

HASTINGS TRAMWAYS CLUB

FEBRUARY 2004

NEWSHEET

No 27

Greetings to all our members. I have put together a list of dates for our future meetings including the A.G.M. which will take place on Thursday 25th March 2004 at 8pm at the R.A.F.A. Club Hastings.

What's been happening at Robertsbridge over the last few months ! - not a great deal other than planting a few bulbs and wallflowers, cutting back some of the trees, digging a slope leading into the shelter, (to aid any disabled visitors we may have), we have also connected strip lighting in both trams and the shelter. This year I hope we can get down to building the end dash and stairs etc., which of course will make it look more like a tram but there is still a lot to do on the inside, i.e. seating, lighting, varnishing, floor etc.

Tram No 56 will need to be refitted on the offside to include a new support upright, and to repair or renew the outer cladding panels, fitting and replacing windows, painting, lettering, and lining out. Four new vent covers have been made by using a plastic gutter cut to size and shaped using a flattened and rusting tinplate original relic as a template.

During January's wintry weather, gales did some minor damage breaking one of the already damaged plastic windows and ripping a fence panel down by the side of the embankment, this was later retrieved by Steve and his dad Reg who also made good work of renewing the broken window on the tram.

As some of you may know we have been interested in acquiring one of the railways rolling stock at Robertsbridge, a P.M. V. parcel van, that we hoped to repair and fit out as a display come exhibition area with a workshop/office at one end. For nearly two years now we have had no reply from a letter I sent or enquires made to the group who owns most of the stock there then on Sunday 1st February, Helen Brett (RV Rly) Manager told me that at last things were happening concerning the rolling stock and that we had been offered the van for £300 which we thought was a fair price considering it was already on site and next to our trams so there would be no further outlay in respect to moving it. It will of course need a considerable amount of work on repairs and painting before we can use it. At a committee meeting it was decided that we would go along with the purchase. Although the club will fund the purchase of the P.M. V I thought it would be an idea to repay the clubs outlay by selling shares at £1 each in blocks of no less than five to club members - this way we can be sure that we keep sufficient funds in hand ready for when we need them. Shares could be purchased at any time whenever its convenient and sold again if you wished after they have been held for at least one year. So come on - is anyone interested in being a part owner of a P.M. V. rail way wagon?

PAYMENT IN KIND

Each year we attempt to pay something to the railway for allowing us to use their site. Last year we gave a donation of £100, this year we have purchased a steel 'A' frame and lifting gear from a local commercial vehicle works for the sum of £100 which we believe will be

most useful to the railway and likewise to ourselves at Robertsbridge. We arranged transport with Gary Saunters and it was delivered to the site on 14th February 2004.

READY FOR 2005

Preparing for 2005 is so important to us as it should be to Hastings itself. We own TWO tram bodies plus the parts of a third from the trams that once ran on the streets of Hastings from 1905-1929. Already we have completed an initial event by cycling the whole of the circular route in 2003 starting and finishing at the Town Centre "Memorial". Photo's taken at the time by members and others were used by a local publicity group and also the local Hastings Observer showing a line up of the cyclists. Later that year on the 6th September we had our open day followed by the evening barbecue. This year we hope we can do something similar with perhaps a model show later in the year.

NIGEL'S TRAM

Efforts to test run his now completed tram at Eastbourne's Miniature Railway site in February have hit a further problem by not being able to acquire any overhead wiring and Nigel has told me he has now lost the (slot) or time he had available from work to be able to do this. To run the tram on batteries or trolley/trailer would also take a long time to prepare. Efforts by some members to find and acquire some overhead wiring for Nigel have been unsuccessful at present but we shall still keep a lookout for any that comes available.

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2004

We have a few events arranged and some proposed for later in the year.

Sat/Sun 24/25 April.....	R.V.Rly Robertsbridge two days Model Railway Exhibition	
Sun 16 May.....	H.T.R.G. Bus Rally...Oval Hastings	(Stall)
Sun 18 July.....	Appledore Vintage Car Rally	(Stall)
Sun 1 August.....	Hooe Vintage Classic Car Rally	(Stall)
Sat/Sun 4/5 Sept.....	H.T.C. Open day / R.V.Rly Open day	
Sat 4 Dec.....	Xmas Model Transport Bazaar	

TRIPS AND OUTINGS

Nothing has been decided at present but a few ideas are: Croydon and Dockland Tramways, Acton Transport Museum, Brighton's Volks Rly, R.H.D. Rly,

OPEN MEETINGS

Thursday 26 February
“ 25 March - Annual General Meeting
“ 27 May
“ 26 August
“ 25 November

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