



LEEDS ROAD STEAM

The Newsletter of
Leeds and District Traction Engine Club
Incorporating
The British Fairground Society



JANUARY 2020

ISSUE No. 88

CONTACTS & COMMITTEE

President	- Derek Rayner
Chair	- Alan Jackson
Secretary	- POST VACANT
Membership	- Andrew Rimmington
Treasurer	- Robin Smith
Committee	- Martin Hallows - Robin Smith - Simon Brunton - Richard Dobson

Applications are welcomed from Members to fill the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Front cover: Roller in the Snow

Janine Pendleton

(Obsidian Urbex Photography)

www.obsidianurbexphotography.com

CONTENTS

Page 2	Contents
Page 3	Membership and Christmas Social
Page 4	In memoriam - Frank Hall
Page 6	The Stiff Company of East Ardsley
Page 8	A Bulgarian Roller
Page 10	A road making puzzle - Cont.d
Page 12	Rear cover

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION AND LIBRARY

Both catalogues for Club's books and photographs can be found on the archive page of the club website <http://www.leedsdistricttractionengineclub.com/archives.html>

JOIN US

Contact details on the inside front cover or speak to any Committee Member at an event.

Annual membership costs

Adult	£11.00
Senior	£8.00
Family	£16.00
Young person	£6.00

You can join via the Club's website:-

www.leedsdistricttractionengineclub.com

SPONSORSHIP

This issue was paid for by the Club

The cost of sponsoring a future issue is £60.00.

Please contact the Editor if you would like to sponsor a future edition of Leeds Road Steam.

AFFILIATIONS

The National Traction
Engine Trust
www.ntet.co.uk



Federation of British Historic
Vehicle Clubs
www.fbhvc.co.uk



Boiler and Engineering Skills
Training Trust
www.bestt.org.uk



MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the Club and Committee, I would like to welcome new member, Brian May of Harrogate, our third new member in the past twelve months. Currently, we have lost 5 members due to non-renewals and one member, Frank Hall who passed away in November. Membership currently stands at 77 individuals, comprising the following; 8 Adults, 6 Honorary, 9 Life, 30 Senior and 9 Family memberships.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2019

For the December Christmas Social, the committee planned a further tri-partite Christmas Quiz and Seasonal buffet which again took place at the Spinning Wheel.

Unfortunately, at the very last minute, the Middleton Railway team were unable to attend as a result of sickness in the ranks but we were again joined by members of the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society for an entertaining and somewhat, on occasion, difficult quiz.

This time our Club member Heath Smith very kindly provided not only the questions but also acted as Quiz Master on the evening. Heath came along with some fifty questions on all manner of topics relating to our joint interests and whereas some of those relating to subjects other than traction engines were a bit beyond our knowledge, it obviously also worked the same in the other direction.

The committee would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to Heath for volunteering to carry out this somewhat demanding role.

It was very gratifying to learn later that the HCVS picked up the tab for this evening's enjoyable event - following the L&DTEC doing so in 2018. There was definitely a mood for this sort of thing to happen again in 2020.

Sadly, it was learned around the same time that Middleton Railway have made the decision to shelve their monthly evening socials for 2020 as a result of dwindling numbers. However, an invitation will be offered in that direction in due course when it's hoped that Middleton Railway members will again be able to come along and also enjoy the Christmas Quiz evening.

IN MEMORIAM

It with sadness that we have to report that long-standing Club Member, Frank Hall of Huddersfield, who passed away in November 2019.



At Frank's funeral, in the address given by the Vicar on behalf of his wife Christine, he was described as 'A Man of Integrity'. Those of us who knew him through the world of 'Steam' will also know that this was the man we all knew.

Frank was first and foremost a family man and together with his wife and daughter, they enjoyed travel, not just to see 'steam' but also many of their other shared interests. In retirement, Frank and his wife often ventured abroad on well-planned holidays. Frank always checked every detail to ensure that these would be a great success.

His large photographic collection shows they managed to visit many preserved road and rail collections and also museums on their travels.

His working life was quite varied in his quest to learn and better himself. He first started out as an Insurance Salesman, going from house to house on his daily round. For his transport at the time, he used the local buses, then a bicycle and latterly a motorcycle.

Later, a change of career came his way as he became a manager with a cinema group. Then, through a good friend and encouraged by his wife, he enrolled with a training organisation and took a course in Legal Conveyancing. He concluded this with a pass with flying colours and continued in this profession until retirement.



Photographs, care of Christine Hall (via Eric Robinson) showing Frank at work on Sentinel S4, No. 8970 of 1934, reg WJ 8985, see also the rear cover.

