

BEECH HURST NEWS



Cover picture: -

Something A Little Different?
Pictured above is Alan Temple's recently completed, silver medal winning, 'Burrell' Showman's engine. Purchased part built, Alan finished the chassis, drive & canopy, before painting and lining the engine. An article appears inside.

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Editors Notes

Well here we are then, a ¼ of the way through 2004 already and with BST definitely with us, we can look forward to the new season. Despite the first couple of weekends hardly resembling mid-Spring, more like late Winter, we have had an encouraging start to the season, lets hope it continues through the summer too.

As a 'quickie' first, we would like to thank the contributors to the last news, being; 'The Regulars', 'Us', Enid Marten, Norman Payne and Mike Porter.

On with this edition, we have received articles, from Mike Porter, Alan Temple and the 'Regulars'. The cover hides a clue as to one of the articles (something different this time we thought), so thanks to those who have contributed and we hope it provides an enjoyable edition as ever. Special notice should be given to the Diary of Events and Forthcoming events articles, which are being arranged for the summer and will be updated as soon as we have confirmed details. Often these updates will appear only on the Website or at Beech Hurst, depending on when the next news is due. This particularly refers to the 'Cockrow' & Pinewood visit, which will be confirmed ASAP, but may or may not make the June edition, so please keep an eye on the website (if you can) or pop into the club to check for updates. There is also a special article regarding the 50th anniversary of the opening of the track, which we would like to celebrate, with as many members as is possible, just like the full 50th anniversary a few years ago. So with little more to say other than, as usual please read on and enjoy...

Last Chance Saloon

Alan Garner has given us a list of those who have yet to pay their subs' for 2004. This is your last news if you don't pay up!! You can either leave a cheque or money at the club, or post direct to Alan at the following address:

8 Finches Park Road, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2DN.

Below is a list of those whose subs' are still outstanding:

G. Ash, J. Bowyer-Frost, L. Flippance, A. Giffen, M. Hall, J. Lavis, S. Parker, S. Rowland, D. Simmins, S. Stephenson, J. Sweet & D. Taylor.

YOUR LAST CHANCE!!

Andrew & Mark

For The Future

The website has recently been updated with the members page refreshed and the galleries to be refreshed shortly. This news will appear on the website shortly, in the members page. If you particularly want a back copy of the news, then we have records going back for about 4 years, some hard copies are still available from previous prints or we can just print off a new copy from our own archives.

The member's calendar will be updated regularly too, as dates are confirmed, hand in hand with the newsletter when it is published.

If you have chosen to have this delivered by 'e' mail then we hope it arrives safe and sound, if there are any problems then do not hesitate to contact either of us and we will endeavour to sort out any difficulties.

Andrew & Mark

Chairman's Notes

That's it, winters over and another running season is upon us. Thanks to all the members involved over the winter months, the railway is looking in great shape for our many future passengers. We wait to see what difference the opening of Brewsters will make.

The steaming bays have had a complete repaint to compliment the new grey transporter and the re-furbished mainline one. The fitting of new "perches" made of "found in the loft" wood and the green station type seat has further enhanced the smartness of the steaming bays.

A new key switch has been fitted to the point as the previous one expired.

Ray Parsons has decided after many years to stand down as Assistant Signals Engineer. The committee would like to thank Ray for his work over the years and his position has been taken over by Steve Turner. This change being the only one to affect the Society's "officers" following on from the AGM. The cobwebs were dusted off a number of cans of 8mm film in March for a film show. Various other events are planned over the coming months; details to be found in the "Diary of Events" as usual. Late notice of other events will appear on the blackboard.

On the 8th May we celebrate 50 years of public running and it is hoped we can commemorate this with a small re-enactment of cutting the ribbon; May 8th this year is also a Saturday. By coincidence, a poster advertising our first public running was unearthed in the library and has now been framed and hung on the wall.

Elsewhere in this issue of the "News" is an advert for anyone interested in the old Colchester lathe from the workshop. The removal of this lathe (little used over the past years) will free up valuable space in the workshop. As I said details elsewhere for anyone interested.

The Ops managers would like names in the book, as usual, for the coming season especially for Traffic Controllers and Station Masters.

