

SEPTEMBER 2022 NWMES NEWSLETTER.

GEAR CUTTERS.

I've just had a lovely offer from our Vice Chairman Keith regarding his gear cutters. He's offering any member who needs to use these cutters the chance to borrow them. His initial idea was to store them at West Shore for anyone who needed them, to take them, then return after use. He was advised by a few people that there was a risk some could accidentally go missing. Therefore, Keith will remain the custodian but the offer is there for any member to borrow these.





HOGWEED AT WEST SHORE MINIATURE RAILWAY TRACK.

Peter has informed me that Hogweed has been identified at the track and members should be aware of this plant. Please look at the photo to make yourselves familiar with it. There is a giant version in this world of ours, but I'm sure ours is the native Hogweed.



We should be aware that the sap in the plant could cause burns to the skin and if later allowed to be exposed to sunshine these burns could get more serious. Also keep it well clear from your eyes. If there is a need to handle this plant, wear personal protective equipment in the form of protective gloves and goggles to protect your eyes.

IMLEC 2022.

It seems ages since a few of us spent a very pleasant day at IMLEC up in Southport. This year's event was recently held at Guildford. No doubt it will feature in the model engineering magazines. Having looked on YouTube the long steep gradient did not go too well. Many of the entrants becoming stuck and having to off load passengers to achieve completion of their run. Another problem for the lighter locos the starting line was at the very top of a gradient. The loco was on the flat, but the rolling stock was on the gradient causing the locos to slip before even starting. At least it was the same for everyone.

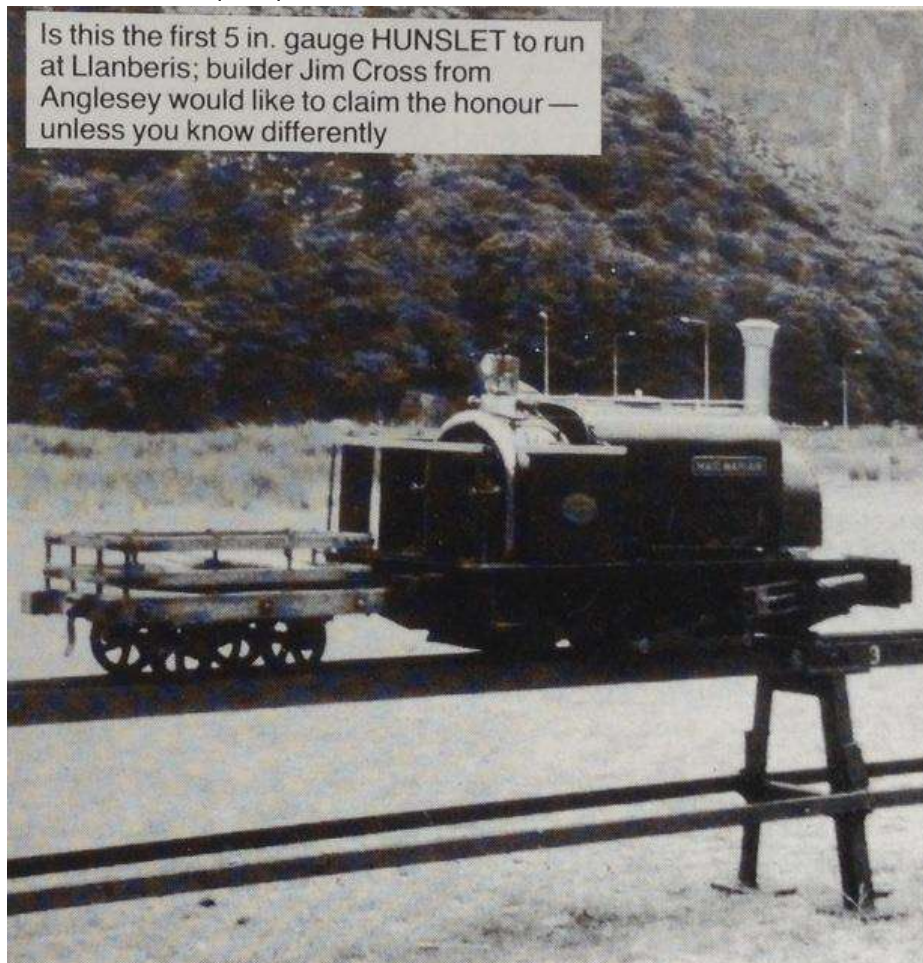
5-inch GAUGE QUARRY HUNSLET ON EBAY.

Martin emailed me a week or two ago saying Jim Cross's loco was on sale on eBay with the location being HOLYHEAD. Jim was a member of our society in the 70's and 80's. An excellent member, and past chairman, always with a smile on his face.

His occupation was a mechanical maintenance foreman at Wylfa Nuclear Power Station on Anglesey along with another member, - Alan Searle.

Night shifts were not as demanding as days or evenings, so when there was a bit of slack time, locomotive construction took over (By both).

This is when the quarry Hunslet could well have been built.



Don Young, the designer of this locomotive produced a quarterly magazine called, - Locomotives Large and Small. It covered everything to do with the steam locomotives and also construction details on most of his models. This photo was out of his September 1989 issue, and features this actual loco. Society member Wil High has purchased the loco and knowing Jim, this should be a good one.

BRIAN DICKINSON

A few words of thanks for keeping us all informed of what is happening over the border in Yorkshire as regards his Britannia class, 70010 Owain Glyndwr. I always use the Welsh spelling in preference to OWEN GLENDOWER.

