

# **SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY TRUST**

## **NEWSLETTER 65**



**AUGUST 2010**



# The Southwold Railway Trust

## Newsletter

### Issue 65 — August 2010

#### Contents

	Page
News from the Editorial Desk .....	3
John B's Chairman's Report for the 2010 AGM .....	4 - 5
Minutes of the 2010 AGM .....	6
Treasurer's Report for 2009/10.....	7
Alan Taylor's Album .....	8 - 9
Ian Bunting's SR Incidents.....	10 - 11
Shop News.....	12 - 13
Letters.....	14 - 15
And Finally .....	15
SRT Shop .....	16

**Front cover:** The trackbed near Laurel Farm, part of the proposed site for the revival of the Southwold Railway. The photos were taken a few years ago by Stewart Green but seem very apt to use it for this edition of the newsletter.

#### The Directors

**President:** David Negus (01502 723606)

**Chairman:** John Bennett (01502 724340)

**Treasurer:** David Smith (01502 478535)

**Company Secretary & Membership Secretary:**

**Maureen Ridgway (01502 722686)**

**Newsletter Editor:** John Ridgway

**Brian Bailey**

**Stewart Green**

**Tim Heaps**

**David Lee**

**Shop:** 27, High Street, Southwold. IP18 6AD 01502 725422

**Website:** [www.southwoldrailway.co.uk](http://www.southwoldrailway.co.uk)

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## News from the Editorial Desk



It has all been quite busy lately. A steady stream of new ideas for the Wenhaston Project flow off the drawing board of David Negus as new ideas and potential

offers of access to land arrive. Tim and Stewart have been to Ireland where they found, and I quote "they are fighting a losing battle with a culture that does not value the heritage that they are trying to preserve." How frustrating and so sad.

After a hectic weekend they have returned with a list of valuable contacts who are very keen to help us and they have found loads of useful stuff for rails three feet apart. (See photo of Stewart, Sue and Eileen inspecting said items.) More about the trip next time.

how worthwhile it would be. His collection is fascinating and extensive so is there a local member who might be willing to work with him on an occasional or regular basis? Please feel free to phone me and I will tell you all about it.

We shall have our usual stand at the Henham Steam Rally on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September so do come and see us there. The next Track Walk will be on Saturday 25th September starting at Blythburgh Station car park at 10.30 and walking to Wenhaston (hopefully including the proposed trackbed of the Wenhaston Project) for an optional informal lunch at either the Queens Head at Blyford or the Star in Wenhaston. We could be spoilt for choice – both pubs have new landlords and both are worth a visit! The final decision may well be made on the day.

Finally, a warm welcome to our latest new members:

David Gordon of Aldeburgh, Adrian Stead of Pavenham, John Courtis of Southwold, Neville Doe of Lowestoft, Ray Willett of Lowestoft, Crumpton Clarke of Norwich, Alan Church of Royston, Steve Birch of Bristol, Julia King of Kensal Green, Colin Abbiss of Kings Lynn, Jenny Janes of Halesworth,

Paul Wilson of Ickenham, and Pete Stone of Wickham Market. Good to have you on board as things start to gather apace.

All the best. JR



Can I draw your attention to Alan Taylor's page this month where he is asking for help in cataloguing his photo and document archive. Having visited Alan recently, I can appreciate the task ahead but can also see



# John B ramblings...

## **Southwold Railway Trust CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT August 7<sup>th</sup> 2010**

### **Introduction**

It has been an interesting year. The new Board has settled in well. We were sad to lose Graham Thurston, who has decided to pursue other interests, but we still have a nine strong team who put in a great deal of time for the Trust. I am thankful to them all. Two of our number, Tim Heaps and Stewart Green cannot be here today as they are on a rolling-stock finding mission in Ireland exploring what is left of three foot gauge railways there.

### **Membership**

We have seen a steady and gratifying rise in membership during the year with membership now around 267 - an increase of about 13% on the previous year. Our thanks to Maureen Ridgway for dealing so efficiently with the membership and the occasional difficult issues that arise.

### **Projects**

**STEAM PARK** Our Southwold Steam Park Project became somewhat tangled up by issues concerning contamination of the site, and our need to discharge a planning condition requiring that the site be investigated and the site decontaminated before it could be used. The difficulty here was it has proved difficult, to the

point of impossibility, to undertake such an investigation whilst the current car breaking use continues to pollute the site. The uncertainty of the cost of rectification has made it impossible to agree terms with the current owner of the site.