Don

50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Track

Saturday 8th May 1954 saw the opening of the new track and at 3:00pm the tape was broken and the first official public passengers were carried.

During one of the many wet Sunday afternoons earlier this year, Dave and I along with James looked through some of our old library photographs and documents dating back to 1954. We came across one of the original posters advertising the grand event, along with some photos of the occasion. James agreed to 'blow up' one or two of the better photos and also framed the original poster and newspaper cutting about the event. (These now grace the clubhouse wall).

To mark the occasion, May 8th, which incidentally and conveniently also falls on a Saturday this year, 2004, we thought we would do a little advertising and run five or six trains during the afternoon with locos dressed in gold ribbons etc.. I think it might be nice to take a break in passenger hauling at 3.00pm, to set up a tape at the station and re-enact the ceremonial breaking of the tape by perhaps Wharfedale, hopefully preceded by a few words from our Chairman. Also the station could be dressed in bunting with some of the photos and original poster etc. on display (weather permitting!).

To enable as many members as possible to be involved during the afternoon passenger hauling, those who would like to, and are able to, operate a reliable and capable passenger hauling loco, are welcome to put their names in the running book for that day and, depending on how many are interested, can take a turn at passenger hauling. We can swap over a few engines during the afternoon. Wharfedale and the 'Growler' will be available (again to those who are capable), to take a turn if they are without loco themselves.

Perhaps as on our 50th celebrations we can find someone to take a video of the proceedings for posterity??

If you would like to help, or passenger haul, on that day, please put your name in the book and Dave and I will make a cunning plan. Assuming dry weather, we will need help in the morning to put up the bunting etc.. and some extra help during the afternoon at the station, as well as two or three TC's and loco drivers, so please come along and enjoy the day and lend a hand.

This will be our first special day of the 2004 season, but as you have no doubt seen from our new timetable brochures, three others have been planned. These include a 'Big Boy' day, complete with big train, (very popular last year!) and another 'Little and Large' day and a 'Double header' day. Dave and I hope that as these dates come around you can offer us some extra support again.

As I write this, our first timetabled running day of the season, is coming up fast, although last weekend a few locos came out of mothballs and had a run round to test the water. It was cold!

Thanks once again to the hard working winter gang. I think its fair to say that it's probably a long time since the railway and clubhouse were all in such good and clean condition. We are certainly ready to present ourselves on this anniversary year.

Mike

Steam On The Road

My interest is mainly traction engines and steam wagons. I have completed two 1 ½" scale Allchin 'Royal Chester's', rebuilt a 2" scale 'Clayton' steam wagon, built a 3" scale 'Burrell' from two big boxes of bits and I regularly take this engine to rallies. I am currently working on another 3" scale 'Burrell'. These models were all purchased part built. The only model I have constructed entirely from scratch was a 3" scale 'Foden' steam wagon.

My latest project was a 2" scale 'Burrell' Gold Medal Tractor built as a showman's engine. Again I purchased a rolling chassis in 1994 and it was completed in November 2003, whilst also working on other projects. To finish this Tractor, all the motion had to be completed along with the belly tanks, tender, wheels, canopy, ash-pan, grate, all the controls and steering, the chain and lighting. The dynamo consists of a 24v d.c. motor extensively modified to fit the existing casing. Output at about 800 revs is 12v 1.5A. this proved insufficient for the number of lights required so the 40 lamps are powered through a 12v transformer for static display.

The boiler was steam tested and certified in November 2003 and the model was stripped to be painted and lined. Canopy decorations signalled that I was nearing completion. Thanks must go to my wife for her patience and steady hand with the lining and lettering.

The model was exhibited at the M.E. exhibition at Sandown Park in December 2003 and it was awarded the Silver medal and the Aveling and Barford trophy. Gone one better than the bronze's I have had for the 'Royal Chester' and a steam plant. Over the past 20 years I have built 15 model beam, mill and marine steam engines (Stuart type).

Enough of pen pushing and back to the workshop and the 3" scale 'Burrell'. It is soon to be steam tested, painted and put up for sale to finance the next project.

There is a Gauge 1 locomotive sitting on a shelf awaiting a little TLC!

