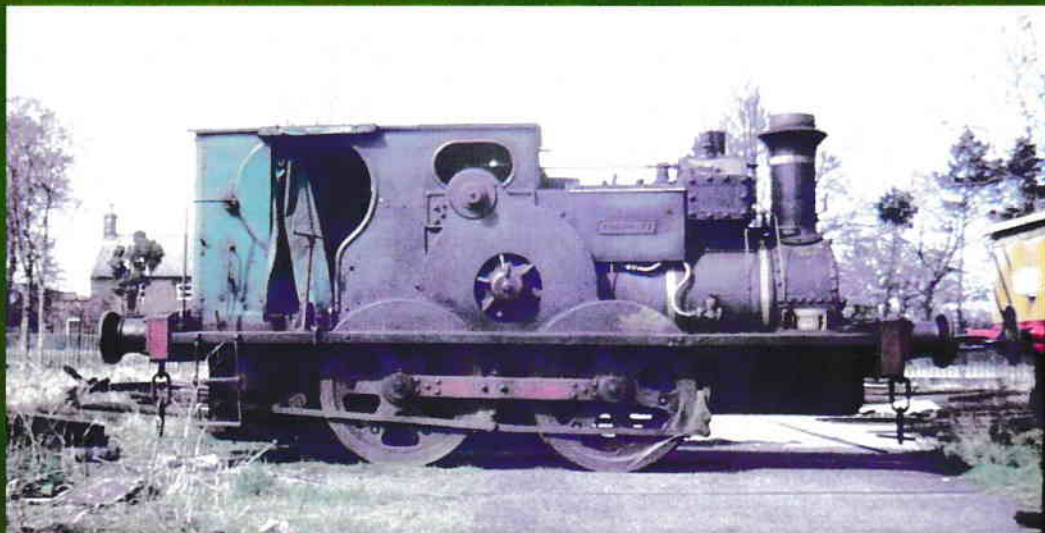


LEISTON WORKS RAILWAY

NEWSLETTER



Here is an interesting photograph of Sirapite, taken in the Garrett Works some time shortly after it was decommissioned. To the right you can see the rear end of the yellow battery electric locomotive which replaced Sirapite. Does any one know the date of this photo?

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Since the last newsletter in October 2013, the LWRT Committee has been busy dealing with the legal fundamentals associated with the lease between the prospective owner of The Engineer's Arms, the LWRT, and Adnams Brewery.

To many members this might seem as if nothing has been going on; but, please remember, we are still a very young organisation, and the tasks of getting things in order at the very beginning of a project will hopefully mean that things will run a bit easier later on.

The present position is that we have found an entrepreneur who is currently in the process of purchasing the Engineer's Arms from Adnams Brewery. He is a supporter of the LWRT, and his intention is to run it as a freehold public house for the foreseeable future, and give the LWRT a 99 year lease over the garden land to the rear of the pub, with a right of way over the tarmac area from Main Street. Once this has been achieved, it will give us the land area we require to lay and restore the track bed to its former glory.

The terms and conditions associated with this process have required a lot of attention, and have been the subject of many discussions both between the LWRT Trustees and between the solicitors acting for the respective parties. As with many property dealings, nothing ever seems to go smoothly, and it can often take what seems like forever to resolve; but, please rest assured, we are on the case and will advise you all as soon as we have a satisfactory way forward.

In parallel with the legal process, we have also managed to progress the planning application for change of use relating to the track bed from Main Street to Buller Road. This has required a "topographical survey" to ensure that the correct levels and locations of surrounding buildings and pathways are correctly recorded, and it has kindly been paid for by the prospective owner of the Engineer's Arms as a gesture of goodwill.

The planning application, to be funded by Leiston Town Council, will use the same survey documentation to double up when laying the track bed at a later date. Also of importance is the planning requirement "Environmental Impact Report" (EIR), as this is often required by the planning authority to assess the impact that a planning application might make on the surrounding area.