**WENHASTON** Whilst we were pondering this conundrum, we were approached at our stand at Henham Steam Rally last September by Peter Leech, the owner of Laurel Farm at Wenhaston, halfway between Blythburgh and Wenhaston, who suggested to us that he would be very pleased if we were to run the old line on a mile or so of original trackbed on his land. Naturally we were excited by this and after many discussions this developed into a Southwold Railway Heritage Centre with buildings for a shop, café toilets engine shed etc utilising and converting redundant farm buildings in the vicinity of the old farmhouse and creating a small new station at the eastern end which we called Blyth Valley Station.. We had to go to the point of submitting a planning application for this when Peter indicated, having seen the final proposal, that he would not wish the focus of the scheme to be at Laurel Farm. and would prefer there to be no buildings at all. Naturally the Board would not wish to propose any works that the landowner was not happy with. Previously the Board had made contact

with the landowner who owns the trackbed and adjoining land as far as Blyford Lane and a site close the original Wenhaston Station. The Board is considering whether it is possible to create the centre on this site perhaps with the restoration of the original Wenhaston Station building. As our constitution require us to restore track on re-instate where possible, this venture has rather led us away for the Steam Park proposal. This is currently on the back burner but may be revived if we can overcome the difficulties there.

**LOCOMOTIVE** The 2-4-0 Sharpie is under construction. The frames are made and assembled. The pony wheels are being cast now at Thurton Foundry near Norwich, with the pattern for the driving wheels being fabricated in Reydon.. The footplates are being made by Peggs of Aldeburgh who made the frames. We have raised about £30,000 so far, a quarter of the total required. We are aiming to have the motion completed by the end of this year, but completion of the project will depend on funds.

### **Events**

In March we had a very surreal evening at the Engine Shed in Duncan's Yard to launch the birth of Blyth. Rabbit Stew and Trackside Crumble were on the menu we had a good turn out. Bernard Hill unveiled the frames. The Annual Dinner at The Blyth was an enjoyable occasion, as were the track walks.. It has been suggested that, where comestibles are available at the end, that donations might be requested for the Loco Fund.

Many thanks to all those who prepare the food..

### **Newsletter**

John Ridgway continues to admirably edit and produce the Newsletter. We are getting to the point where we shall need to enlarge it. Many thanks are due to our regular contributors Ian Bunting, Alan Taylor and David Lee.

### **Website**

Thanks also to Tim and Eileen Heaps and Blythweb, and to Stewart Green for excellent management of the website

### **The Railway Shop**

Our little Railway Shop in the High Street continues to just about hold its own. Since Fat Face opened next door earlier this year we have seen a rise in custom. We are thinking of changing the name of the shop to Fat Controller Face. The new carriage has proved an attraction. We are regularly given videos and books which boost the income. We are still in need of more help from volunteers. We only manage to keep it open about 60 - 70% of the time

### **Thanks**

Thanks, once again, to the Board, to my wife Jane for providing today's refreshments and finally thanks to all our members for supporting us.

*John Bennett 7.8.10*

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th August 2010

20 members attended the meeting and apologies were received from Trust President David Negus, Directors Stewart Green and Tim Heaps plus a further 5 members.

**Introduction.** The Chairman, John Bennett opened the meeting and welcomed all present noting that the Trust President, David Negus, would be celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in the week following the AGM. He proposed a suitable greeting be conveyed to him from the meeting to mark the occasion. This was supported by all present.

**Minutes of previous AGM.** Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2009 was proposed by David Smith, seconded by Brian Bailey and carried by a vote from those present.

**Treasurer's Report.** David Smith presented a set of unaudited accounts for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 prepared by Lovewell Blake. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Mike Bootman, seconded by Trevor Kelsall and carried by a vote from those present.

**Appointment of Auditor.** David Smith stated that as the Trust enters a new phase of its activities as a Charity, its accounts may be subject to more detailed scrutiny than in the past. He therefore proposed that Lovewell Blake be appointed as Auditors to the Trust for the next financial year. This was seconded by David Lee and carried by a vote from those present.

