

THE MANOR RAILWAY NEWS



Now that Spring is on its way it's time to bring you up to date with Autumn and Winter events at The Manor Railway, Ingfield.

The Winter has been very wet and muggy and it has proved difficult to do a lot of the maintenance work needed to keep the railway in running order. I am looking forward to some better weather for getting the jobs done.

A bit of sunshine and heat certainly does make a lot of difference and it's so lovely to be up at the railway on a nice warm sunny day.



Enjoying a bite to eat in the Winter sunshine outside The Cabin.

We will be having various events throughout the year and it would be great if you could come and visit with us. On the back page of this newsletter there are all this years coming events. If you would like any more information

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The engines and rolling stock of the Holders Family Railway have always interested me, in respect of the fact that Keith did work on restoring a lot of items. It pleases me to have added the wagon, pictured below, to my collection, as my interest holds a lot in the work of my late husband Keith and I'm absolutely thrilled when I can acquire any of the work he has done.

Stop Press!!!
Fete Day's Date
has changed to
Sunday
8th June 2003



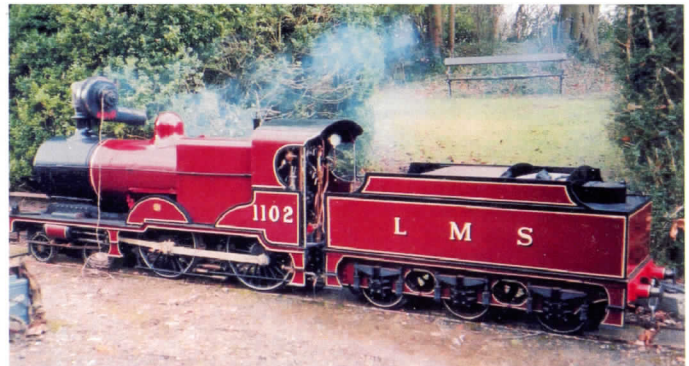
Restoration plate from the wagon below.



Six Wheeled Bogie Wagon Keith restored in 1971.

I am also looking forward to having my Midland Compound back at The Manor Railway. It has now been fully restored and will hopefully be making an appearance very soon.

Lynn Stratton, Owner



Lighting up for the first time after being restored. A few little jobs still to be done but the Compound should be ready soon.

Bluebell Railway's 9F Club

Mick Blackburn kindly arranged a large working party of the Bluebell Railway's 9F Club, to support The Manor Railway on the 9th of November, in a large operation to sweep and clear an awful lot of leaves that had inevitably fallen during the Autumn months. They all arrived appropriately clad and after being organised into work groups got straight to work.



Members of the 9F Club arrive at Haven Road ready for a day of leaf clearing.

As there was so much support on the day we were able to undertake another project as well, which was to reballast and resleeper six lengths of track between Haven Road and Garden Crossing. This was of great help as these sections of track were deteriorating quickly.



Resleeping the track panels at Haven Road.



Two workers from the Bluebell 9F Club ready, willing and able, helping to resleeper the track panels at Haven Road.

Whilst all this reballasting was taking place we took the opportunity to lay membrane underneath the new ballast to help keep the track free of mud, weeds and dirt.



Some members of the Bluebell's 9F Club take a well earned lunch break after clearing many of the leaves on the railway.

Atremendous job was done by all on the day so we thought we should take a group photograph as a record of the occasion. The club shall be returning for a fun day this summer for us to say a **BIG** thank you to all for the hard work.



The 9F Club getting ready for a group photograph at Bramble Hill... "Come on everyone gather around!!"



Once more a huge thank you to all involved. You all certainly did a wonderful job and should be very proud of your achievements.

Railway Maintenance

Sleepers have been high on the maintenance list this winter as ever. Along the whole length of the track there are many sleepers that are seeing the wear and tear of time and many heavy locomotives. A new batch of sleepers have been cut, drilled etc... and are now ready to replace the worn ones.



Liam, one of the Ingfield Children driving Jack with help from Dad.

