

KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

Threlkeld Quarry Railway gala 2017.

Special edition. Words by Martyn Ashworth, pictures by Steve Sedgewick



The best shed in the world???

Whilst British railway enthusiasts have been getting excited about the 50th anniversary of the end of steam on the Southern Region another very significant 50th railway anniversary seems to have passed everybody by – but we remembered it and we did something about it! The event I am talking about is the end of steam at the Dinorwic Quarry railway in North Wales, and thus the end of all North Wales narrow gauge steam in the pre preservation era.

Keith Nicholls with a family sized tin of Brasso



KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

Lighting up time



Fire Away
lads

KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017



Henry, Paul and Martyn stop for a brew

Quarry Hunslet loco "Holy War" was the very last loco to remain in service at Dinorwic quarry and when she went out of steam on November 23rd 1967 that brought the final curtain down on quarry steam in North Wales, but 50 years on we commemorated this occasion and themed our annual steam gala at Threlkeld quarry "Dinorwic Fiftieth" and then proceeded to offer a fabulous line up of red locos including two original Dinorwic locos – "Irish Mail" and "Cloister" and two more "Port" class locos "Statfold" with a cab and "Jack Lane" (green livery) without a cab. The line up was completed by the lovely red liveried Hudswell Clarke 0-4-0ST "Lautoka No 19" and the home based Bagnall 0-4-0ST "Sir Tom".

Les and Keith fill the lubricator on Cloister



KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

Atmospheric stuff
You have to admit,



Mr Sedgewick takes an exceedingly good picture

KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

Planning for the event had got underway straight after the last one was over and in fact that cycle has already begun again for the 2018 and even the 2019 events! We are planning something very different for 2018 so watch this space! Transport was, as always, expertly handled by the Milner family and we were supported, as always, by the Statfold Barn Railway who supplied three locos and who also hosted “Cloister” in 2017 after carrying out insurance repairs on her following a craning incident two years ago and while the author carried out a boiler washout on her and presented her for cold and in steam boiler inspections – all were successfully passed and our friends at the Hampshire Narrow Gauge Railway Society then cheerfully agreed to let “Cloister” go on a tour “up north”. Threlkeld is the furthest north she has ever been but it is not the highest – her shed at Larnion level overlooking Llanberis was 1860’ above sea level!



Henry contemplates the Lakeland weather

Our friends from the West Lancs Light Railway supplied their loco “Irish Mail” complete with crews and our close working relationship with them continues to work very well as all the locos (except No 19) then went from Threlkeld to Hesketh Bank to appear as the star guests at the WLLR 50th anniversary steam gala on August 12th and 13th 2017. This is particularly pleasing as it means we have delivered on a promise we made to Neil McMurdy before he had his stoke back in January 2017.

KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

All the locos were on site at Threlkeld by Wednesday evening and on the Thursday all were lit up, cleaned, oiled, coaled and watered and made ready for the next day's photo charter organised by Martin Creese of 30742 charters fame. Two photographers did a private charter with a couple of the locos on the Thursday evening and very atmospheric it was too. Steve Sedgewick's work is illustrated in this newsletter.

Friday was wet to begin with but things improved as the day went on and we were able to round the day off with a fabulous line up of all the locos across the yard in bright sunshine. Only 25 photographers came on the Friday charter, well down on the numbers from the 2015 Penrhyn 50th one we did, but the ones who did not come missed a real treat. We filled skips at the quarry with a Priestman shovel and the unique steam navvy "Hooley" was also in steam at the middle level. We did run pasts galore and operated three passenger services in between. We also posed the locos on the famous head shunt at the station and outside (and behind) the amazing loco shed to recreate some very passable impressions of the little sheds on Lernion or Australia levels at the Dinorwic quarry.



Saturday and Sunday were also mixed weather days but we just got on with it and the crowds loved it – on Saturday we ran a record 16 passenger trains throughout a really busy day and Sunday was not far behind with 13 trains operated. Run pasts were provided at the quarry as were shunting demonstrations and skip loading demonstrations. We



carried 500 people over the two days and operationally it was to our usual high safety standards with all the locos behaving well and the crews did too!

On the wet Sunday evening all the locos were loaded (in steam) on to the Milner's trailers and Monday saw them safely ensconced in the shed at Hesketh Bank ready for their gala weekend on August 12th and 13th. No 19 carried on back to her home at the SBR.

KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

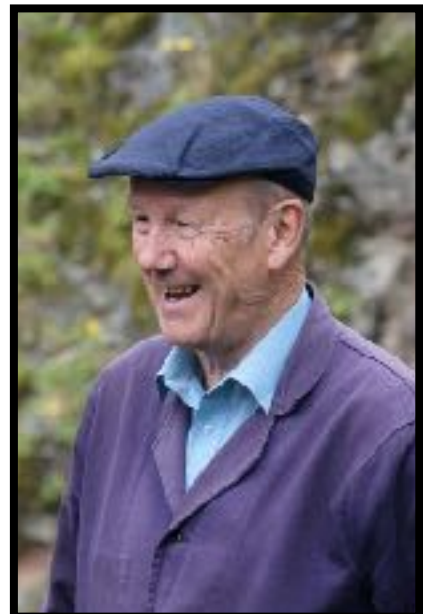
Issue No 39A August 2017

CLOISTER will stay at the WLLR for their major 50th anniversary gala in September where she will join the home fleet plus STANHOPE (from Apedale) and ALICE from Bala. The WLLR lads originally rescued ALICE from her home on the mountainside above Llanberis in 1967 by winching her remains down the old inclines, so this is a very poignant visit indeed exactly 50 years (minus two months) later.