FRANK WILFRED HALL 18/07/1928 – 17/11/2019



Frank's love of steam became more real to him in the early 1960s when he bought a Sentinel S4 steam waggon - ex-Duncan Gilmour & Co Ltd's brewery in Sheffield. This came into his possession via a dealer in East Ardsley, near Wakefield.

The waggon was then stored at Neil's yard at Horbury for a number of years before moving to a secure unit in Healey Road. In 1983, following a partnership with Ian Fearnley, a joint decision was taken to sell the wagon to John Colwill and the waggon, now fully restored, is often seen in John's ownership at steam rallies and other events around the country. A remarkable 'round-trip' to the Great Dorset Steam Fair was successfully achieved with it in 2018.

In retirement, Frank took up the post of our Club's Librarian. This, as one would expect, he did very well; ensuring books were always available to members at Club meetings.

Frank also continued visiting many rallies and steam events throughout the country; with his great friends, the late Bob Fardell and Ronnie Dodd, they seemed to know everyone involved in our great hobby. Colloquially they were often likened to as being the trio from the hit TV show, 'Last of the Summer Wine'....



Thank you, Frank, for all your kindness and the help you quietly gave to the Leeds Club and to the many friends and acquaintances you met in your long life.

Howard Snowden and Eric Robinson

THE STIFF COMPANY OF EAST ARDSLEY

The firm of CL Stiff & Company, Asphalt & Tarmacadam contractors, operated from the Great Northern Slag Works at East Ardsley. As the name of their premises implies, it was located not very far away from the railway of the same name.

The firm bought their first steam wagons in February 1926 and these were both Yorkshires from the not too far away local Leeds firm on Pepper Road. They were lettered Asphalt & Tarmacadam Works, East Ardsley with a telephone number of '108 Morley'!

Yorkshire Nos 1531 and 1533 seen in the accompanying photograph, were the firm's Fleet numbers 3 and 4 respectively and were allocated consecutive registration numbers UM 3746 and UM 3747. It's assumed that Fleet Nos 1 and 2 were petrol vehicles since no record of them appears in the lists of the Road Locomotive Society, to which acknowledgement is given for much of the information included here. Both were dispatched on February 1st 1926, presumably after being posed in the works yard at Hunslet for the adjacent photograph to be taken prior to their delivery.

The firm must have found the wagons very adequate for their purpose since it later went on to buy two more, Nos 2103 and 2104 (UM 7622 and 7623) in December of the same year. These were to the improved WG design and presumably went back to the manufacturers where they were converted to gulley emptiers for Sheffield Corporation in 1930 and 1929 respectively.



THE STIFF COMPANY OF EAST ARDSLEY

The Stiff firm also purchased a second-hand Yorkshire wagon, No 1498 of 1924 (WT 6621), locally from Wheatley & Whiteley of Kirkstall Road, Leeds; it having originally worked when new for L Holman & Co at Thorpe, only a short distance away from East Ardsley.

All their steam wagons were disposed of between 1929 to 1933 when the major changes of Government legislation which considerably discriminated against steam wagons made it uneconomical to continue with their use.

For those who may be curious, the 'in-between' wagon, Yorkshire No 1532, was a similar 6-ton three-speed wagon which was supplied to F Smillie, Govan, Glasgow on January 26th 1926. It was registered GD 1453.

DerekR



Above - A Yorkshire Wagon from the L&DTEC Collection - Flat wagon for Wilkinson and Akeroyd. Mirfield.

Left - The couple of Yorkshire wagons owned by Stiff's - taken at the maker's premises prior to delivery. L&DTEC Archive

A BULGARIAN ROLLER



Whilst searching for a seasonal photograph for the cover of this edition, I stumbled upon this website of Urban Exploration. <https://www.obsidianurbexphotography.com/> The photographer, Janine Pendleton (Obsidian Urbex Photography), has kindly allowed the reproduction of these images and I would strongly recommend looking at the full portfolio of striking photos on the website.

If anyone can assist with details about the roller, please let me know and I will forward them on. Many thanks.

INFORMATION WANTED

Text taken from

<https://www.obsidianurbexphotography.com/other/steampunk-steamroller/>

"Tucked away in an unassuming back road of a Bulgarian town, sits a rusting Steampunk Steamroller. The steamroller lies within the grounds of a large ruined mansion, which was once owned by an important Bulgarian businessman. Over the years the town has encroached, surrounding the mansion and steamroller.

This mansion was the summer residence of an influential Bulgarian businessman, a rich industrial tycoon of the late 19th and early 20th Century. Over his half-decade career he was involved in many sectors including trading, factory production lines and banking.

He was also known for his charitable work, and was a strong supporter of the local community. He set up schools and orphanages for poor children of the region. He stated in his Will that this home was to be used for charitable activities after his death; either as a school to provide free education for poor families, a retirement home for the elderly or housing for poor writers / journalists. His final wishes were not honoured.