**Election of Officers/Directors.** Member Simon Wilson took the Chair for the Election of Officers. It was noted that Graham Thurston had resigned his position as Director and would not be standing for re-election. All other Directors had expressed their willingness to stand for re-election. There were no proposals for new Directors. Mike Bootman proposed that all the remaining Directors be re-elected en-bloc. This was seconded by Alan Taylor and carried by a vote from those present. John Bennett returned to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**Chairman's Report.** Presented by John Bennett. (*Printed in this Newsletter*)

**Proposal to create new Categories of Membership.** The Chairman proposed that new types of membership be created; for example joint, family and junior, to cater for the future needs of the Trust. Mike Bootman asked about individual financial liabilities for these new types of members in the event of the Trust being wound down in the future, in particular any liability attached to junior members. It was agreed that this aspect needed to be investigated by the Board. Mr Bootman presented a counter proposal that any changes should be deferred to the next AGM to give time to assess any implications. This was seconded by Simon Wilson and carried by a vote from those present.

**Questions from the Floor.** Mike Bootman asked if any more progress had been made in locating original records of the Railway.

Graham Cross stated that there may be documents in the Public Records Office at Kew. David Lee stated that the Trust was aware of the possibility and that he had a list of contacts at the P.R.O. In the ensuing discussions various suggestions were made: the Southwold Museum might have information; there might be documents stored in the basement archives at Southwold Town Hall and that the last Minute Book of the SR may still be in existence, possibly in that basement archive. The Chairman agreed that such research would be an ongoing task.

Trevor Kelsall asked whether there would be a "Right of Use" agreement with Peter Leech over the land at Wenhaston. The Chairman replied that such an agreement would be part of the Project. Alan Taylor asked whether any form of diesel traction would be used. The Chairman replied that diesel locomotives would be needed and that the Trust had been offered an existing 3-foot gauge loco. He re-stated that two Trust Directors were at that moment in Ireland investigating the availability of diesel locos.

Simon Wilson stated that there was a 3-foot gauge Peckett steam loco at Amberley Museum. He felt that if the Trust approached them, the Museum Trustees might look favourably at a request.

**Any other business.** Arthur Ayres asked if the Trust had considered running a Fund Raising Draw for the loco fund that would be open to the public. The Chairman replied that such ideas would be considered but would probably have to wait until the Wenhaston Project was up and running. There being no further questions, the meeting closed with a showing of short films featuring Stewart Green's model of Southwold Station set in 1922 and the current revival of the Lynton & Barnstable Railway in Devon.

## **TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

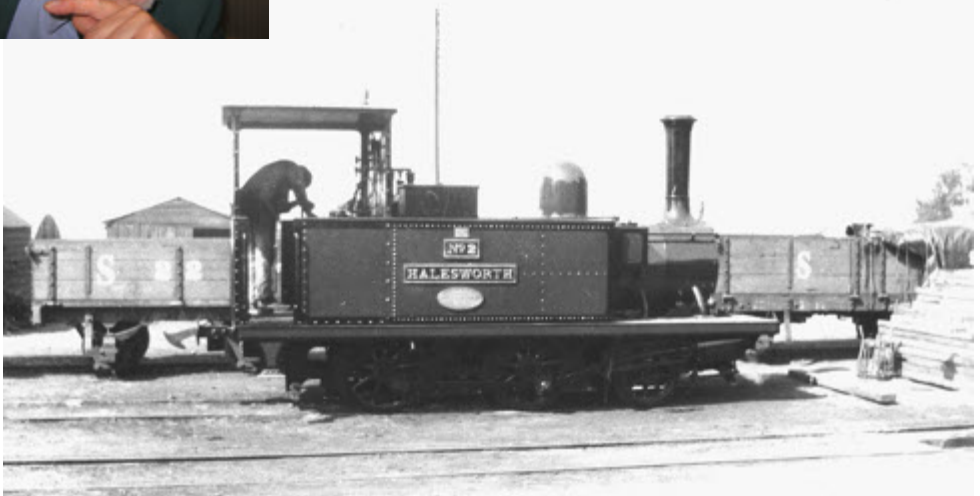
### **Presented at the AGM on 7th August 2010**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>
Membership subscriptions	3103.39
General donations	5.25
Donations to Loco Fund	1097.02
Gift Aid refund	3084.21
Building Society Interest gross - deposit account	11.60
subtotal	7301.47
Less tax on interest (reclaimable through Gift Aid)	2.32
subtotal	7299.15
2-4-0 Club donations	17043.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24342.43</b>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Newsletter production costs	1220.70
Postage	346.53
Copying	27.00
Public Liability Insurance - Events	260.00
Subscription to Heritage Railways	25.00
Exhibition and promotional costs	74.00
Sundries	15.00
Wenhaston Project Planning Application fee	1690.00
Donation - Long Shop Museum, Leiston	50.00
Locomotive Build Costs	3462.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7170.36</b>
<b>Balance of income over expenditure</b>	<b>17172.07</b>
 <b>Cash in hand and at bank end June</b>	
Barclays Loco Fund	26476.45
Norwich & Peterboro Current a/c	2098.08
Norwich & Peterboro Deposit a/c	2457.37
Cash	341.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31373.08</b>

