

## September open days at Lea Bailey

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September, open days at the Lea Bailey Light Railway, almost hidden in the Forest of Dean.



Visiting loco will probably be Simplex w/no 8540, originally No 38 in Arnolds fleet at Leighton Buzzard. It was then sold into preservation in Surrey where it was given the identity No 11 'Bargee'. Recently it has been acquired by LBLRS member Gareth Rees, hence its appearance as a visitor at Lea Bailey.

Alternatively, if the Simplex is not available for any reason, the visiting loco would hopefully be Gareth's Lister, fresh from restoration at Otmoor and looking smart in its new paint scheme.



Also operating will be Lea Bailey residents Simplex 21282, WR8 N7605 'Murphy', Eimco 401 w/no 216 'Whistling Pig' and the Eimco 12B rockershoovel. In addition Richard Dixon will be bringing his Holman rock drill.

To operate the compressed air machines, our recently-acquired 70hp Hydrovane compressor will be making its first working appearance (at the moment Richard is undertaking some maintenance on it).



According to the Eimco operator's manual, our 12B rockershoovel needs an air supply of 250 cfm (ft<sup>3</sup>/min), whereas a typical portable compressor (of the type available in the Forest) could only supply 150 cfm. The 70hp compressor with the supplementary air receiver should mean that we can operate the 12B, and a rockdrill as well as charging the 401 loco.

### News from YouTube

The May open day video has now attracted 8888 views. I can't predict when and where it will start to

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the November 2017 Newsletter is the 31<sup>st</sup> October 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.



level out but at the moment, it has broken all the records to x000 for my channel. (Ed note - it has already passed 9300)

Of course, there are 4 LBLR videos well ahead of it but their popularity came some time after they had been uploaded:

Running on Air 2015	113000
Loco Exchange	38000
Clearwell underground	31000
The rest vary from 4000 down to 400.	

With total views of 200,000, I am just absolutely amazed at their success.

**Rob Dickinson**

### Progress at Lea Bailey



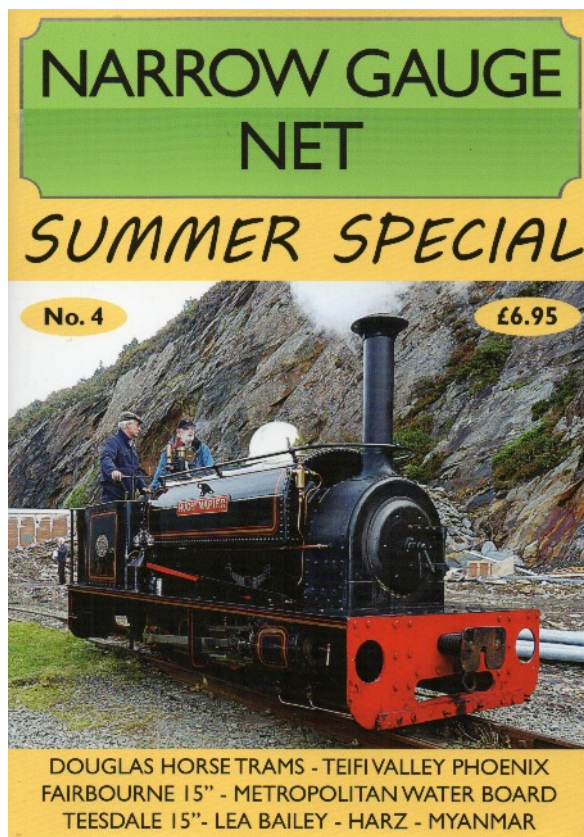
The retaining wall being built alongside the track to the container is nearly up to track level. It just needs a row of bricks laying on top. Then it should be ready for back-filling and then the track can be relaid - with sleepers and ballast!



To house the compressor, the tin shed is being repaired and made secure. Support of the roof has been improved and debris cleared from the roof.

### FOR SALE

Help our railway by buying a copy of Narrow Gauge Net Summer Special No 4 with your editor's 7 page article on the restoration of the Eimco 401 loco at Lea Bailey, plus another 57 pages of interesting articles on the narrow gauge. Cost £7 including postage from the editor, address on page 1 of this newsletter. All proceeds go to the railway



### Congratulations





Congratulations to the Muckers & Locos Restoration Group at Geevor in Cornwall who have restored one of the old Geevor Mine 18" gauge Eimco 12B rockershovels to working order (seen in photo standing outside the Group's workshop.)

There are now five preserved Eimco rockershovels in the UK in operation (see news item on page 4).

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### Lea Bailey 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Having started at Lea Bailey in 2012, we will be celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September with open days on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. This year there won't be an open day at Alan Keef's works, but this is the weekend of the diesel gala on the Perrygrove Railway and the Hopewell Museum will be open as will Clearwell caves.. So there will still be several good reasons to visit the Forest. At Lea Bailey we hope to have a first visit from Gareth Rees's recently acquired Simplex loco.

Keep an eye on the Lea Bailey website and Facebook page for up-to-the-minute news.

To celebrate the anniversary here are a few 2012 and 2017 photos from our archive.





Hopefully captions are not necessary for everyone to work out where the photos were taken and which ones were Then and which Now. Probably the one least changed landmark is the tin shed, but hopefully there will be changes there visible by next year .....

## 2018 Calendar

I will probably produce a Lea Bailey calendar for 2018, much as I have done in previous years. However, this time I will only produce against pre-orders. So if you want a copy, please email me at the address on page 1 of this newsletter. I can't quote a price, but I would expect it to be similar to last year, say £8 including postage.

## Recommended Read

I've just finished reading 'The Anatomy of a Coal Mine, Daw Mill Colliery 1957 - 2013' by Robert Blenkinsopp (136pp, p/bk, ISBN 978-0-9567861-6-6, pub by The Magic Attic Archives), and I thoroughly recommend it. The description of the operation of a modern mechanised colliery is very good, and the events of the final few years leading up to closure should be read by all with an interest in modern mining. Available from [moorebooks.co.uk](http://moorebooks.co.uk) for £14.95 plus postage..

## Preserved Eimco Rockershovels

An Eimco 12B and a WR5 battery loco are owned by the Shropshire Mines Trust who will be operating them at the Shrewsbury Steam Fair over the August bank holiday.

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of its correspondents and are not necessarily agreed with or shared by the Lea Bailey Light Railway Society, its Officers or the Newsletter Editor. The accuracy of statements made in articles submitted for publication will not normally be checked for validity by the Newsletter Editor. The responsibility for the content of articles submitted by individual members or groups remains with the authors and cannot be accepted by the Society, its Officers or the Newsletter Editor.

## New Coal Mine in the Forest

Reddings Level near Ruardean was last operated by the late Eric Morris, but he had given it up by c1990. Now it has been revived by Rab and Christian Warren, and from the photos taken recently by Ben Coulson it looks like they're making a good job of it.



### 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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