In the late 1940's the state nationalised his charitable resources and seized the house. The building was used as a hospital and care home for certain infectious diseases such as tuberculosis until the late 1990s.

We visited the snow-covered Steampunk Steamroller during the early spring of 2017. "



A ROAD MAKING PUZZLE - AN UPDATE.....

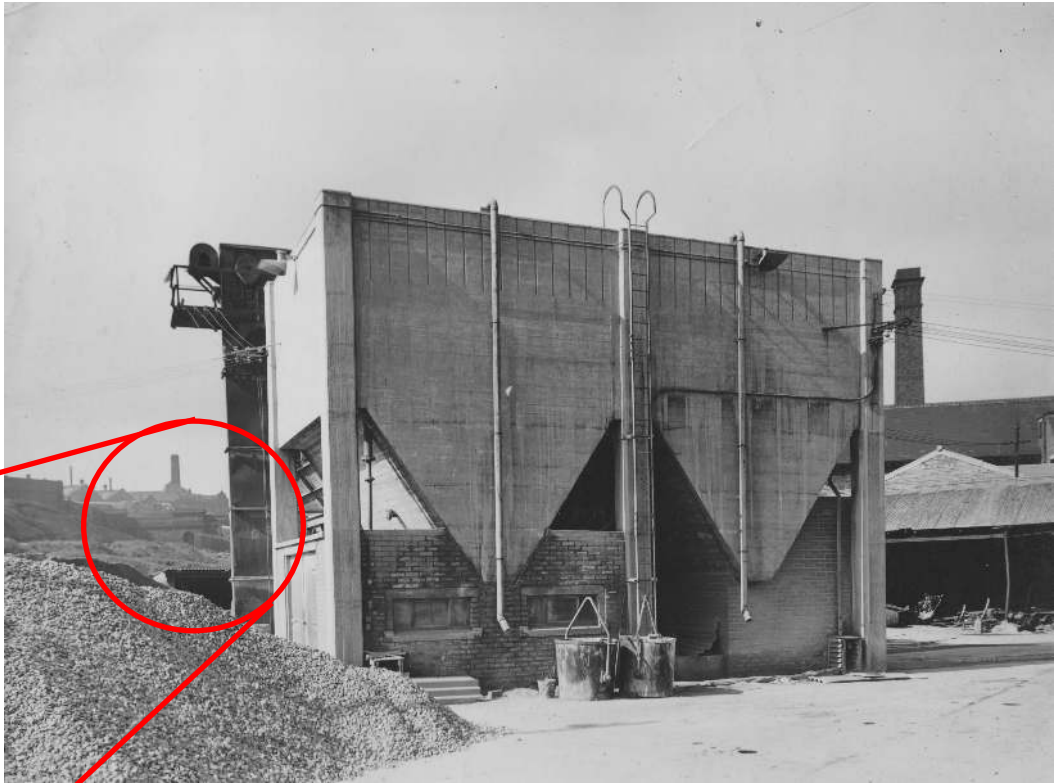
In the last issue of LRS we included two images which were thought to be of Leeds City Council's yard on Kirkstall Road. Club member David Copperthwaite has been in touch to provide confirmation:-

Firstly re your mag and 'road making puzzle' – the site is most definitely Kirkstall Road Highways Depot in the 1950's and it is classed as a cement storage plant. However, I know that this depot was known for the production and supply of black lime mortar, used extensively around Leeds. My identification of the location is the glimpse of Kirkstall railway viaduct which can just be seen to the left of photo No 2. Ed's note - this has been enlarged below, and a recent image taken from Google opposite.

David also notes that there are 39 photos of the plant in various stages of construction, accessible from the Leodis Photographic Archive of Leeds. These images can be viewed by searching for 'Highways Department Yard' on the website <http://www.leodis.net/default.aspx>



A ROAD MAKING PUZZLE - AN UPDATE.....



EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

21st Jan '20	Palaces on Wheels - more showmen's living vans	Richard Dobson
18th Feb '20	A Lifetime with Wheels	Maurice Craven
17th Mar '20	AGM	
21st Apr '20	The Harniess family - Yorkshire Showmen, their rides and engines.	Stephen Smith

Leeds and District Traction Engine Club evening social events commence at 8pm
The Spinning Wheel, Admiral Street, Dewsbury Road, LS11 5NG



Sentinel waggon No 8970

Above, in Duncan Gilmour's ownership, on Trade Plates taken at Shrewsbury prior to delivery.
Photo: the late GE Liversedge Collection

Left, in John Cowill's ownership, photographed at Masham 2017