

# Lea Bailey Light Railway Society

September 2014



## TUNNEL TALK

Exciting plans have been unveiled for one day running locos in Euroclydon Tunnel (also known as Hawthorn Tunnel).

Access to the tunnel site was hampered by last winter's storms which resulted in the bridge being washed away. Now concrete sleepers have been laid to provide a deck and work has started laying track inside the tunnel.

The WWII track was laid to 18" gauge, based on records which show that a Ruston loco of the same dimensions was sent to the tunnel in 1941. This track has long gone, but Ray and Jonathan Wright laid around 200 yards of two foot gauge track in the 1990s. Now LBLRS members have begun work on extending it, with plans for a single track and two long sidings.

There is a possibility that during the September open day guided tours of the tunnel may be organised.

"The Hunslet would be an ideal loco to base in the tunnel as it has no significant electrical system, so would be OK in the high humidity of the tunnel," said Rob Needham, adding "there is also a second restorable Hunslet in the tunnel."

Efforts at Drybrook will focus on building the access bridge, digging out the cutting so that temporary track can be laid to the tunnel enabling storage of the Hunslet and the society's new W&R loco.

"As the cost in and around the tunnel plus getting two 4wBE locos and the Hunslet in the tunnel working is likely to be over £1,500 it would seem a good idea to launch an appeal at the open day," added Rob.

For more information on the history of the tunnel, go to: [www.leabaileylightrailway.co.uk](http://www.leabaileylightrailway.co.uk)

### In this issue:

Tunnel Talk

Work on the sidings

New locos

MI Visit

September open day

June open day photos

New DVD

Modelling NG

**NEW LIMITED EDITION DVD ON SALE NOW!** - A new DVD is available from the lens of Rob and Yuehong Dickinson highlighting the railway this year at Lea Bailey and Clearwell. Cost £10 or £8 for members, available at the open day on September 20<sup>th</sup> or by pre-ordering from: [internationalsteam@gmail.com](mailto:internationalsteam@gmail.com) All profits will go to Society funds.





## Two more locos in the gang

Two new locos are being bought. They are both 37 year-old WR18s: WR7888 of ex-Frazers Hush fluorspar mine in Weardale and WR7964. Hopefully the WR18 (right) will not require much work to get it going, just six 12v heavy duty auto batteries. The other one will require more attention as it has been stored in the open for many years, and will be worked on off-site until there is access to Euroclydon tunnel for storage. A Clayton 13/4 ton loco without motor or controller may also arrive soon.

## Talking a load of ballast

Work has continued throughout the summer replacing sleepers at Lea Bailey, re-laying track and then filling with 10 tons of limestone ballast.

The siding to the rear of the shed is nearly complete, and will eventually cross the track coming from the mine. One day it may cross the track.

Track maintenance has also continued at Clearwell and around 15 yards of new track have been laid in Euroclydon Tunnel.



### ALL CHANGE AT LEA BAILEY

As a result of a recent Mines Inspector visit to Lea Bailey, here have been some changes to the operation of the railway.

All locos have been removed from the mine tunnel and the Hunslet has returned to Clearwell for temporary storage.

No locos are allowed inside the mine, and wagons are moved into it using a long coupling bar.

There is a 3mph railway speed limit, and a rule book is being compiled by Roger Swan.

The track is being ballasted, risk assessments completed and maintenance log books kept. The site is also being fenced by the Forestry Commission.





This coming winter the focus of work will be in the tunnel, although maintenance will also continue at Lea Bailey.

# MODELLING IN N.G.

*Could a scale model of Lea Bailey be on the cards? Possibly, as Matthew Wathen writes:*

My name is Matthew Wathen, 28 years-old, and I have been a member of the Lea Bailey Light Railway since September 2013, first finding out about the project whilst attending Alan Keef's September open day, visiting the site and then falling in love!

Having been indoctrinated by my father when I was a young boy, I caught the railway bug pretty early, and much like many of you, I began a lifelong passion, I travelled the country with my family in search of railway based activities and holidays, with my passion for "big" railways and locomotives consuming my childhood, I soon found myself repeatedly on holiday in North Wales and the lake district, and having the mining world opened to me, and capturing my imagination on a whole different scale.

I can honestly say that Llanberis slate museum was a fantastic place for a young lad to explore and delve into the rich past of mining and narrow gauge railway history, my mind conjuring up images and dreams that went wild with enthusiasm.

Like most young enthusiasts I soon caught the railway modelling bug, and I am afraid to say, at the time I was a dreaded "anorak" a train spotter also! so my 00 gauge collection was a reflection of the then current locomotives and rolling stock, but now, skipping forward a few years, I have my own home, and have built and laid a 7 1.4 inch railway in the garden (which is at the side of the main Birmingham and Cardiff mainline, the railway was a key point in deciding whether to buy the house!)

Following my 7 1.4 inch gauge Narrow gauge interest led me onto finding a local Narrow gauge modelling show, held in Corse, Gloucestershire, it was here, that led me onto finding out about an a



monthly group of narrow gauge modellers that meet on the last Monday of each month except August and December in a village called Twynning, Gloucestershire, known as the “M5 – M50 Narrow Gauge Modellers.”

It was here that I was opened up to the many different scales and providers of excellent kits and rolling stock, none more than Minimum Gauge Models <http://www.mgmodels.co.uk/> and the excellent Black Dog Mining kits seen at <http://www.pepper7.co.uk/>.



Whilst I am currently at the planning and re-planning stage of a small 09 gauge layout myself, I have in fact built many kits provided by both Minimum Gauge Models and Black Dog Mining, and you can see the quality of the kits (maybe not the painting skills!) All these models seen, currently utilise the Kato 11-103 Tram chassis (readily available on ebay or Gaugemaster online shop)

I am sure I am not the only modeller of the Lea Bailey Light Railway, and look forward to some “professional” feedback!

There has been talk of developing a Lea Bailey Mine Site in 009 gauge layout to take out when we travel all over the “world” to drum up support for Lea Bailey, so who fancies it? Contact me at [matchwad@hotmail.com](mailto:matchwad@hotmail.com) if you are interested!

## EIMCO ROCKER SHOVEL



Work is continuing on restoring the Eimco shovel, which has been moved to Lea Bailey. All components have been un-seized ready for a trial with an air compressor soon.



The Wingrove & Rogers, pictured during its first run on the track at Lea Bailey recently.

## ROLL UP FOR ANOTHER OPEN DAY

The next LBLRS open day on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> will co-incide with open doors at Alan Keef and the Perrygrove Gala day. At Alan Keef there will be free train rides, and tours of the works with displays of the current projects.

At Perrygrove there will be seven locomotives in use on both Saturday and Sunday, with two visiting locos.

At Lea Bailey, the Simplex and Wingrove & Rogers will be shunting wagons along the newly ballasted track and the Eimco shovel may be in action. There may also be guided tours of Euroclydon Tunnel.



# JUNE OPEN DAY – PHOTO GALLERY

The June open day was one of our most successful yet, with media coverage attracting crowds to Lea Bailey, Clearwell and Perrygrove. Pictured are some highlights from Lea Bailey and Clearwell.



## CONTACTS:

Rob Needham

[Rob.needham2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Rob.needham2@hotmail.co.uk)

Rob Dickinson

[internationalsteam@gmail.com](mailto:internationalsteam@gmail.com)

Philip Conway-Jones (Newsletter)

[philipedwardcj@hotmail.com](mailto:philipedwardcj@hotmail.com)

Mike Ayland

[email@ayland.eu](mailto:email@ayland.eu)