



West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers Newsletter

Issue No.35 March / April 2024

Calendar

March

2nd – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

16mm Indoor Running.

6th – The Hayfield branch line and the mass trespass on Kinder Scout by David Clarke 7:30pm.

9th – Driver Training and Accreditation. 9:30am-3:30pm.

16th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

*16mm Indoor Running subject to sufficient registered interest.

20th – Show and tell your latest projects.

30th – Driver Training and Accreditation. 9:30am-3:30pm.

April

6th – Public Open Day. 10am-4pm.

20th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

May

4th – Public Open Day. 10am-4pm.

18th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.



News

The Magnificent 7 11

By Peter Pearson

11 hardy Club members battled through flooded roads and the nails and screws left on Coach Road by the local vigilantes (Police aware - see press for details) to get to site on Monday 24th January to undertake some major track work. They braved the showers to improve the track in the passing loop area by disconnecting and removing 2 points and 13 track panels, re-levelling and compacting the track bed, and replacing and re-ballasting the track all in one day. Many thanks to all of them for their serious graft – we couldn't have done it without you.

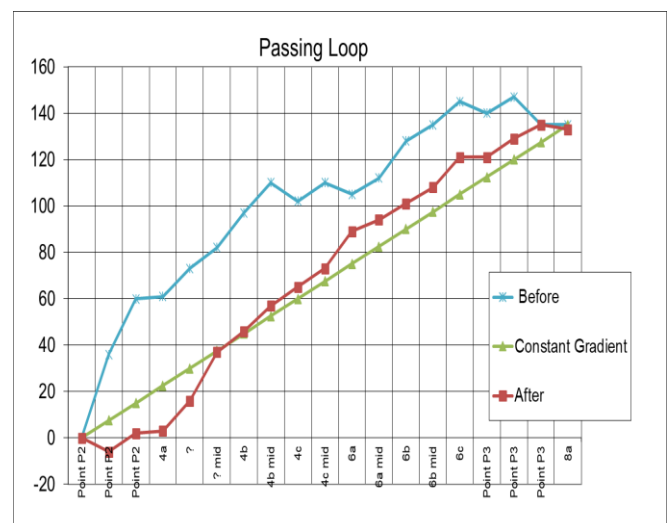


Above photo shows the workers: (from left to right) Rob 'wet knees' Atkins, Tony 'sprinter' Lowe, Peter 'GET ORF MY GRASS!' Fielding, Colin 'Strictly' Wade, Paul 'full size' Butland, Robin 'new boy' Davies, Graham 'quick look busy' Burton, and Bryon 'civil works' Bond. Also lending a hand on the day but missing from

this photo are Terry 'The Prof' Neary, Mike 'aftershave' Pepler and Peter 'grumpy' Pearson.



We borrowed Bristol SMEE's laser level which highlighted a problem with gradients in the passing loop and helped us get things back on track (groan! Ed.). Hopefully smaller locos will find it a bit easier to pull up the hill through the passing loop now.



Our reporter asked Peter Pearson for comment after the hard day's work by everybody, but all he said was "The lads worked well, but I only joined the Club for the bacon sandwiches..."

'Learnt my Lines'

By Chris Wiggins

In late 2022, I wrote a small article ('Learning my Lines') about renewing the painted lines on the boiler cladding on my 3" Burrell. The article covered my various attempts to line a test piece of brass strapped to a wooden wheel, which was the same diameter as the boiler. I eventually managed to paint a satisfactory line using a long (bristles) brush. However, by this time it was then late autumn, and too cold to attempt lining the cladding sheets. I started lining the cladding sheets when it eventually warmed up in 2023 (July!), and this short article is the outcome of my endeavors.



Figure 1

The first issue I encountered was, that the white lines on the cladding sheets are not white but a very light ochre, fortunately Humbrol had an exact colour match (I am guessing the original paint was Humbrol). The second issue was that the painted line produced from the lining brush was too wide. I literally cut out individual bristles to get the right line thickness and to ensure an even distribution.

I now started lining the boiler cladding, I overpainted the white, red and black lines on all the cladding sheets and Figure 1 is the result on one of the cladding sheets. I was satisfied with the results and figure 2 and 3 shows the before after photo of the cladding on the traction engine. There is still room for improvement, but I was pleased with my first attempt paint lining.

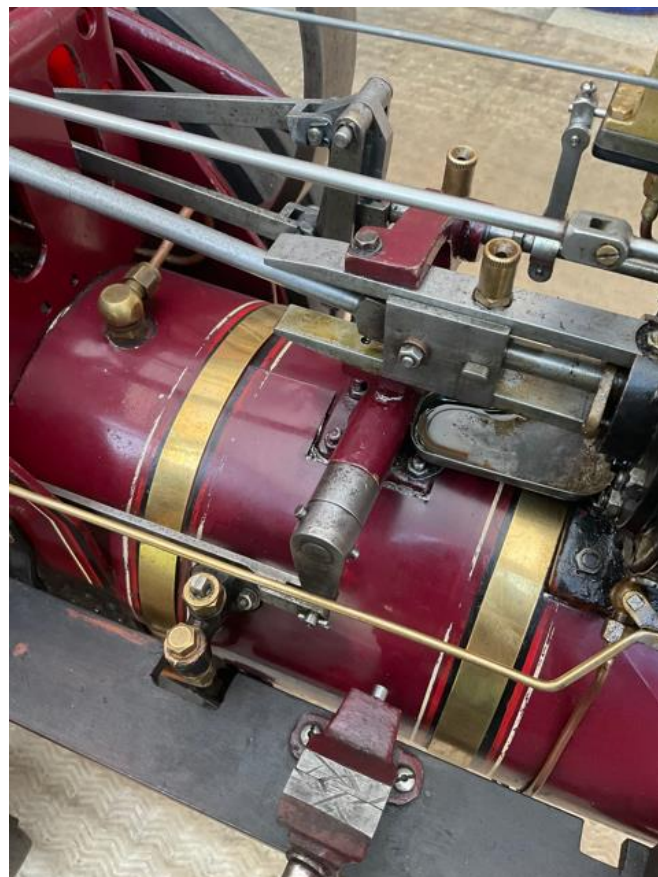


Figure 2



Figure 3

Driver Training and Accreditation

By Jon Clarke

Over the past six months we have run a number of training days to give members the opportunity to learn to drive 5" gauge locomotives, and to increase the knowledge and experience for those who already drive. For public events drivers of locomotives will now need to have WWSME Driver Accreditation so that we have documented evidence that our Drivers are competent.

In support of achieving accreditation we are holding some more training days on the following dates:

- Saturday 9th March
- Saturday 30th March

If you would like to come along please email Jon Clarke (chairman@wwsme.org.uk) stating morning or afternoon, or both. We can then plan the day knowing the numbers of attendees and experience levels so we can hopefully tailor the training for those attending. The day will run from 09:30 until 15:30 (lunch nominally between 12 and 1pm). These dates are currently planned to be more focussed on the hands on training, emergency procedures, and public running training. However, if you would like the foundation presentation and training this can still be arranged.

We also need to undertake a similar, simpler process for our Guards. Our first public event is Saturday 6th April, so we will be undertaking accreditation assessments for Drivers and Guards during the two training days in March, and also at other times by arrangement.

If you have any questions or queries please email me, or speak to a member of the committee.

