

The NBL Preservation Group

Would Like To Wish Everyone

A Merry Christmas !



GATESHEAD WINTER

(courtesy Philip D Hawkins FGRA)

Another eventful year has raced by and it is hard to believe that it will be Christmas in just a few days time ! We are very grateful to the famous Artist Philip D Hawkins for supplying this year's Christmas picture which features NBL A3 No 60071 - looking anything but 'Tranquil' as it blasts out of Gateshead with a heavy express train in the early 1960's. Hopefully similar scenes can be repeated during 2016 when Doncaster-built Classmate No 60103 'Flying Scotsman' returns to the Main Line.

Philip has painted a superb range of railway pictures ranging from steam trains to stations and buildings and modern traction. The vast majority of his work is commissioned by private individuals and commercial concerns and can be viewed on his website www.philipdhawkins.co.uk. Philip can be contacted direct by email at : info@philipdhawkins.co.uk

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ENGINE 61662 APPEAL

(photo courtesy Rail Archive Stephenson)



Things have been a bit quiet on the restoration front in the run up to Christmas so here is an evocative photo of No 61662 'Manchester United' leaving Thorpe-le-Soken with the 1.36pm Liverpool Street to Clacton train on 31st July 1957. The loco looks to be in excellent external condition but has only two more summers left to run. With your help in the coming years we can re-create this superb engine.

To help move the project forward we are very keen to recruit volunteers for two key positions for our Engine 61662 Appeal during 2016. These are to cover the Sales & Publicity Stand and the Social Media Officer roles and offers of help would be warmly welcomed. Both functions can be covered remotely without the need to travel to our Woking base for meetings etc. Please contact Ken if you are interested in taking on either of these jobs.



A FOREIGN FIELD

(photos Fabrice Lanoue)

In his famous poem 'The Soldier', Rupert Brooke said that 'there's some corner of a foreign field that is forever England'. Well, there is a corner of a field in Zambia that is definitely forever Scotland ! Visitors to the Livingstone Railway Museum will find North British locomotives well represented, along with further examples from all three NBL constituent firms, Dubs, Sharp Stewart and Neilson Reid ! We are very grateful to the well-known globe trotter Fabrice Lanoue for the following photographs.



Former Rhodesia Railways 9th & 12th Class 4-8-2's are represented by No 96 (NBL 19822 of 1912) and No 181 (NBL 23382 of 1926) The frame on No 96 is reputedly from Classmate No 91, also at Livingstone.



A pair of 7th Class 4-8-0's languish in the long grass. No 70, built for Rhodesia Railways is Neilson Reid works number 5792 of 1900 and No 955 (Neilson 4447 of 1892) formerly worked in South Africa.



Blue liveried 8B No 1126 (Sharp Stewart 4862 of 1902) still carries the Zambezi Sawmill Railway initials and RR 12th Class 4-8-2 No 204 (NBL 23733 of 1928) is kept in working order for occasional specials.

140C STEAMS AGAIN

(Photos courtesy Nicolas Legagneux)



Last December we reported that the overhaul of SNCF / NBL Consolidation 2-8-0 No. 140C314 was proceeding well and the loco was on target to steam again by the end of 2015. As these wonderful photos from Nicolas Legagneux show, the target has been met and the restoration team celebrated with a group photo outside the workshop at St Quentin in France.



CERES REVIVAL**(notes & photos from Peter Rogers)**

We are greatly indebted to Richard Niven for forwarding these very interesting notes and photographs from Peter Rogers of Cape Town who visited the highly scenic SA steam operation on the Ceres Branch last weekend. **Peter continues** : I decided to go and have a look at the new Ceres Branch steam operations on Saturday 12th December with North British 19D No. 3321. The coaches in use are newly restored ex Union Limited or modern vehicles and the Dining Car is Selati.



It was raining in Cape Town but clearing up and I thought that there shouldn't be too much rain other side of the mountain. Boy - was I sadly mistaken! It was a bit like photographing on the Worth Valley Railway - solid, driving rain until about lunchtime. If you look at some of the photos finely you can see the rain drops pelting down - damp car, damp camera, damp photographer, etc

The train runs from Demeter (next to the Golf Club in Ceres town), stops at the Waverley Hill wine estate at Waveren (for those who want to hop off for a wine tasting) and then runs down to Wolseley yard, where the train turns on the triangle before heading back. Total trip time is about 2.5 hours. The morning run down to Ceres was tender first, due to the turning triangle being blocked by trucks, but this is not the normal *modus operandi*. Driver was Frikkie Gerber, ably assisted by Brett Radloff.





