

NWMES APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER.



West Shore Issues.

As I write this issue of our newsletter, many people throughout the country are preparing for both the London and Manchester Marathons. We as members of our society have been involved in a marathon (with Conwy Council).

Our lease for the track is due to come to an end soon. Having started talking with members of the council for a renewal quite a while back, things then went quiet, causing uncertainty for all of us.

Recently, things have started to move and there is light at the end of the tunnel. There are a few technicalities to be resolved involving a public footpath at the rear of the containers. The other point which will cost us quite a bit of extra expense is the public liability insurance. At the moment we are covered for £5 million, the council require this to be covered up to £10 million. All in all, the cost of our new lease will increase dramatically including this insurance premium.

To keep our heads above water, we as a society will be wholly dependent on public running revenue. Annual subscriptions alone will not cover this. This will mean active members running our miniature railway.

I think I have mentioned this once or twice before, it's the usual few that turn up every week! It would be brilliant to see some new faces once in a while.

As LBSC would say: NUFF SED.

Having established our new clubhouse, we required a water supply and a new electricity supply cable. A few weeks ago, Gary our Vice Chairman set work armed with a mini digger excavating a trench across the site to facilitate the cable and water supply.

Excavating in preparation of the water pipe and electrical cable. Frank acting as a banksman. Viewed from inside the clubhouse.



When excavating anywhere, it's so important to refer to up to date records showing locations of all buried services on site. This was done, and a scope of work produced so all members involved with the working party knew what was the plan of attack.



Our second photo shows our members getting knotted whilst installing the water pipe.

This work has now been completed efficiently (and safely). The final task is to modify the site master drawing showing the locations of the new additional services.

Re instating the cable trench to original condition making sure there were no sharp stones that could damage the cable present. As you can see this area was very sandy. In other areas, we purchased sand to give the cable and water pipe a soft bedding.



MAY BANK HOLIDAY AND VE 80 CELEBRATIONS. 3,4 & 5th MAY 2025.

As usual on a Bank Holiday Week End our society will be public running at West Shore. Saturday and Sunday will be a normal running day.

Monday, (5th May 2025 is a Bank Holiday), our Nation will be celebrating 80 years since VE Day. Frank suggested to the committee we as a society should also be doing something to celebrate this occasion. It has been suggested that we have a fun day similar to our Hope House Charity Day.

With gazebos erected to display various members' models, can I request all of you members out there to bring your models along to make this a successful event.

As usual, refreshments will be available throughout the day. Donations towards the refreshments in the form of sandwiches, cakes or anything else will be greatly accepted. Frank can be contacted by email on: frank.simpson@nwmes.org.uk to confirm what you will be donating.

At 16:00 hours when public running has stopped, it has been suggested we have a barbecue for all members and families. Obviously, this will be weather dependent. I look forward to seeing you all on this unique day, so let's make it a wonderful, social event.

I'm still waiting to hear some snippets from you all regarding what you're up to in your workshops.

OUR IRISH FRIENDS (AND MEMBERS)

I would love to hear from Callum and his family as to how our hobby is surviving in the Emerald Isle. It was quite interesting to read ME No. 4756.November 2024 regarding Callum's great grandfather constructing the little 0 6 0 tender engine we saw at West Shore last year. It was constructed between the 1940's and 50's.



Callum's locomotive photographed by myself at West Shore last year.

The article said you travelled from County Wexford to your model engineering club, The Drumawhey Junction Miniature Railway in Donaghdee, County Down in Northern Ireland. It sounds a long way !

Are they finding it difficult promoting our hobby to youngsters over there, if not what is the secret. Finally, how many societies similar to ours have you in your locality ?

IMLEC 2025 will be held at Fareham (Hampshire?) this year. Young Callum has entered the competition, so the little Midland Great Western Railway 0-6-0 tender will be clocking up the miles to take part in this competition. I'm sure all of us in North Wales will be watching YouTube to see how you get on, and wish you all the luck. Not that an Irishman needs any.

I'm now lost for words, hoping to see you all at the VE Fun Day.

Best Regards,

Harold Jones.