

Sussex Miniature Locomotive Society



Wharfedale News. Issue 21

13th Aug 2020

Dear all,

How are we bearing up under the heat? Fortunately we have a very large fan that has just about made it bearable if you sit or sleep in its draught.

As I have received only one response to my call for feedback on “do we continue with Wharfedale” and it was positive, if the articles keep coming in and the current contributors are happy, we will keep it going.

Stay safe

Mike

Brief club house NEWS

The first fun run took place on Wednesday from 17.00 to dusk. Four people booked in and they all ran a loco.

A new 3 ½ diesel shunter showed its paces by pulling the signal train of 4 Pullmans round the track.

Very successful evening for all with barely a soul in the park.

Plans are in place and a full team organised to empty the loft on Saturday afternoon and the next fun run on Saturday is fully booked.

Thanks to Andrew S for managing.

There was a low number of responses to the food enquiry for the 70th birthday celebrations we put out last week but the Hog Roast came out as the favourite so this will be added to the list of feasibilities to be looked into.

The teams are still at it. Great work teams thanks to Mike P, Graham Miller, Dave Mattingley Andrew S, Roy P, Mick Robinson, Sam Hope and John Green, for continuing to offer their services and thanks to Tom and Andrew S and Andrew B for continuing to maintain the security patrols.

Wharfedale Article 21



Adam Cro 23rd August 2008.



Guess who? 06 Dec 2015

Mike P.'s Musings No.19

With full size steam just a memory, it took me 3 years to build my first small loco. I had no idea about engineering when I started, just a lot of youthful enthusiasm. I was horrified when I received a parcel of "Tich" castings....they looked nothing like the items they had to become! Anyhow, I started on the frames with a hacksaw and file! Lazer cutting was unheard of! I remember clearly LBSC's instructions for removing the horn block slots...2 hacksaw cuts, chain drill the top of the slot and, with a pair of pliers, wiggle the bit to be removed "like a national health dentist on overtime" ! It worked, except I didn't have any electric drill, only a small hand brace! We were tough in those days!

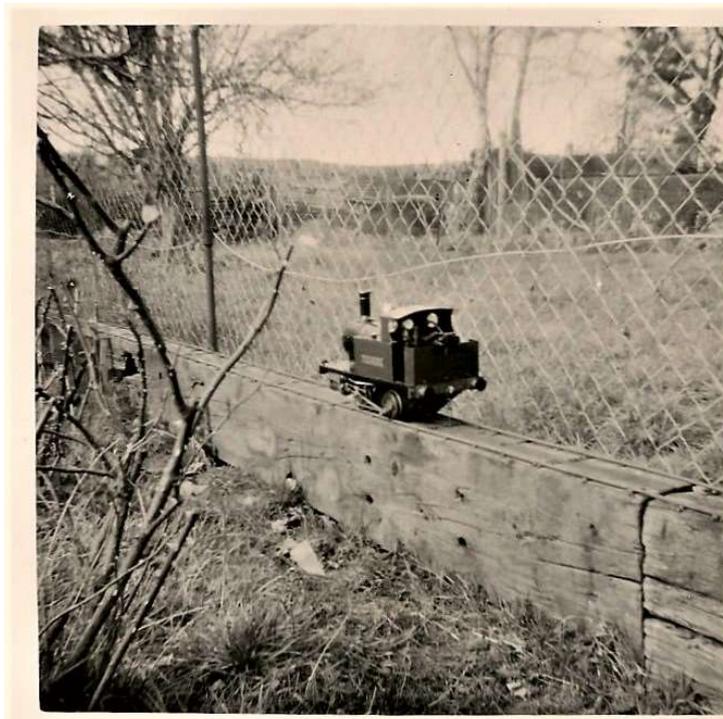
I discovered that there was a model engineering club hiding out in the back streets of Chichester and with a school friend we sought it out. On the day we visited, we were lucky to find someone there. He was the treasurer, a chap called Ben Banbrook, and he showed us around and invited us back at the weekend to meet a few other members. I followed up on the offer and was welcomed in. Luckily , a couple of elderly members took me under their wing and I am indebted to the late George Morgan and Jim Graham for their help turning wheels, and machining cylinders and pumps etc., every Sunday morning!