By lunchtime weather was starting to break. The loco took the train to Ceres and then ran light to Prince Alfred Hamlet. The local populace have been advised that trains are running on the line again, but there were still some very surprised people, including an old guy in one of my photos who almost literally fell over with astonishment. The geese at Prince Alfred had a hard time too, not being used to this large black monster that chased them down the tracks.



The afternoon run was well patronised and No 3321 performed well. On the return journey I walked down the line to the one spot in the pass, cleaned it up, and waited, only to have a cloud go over the sun at the crucial moment. Of course, as the train passed the coaches were in perfect light! God hasn't lost his touch after 20 years... Anyway, it will still make a passable B&W photo. Hope you enjoy, Peter Rogers

Enjoy it – we certainly did ! Thanks Peter, this operation looks superb, I'll be booking a trip asap ! (Ed)



Recently spotted on social media site 'Facebook' were these two photos of containers at Bo'ness bearing the Numbers D838 and D6332 respectively. These early diesels were both built by NBL and carried works numbers 27967 and 27905 respectively. D838 was a 'Warship' named 'Rapid' and D6332 was a Type 2 Diesel Hydraulic. There was very little information on Facebook, only that the containers contained 'engine parts'. More details would be greatly appreciated.

Transnet have recently released a list of 35 steam locos that are to be sold at Auction. This almost certainly means 'sold for scrap' and sadly the list contains many historic NBL and Dubs engines. Quite incredibly several ex Prestige locomotives are listed for sale including Krugersdorp's 15F No 3153 and the former Pride of De Aar 15A No 1570 'Milly'. Please contact Ken if you would like a copy of the full list.

And finally : Our first Colour Slide Show for 2016 will take place at the Hertford & Ware Railway Society on Tuesday 5th January. The topic will be 'Routes from Paddington' which covers various trips I made to Swindon, Plymouth and Wolverhampton during steam days. All are welcome to attend but please let me know in advance so I can advise the organisers of numbers.

Once again I'm afraid that I've run out of time and space but before I close this month I'd just like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe & prosperous New Year. Thank you all once again for your continued support and here's to success in 2016.

Best Regards, Ken

**Newsletter published by the NBL Preservation Group Ltd, Company Registration Number 7508287
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MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION

If you would like to comment on our preservation activities or would like further information on any of our projects, please contact our Secretary Ken Livermore by letter or by e:mail. NBL related Photos can be uploaded direct to our Facebook page at : <https://www.facebook.com/NorthBritishLocomotives>

New Members and Supporters are always welcome and funds are urgently needed for all our projects. Please join us and help to preserve North British locomotives from around the World. Our Website Address is : www.nbloco.co.uk Please send items for the website to Dave Fox at : webmaster@nbloco.co.uk

Remember, **there is no annual Membership Fee**, just a one-off joining fee of £10 which will give you regular news updates and the option to participate in our locomotive preservation projects. All donations and membership fees will be acknowledged in writing. For further details, please email our Hon. Secretary : ken.livermore@btinternet.com

If you would like to join us or make a donation, please complete the form below and send it to : Ken Livermore, **Hon. Secretary, NBL Preservation Group, 4 Porchfield Close, Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 5YZ.**

**NORTH BRITISH LOCOMOTIVE PRESERVATION GROUP
A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION**

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

NAME :

ADDRESS :

TELEPHONE NUMBER :

E:MAIL ADDRESS :

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP JOINING FEE (Optional) : £10

DONATION TO DUBS TANK No. 196 RESTORATION FUND : £

DONATION TO HENDRIE CLASS 1 4-8-0 SHIPPING FUND : £

DONATION TO LNER TENDER RESTORATION FUND : £

SHARES IN ENGINE 61662 (AT £25 PER SHARE) : £

TOTAL ENCLOSED : £

All donations, loans and subscriptions will be acknowledged, thank you for your interest and support. Please make cheques or orders for Donations or Membership payable to ‘NBL Preservation Group’

****Please make Cheques for Shares in Engine 61662 payable to ‘Engine 61662 Appeal’ thank you.**