Alan Temple

Club Visit to Great Cockrow & Pinewood Tracks

With the success of last years group club visit to Fawley Hill, it has been decided that we will be arranging a visit to Great Cockrow and Pinewood Tracks on Sunday 11th July. John Ely has already booked the trip to the Cockrow, which will be at 1200 on that day, with a trip around the two circuits of the track and opportunities to look around some of the site, the engine sheds and signal box. Andrew has also contacted the Pinewood society who have ¾ mile of 5" & 7 ¼" near Woking. They are always there on a Sunday and are quite prepared to arrange a train or two as part of our day out. It is likely that the day will be similar to last year's event, with a view to group travel throughout. Final details of the day, including schedules etc... will appear on the Website and in the June edition once they have been finalised. Places are likely to be limited to about 30 again, so it will be first come first served, if we need to draw up a list.

Andrew & Mark

Election of Officers

Annually, after the AGM, the news always reports on the 'comings' and 'goings' of those on the committee and in positions within the club. The following is the revised list of who holds what position in the club:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Occupant</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman	D.F. Clarke	<u>JE</u>	<u>AFG</u>
Vice-Chairman	M.J. Porter	<u>DGK</u>	<u>VW</u>
Secretary	J. Ely	<u>DFC</u>	<u>APB</u>
Treasurer	A.F. Garner	<u>DFC</u>	<u>MJP</u>
Minutes Secretary	A.P. Brock	<u>JE</u>	<u>AFG</u>
Operations Mgr's	M.J. Porter & D.G. Keast	- <u>JE</u>	- <u>VW</u>
Signals Engineer	A.J. Killick	<u>MJP</u>	<u>VW</u>
Ass' Signals Eng'	S. Turner	<u>APB</u>	<u>VW</u>
Workshop Mgr's	J.M. Clarke & D.G. Keast	- <u>DFC</u>	- <u>MJP</u>
House Manager	D.G. Keast	<u>APB</u>	<u>MJP</u>
Materials Manager	P.C. Marten	<u>AFG</u>	<u>JE</u>
Ass' Materials M'gr	V. Williams	<u>DGK</u>	<u>JE</u>
Social Secretary	D.F. Clarke	<u>JE</u>	<u>AFG</u>
News Editors	A.P. Brock & M.C. Allen	- <u>JE</u>	- <u>MJP</u>
Librarian	S. Hutton	<u>DFC</u>	<u>APB</u>
Ass' Librarians	A.P. Brock, D.G. Keast & R. Parsons	- - <u>JMC</u>	- - <u>VW</u>
Boiler Inspector	V. Williams	<u>DGK</u>	<u>JMC</u>
Ass' Boiler Inspect'	F. Bailey, G.A. West & A.J. Killick	- - <u>DGK</u>	- - <u>JMC</u>
Cust'dns of W'dale	J.M. Clarke & A.P. Brock & D.G. Keast	- - <u>VW</u>	- - <u>AFG</u>
Carriage Valeter	I. Thompson	<u>DFC</u>	<u>JMC</u>
Web Master	M.C. Allen	<u>AFG</u>	<u>APB</u>
Custodian of '08's & 'Growler'	D. Evans	<u>VW</u>	<u>JMC</u>

In addition to the above, D.F. Clarke, J. Ely & M.J. Porter were re-elected, en-bloc, to the committee at the AGM and were subsequently happy to continue with their officers posts for the duration of their term on the committee.

Andrew & Mark

For Sale – Colchester Master Lathe

Following a proposal at the AGM to dispose of the surplus Colchester Master Lathe, we are able through these pages to offer the machine to any member who can make use of the 'old girl'. We are not too sure of it's history, although it has been with the club for quite a few years and was I am sure second hand when we acquired it, however that might have been?