A full set of audited accounts is available to members on receipt of a cheque for £1.00 payable to "Southwold Railway Trust" to cover postage.



# ALAN TAYLOR'S ALBUM

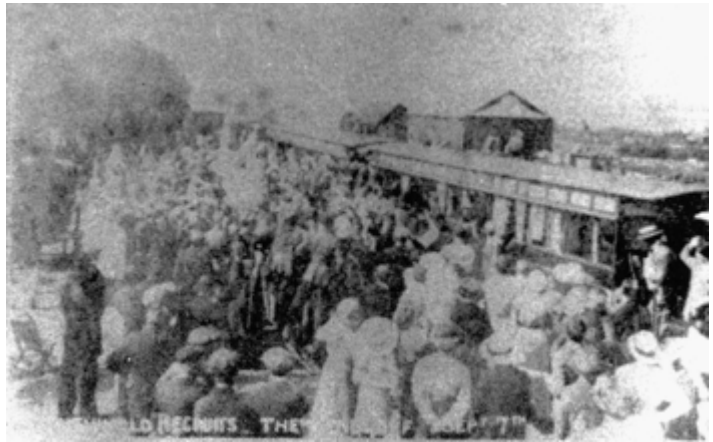


Above: The question has been asked, when was the locos paint scheme changed from GER Blue to black. This view of 'Halesworth' shows the blue paintwork which has been extended to the new sandbox fitted to the right hand tank. The photographer is not known but the date 6.9.1921 is pencilled on the back.

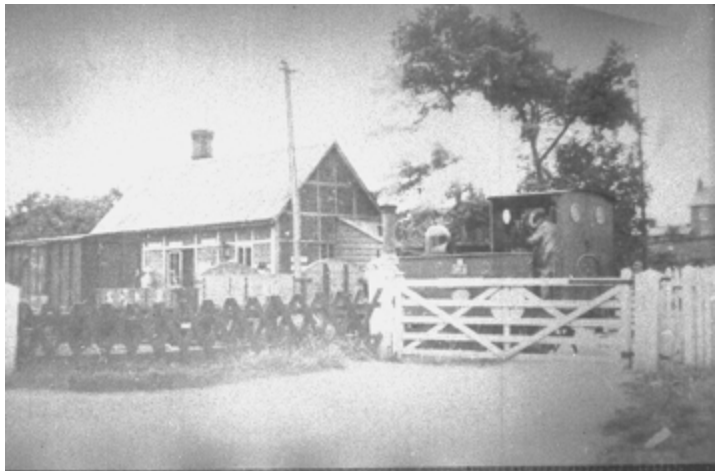
Below: This A W Croughton photograph of 'Halesworth' is dated 11.8.1923. The Blue paint scheme has been covered over. Additionally a stay has been fixed between the side tank and the cab front to firm-up the flimsy minimal cab.



Has anyone got decent copies of this and the next view? At the outbreak of war in 1914 a National Appeal for recruits to serve King and Country was launched. Many men in Southwold volunteered. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September these men were formed up in the Market Place from where the Town Band marched them to the station where they boarded the train for their journey onwards. This is No.6 of the photographs published of the occasion.



Right: A 1920's view of a train leaving Wenhaston for Halesworth. Hopefully a better quality copy of this still exists. What I would like is to borrow originals or to have high definition scans either on a DVD or sent as attachments to an email. I am always on the look-out for additions to the collection. Were any of your relatives proud owners of 'Box Brownies' who snapped the Railway for inclusion in he Family Album?



Finally, an appeal.