Dear old Jim had bad Parkinsons and terribly wildly shaking hands, but once he got hold of the lathe handles, he could show me how it was done! In fact, I remember him lighting a match and clutching the lathe tailstock firmly and bending his head over, putting his pipe to the match held steady by his firm grip of the tailstock! With such a violent tremor, it was the only way he could get pipe and match to make contact long enough for ignition! Clouds of smoke, (old Holborn tobacco mix) enveloped us as I learned! Jim also helped me silver solder the boiler, he had no need to wave the big blow torch up and down the copper....his hands did it naturally.....but I just had to avoid any accidental involuntary big tremor! When Jim died he left a lot of shares to the club and we built a room attached to the clubhouse for relaxation and meetings....and called it the "Jim Graham" room. He was a great mentor, and at the end of our club session, he would drop me off at the station on his way home, with the car full of pipe smoke! I always smelt like a kipper when I got home. All the plate work, motion, etc, etc, I did in our garden shed with little more than a vice, hacksaw, file, and trusty hand brace. Anyhow, I eventually finished it!

I got hold of some old mainline sleepers, set them on their side and built a track on top of them in our garden. I used some reinforcing mesh, obtained from the piles of off cuts in the Blockcrete concrete yard at the bottom of our garden, and cut it up for rails! I was at school all week, so had little money in those days...just funds from my Saturday work at David Greigs store (25/- a day,) and Sunday morning paper round(5/-), which I had to start early so that I could hurry to the railway club by 10.00am. (For younger members,30/- thirty shillings, or 30 “bob” a week... that’s one pound 25p, plus 25p= one pound 50p a week). Who says there’s not much inflation! I was working for 15p an hour! Ha,ha.

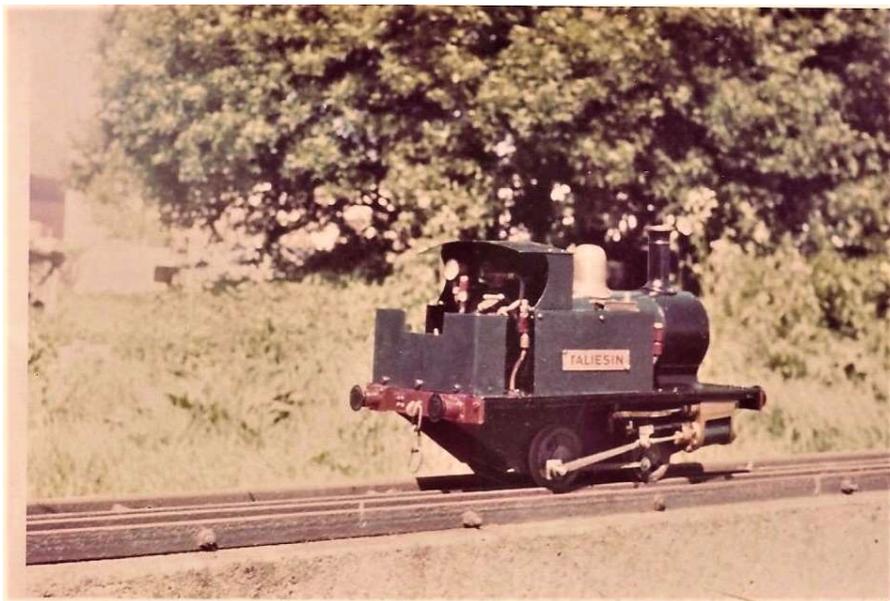
I actually had an interesting time in David Greigs, where I worked in the butchery department. The butcher named Mr. Mustard, was a great character, always tearing around and in a hurry. If anyone asked him for anything, his favourite phrase, said in a raising voice, was, “I’ve only got one pair of hands and I’M MAKING THE BEST USE OF BOTH OF THEM”!