The water supply to Haven Road sprung a big leak which with a lot of investigating, digging and patience was eventually found and mended with an extra supporting bandage for good measure. 5 months later and all seems well, fingers crossed...



James Nutty and Frank Welland taking a rest after lots of hard labour digging holes.

It's that time again. Once every couple of years The Manor Railway is descended upon by a large truck with several tonnes of ballast on board. This year it was Mark Stratton's turn to help the driver unload the delivery. The use of a Stanley knife and some fine precision aiming by the truck driver meant a quick and easy delivery was made with not too much shovelling.



Mark Stratton unloading ballast at Haven Road goods yard.

The engine shed at Bramble Hill now benefits from a work bench and corner units made from angle iron donated by Dave Wiseman and converted by Nick Kingshott and Frank Welland. Lots of hard work was put in, in the precise welding of the bench and corner units, to make sure they fitted into the corners of the shed accurately.



Nick Kingshott at work.



Workforce and Nick working on the support frame for Bramble Hill engine shed bench.

Other routine maintenance has included the following work.

At Haven Road goods yard, a retaining wall has been put in to prevent the ballast from slipping onto the road.

At Bramble Hill station all the muddy patches have had a good layer of ballast placed on top of them, so hopefully it will be much cleaner for everyone to walk around in the winter. Certainly an improvement from sticking in the mud.

Although the overall area of the railway seems reasonably flat we do have a lot of ditches to help with drainage. These ditches do get very clogged up with leaves, hence the problem this year when Haven Road turntable pit flooded to the point of overflowing.

Other Events This Year

M.G. Midget and Sprite Vintage Car Club - Hampshire Group 29th September.

The first successful steaming day of Dave Wiseman's Duchess after much work on the loco's cylinders. Also in steam his Standard Four. A 'driver's session' under supervision was very greatly appreciated by the Club.



A train departs from Haven Road.

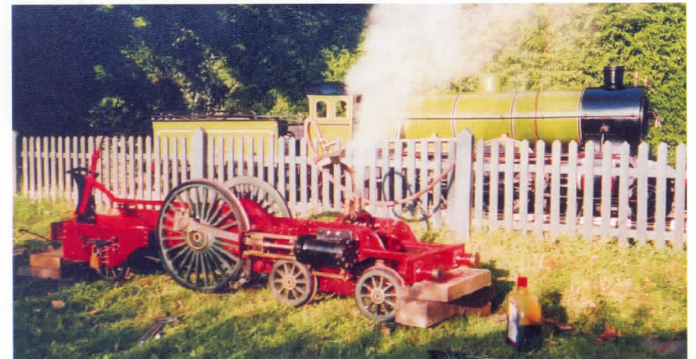


Dave Wiseman's Duchess raising steam at Bramble Hill.

G.N.R. Stirling Single, Hydraulic and Steam test. The Pitmaston Moor Green Stirling Single has had it's boiler hydraulically tested and its chassis steam tested, getting it's steam back again after all these years! What a joy to see that being accomplished by steam being provided by John Terence, as these two engines were together in the 1900s whilst in operation on the Holder's private garden railway.



James and Frank test the Single's Boiler.



Testing the Single using steam from John Terence.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 26th May
Birthday Parties

Sunday 8th June
Fete Day
STOP PRESS!!

Sunday 15th June
Fun Day for Bluebell Children's
9F Club and ALL!!

Saturday 21st June
Brighton Road Sunday School Outing

Sunday 29th June
Parents Association Picnic for the
Children of Ingfield

Boxing Day. Well now, that was a wet one! Horrible weather, but despite that, folk enjoyed getting together. There was a lot of catching up to do with old friends whilst they enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine. Lion and John Terence where both in steam and Philip Cracknell brought along his loco frame to let us see how the building of his new loco has been progressing.



Philip Cracknell with his loco frame on Boxing Day.

It has been a wet and windy winter but now that the daffodils are out, we are all ready to start the preparations for Fete Day.

Hope to see you all there.