Andrew Wieland, my nephew and SRT member has been helping me to get my collection of Southwold Railway photographs and paperwork into good order. (trays and folders of photographs and forms that need sorting, captioning and putting into albums). Unfortunately he sustained a knee injury which required surgery and this has prevented him from getting to Hemel Hempstead. Additionally, because of my spinal cord problem, I am taking medication which makes me doze off when I could be spending the time usefully. I am hoping that it will not be too long before Andrew can resume his help and a change of my dosage will keep me more alert but in the meantime I am appealing for assistance, Is there anyone who could occasionally get to Hemel Hempstead to lend a hand? I would welcome the help.

.....

(If any member is willing to help Alan, please contact me and I will forward your details to him. Thanks. JR)



## SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY INCIDENTS

in the Year 1918 (part 3)

by Ian Bunting

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July the Halesworth Times described the burial of Harry Roberts, a Royal Navy Reserve and Captain of a patrol boat, who had died of heart trouble at the military hospital at Falmouth. The coffin went by train to Halesworth Station for burial in the grounds of Wenhaston Church; it does not appear from the article that the coffin was transferred to the Southwold Railway. The coffin made the final passage to Wenhaston Church on a gun carriage, accompanied by 26 soldiers who fired three volleys over the grave, and the last post was sounded by a bugler.

There was a further burial of a Wenhaston resident at the same church recorded in the newspaper on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. His name was George Garnham and apparently he formerly lived at the '*Station Villa*' in Wenhaston.

Notices regarding the attendance of the Halesworth part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment at Southwold firing range for the coming Sunday '*Efficients and Recruits Musketry Course*', appeared weekly from 10<sup>th</sup> September to 24<sup>th</sup> September, and also on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October. The method of transport appears to have been a problem, the notices either announcing that '*Time and means of transport will be announced later*' or that '*If transport not available the usual parades will be held*'. The point being that they normally travelled there by the Southwold Railway but at that time the railway was not running a Sunday service. Whether the military hired special trains or provided alternate road transport is not indicated. On the 29<sup>th</sup> October the unit were to travel to Norwich for an inspection but it is not certain whether they travelled by G.E.R. as it was only operating two trains each way on Sundays. Again a special might have been run.

An account of the 1<sup>st</sup> October concerning Halesworth Petty Sessions (i.e. magistrates' court), '*Bertie Girling, of Blythburgh, station master, and his wife, summoned for riding bicycles which did not carry a front and rear light, were each fined 2s. 6d. and costs 1s. 7d.*'

In Newsletter No. 62 (November 2009) I gave an account of Stringfellow's 1848 steam propelled aeroplane and indicated that there would be more information to follow in 1918. On the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1918, the Halesworth Times gave further information culled from the East Anglian Daily Times in a letter by 'A.H.D., of Ipswich'. Apparently, Stringfellow's aeroplane was modelled on that conceived in 1809 by Sir George Cayley. It was *'much like a cross between a modern [1918] monoplane and Cayley's with a broad fan-shaped tail. An engine and boiler were crowded into the under carriage, whatever room remained being allotted to passengers. The machine had two propellers, each three feet in diameter, which were driven by pulley bands, and it was provided with three wheels for coursing along the ground. The old machine was a nine days' wonder but there is no record that it ever got beyond the experimental stage and a few unsteady "swoops" on the downs. It is recorded that it was deficient in equilibrium, a puff of wind being sufficient to upset it'*.

Finally, yet again in the Halesworth Magistrates' Court but reported in the Halesworth Times on Christmas Eve, Inspector Barber saw Robert Davy driving a horse and cart to Halesworth railway station with a horse which appeared to be in distress. On closer examination it was found that the horse had a large wound under the collar. Davy and dairy manager Peck were found guilty of cruelty. As Davy was an *'Old Contemptible wearing a Mons ribbon, recently discharged from the Army with an excellent record'* he was bound over in his own recognisances of £5 for six months. Peck was fined £3 or one months imprisonment. For those too young to remember, the 'Old Contemptibles' referred to the regular UK troops first sent out to France in 1914. The Kaiser referred to the British troops in France at the time as that 'contemptible little army'. The Mons Star was a Campaign medal for those participating in the Battle of Mons.

