

The Bassil Shippam Centre
Tozer Way, St Pancras, Chichester, PO19 7LG

Wednesday 25 October
At 19:15

Mid-Hants Railway Film Unit



**Our Guest
Speaker**

**Will
Stratford**

From 'History' to 'How it works', the Watercress Films Unit only formally came into existence a few years ago. Since creation Will and his team have boosted the railway's publicity on youtube with followers regularly tuning in to find out more about the Watercress Line. In this talk Will takes us through the creation of the film unit, some notable projects and dives into the behind the scenes magic that goes into making an episode.

Entry by donation on the door. £3 Members £4 Guests

Come and join us Bring a friend Everybody welcome

The Monthly Newsletter of RCTS Chichester Branch.
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Roger Sandford ©**
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Paul Myatt, Alan Wallbank**
What's on for the Railway Enthusiast in September - Part 1: The Railway Contacts.

Railway Name	Website	Contact Email	Contact Phone
Bluebell Railway	The Bluebell Railway in Sussex - A heritage steam railway (bluebell-railway.com)	enquiries@bluebell-railway.com	01825 720800
Isle of Wight Railway	Isle of Wight Steam Railway – The 10 Mile Museum (iwsteamrailway.co.uk)	info@iwsteamrailway.co.uk info@iwsteamrailway.co.uk	01983 882204
Kent & East Sussex Railway	Kent & East Sussex Railway – Tenterden – Northiam – Bodiam (kesr.org.uk)	enquiries@kesr.org.uk	01580 765155
Watercress Railway	Watercress Line - Heritage Steam Railway	info@watercressline.co.uk	01962 733810
Amberley Museum	Amberley Museum	office@amberleymuseum.co.uk	01798 831370
Hayling Light Railway Trust	The Hayling Light Railway Trust	haylinglightrailway@yahoo.com	07902 446340
Littlehampton Miniature Railway	Home (littlehamptonminiaturerailway.com)		01903 719876
South Downs Light Railway	South Downs Light Railway	info@south-downs-railway.com	07518 753784
Stansted Park Light Railway	Stansted Park Light Railway	help@sp-lr.co.uk	02392 413 324


Rail Strikes - Known Travel Disruption for October

 The **ASLEF** union have announced that strike action will take place on:-

- **Wednesday 4 October**
- There will also be a ban on overtime on between:-
Monday 2 October until **Friday 6 October** (inclusive).

What's on for the Railway Enthusiast in September - Part 2: The Events

Railway	Date(s)	Event
Kent & East Sussex Railway	30/09/2023 - 01/10/2023	Wild about Wildlife Weekend
Bluebell Railway	30/09/2023 - 01/10/2023	Superheroes Weekend
South Downs Light Railway	01/10/2023	Two Trains Day
Littlehampton Miniature Railway	01/10/2023 - 29/10/2023	Open on weekends and Tuesday to Friday in School Holidays
Hayling Light Railway Trust	01/10/2023 - 31/10/2023	Open on Weekends and School Holidays
Amberley Museum	01/10/2023	Autumn Historic Gathering & Steam Day
Bluebell Railway	04/10/2023 - 06/10/2023	Autumn Tints - Using LNWR Observation Coach No. 1503
Stansted Park Light Railway	04/10/2023 - 30/10/2023	Open Wednesdays and Saturdays until end of October
Watercress Railway	06/10/2023 - 08/10/2023	Autumn Steam Gala
Isle of Wight Railway	07/10/2023 - 08/10/2023	Teaddy Bear Days
Amberley Museum	08/10/2023	Land Rover Day & Steam Day
Bluebell Railway	11/10/2023 - 12/10/2023	Autumn Tints - Using LNWR Observation Coach No. 1503
Bluebell Railway	13/10/2023 - 29/10/2023	Ice Skating!
Bluebell Railway	13/10/2023 - 15/10/2023	Giants of Steam
Isle of Wight Railway	14/10/2023 - 15/10/2023	Beer and Steam
Watercress Railway	14/10/2023	Watercress Belle - Fine Dining
Kent & East Sussex Railway	14/10/2023 - 15/10/2023	Austin Counties Car Rally
Amberley Museum	15/10/2023	Autumn Historic Gathering & Steam Day
Bluebell Railway	18/10/2023 - 20/10/2023	Autumn Tints - Using LNWR Observation Coach No. 1503
Amberley Museum	21/10/2023 - 22/10/2023	October Half-Term Activities
Watercress Railway	21/10/2023 - 29/10/2023	Wizard Week
Isle of Wight Railway	23/10/2023 - 27/10/2023	Wizard Week
Amberley Museum	25/10/2023 - 29/10/2023	October Half-Term Activities

A Vintage Scene from the Kent & East Sussex Railway

By Paul Myatt ©



Above is an image sent in by Paul Myatt. Paul says "This image was taken (through the window of our accommodation) in 2018 on the Kent & East Sussex Railway (K&ESR) - I think this is a train in the evening returning empty stock to Rolvenden."

The absence of passengers in the leading two carriages tends to support Paul's surmise!

Take away the modern road surface, the car and the roadside telegraph poles and the scene could be circa 1900.

Further research, starting with perusal of the K&ESR stock lists, shows the make up of the train as :-

Locomotive: BR No 32678

Coach 1: SE&CR No. 1100 - Birdcage Brake

Coach 2: Metropolitan Railway No. 353

A Vintage Scene from the Kent & East Sussex Railway



No. 32678 and a Birdcage Brake Coach at Tenterden Town recreating past scenes from the early 1950s on rural branch lines.

By PeterSkuce - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=56669410> - ©

LSBCR Stroudly Terrier 32678

Built: Brighton in 1880

Original No.: 78

Original Named: "Knowle"

Entered Service on 23rd July 1880.