I well remember making the trays of “pet food” that he sold, basically all the trimmings left over from the week were mixed up with bags of “lights”, or lungs that he bought in. I had to mix up this lot and put it through the mincer and spread it out into big aluminium trays, to be frozen down and band-sawed into blocks for sale the following week! Lungs and mincers don’t really go together, I can tell you! Anyway, I digress!





A couple of photos are at my garden track in the early days. The later couple were at Chichester club,



One with "Tich" in "Woolworth's blue" livery on the old track, the second, after a repaint in "Humbrol black", on the new track we built around 1973 or so

.....by which time I had passed my test and bought a second hand car.



In the background you can see my trusty Singer Gazelle 1725cc (with walnut interior trim and overdrive that I fitted with a gearbox from Harris's scrap yard in Nutbourne! Lovely, comfortable, smooth car. The blue jug, in the photo, held enough water for 6 laps of the track! The green bottle was steam oil. We had a rain butt at the club for soft water as Chichester water is, and always was, full of white scale. It was essential to filter out the tadpoles, as we called them, (mosquito larvae), before filling your boiler! The name plates, by the way, "Taliesin", were picked up on a family summer holiday to Wales in the late 60's. Did you notice, we had colour film starting then too? Such expensive luxuries!

Andrew Ellis.

Dolls House continued:-

More photos of dolls house interiors created by Andrew





Andrew E. To be continued.

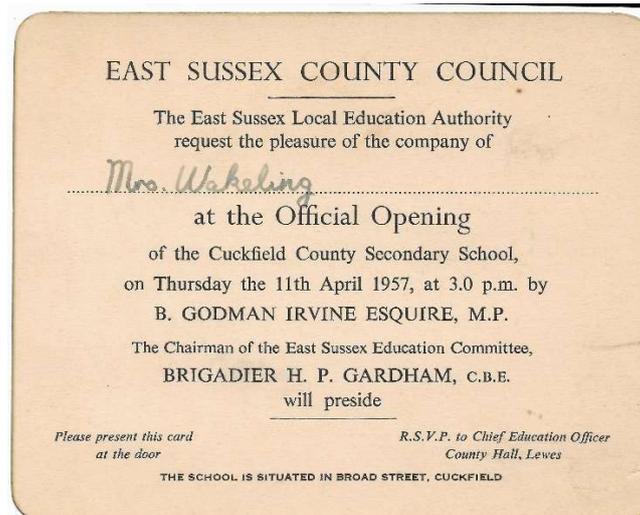
Mike W. From last week:-Recognise this?

Yes it was formally known as Cuckfield County Secondary School when I went there but for many of you it was under its new name Warden Park.

I grew up in Balcombe and went to the village school which from the road has not changed much over the years. As you can see below it still has its old school bell and the Headmasters House on the right. Made from locally quarried sandstone.



Great excitement hit the village in early 1956 when we all heard that we would not complete our schooling in the village but we were going to move to a brand new school being built in Cuckfield. We all had to buy a uniform and we were all given a free train and bus season ticket to get to Cuckfield.



This is an invitation to my mother to attend the official opening of the school in 1957. My dad didn't get an invite which we understood to be an attempt at not encouraging men to have time off work!

The school filled up from schools all around the area, Balcombe. Handcross, Cuckfield, Bolney, Staplefield and Warninglid.

All ages from 12 to 15 years turned up and joined their pre allocated form. I was a member of the first third year class Form 3A and our form head was Mrs Ward the needlework teacher. Quite a strict lady.

The next two photos are taken of the south side of the building.



Low level building Staff Room, Tall building Main hall and stage



Low level again Staff room this end then
Secretary Head Masters Study and Deputy Heads Study.
The two story building was Art upstairs and Library downstairs.