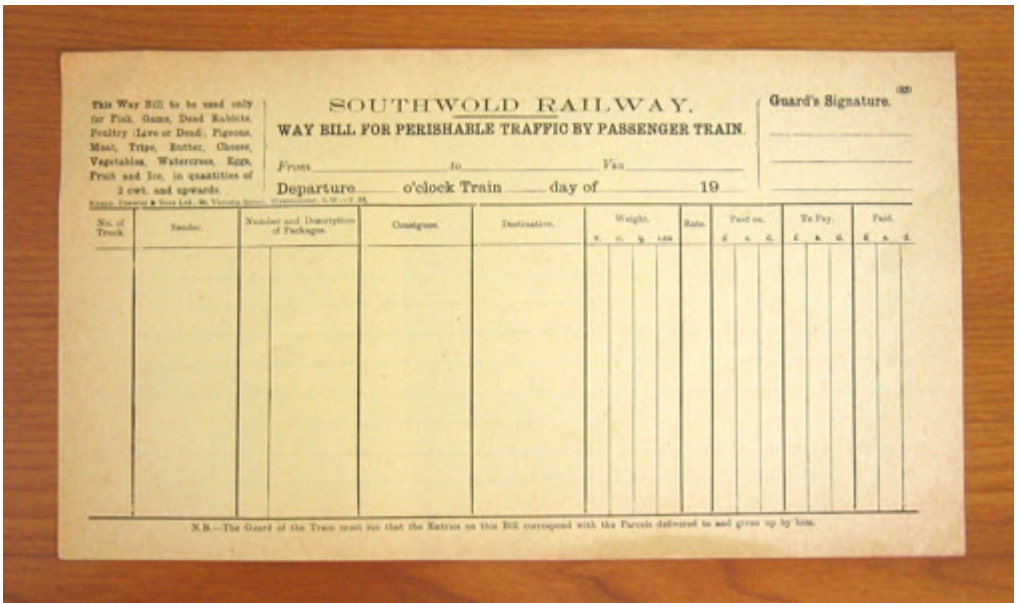


Left: One of Stewart Green's new designs for Christmas Cards. Four atmospheric wintry views taken from the SR trackbed. £6.00 (plus £1 p&p for any quantity) for a pack of 8 (2 of each design)? Now on sale in the shop and online.

# SHOP NEWS

The shop is currently enjoying a busy time during the summer holidays with the usual increase in visitors to Southwold. Of course there is the usual plea: we could do even better if we had more volunteers to keep the shop open every day. Shifts are only 3 hours long and you don't have to commit yourself to do it on a regular basis or even more than once!

There always seems to be something new to buy. Alan Taylor has generously donated a stock of genuine Southwold Railway way bills for sale in the shop to help our funds. Unusual things such as ice and watercress would be listed (in quantities of not less than 2 tons) along with the wagon number and delivery destination. These authentic SR artefacts are being sold for £10.00 + £1.00 postage.



We also have 2 new fridge magnet designs (£2.50) – one of which features our new BLYTH logo. These are available online as well as in the Shop.



Members interested in standard gauge railways in the area will be interested to know that we now stock The Lowestoft Train, The Yarmouth Train and other titles from member (and well-respected local rail historian) Malcolm White - an authority on local transport. At present these titles are available to personal callers only.

The new BLYTH pottery mugs now come in 2 shapes, with a new taller mug added to the range. Price remains at £6.00 a mug for personal callers only.



Also new in, and proving popular, is the Worth Valley's 'The Making of The Railway Children' paperback at £4.95 in the shop and online. This absorbing publication celebrates the 40th anniversary this year of the iconic film and makes fascinating reading.

For real children, we have the new Activity Pack. Games, Puzzles and Models to make up. Loads of fun for this wet summer. Only £7.00.

We have completely sold out of our SR pens, tea towels and track walk booklets! The latter is likely to be revised before reprinting to incorporate recent changes and developments - watch this space!

We will always be happy to receive gifts of paperback and hardback fiction and family DVDs for resale - and thanks to all those who have recently donated

railway books to the shop. Keep 'em coming!



The Shop Team

## *Letters:*

David Lee writes:

In view of the Trust approaching the position of obtaining land in the Wenhaston area to start re-instatement, I thought it might be interesting to know about the original acquisition of the land for the whole undertaking.

Before the contractor, Charles Chambers, could start creating the line's formation it was necessary for the Company to be in possession of the required land within the limits of the deliniation shown in the deposited plans and in accordance with the relevant Acts.

