

Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway – Sunday 4th August 2019

Nineteen members assembled at the entrance to the Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway which is located in open countryside a few miles from Sittingbourne. This narrow-gauge railway is privately owned and opens to the public on the first Sunday of each month from March to September.

The weather was perfect and our visit coincided with a classic car and vehicle display which encouraged three of our members to travel in their own classic cars and to enter them in the display.

Once together we were given an introduction to the site by Mr Bill Best, the owner and co-founder of the railway. We started alongside a 100 year-old traction engine in pristine condition which was being lovingly cleaned and readied for firing by its owner. Our tour then took us into the locomotive shed where a number of narrow-gauge steam and diesel locomotives were stored; those being used for passenger duties having left the shed earlier. Bill gave us some amusing anecdotes relating to his procurement of the locos from various sources around the world.

He had purchased the site some 43 years ago and encouraged by his brother, bought a narrow gauge diesel loco which then led to laying track and gradually developing a working railway. The railway runs through beautiful woodland and is operated and maintained by an army of enthusiastic volunteers.

We then passed through a static display of small locos, a complex O-gauge model railway, a working beam engine obtained from a waterworks near Ashford and ended with a walk through the railway workshop.

Thanks were then given to Bill for his interesting and amusing guide to the railway following which we were all free to travel on the trains for as long as we wished and to inspect the classic cars on display in the adjoining field.

The visit was made all the more enjoyable by the café which provided an excellent supply of bacon rolls and cakes.



Introduction



Traction engine



Locomotive shed



Classic vehicles



HTW members enjoying the ride



Light Railway engine and carriages