site. We continue to look for an appropriate brake van; but nothing has come up so far despite our searches.

**The Flood in August:** We were sad to have to cancel the Fun Afternoon and Music Evening at the Engineer's Arms on 4th August due to the devastating flood which a few days before had swept down Main Street and through the pub causing terrible damage. Our thoughts at the time were very much with Glenn Chandler and Jan Banks; so, we are now delighted to report that business is back to normal after nearly two months closure.

## **LEISTON WORKS RAILWAY TRUST**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012**

Notice is hereby given of the first Annual General Meeting of the Leiston Works Railway Trust to be held at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday, 20th November 2012 at the Leiston Community Centre, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4JX.

The agenda and all associated documents have been sent by email to all members for whom we have an up-to-date valid email address.

The associated documents may be viewed on our website:

<http://leistonworksrailwaytrust.onesuffolk.net/>

It is intended that the documentation be projected onto a screen at the AGM and members are encouraged not to print unnecessary hard copies.

S.M. GEATER, Secretary, Leiston Works railway Trust

### **SPONSOR A SLEEPER CAMPAIGN**

Well, what an incredible campaign this is turning out to be! 83 sleepers already sponsored out of the approximate total of 220 needed to complete Phase 1 of our project, which is to re-lay the railway line so that the recently restored "Sirapite" - the Garret's shunting locomotive - can travel once again along the old track bed from the Engineers Arms Public House in Main Street right through to the junction of Buller Road and Station Road.

Since we launched the campaign back in March this year many people have sponsored sleepers through our fund-raising events and stalls and via both the LWRT website and the local Press. Each sleeper is numbered and many sponsors have chosen a sleeper with a number which is relevant to them; for example, it may be a date of birth or an anniversary. House numbers have proved to be a popular choice as well as numbers chosen in memory of a loved one. In fact, there are many reasons that sponsors have given for sponsoring - not least that the name of the loved one will be prominent.

Well, with Christmas on the way (dare I mention it !) how about sponsoring a sleeper in someone's name for a Christmas present. The cost is £35.00 each and, in recognition, a "Sponser a Sleeper" Certificate will be sent to you with your

chosen sleeper number on it together with your chosen name handwritten by a calligrapher. Also, a professional signage board will be made eventually with all of the sponsors' names on it and placed somewhere along the track; or, possibly, in the brake van that we hope to acquire in order to give people rides along the line behind "Sirapite".

Please find enclosed with this Newsletter a "*Sponsor a Sleeper*" form which you can use ; but make sure you look on the LWRT website to see which numbers are still available; or, alternatively, phone Stephen Ginger on 01728-831-902 for further details. The LWR Trustees are very appreciative of the ongoing support for this campaign from everyone who has sponsored a sleeper or might do so.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENT! THE LAST DANCE**

The LWR is delighted to be holding a joint fundraising event with the Leiston St. Margaret's Football Club at their venue in Abbey Road, Leiston. It is a dance with Brian Nickels Music on Saturday, 10th November., starting at 8.00p.m. until late. The night should prove to be a poignant one for both Brian and many of his local followers over the years, as it is to be one of his last ever discos. This is because he is retiring from presenting them after some forty years of spinning discs in the area.

Brian is renowned for playing all styles of music from the past few decades and does appeal to all generations. Also, he doesn't play the music so uncomfortably loud that you cannot hear yourself or others speak; but on the other hand it is loud enough, of course, for you to be able to 'bop' around the dance floor!

There'll be a prize draw on the night, so any donations would be much appreciated. Tickets for this event are £5.00 each and St. Margaret's Football Club does have a licensed bar. They'll be available on a "*first come, first served*" basis by phoning Stephen Ginger on 01728-831-902 or Jim Girling on 07800-500-278. So, what are you waiting for - come on - let's make this another successful fundraiser, whilst celebrating with Brian on this special occasion for him.