From a list compiled in 1878/79, among Railway papers in the Southwold Museum, there were 31 freeholders and rentals to negotiate with over price and compensation, including that of the tenants in the latter case, also agreeing rents.

Of those 31 owners, 24 sold less than 2 acres, four sold up to 13 acres and land was rented from three owners.

The total area of land necessary was 39 acres of which the greatest areas of land were from owners in Blythburgh and Walberswick Parishes at 7 and 6 acres respectively. In Halesworth and Holton Parishes 2 acres and Wenhaston Parish 4 acres from two owners. The rented land was 5 acres in Southwold at £52.10.0. per annum; one acre from Walberswick Common Lands Trustees at £10.0.0. pa and one acre at Halesworth at £20.0.0. pa.

I will try to sort out the original owners for the length proposed for our current project at Wenhaston.

-----  
Also from David Lee, some information in response to Alan Taylor's photos in SRT 64:

Page 8:

Right: W.Aldis (Porter, formerly platelayer) 1928

Left: Not recognised from known photographs. If SRy, might be Permanent Way staff of whom there are few photographs.

Page 9:

Top: From left; George Burley (Guard), J. Adamson (Fireman), B.E.Girling (Station Master, Southwold), W.Aldis (Porter), George Self (Drayman to W.Doy, Carting Agent).

Behind; Marchant (GPO Telegraph Clerk), N.C.Fisk (Driver), A.B.Jenkins with cine camera. 1929

Bottom: From left; William Stannard (Porter), George Burley (Guard) William Fisk (Porter). Van no.14. 1928

Page 10:

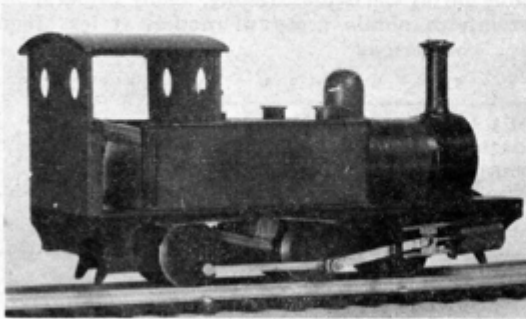
Top: Farewell group in front of "Blyth". From left; W.J.Fisk (Porter) B.E.Girling (Station Master, Southwold), H.J.Stannard (Driver), A.G.Stannard (Fireman), W.G Stannard (Porter).

Bottom: N.C.Fisk (Driver) in cab, and probably H.J.Stannard (Driver), A.G.Stannard (Fireman).

*And finally...*

*Something a little different this time. An advertisement from a railway modelling magazine, definitely pre-1971.*

## SOUTHWOLD N.G. LOCO



Low Body Kit only 14/-

*Photo shows how customer, who made the patterns, finished it off using*

**K's Mark II  
MOTOR**

**22/6 plus 3/9 p.t.  
and**

**10 mm wheels at  
2d. each**

**K's**

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We try to open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm  
and on Sunday from 10.30 am to 1pm.  
If you are making a special visit we can also open by prior arrangement.

**THE SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY CHILDREN £5.00**

Book of reminiscences of people who travelled as children on the SR.  
Many original and previously unpublished photographs and drawings.

**BRANCH LINE TO SOUTHWOLD £15.95**

The excellent Mitchell & Smith book. Hardback

**RAILS TO SOUTHWOLD DVD £17**

The 30 min Hillside film of the SR including early newsreel footage of the line

**THE HERONRY PRINT £5**

Peter Green's excellent painting on an A2 size landscape format  
print of a SR train between Blythburgh and Walberswick  
(Sent rolled in a tube so please add £2 for postage and packing - thanks.)

**JOE CROWFOOT POSTCARDS £9**

Set of 18 full colour postcards of Joe's excellent and evocative SR paintings.

**BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS £5**

Set of 10 photos of SR locos and views of the railway

**SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY GAME - £12.95**

Entertaining SR board game

**BACK ISSUES OF NEWSLETTER** (most numbers up to issue 50) **£1.50 to clear**

*This is just a small part of our stock. Visit [www.southwoldrailway.co.uk](http://www.southwoldrailway.co.uk)  
for many other items and second-hand books.*

Please send your order to the shop with a cheque payable to the **Southwold Railway Shop**,  
adding 10% of the total cost to cover P&P (min £1).

**The Journal of the Southwold Railway Trust**