The School badge was designed and the houses were set up in my time and they were Downs – Blue. Weald – Yellow. Forest – Green. Heath - Red

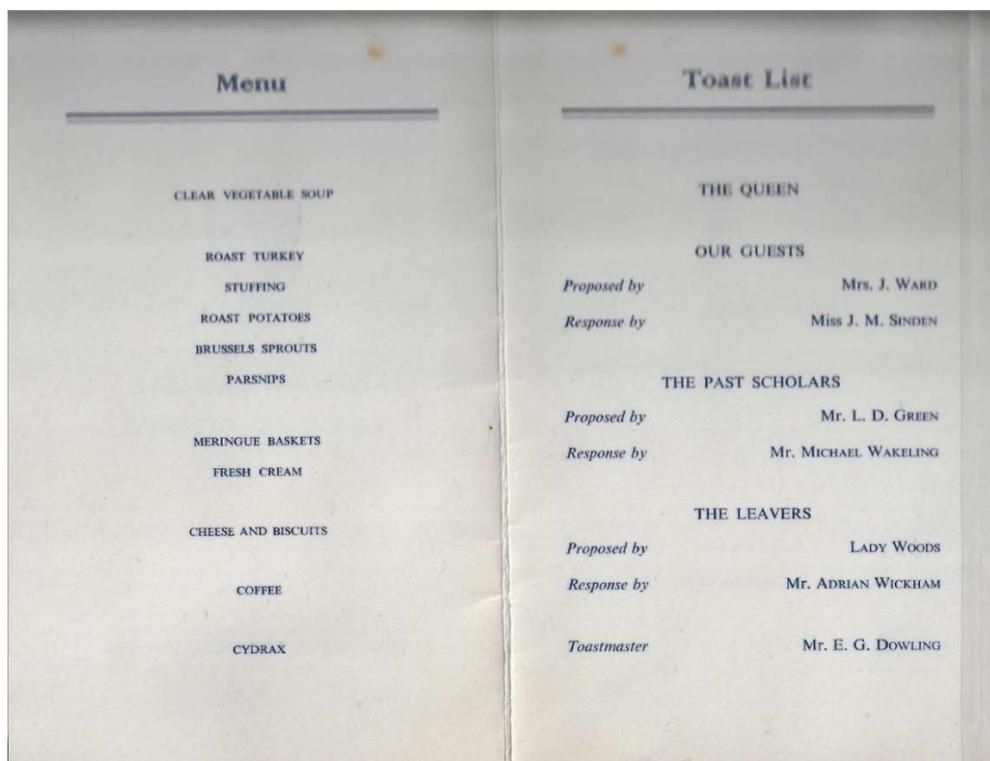
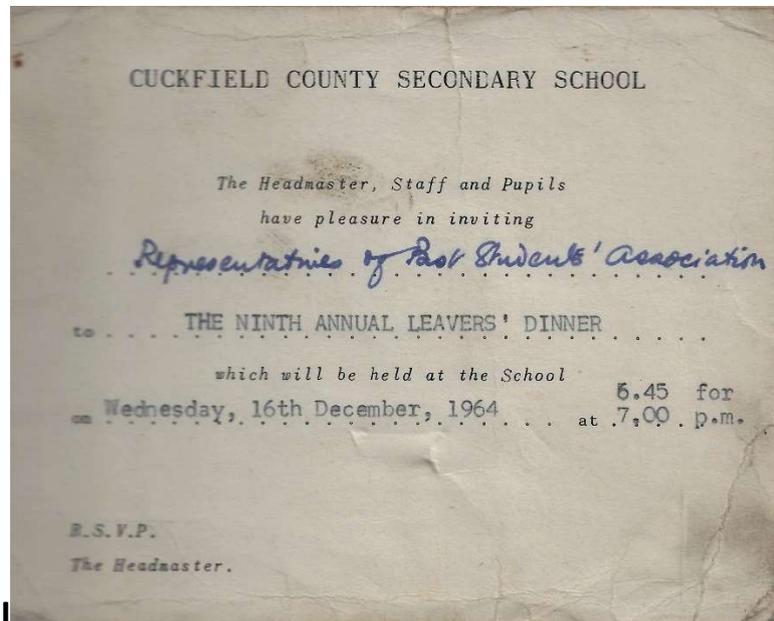


I was put into the Downs house and this is me in the Downs Basket Ball team circa 1958. Me far right!