### **THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE PICNIC IN THE PARK**

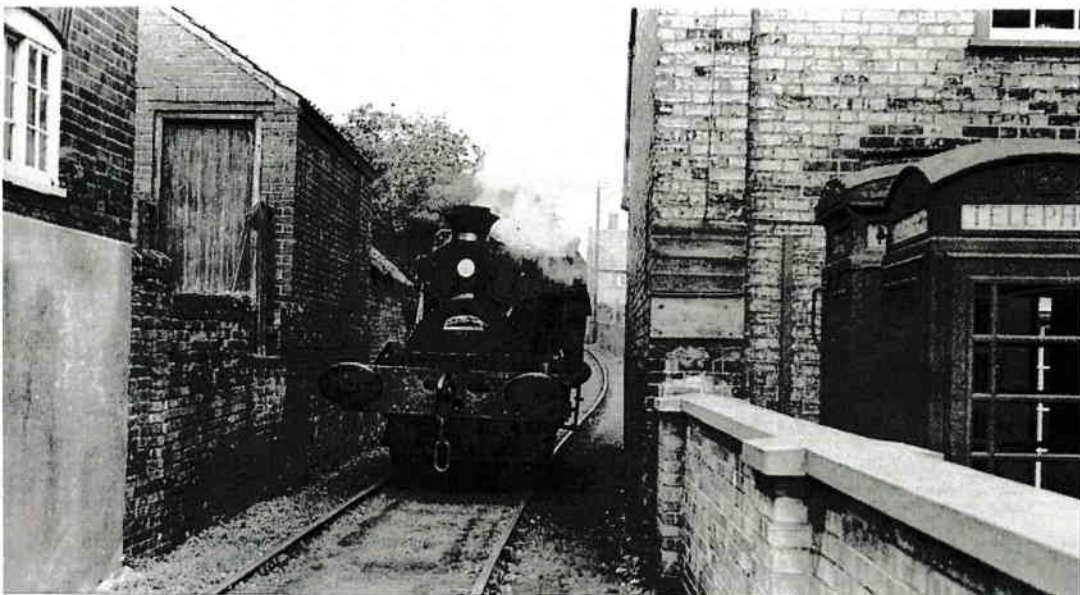
We were able to have a stall at the above event which took place on Leiston Recreation Ground on 4th June; and we were delighted to attract a number of visitors who wished to sponsor a sleeper. Trevor Wrench brought along a steam traction engine as part of our display and this certainly acted as a crowd drawer.

# **THE LAST DANCE with BRIAN NICKELS MUSIC**

A joint fundraising event for the LWR  
and St. Margaret's Football Club at  
St. Margaret's Football Club, Abbey Road, Leiston on  
Saturday 10th November 2012 at 8p.m.

Licensed bar/draw

Tickets £5.00 available on 01728 831902  
or mobile 07800 500 278



Photograph: Dr. Ian Allen, courtesy of Transport Treasury, which holds the copyright. Sirapite is seen here running along the old track bed as it is approaching Old Post Office Square, Main Street, Leiston. Can anyone tell us when this photograph was taken? (sadly, no prize for the winner!)



## Bill Philpot and the Long Shop Museum

Bill Philpot, who works from his studio at home in Suffolk, has long been an admirer of the graphics and typography of that wonderfully creative period of the nineteen twenties and thirties, particularly the work of the great poster designers like A.M. Cassandre, Charles Loupot and George Hamel (Geo Hamel) in Europe, Frank Newbould and Tom Purvis in England. In the late nineteen eighties Bill was commissioned by Christies Auction House to produce a series of posters for sales of their classic cars in London and Monaco, including that of the Bugatti Royale which sold for a record figure of £5,500,000. These posters, based on the graphic style of the Art Deco period, have since become classics in their own right.

In this genre Bill has created an entirely new poster for the Long Shop Museum, showing the Garrett Works engine Sirapite (see front cover.) Through Bill's generosity a limited edition of 25 posters, each individually signed by the artist, is on sale at the Museum for the benefit of the Restoration Fund. Price £20 inc. VAT; p&p extra.

### **LEISTON CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU 25th ANNIVERSARY**

We were invited to set up a stall in the car park in front of Colonial House with many other local organisations on Saturday 16th June as part of the celebration of 25 years of the Leiston, Saxmundham and District branch of Citizens Advice. We were able to promote our "*Sponsor a Sleeper*" and were delighted to get a few more sponsors.

### **QUIZ NIGHT SUCCESS**

A fun evening was had by all when 11 teams competed against each other on the LWR Quiz Night which was held on Friday 7th September at Knodishall Village Hall. Quiz Mistress, Pat Challis, provided a good mixture of questions to test the knowledge of everyone there and her spot prizes throughout the evening added some further light entertainment. The Committee provided refreshments and a draw rounded off the evening. After expenses had been deducted, we were able to show a profit of £379 to go towards the LWR funds. Thanks must go to Pat Challis for producing and presenting the questions; to Mary Rolph for scoring; to Harry Dix for collecting the answer sheets; and to the LWR Committee for so generously providing all the food.



Photograph, taken on Saturday, 21st July 2012,  
of volunteers removing old mortar joints on the walls  
adjoining the track bed ready for repointing work.

**CONTACT US BY PHONE, EMAIL OR WEBSITE**

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Membership Secretary: Christine Fisher 01728 648413  
Track Clearance Contact: Trevor Wrench mobile 07999 668597

Email: [leistonworksrailway@ymail.com](mailto:leistonworksrailway@ymail.com)

website: <http://leistonworksrailwaytrust.onesuffolk.net/welcome-to-the-leiston-works-railway-trust/>