

Amerton News – August 2010

John Strike

Permanent Way

Some maintenance works will be required on the track as we were unable to carry out any over the winter period. The two new turnouts are stored on flat wagons in the Amerton Loop have been moved up to Stump Siding.

Locomotives

Isabel has run in service sadly without her boiler cladding but is generally running well. There are still one or two fizzing rivets? The fusible plug was found to be weeping one morning and so she was failed, this has since been replaced. Both of her clacks also stuck open at the end of a day's steaming (very rare) and despite the best efforts to re-seat them, they remained stubbornly open. On another occasion following some very poor steaming on *Jennie* as well, the tubes were swept but the brush got well and truly stuck and had to be left there and cut off at the smoke box end! It was retrieved and repaired when the loco was cold. The coal from Stafford has arrived and is mainly slack but when mixed with our regular coal is acceptable.



The new entrance gate prior to final installation

Malcolm Garner



Paddy crosses the main road on the return to Maldegem Station in Belgium

Ted McAvoy

Lorna Doone has been completely stripped and the boiler dispatched to Statfold for assessment and necessary repairs. The frames have been turned upside down and work progresses on the axleboxes and horns amongst other front end work. The boiler actually required very little work after a full inspection and has received some weld repairs to the front tubeplate and a new set of tubes. The boiler was due to be hydraulic and steam tested in June, prior to delivery back to Amerton.

The Henschel, not much to report, but work has continued with the cab spectacles off site.

Paddy has been flying the Amerton flag at a number of other Railways in recent months including Beamish, Statfold, Belgium and more recently the Ffestiniog Railway. Here *Paddy* has able to haul passenger trains on their hallowed mainline across the Cob in company with other Quirks and Curiosities! A new and very characterful cab roof has been fitted giving protection to the crew and the legend 'British Steam Piling Co.' emblazoned on the tender sides. *Paddy* returned to Amerton in June for our Gala.



Paddy (now with canopy) sits on the pit road outside Boston Lodge in typical soft Welsh weather at the conclusion of its first run on FR metals; Roger and Dave look on.....Paddy certainly looks at home in the splendid Victorian surroundings
Ted McAvoy

No. 1 remains in store with the frames in the running shed and rest in the works.

Jennie, was returned to Stafford where repairs were carried out to the fireman's side return crank, returning to Amerton on 22nd March 2010. Some steaming issues were experienced at the start of the season, but this was simply down to soot-clogged tubes and was soon rectified. The mechanical pump was removed and received some attention together with some realignment of the driver's side slide bar, she re-entered service in June. *Jennie* too has represented Amerton with visits to Wicksteed and Leighton Buzzard in July, full details next time.

Minworth Motor Rail 746 remains in full working order and available as required.

Motor Rail 7471 remains in full working and has seen some use on works trains, having taken up residence in the works for a spell.

Baguley *Dreadnought* sees occasional use on our Saturday services and is as popular with our younger visitors as ever.

Ruston Yd No. 70, no further work to report.

The Hunslet *Gordon* has benefited from a thorough clean, and is looking very smart once again, it continues to be the mainstay of the Saturday and mid week services.

The Littleton Ruston sees regular use as works shunter and is running well.

Baguley *Golspie* has been moved from the back of the carriage shed and has taken up residence in the running shed.

Jung 5869 remains stored in the running shed.

Deutz 19531 has been partially dismantled with head and piston removed for attention.

Carriage and Wagon

The carriage fleet received a good clean from the usual gang and looks very smart once again. The Highland Coach 5 required some attention to a split air hose and other remedials to the air installation below the floor.



The carriage cleaning gang were also in action, the results always worth the effort *Malcolm Garner*

Plant and Equipment

The Archdale Mill has been successfully reassembled with the new parts and is now back in use. The forklift passed its annual test and sees quite a lot of use in and around the works. A parts washer has been obtained and set up near the machine shop.

S & T

The dolly signal in the Amerton Station Loop has been removed for attention and the McKenzie and Holland Signal has received a partial repaint with just the finial to complete.

Building and Civil Engineering

A set of handrails and a safe loading bay have been set up on the mezzanine area for the storage of various loco parts. The mopstick handrail has been installed to the main stairs in the workshop and a computer and printer set up in the office area for record keeping. The mezzanine area has also been generally tidied up. Another handrail also protects the gap on the mezzanine where the rear roller shutter passes the floor. A new gate has been erected at the end/beginning of our driveway near the main car park and is much more noticeable and railway-like to the passing public. The platform edging has now been repainted and various new notice boards erected around the station building and shelter. The shelter itself has had the valence repainted and replaced and the fixed bench touched up where necessary. The yard around the carriage shed entrance has also been partially stoned up and a little more material will be required to complete the job. In the works new racking has been erected to store the various components of *Lorna Doone* and a further tidy up completed.

Amerton Railway Summer Steam Gala June 2010



The customary loco line up Peter Pan, Jennie, Max, Paddy and Isabel

Malcolm Garner



O&K Max waits patiently at the head of the goods train

Malcolm Garner



O&K Max passes a bit of welcome colour as it heads away towards Two Trees

Malcolm Garner



Paddy and Peter Pan double head into Amerton Station

Malcolm Garner