

THE MANOR RAILWAY NEWS



At the Fete this year, on the 16th of June, we were absolutely thrilled to be able to give to the Friends of Ingfield the grand total of £502.00.

This was from The Manor Railway with the help of Ron, Nigel and Georgina Patey giving rides on their two Traction Engines. Oyster Creek also put on another excellent show with their 16 mm live steamers.

Please note:-
Fete Day Sunday
15th June 2003



The Oyster Creek Railway steamed up again this year to bring another very interesting layout to Ingfield Manor.

As the weather had been extremely wet before the day, the field was most unsuitable for parking. However with a lack of alternative parking spaces, some cars had to use the field. Luckily for us farmer Mike was on standby at the end of the day with his tractor to tow out anyone who managed to get well and truly stuck. Thanks Mike!

Another consequence of the weather was that all the main stalls were quite a distance from the railway, but it was good to see the usual long queues of both young and slightly older waiting for their train ride before the trip home.

Many thanks to all those involved in making Fete Day this year such a memorable event.

Work leading up to the Fete varied from reorganising the shed at Haven Road, to cutting back the edges along the track from Haven Road to Bramble Hill, a mammoth task!

Haven Road Engine Shed has had a number of improvements. A new workbench, fitted by Frank Welland and the drill has been fitted onto a purpose built stand, thanks to Paul King and Nick Kingshott.

Lynn Stratton, Owner



Nigel and Ron Patey provided children with rides behind their model traction engines.



Mike Stocker with tractor helping cars out of the mud.

Engine Maintenance and Visiting Locomotives

This year has seen a number of Diesel engines brought to the line to be both tested and enjoyed. John Scovell's Diesel which is still under construction arrived for two days of running including pulling a very long train up the bank which it completed with ease. Well done!

The other Diesel that has visited The Manor Railway this year is Aiden Favell's. Again this Diesel proved its power by taking on the bank and succeeding. It was a great pleasure to see both these engines on the line.

We were pleased to have the support of Dave Wiseman's BR Standard Class 4 4-6-0, for a number of events this year. She arrived for Fete and stayed on for the Brighton Road Baptist Church Sunday School outing.

Also the support of James Nutty's Metropolitan Railway 4-4-0T 'Pluto' and Bob Syme's Burry Port 0-6-0T has been gratefully appreciated.



Chris Knibbs has been busy completing the repainting of John Terence and what a lovely job he has made of the line and lettering.



The Wiseman's "City of Westminster" has been resting in Bramble Hill Engine Shed undergoing surgery to her cylinders.

My model diesel shunting locomotive is based on a class of five locomotives built by Brush traction during 1958. One of these five was eventually taken into BR stock and was numbered D2999. The loco was based at Stratford depot for shunting in East London goods yards, before being broken up in 1967.

The model has a real working diesel engine which was kindly donated to me by Aidan Favell, and I believe it is the only model of shunting locomotive to be so fitted in this scale. It has been a real challenge to fit the Kubota engine into the model without it encroaching into the cab, which would have been unacceptable to me in terms of appearance.

I wish to record my thanks to Lynn Stratton for allowing me open access to The Manor Railway for two days for the purposes of testing the locomotive during February. The testing was considered a success, and amazed everyone present, not least myself by restarting a 6 coach train on the 1 in 30. I hope to have the model completed in a couple of years time.

By John Scovell



Unloading of John Scovell's Diesel at Haven Road.



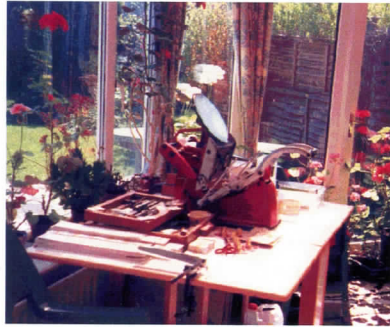
This test train was pulled up the bank by John's Diesel. Quite an achievement.



A visit by Aiden Favell's Diesel which has proved to work extremely well up the demanding bank on The Manor Railway.

Restoration of Structures and Overall News

Another session of ticket pressing was in order like every other year. As it takes such a long time to set up the press accurately James Nutty decided to print enough tickets for two years in a row... hopefully! In his own words "It takes a long time to set up the printing press so whilst you're in the mood print as many as possible until you get fed up with it!"



Printing tickets both night and day.

Flooding in the traverser pit at Bramble Hill alerted us to a very unfortunate situation where a rabbit had caught itself in the drainage system. The end of the drainage pipe is now covered with wire mesh.

Angle iron donated by Dave Wiseman has proved to be a great support for fence posts needing attention and for the construction of a purpose built shelf support in the Bramble Hill engine shed.

Very special thanks to Bob and Phyllis Prior who very kindly brought their flowers from home to give the stations a brighter look for Fete Day this year. This made a wonderful difference.



Haven Road Engine Shed, soon to be 30 years old, has been de-mossed and some tiles refitted.

This year we were able to break the bad run of problems with telephones and bells that we have had on Fete Day for as long as can be remembered. Problems in the past have ranged from no coding on wires to ants building their nest in a connection box! Thanks to Mark Stratton and James Nutty this year was different. Armed with five colours of electrical tape and two screwdrivers the system was set up the week before and thoroughly tested, then colour coded. Since Fete Day James has also installed easy to connect ends to all of the wires to make the process even easier.



The Wheel Chair Trials

Testing has been in the pipeline for a new way for wheelchairs to travel on the railway. By removing the seat on one of the Wiseman's sit astrides, a wheelchair is able to safely sit between the outer framework. Maggie and Michael Schovell were

happy to sit in on the trial runs. The test was to check for stability and we are happy to say that it proved to be very successful!



Frank Welland has refurbished seats at Haven Road and Highbeech Halt, an ongoing refurbishment of all wooden structures in our ever changing English weather!!

Other Events this year

The Saturday after Fete Day would normally be a quiet day with railway and school staff alike recovering from the Sunday before but for The Manor Railway this year it was not the case. Brighton Road Baptist Church brought their Sunday Club to the railway for a day of fun and games... and TRAIN RIDES! Thankfully the field had dried out from the weekend before so Mike and his tractor were not needed to pull out cars again, and we were able to enjoy the lawn next to Ingfield Central that had been water logged a few days before.



Tug of war, Steam Style!

A great Parents Association Picnic for The Children of Ingfield was held on Sunday, July the 7th this year. The sun was shining the whole time the children and their families were riding on the trains. A wonderful time was had by all.



A train waiting for passengers at Ingfield Central.

The day was rounded off with a challenge of tug of war with a slight twist. On one end of the rope was Nigel Patey's traction engine, and the winner was... well you had to be there.



A train Departs from Ingfield Central.

Easter Monday Steam Up. A lot of fun was had by all when we had a few visiting engines and a good old fashioned steam up. Especially running up the bank! With many thanks to Nick Kingshott for the hard work in moving the visiting engines back and forth.



The end of another very enjoyable and Happy Season.

Sweeping up 'The Autumn Leaves' next, I suppose! A working party has been provisionally arranged for Saturday November the 9th. Please let me know nearer to the time if you are able to join us on that particular day. [Redacted]
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