Last but not least, it is important to tell you that we decided to tell you at the 2013 LWRT AGM last November to change the way we administer the membership period. To prevent further confusion over subscriptions ending in June of each year, and to make the process more user friendly and easier to remember, the membership year will now run from January 1st to December 31st of each year. Whilst on the issue of

subscriptions, please be reminded that they are due for this year and are just £6, so please - if you have not already done so - ensure you use the form to make yours as soon as possible to keep your name on the list. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Kind Regards,

Colin P. Fisher, Chairman.

PHOTOGRAPH OF SIRAPITE

The photo on the front page of this news letter is taken from an old colour slide kindly donated to the LWR by one of our new members, Michael Crofts, formerly of Leiston and Theberton. He has also very generously offered to assist us in setting up safety management systems when we are ready to run Sirapite up and down the track, as he is currently involved with the Perrygrove 15.5 inch gauge steam railway in The Forest of Dean and has knowledge in this area.

PRESENTATIONS

Over the past few months a small group of Trustees has given three evening presentations on the Leiston Works Railway. supported by a slide show and several brief videos, Colin Fisher, Denis Gahagan, Stephen Ginger and Trevor Wrench each spoke about different aspects - covering (i) the history of the branch line and the Garrett Work's line, (ii) the history of Sirapite, the steam traction locomotive, including its return to Leiston in 2004 and subsequent restoration and launch, (iii) the inspiration to purchase the old track bed and subsequent creation of the LWR, (iv) the multiple tasks and developments to date, and finally (v) our dreams and aspirations.

The original idea for a presentation came via LWR member Peter Roberts, who is also a member of the Ipswich Transport Society, when he suggested that we might put together something that would be of interest to the society. This evening was very well attended and proved a huge success such that we decided to pursue the idea further. So, early this year, Colin Fisher arranged for us to give a presentation to members of the Southwold Rotary Club at The Randolph Hotel in Reydon and more recently a further presentation in the Community Hall in Westleton.

While we have experienced some technical glitches with the varied bits and pieces of equipment that we currently borrow, we have been supported throughout - and where possible sorted out - by Sue Culley, to whom we are most grateful. Our hope is that, once the issue of the Engineer's Arms has been resolved and we are under way again with our restoration project, we shall be able to continue with this activity.

LWR FUNDRAISING

It goes without saying that the LWR needs to continue fundraising to build up its finances, so that we can continue progressing our project. It was back at the LWR AGM in 2013 that it was suggested that we launch a project that would involve taking the “d” out of “fundraising” and start “fun-raising” instead!

Now I am sure you can see where this is leading! Yes, we are calling upon the LWR membership to volunteer their services to help out in this very important arm of the LWR; but there is a difference as the tagline suggests. Obviously we would be fundraising, but we would make it a fun and enjoyable experience; so, we’d be known as THE LWR “FUN-RAISERS”.

At the AGM, we sent around the room a list inviting members to add their names to it, which several did; but we could do with more members to do the same. The idea is to have a pool of names which we can call upon to organise, help out and/or come up with new and unusual ideas. In fact, THE LWR “FUN-RAISERS” encapsulates all kinds of help. Ideally, we would also need to have little get-togethers every now and again, to come up with these ideas and put them into practice; and, of course, help would be needed at the event itself. But we would definitely make sure we did all this with the emphasis of making it “FUN”! The more people that would get involved would without doubt lighten the load for everyone.

If you are interested in joining THE LWR “FUN-RAISERS” or in discussing any of the ideas further, please don’t hesitate to get in contact with me. My phone number is 01728 831902. Alternatively, you can get in touch via the LWR email address and you will find this on the back of this newsletter. So keep your “train” of thought on “track” and consider joining our team.

Stephen Ginger.

LEISTON ENTERPRISE CENTRE TO ASSIST LEISTON WORKS RAILWAY ONCE AGAIN!