Metal Workshop was off campus and down London Lane along with the Woodwork Shop. It is now the Cuckfield Village hall.
I left the School in 1959 to start a 5 year apprenticeship with Metal Box Company at Crompton Way Crawley.

I kept up my connections with the school and became a founder member of the CCSS "Past Students Association" and I was requested to attend the 9th Annual leavers' dinner in 1964 and asked to give the response to the toast "Past Scholars".



Unbeknown to me when I accepted that invitation there was a new Music Teacher now part of the Staff and I was introduced by one of the teachers. We danced together a couple times and the rest is history I married her 2 years later.

News From Afar - 12 Aug.



Maintenance/ Minor projects.

Monday we re-purposed our firewood shed, or at least part of it. We emptied part to house rather a large compressor recently reactivated after a few years in our wilderness. The problem has been that it runs on three phase power and until recently that power wasn't where we required it for that compressor.

The firewood will be sorted, cut to more suitable lengths, and re stacked.

Part of this minor project included burying the air hose from the compressor to the steaming bays. Completed Monday with too much effort required by the over seventies, but luckily all this wet weather has made it relatively easy to dig trenches.

Public Running Day - Sunday 9 Aug - Cancelled





The top picture shows our 7 1/4" bridge over the usually dry water course. This shown happens once, maybe twice a year.

Shown above is one of my future projects, from the tip. Requires TLC for the electronics, but has two water cooled electric motors. Should go well when restored.



Of course we need rain to fill the dams for water during summer, but we would like some respite from it on scheduled public running days. We have lost two on the trot due to weather like this.

Nathan Six Chime Whistle Update.

It took some hard work and sand blasting to get to this point.



The side I have started to polish by firstly using 480 grit emery with oil followed by 2000 grit 'wet and dry' and finally a buffing wheel on a drill, but it still requires more work. The ends, that is top and bottom of the casting, I am not even going to try to polish. It was a little cool in the workshop on Saturday making bushes and a new operating lever for the whistle. To be continued:

A minor point. The wood vice shown in the bottom left corner above, is one of my Gillingham Technical School projects (circa 1960?) still in use. Good stuff.



A Visit to our old site at Kingston - Saturday morning.



On its way back to nature by the look of things. Sad really, as so much work was put into it over the years. Under shows a similar shot how it was.



*** As a late inclusion.** A contractor from a road construction site and a previous donor, phoned again today, Wednesday, and told us that the site would be cleared after today, and that he had ear marked some 'stuff' that we may be able to use at some stage. Along we go, and two 6' x 4' trailer loads later, job done. A mixture of too much to mention here, but perhaps in a later edition. Serious material though and worth too much money to let go to the tip.

Stay well. David - Canberra - 12 August 2020

Puzzle Corner.

Lorema's last week's Challenge:-

My stamp album looked like this, fill it in as it would look today:-

1	Burma	Mynamar
2	Northern Rhodesia	Zambia
3	Dutch East Indies	Indonesia
4	Abyssinia	Ethiopia
5	British Guiana	Guyana
6	Basutoland	Lesotho
7	Ceylon	Sri Lanka
8	French Sudan	Mali
9	Bechuanaland	Botswana
10	Siam	Thailand
11	Gold Coast	Ghana
12	New Hebrides	Vanuatu
13	British Honduras	Belize
14	Southern Rhodesia	Zimbabwe
15	Gilbert Islands	Kiribati

Lorema's this week challenge.

Ditloids.

Example 50=S on the AF Ans:- 50 stars on the American flag.

1	3=S in a T	
2	5=R on the OF	
3	9=L of a C	
4	11=P in a CT	
5	12=S of the Z	
6	21=S on a D	
7	24=BB in a P	
8	70=SL on M	
9	90=D in a RA	
10	100= C in a D	

My thanks go to all who keep sending me the material.

If you have something for the NEWS please contact me

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