Dickon with "Sir Tom", Stewart with his happy smile, these pictures sum up the atmosphere at Threlkeld

Threlkeld is still one of THE highlights of our year and we always look forward to it. The Killamarsh team are always well represented there and Ed and Dave C deserve a special mention for their work as our Movement Inspectors at the quarry, they kept the show going and they flagged all the trains in and out and organised all the run pasts and shunts safely and efficiently. Ian Hartland had taken pity on them this year and provided them with a signal box (well it is more of a garden shed really) where they could take refuge from the Lakeland weather, - thank you Ian. The shed did not look out of place and it was very much appreciated.



KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

So thank you to all the team members who took part, to Ian, Dickon, Adam and all at Threlkeld for their hospitality, to the Milners for providing the haulage, to Henry and Graham and the SBR for the loan of their three locos, to the WLLR for the loan of Irish Mail and for supplying crews and to the Hampshire NGRS for supplying their loco "Cloister" and their crews as well; to Mervyn at Barrow Hill

for loan of the radios once again and to Martin Creese and the photographers without whom this event would not be possible. It was a "reet good do" and yes, we will be there again next year on the same weekend with a new line up of locos and hopefully a much longer running line to operate.

I will close now and let the photos sum up the weekend better than I can do in words.



Martyn. 16/08/17.

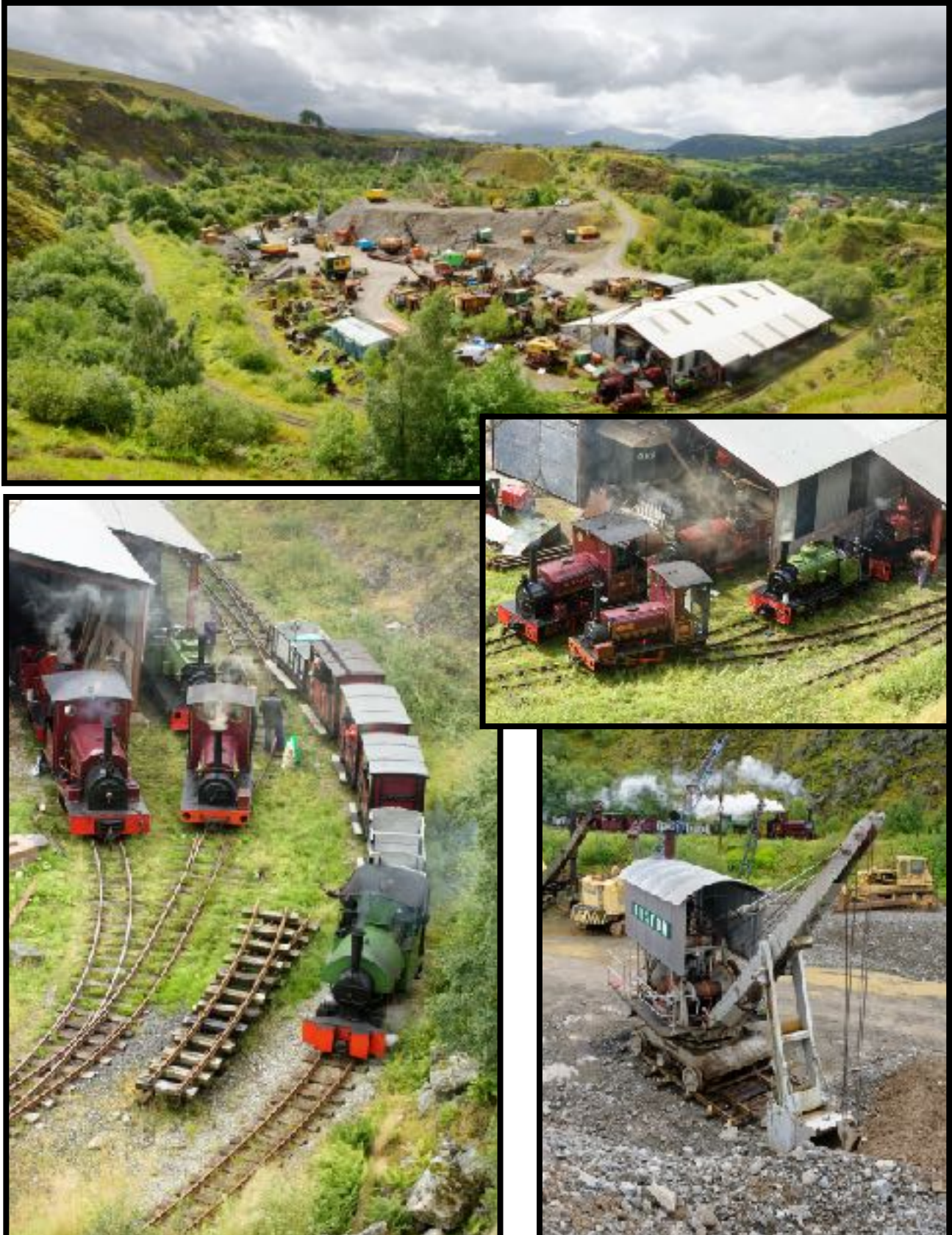


More pictures below

KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

Birds eye views



KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017



Post script -

Keith Nichols sent these pictures of all the locos safely "tucked up in bed" at Hesketh Bank after the journey down from Threlkeld. it really does sum up the close working relationship that exists between our respective preservation organisations.

KILLAMARSH CHRONICLE

Issue No 39A August 2017

One last look!



This very atmospheric picture could be titled **“As the sun sets on North Wales steam 50 years ago”**.

It was a sad day for steam, but without the work of the preservation teams we would have nothing to remember them by!

Oh yes, just in case you are wondering about the rails that didn't meet whilst unloading - here's Ian Hartland using the gas-axe to “make ends meet”

Don't forget to book your place on the Threlkeld weekend next year.

Martyn.