After the success of the coffee morning last year, Marilyn Reeves, the Centre Co-ordinator and her team at the Leiston Enterprise Centre have once again got together with the Leiston Works Railway to host another fundraising event, only this year it has developed into much more than a coffee morning! ‘Classics, Crafts and Cake’ is the name of the event this year and is described as 'a day of fun and fascinations for the whole family!'

Of course there will be still coffee and cake available (and cream teas during the afternoon!), but this year there will be much more besides - a mix of steam, classic vehicles, model steam engines, craft stalls and Punch and Judy - to name but a few, sort

of a mini Rally and Craft show all rolled into one! Organisers have been overwhelmed with the interest and support they are getting for the event, with many people offering to bring classic vehicles on the day. It will also offer people the chance to talk to the Trustees from the Leiston Works Railway and be updated with the latest news about this popular project and where we are with it at the moment.

The date to put in your diary for this this year's event is Saturday 26th July 2014 and it will be on all day from 10 00am until 4.00pm and once again it is taking place at the Leiston Enterprise Centre, Eastlands Industrial Estate, Leiston, IP16 4US (postcode good for the old sat nav!) This modern 'state of the art' building is very easy to find because its actually situated on the corner of the Industrial Estate with the front overlooking King Georges Avenue (a good landmark - opposite Victory Car Sales.)

Marilyn and her team will be serving tea, coffee and soft drinks as well as homemade cakes and refreshments especially made for the event. Other attractions include riding on the miniature steam railway of the Ipswich Model Engineering Society, vintage tractors, full size and miniature traction engines and classic cars (please note: every effort will be made to get these exhibits to the event but because of their age, they may be subject to availability.) Also there will be craft stalls, a cake stall and a draw. Cakes and draw prizes would be most welcome and can be brought up to the Enterprise Centre the day before or on the actual day. The classic car club called East Anglian Practical Classics have also said that some of their members should be bringing some of their classic cars to support the event.

Admission to this event is only £1.00 adults/seniors and 50p children, so please come along and enjoy some time having some 'fun and fascination! Any profits that are made from this event will go straight to the funds of the LWR. See you there!

Please check back at our web site from time to time to see about any updates for the event, as new things keep developing and will be reported there as they do. Any enquiries please phone Stephen Ginger on 01728 831902 or Marilyn Reeves on 01728 833122

LEISTON IN THE GREAT WAR

This event is happening in Leiston on Saturday 19th July 2014, starting with a parade through the town from 11 25am and ending at the Alde Valley 6th Form playing field where a service of commemoration will take place at 12 00 NOON.

During the afternoon, there will be many activities including band concerts commencing at 1 00pm with three brass bands - The Leiston Royal British Legion Band, The Leiston Royal British Legion Training Band and The Ipswich Hospital Band. There will also be a Sun Set Ceremony at approximately 4 30 pm.

Included during the day is an new exhibition about World War One at the Long Shop Museum in Leiston which will be opened at 11 00am by Major General Sutherland.

The LWR will be amongst other organisations on the playing field, who will be having a stall to support this event, which has been organised by the Leiston In The Great War Group.

For more details please phone 01728 833537.

PHOTOGRAPH OF HORSE BRASS (BACK COVER)

The Long Shop Museum has recently had some horse brasses made featuring Sirapite in the centre with the wording “Leiston Works Railway” at the top and “Long Shop Museum” below. These are now on sale in the Museum Shop. Perhaps a nice memento for LWR members.

VOLUNTEER DAY FOR TRACK-BED WORK

Now that the summer is here and we are also about to lease the track-bed section running through the garden of the Engineer’s Arms, it is time to get down again to the task of clearing, levelling and grading. We now have a fixed date - **Saturday 21st June** - so, if you are able to help us on this day with some hands-on work, then please ring Trevor Wrench on 07999-668597 or Colin Fisher on 01728 648413 for times and details.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED

As we expand as an organisation, we find we need more helping hands. So, if you would be interested in joining our committee and taking on one of the following roles - (i) Publicity Officer, (ii) Website Manager, or (iii) Newsletter Editor, then do please contact Colin Fisher on 01728 648413 to learn more. You will be made very welcome.