SAILING.

I'm a firm believer in keeping everyone happy, so this should keep our sailing enthusiast members happy. Bank Holiday Saturday saw the usual members waiting for punters at the station area when a few nice sailing boats appeared offshore. We were reliably informed they were the Conway/Fife one class. A couple of not so good photos, but look at Puffin Island in the background looking very scorched after our hot summer. Normally this island is covered with a dense plant which allows the birds to nest and travel about in reasonable safety from any predators, this year it looks as if there is no greenery on the island.





It was such a nice day; I'm not too sure what Mike Brown was looking at!



SNOWDON MOUNTAIN RAILWAY HYBRIDS HALTED.

I've just read an article in this month's Railway Magazine saying both the Clayton hybrid locos on the SMR will not be put in service. Having been ordered in 2019, these locos employed electric motors powered by both diesel generator and traction batteries, traction and braking was by a pinion connected to the Abt rack system. These carried the names and numbers, - 14 GLASLYN and 15 MOEL EILIO.

I don't have the working weight of these locos but they were much heavier than the steam locos. I've often wondered if the viaduct at the start of the climb in Llanberis had been proof loaded to take these latest locos.

Previously in 1995, the SMR introduced three diesel electric railcars, these could be used singly or coupled together as required. Following various problems these were withdrawn in 2001 and finally scrapped in 2010. I don't know if we have any members who know more about these decisions. It would be quite interesting to know as to why these locos aren't going into service. (No pressure!!)

LLANBERIS LAKE RAILWAY.

For anyone familiar with the lake railway, long time engine driver Hefin Owen has retired after 44 years. His father worked on the locos in Dinorwig Quarry, then joined the lake railway when the quarry closed. Between the both of them they must have had between eighty- and ninety-years' experience. Whilst I was employed by National Grid, if we had any cable cooling problems on the Dinorwig cables, one of the cable cooling stations was located half way along Llyn Padarn, no access by road vehicles, only narrow-gauge railway. I've travelled in the cab of various Hunslets with Hefin at the helm many times. Initially I was very worried regarding the boiler pressure, sometimes 15 – 20 psi, (would we get home after our work?). No problems, these little locos are very forgiving.

WEST SHORE ISSUES.

2022 AGM. First of all, I wish to thank all the members that made the effort to attend. Frank had made it clear it was time for new blood in the Secretary's post, everyone agreed he'd done a brilliant job over the years and yes, we have a new secretary, Tony Graham has volunteered to take on the post and I wish him luck. Thanks Frank and Tony.

For anyone who thinks battery/electric locomotives are maintenance free, think again. Frank has been busy applying his electronic wizardry on Archie's Class 86 and also on both of our club locos. This was very much appreciated by everyone - Thanks Frank.

Martin our boiler inspector is also busy conducting boiler tests. During a test on Archie's Terrier a fault was detected on the regulator located under the dome. This is the disc type regulator and depends on spring pressure on the disc to keep it steam tight. Martin has investigated this problem and has come up with a solution (hopefully!) Again, these are benefits of being a member of a society and being able to share your problems with other members.

As regards my 9F, I've managed to remove the offending banjo fitting from the boiler. In 3 ½ inch gauge everything is rather tight so to work on this, required axles 3,4 and 5 being dropped. The thread on the boiler was re tapped ¼ x 40 to ensure there was no damage. I've replaced the banjo fitting with an elbow. To enable me to screw the elbow into the boiler I've had to modify the mainframes slightly. I was ably helped by Jim and Keith during this operation, as can be seen from the photo, they both found it rather "hair raising". (It was the wind.....honest!)



I'm reliably informed that we have two new members. Apologies to the person from Llanrug who I haven't met and so I don't know his name. The other person comes from Penrhyn Bay and if my memory is correct his name is David Jones, he has a rather nice GWR Pansy. The defibrillator has again been used in an emergency. Hopefully we've helped to save another life. A sign has been fitted on the wall adjacent to the de fib cabinet showing that Friends of West Shore, West Shore Café and our society have donated to this effort. It also mentions that the donations were in memory of one of the Friends of West Shore and our good friend, Past Chairman – Bob Hughes. As a member of the Rotarians, Bob was the instigator for getting many defibrillators located in various parts of Prestatyn. Not a bad legacy!!!



Last Wednesday I spent a pleasant half hour cleaning the above cabinet. I'm not sure who used sticky tape on the cabinet, but it now reads LIFE SAVING DEFIBRILLATOR.

I met a very interesting gentleman at the track yesterday(10th September 2022) He and his wife had travelled from Corby by train specifically to visit our track. He had no real interest in trains, had no models of his own but he's decided to visit as many miniature railways as possible in Great Britain. I did ask if he had the Joys of Life ticked off but he hadn't. He will put them on his list. He was off to Devon today, again by train.

Saturday the 24th September 2022 will be our charity day. We shall be collecting in aid of Ty Gobaith. This is a children's hospice located between Conwy and Taly Cafn overlooking the river Conwy. Other hospices in the area seem to have teams of fund raisers, I'm sure every single penny we raise will be greatly appreciated, and help improve the quality of life for these unfortunate children.

As a society, we would like members to turn up with their models etc. These can be exhibited at West Shore track. Hopefully we might have some civic dignitaries in attendance, so this could help our cause for extending our site lease. This is a chance to have a bit of a sociable event between fellow members. Please make an effort to turn up. More the merrier.

Regards,

Harold.