

Compressed air gala at Lea Bailey



Photo shows Eimco 401 'Whistling Pig' ready to run at Lea Bailey.

13th & 14th May A Compressed Air gala will be held at Lea Bailey. This will be a unique opportunity to see the two operational compressed air locos in the UK working together, with Issing Sid visiting from Statfold, and our own Eimco 401 loco and 12B rocker shovel working together with demonstrations of a compressed air Holman Silver 3 rock drill. There will also be an opportunity to drive the Simplex or WR8 locos under the

'Driver for a Fiver' offer. And there will be a chance to try your hand at panning for gold.



Photo above shows Issing Sid at Lea Bailey in 2015.



Photo:- Three compressed air rock drills from Richard Dixon's collection - one will be working at the gala

Editor

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the May 2017 Newsletter is the 30th April 2017.

Submissions are welcome that would be of interest to members of the LBLRS. These can be forwarded to me as text/disc by post or you can email or telephone. If you require anything returning please ask. Photographs, plans and drawings are acceptable as long as permission has been given by the copyright owner.

Photo shows Nick checking the rocker shovel controls



'Whistling Pig' goes visiting

29th April to 1st May The Eimco 401 compressed air loco will be appearing at the Ffestiniog Railway, for their "Quirks and Curiosities II". This is a four day event, featuring interesting and unique locomotive power. The Eimco will be at Porthmadog doing shunt demonstrations and hopefully short passenger rides around the sidings, but that is still to be confirmed.

28th to 30th July (subject to confirmation) The Lea Bailey Eimco 401 and 12B have been invited to be at the Welland Steam Fair as part of the road-build-



ing demonstration. Photo shows Lea Bailey exhibit at the 2013 Welland Steam Fair.

16th September (subject to confirmation) 5th anniversary open day at Lea Bailey, planned to be on same day as open day at Alan Keef Ltd.



Photo shows site of the container at Lea Bailey as it was 5 years ago

Progress at Lea Bailey

Over the last few months considerable progress has been made in work on the site, which hopefully will be readily apparent to visitors to the compressed air gala weekend in May. Much rock and muck has been moved from the mine tip to provide a level area next to the container.

Then a man with a HIAB came and helped by moving the two pit wheel halves down to the car park.



And the two 3 piece articulated manrider frames were moved and stacked rather more neatly on the ground between the track from the mine entrance and the large shed with the pair of white manrider frames being taken away for scrap.



The space next to the container is now occupied by the lorry ramp, which has been moved from its previous hiding place among the vegetation behind where the large cylindrical tank used to reside. Also visible in the photo (top of next page) are the upright cylinder and horizontal jib of a crane which will be mounted on and welded to one side of the lorry ramp. Rails will be laid down the centre of the ramp and an inspection pit dug out between the rails. Hopefully this will have been done by the time of the May gala.



Photo below - the glass fibre tank is being moved to a new position to be used as a water tank.



Loco report

Hunslet 7446 is still stored at Clearwell. The leaking hydraulic pipe from the deadmans pedal have been removed and new fittings are waiting to be re-assembled. Questions have been raised about a faulty dynamo as bulbs keep blowing. A party from Lea Bailey visited Clearwell mid February and gave the loco a short test run.



Simplex 21282 has had the horn fixed due to a loose fuse. Repaint and brake block change will be arranged for summer.

Eimco 401-216. Oil change for motor and gear box has been carried out. A spacer has been fitted below springs on the front axle. Parking brake has been re-fitted and adjusted. All ready for her holiday trip to North Wales.

WR8 7605. Since the loco has been back in service she has been running healthily, and been put to hard work hauling wagon loads of rocks and spoil from the mine tip during work days.



WR5 1009. Since the worm bearing seized last year, work has been put on hold due to the loan of 401-216 for restoration. To replace the worm bearing, axles and motor need to be removed. Therefore Nick Harper plans to do a full overhaul when time permits.

WR5L (due to go on loan to Crossness) has been



tested with three 12v batteries, while still on a flat wagon, to check motor and controls are functional (see photo left).

Fairy dust doesn't keep these historic

workhorses going! If you would like to pay the society a donation or if you are used to oily spanners in your hands please get in touch with us via website to help keep everything rolling.

Ben.Elvey

Video on YouTube

At the beginning of February the viewing totals for the most popular videos were:-

Issing Sid	66,500
Loco Exchange	25,500
Clearwell	21,500

Facebook page

Facebook followers now total 876 - with a good response to posts etc

Generator progress

Richard delivered the Lister generator back to Lea Bailey in December, so now we have a 7kVa generator mounted on a flat wagon and therefore available to power tools when required anywhere along the track (shown in use in photo above). It is also very-useful to power the electric kettle for making the essential cups of tea. In the photo below the generator is being used in the repair of the bearings of the large mine tub.



The bearings on the large mine tub have been freed and well-greased, so it is now running freely, better than at any time in the last 5 years.

During the tidying up of the Lea Bailey site, a



(steel!) frog was found hidden in the undergrowth. With the two frogs found in the Drybrook end of the Euroclydon tunnel and the points bought from Toddington last year, we now have the makings of four sets of points. And the points outside the mine entrance have been repaired (new bolt fitted so that operating arm is now correctly attached).

Other Lea Bailey activities



In addition to all of the other work done at Lea Bailey, Nick has restored the small crane to working order.



Date for the Diary (and Calendar - still a few left available at £5 each from the editor)

One for the modellers - Narrow Gauge Tewkesbury Exhibition

Saturday 7th October 2017 10:00 to 17:00
£6:00 Adult, £3:00 Child, £12:00 Family (2+2)
Tewkesbury School, Ashchurch Road, GL20 8DF
Just off the A438, 300 yards from M5 Junction 9
Come and see some of the best layouts in the West!

Promoted by the M5-M50 Narrow Gauge Modellers Group, the 2017 exhibition sees a move to a new, much larger venue.

This multi-scale narrow gauge model railway exhibition presents single level access suitable for all abilities and extensive local parking. Featuring 20 plus layouts, trade support, railway societies and other local societies.

Possible loan of WR5L to Crossness

Awaiting approval of the Board at Crossness.

A working compressor

A Hydrovane towed unit has recently been found (not in working order) which it is hoped will be restored to working condition for use at the gala in May.

Unidentified brick found at Lea Bailey

Among the various bricks on the site, Richard recently found one from an unidentified brickworks, the first such found there.



This is the sixth brickworks so far found. Of the other five, four are from the Forest (two from Mitcheldean, one each from Cinderford and Princess Royal Colliery) and one from Almondsbury.

From the editor:- I hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. If, however, you do not wish to carry on receiving news from Lea Bailey, please let me know and I will remove you from the distribution list. If you know of anyone else who you think would be interested, please tell them about our railway and get them to contact me to be added to the list.

Rob Needham

Disclaimer

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Photo:- Changing the engine oil on the Eimco 401

Hope to see you at Lea Bailey in 2017

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that the LBLRS maintains a list of their names and addresses solely for the purposes of recording membership subscriptions and distributing newsletters and publications.

Such details are deleted from the database for any member who leaves the Society, either after the committee have been notified or after it has been determined that an overdue subscription has not been paid for several months.

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