TRANSPORT ON FILM – ARCHIVE FILM NIGHT SUCCESS

In our last Newsletter, as part of our programme of fund-raising activities, we advertised an evening show of transport films to be held at the end of October in Knodishall Village Hall and to be presented by railway enthusiast Jim Cecil. As an event, it proved extremely popular raising an overall income of £ 272.00.

LWR AUTHENTIC BARN DANCE

The LWR are holding an authentic barn dance as another fundraising event - authentic because it is being held in a barn! It will take place on Saturday 20th September 2014 from 7.30pm in a venue which will certainly lend itself for an evening of "fun and entertainment". Set in a beautiful rural location - "down on the farm" - the venue is The Granary at Peak Hill Farm, Pretty Road, Theberton, Suffolk, IP16 4TG. This is kindly being offered for the occasion by Richard and Margaret White, who are very keen supporters of the LWR.

Excellent music for the evening will be provided by the ever popular Syzewell Gap and there will be a caller to explain the dances to make it easy for everyone to take part, even if you are a beginner. Of course, taking part is purely optional; you may like to come along and watch the others "dozee doe" or "strip the willow" while soaking up the atmosphere of in the proper rural surrounding, just like they did in days gone by! Clogs are optional.

A barbecue will be available during the evening, cooked by Richard and Margaret's son Robert, and his wife Karen. During the evening we will also hold a draw (donations welcome). Ticket price will be £8 which includes food. Available by phone from 01728 831902 or 077800 500278. Please note that tickets must be booked in advance.

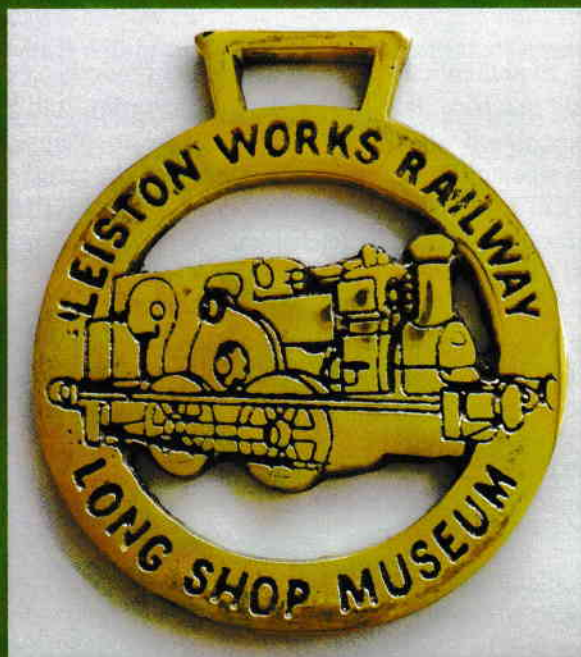
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As you will see in the Chairman's Report, our annual subscription system was simplified at the 2013 AGM so that the membership year now runs from January 1st to December 31st. Many of our members have already renewed for the current year 2014; but, if you haven't yet done so, then please do fill in and return the leaflet which is enclosed with your copy of the Newsletter. We have kept this year's subscription unchanged at £ 6.00 and do hope you will continue to support us as a Member.

If you wish to pay directly into our bank account, then please do so. The account details are:

Barclays Leiston Sort Code: 20-98-07
Account Name: Leiston Works Railway
Account Number: 83680274

Please email us or return the enclosed form to us to explain the payment.



For sale! Go and buy yours at the Long Shop Museum Shop.
Only £4.25

CONTACT US BY PHONE, EMAIL OR WEBSITE

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

Email: leistonworksrailway@ymail.com
website: <http://leistonworksrailwaytrust.onesuffolk.net/welcome-to-the-leiston-works-railway-trust/>