We have already decided that we do not want anything for it, so it goes on a first come first served basis, but the prospective user must arrange for collection & transport etc... Anyone interested has 1 month from the issue of this newsletter to make a serious enquiry, otherwise it will be offered to persons outside the club, which we have two already showing an interest. The



lathe comes as seen. For anyone who does not know what the Master is like (**See Also Picture Left**), it has approximately 31" of bed, has sufficient swing to take an 18" faceplate, comes with a faceplate, chuck, spanners, 4-way tool post, 3-phase motor, tailstock etc... It runs up to 550 rpm top speed, down to 20 rpm slowest speed and is complete with stand. Anybody interested can contact either Andrew or Mark via the

newsletter or make an appearance at the club any weekend and speak to a committee member who will fill you in. If no one shows an interest, then as we said before, there are two members who have friends outside the club who are interested in having it. Therefore: **NO TIMEWASTERS!!**

With the removal of the Colchester Lathe now in full swing, we should be able to finally finish tidying the workshop, with a view to completing the floor painting and re-installing of the Myford Super '7' and hopefully the acquisition of the new Rolls, Folders and Guillotine.

Andrew & Mark

Winter Work

With the newsletter now reaching the April edition already, the 'Winter Work' is finally behind us, with quite a bit achieved this year, with only what would be described as a skeleton crew of regulars doing the bulk of the regular maintenance and adding one or two extra items as well.

With the track work completed, Mike and Co have been busy rubbing down and painting the steelwork all the way from the bowling green straight towards the long tunnel. I gather this will be a rolling program during the summer, when time allows, and the idea is to paint all the outer steelwork and supporting brackets right round the track, to help with the workload during the winter when time is a premium and weather can be indifferent, also it will help to protect the steelwork and looks good too.

Work on the trucks is also complete, with most seeming to run fairly smoothly so far, with one horn keep coming adrift on one of the 'Pullman' cars. The brakes seem to be gripping quite well too, which is hopefully more down to the clean condition of the track, rather than anything we did over the winter.



The secondary transporter has been finished too (**See Picture Left**), with a new adjustable frame fabricated, new wheels and locking mechanism installed, complete with a couple of coats of sprayed, grey paint. The steaming bays have also been straightened, painted and the turntable modified so the locking mechanism, actually locks in place! In fact all in all it is looking very tidy out the front now.



There has been a tidy up in the main workshop too, with the removal of the Colchester Master Lathe (see separate article) and repairs made to the Myford 'Super 7' machine, which had had a damaged countershaft and clutch unit. The floor is in the process of being painted, with a view to purchasing a new Rolls, Folders and Cutting tool shortly.

Brian has also finished renovating the seat donated to the club from Les Warnett's (**See Picture Left**). It is currently occupying a spot on the

steaming bays, although there is some discussion at the moment as to it's permanent place, which may be on the back platform, but that has yet to be decided. Also, with some of the money that was gained from the sale of the two 3 ½" chassis' from Les Warnett, we purchased two authentic cast SR signs. One of which has now been fully restored and is sited between adjacent to the clubhouse, by the water tank.

It does look very smart and hopefully shortly the other SR 'Beware Of Trains' sign will be finished and put on display too. **(See Picture Below Left)**



As I said at the beginning, we have achieved a lot this winter, despite meagre crews at times. Many thanks to all those who have helped, either on their own with individual little projects or as a team effort, we have still got a lot done and we can now look forward to a little summer running, with a dash of work in between.

Andrew & Mark

Diary of Events

25th April 2004 – Visit to loW Track at Broadfields, Cowes, loW. Details **TBC**.

6th May 2004 – Club Night – Will start approx. 1900.

8th May 2004 – 50th Anniversary of Track Opening (see news piece) **TBC**.

22nd May 2004 – Special Running Day - Details and times **TBC**.

3rd June 2004 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

5th June 2004 – Provisional date for visit by loW club to Beech Hurst, **TBC**.

1st July 2004 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

3rd July 2004 – Mid-Summer 'Bring Your Own' BBQ evening, from 1830.

11th July 2004 – Special club visit to Great Cockrow & Pinewood Tracks.
(See attached news piece), details, times & transport **TBC**.

****We are hoping to have several visits this year to other clubs, so please keep an eye on these pages or on the notice board at the club, as it is not always possible to publish dates in these pages 2 months before.****

Club nights will continue throughout the season on the first Thursday of each month.

N.B. Other events are not always shown in the diary of events because they have been arranged at short notice; check black/notice board for more details of any such events.

Andrew & Mark