Passed to Southern Railway on Amalgamation in 1923 having covered nearly 1,000,000 miles! In early 1930's was transferred to the Isle of Wight, fitted with an extended bunker and was renamed and re-numbered as 14 "Bembridge". Returned to the mainland in 1936, it was reboilered, renumbered 2678 and served Hayling Island until 1940. Lent to the Kent & East Sussex Railway ([K&ESR](#)) and shared the last passenger train on that railway in 1954. Returned to the Hayling Island service from 1958 to 1961 (now renumbered 32678) and then worked at Newhaven Harbour before withdrawal in 1963. Preservation followed, initially with Butlins at Minehead in the company of Stanier Pacific 46229 Duchess of Hamilton!

Now owned by [The Terrier Trust](#) and in service on the [K&ESR](#)

A Vintage Scene from the Kent & East Sussex Railway



Coach 1: This carriage was built at Ashford Works in December 1910. Built to Restriction '0' gauge which enabled it to be used on the Hastings line. It formed part of a three carriage set of coaches numbered 113 by the Southern Railway. Sold to the Longmoor Military Railway in 1943 and remained in use until closure in 1970. Delivered by rail to Robertsbridge in September 1970. As built, it seated 7 second class and 48 third class passengers. Painted in BR Crimson as S3368S for a few years, now painted in an SE&CR lined livery.
Helmut Zozmann / Tenterden - 2015 ©

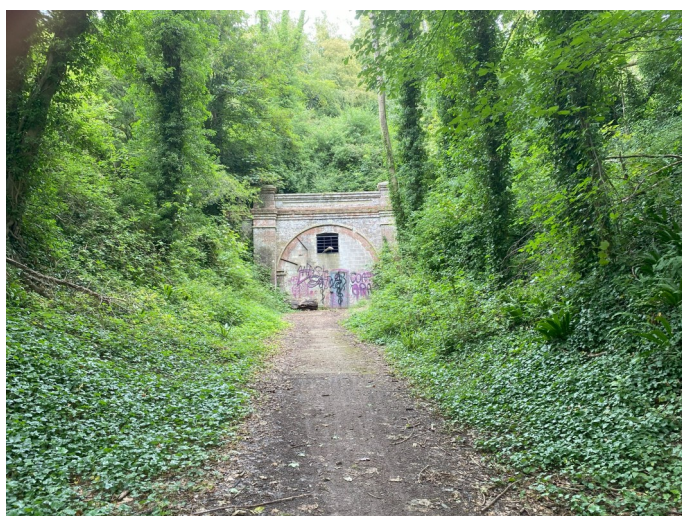


Coach 2: Built in 1892 by Cravens for the Metropolitan Railway. Sold to the **Weston, Clevedon and Portishead Light Railway** (WC&PLR) by 1907 as WC&PLR No.12. Sold in 1940 after the closure of the WC&PLR as a body. Restored by September, 2011. Took part in Metropolitan Railway's 150 anniversary in January 2013.

Image by: Bradley Wurth, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons ©

West Dean Tunnel and Victoria sponges by Alan Wallbank ©

A few weeks ago I completed my latest film titled 'Flamboyance in the countryside'. It covers the history of Lavant Railway Station with contributions from local resident Tony Bleach and Alan Green who correctly identified my negative of Midhurst Station. While making the film, a friend mentioned the tunnel at the end of the Centurion Way so we drove to West Dean and parked the car alongside the Selsey Pub. The CW is only a short walk west and after a few photos at the tunnel we returned to the car.



About 100 yards further down the road is the village store and tea room where we decided to have a snack before returning home. As we stepped inside I spied a lovely reasonably priced Victoria sponge that was duly purchased after which we had tea and cakes in a very pleasant setting that has seating inside and out. Back home, the very tasty sponge was consumed within a week, so I rang the store requesting another one and was told that they arrived on Friday mornings about 11.00 and they would put one by for me. Rather than drive there, I caught the train from Havant to Chichester and then the half hourly Midhurst bus to Lavant as I decided to walk the C Way to West Dean. I have to admit that I don't have the stamina to walk even a mile, so it was with some trepidation I set off for the 2 ½ mile trek along the old railway line.



The Centurion Way from Chichester ends at Lavant Station, but Alan Green said to walk through the housing estate and pick up the trail on

West Dean Tunnel and Victoria sponges continued...

the other side. After about seven minutes the road veered to the left, but I noticed a Southern Water van drive along a lane on the far right. Could this be the resumption of the trail or a private road? The only indication that it might be the trail was an arrow pointing right with a bicycle symbol on a lamp post.

I set forth to follow the van where another bicycle symbol appeared at the entrance to a hard surfaced track. I continued on and met some workmen who confirmed it was the CW. After the first mile on the continuous rising gradient, I came across an ivy covered overbridge and an information board about the CW, the first confirmation of the trail since I left Lavant Station. There is also a sign post here indicating that it is 1 ½ miles west to West Dean and the same distance north!? Thankfully, it wasn't a sunny day as by now I didn't feel that I wanted to walk any further as the gradient was taking its toll as the legs were weak, although the heart was fine. Further on, the trail circumnavigates buildings erected on the old track bed by a local farmer after which the path levels out making the going much easier, but it doesn't last long as it soon rises again. Near the end the main A286 comes into view from the left and I



was soon passing under the road itself. Knowing I am near the end makes me weary again, but I'm soon leaving the trail and heading for

the tea room. Another snack, and with the Victoria sponge in a carrier bag, I make my way back to the crossroads for the bus to Chichester. Next time I would like to walk from Lavant to Chichester if the legs are willing.

Q: Does anyone know what the line speed was between Fishbourne Crossing and Midhurst? Also, I am now making a film about the Meon Valley Railway and ask this same line speed question and other speeds on that route.