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Velocipede

**And other Hand
Powered Railway
Vehicles**

Newsletter Spring 2013 Number 21

The 13th National Velocipede Rally
Saturday & Sunday 29th & 30th June 2013
Froghall Station Churnet Valley Railway
Staffs ST10 2HA
For this free email newsletter, contact
Editor: jackiethomas002@hotmail.co.uk
Or download from: www.velocipedes.co.uk

Happiness is a Good Rally



As every person in this picture taken by Trevor Catterson Shows.

Terrific Photo of the Yorkshire Rally and a possible Winner of the Best Rally Photo Trophy next year, but you can all send entries in to jackiethomas002@hotmail.co.uk

We have a date for John Jollys Rally in Essex which is open to all machines, not just Pump Cars, on **Saturday 7th September 2013.** Making the **third** Hand Power Rally in the UK.



*Best Rally Photo Trophy
Before it was plated to look posh*

The 13th National Velocipede Rally,

You are invited to attend the

World's Oldest, Biggest and Best Hand Powered Rail Rally,

it will be on Saturday & Sunday 29th & 30th June 2013 at Froghall Station **ST10 2HA** on the



We expect **20 plus** machines including Velocipedes, Track Bikes, Velorails, A Row Boat, Draisine, Walking Car, and the Infamous "I" Cycle.

This is a weekend for machine owners and carers to meet like minded friends and play with machines. You come at your own risk and look at the track and the arrangements and if you don't like either you don't have to play. You

are responsible for your own safety at all times

On Saturday afternoon at Froghall between the trains, you will be able to see run throughs and chat to the machine owners, who have some wonderful stories to tell of tracking down and restoring their machines.

Saturday evening when the steam service finishes, We will have the

First "Twilight Run"

for hand powered machines on a Heritage Line, from Froghall, through Consall and onto Cheddleton, then back again. Leaving after the modern machines, 100 year old machines and owners can do Consall and back.

A magnificent photo opportunity to bring the best kept secret of railway history to life.

Followed in Froghall Refreshment rooms by a **Pie and Mash Supper** with a slice of Cake and Tea or Coffee at £10 per head, (to book you must contact:

jackiethomas002@hotmail.co.uk)

There will also be local **Real Ale** on sale.

There will be a short talk by Mark Egerton on the design and build of the most modern machines including Judith's machine at its first rally.

There will be a DVD film show during the evening with a Hand Powered Railway Theme and the Great Railway **"Hand Power in the Movies"** Quiz. The **"Moving Picture"** Trophy will be awarded to a knowledgeable film buff. This will be the easiest year to win the Trophy. **From next year, to win, you will have to make a short DVD film to be shown and judged.**

On Sunday The famous **Oakamoor Dash** will take place to wake up the Participants, you will again be able to see run throughs and chat to the owners during the day, there will be more time to look over the machines.

You can seek advice on **building your own**. Seven machines attending

have been **built from scratch** by their owners and several are restored old machines.

The new **Safety Procedure** we have written will be tried out for the first time.

Many thanks to all the contributors and checkers. When it has been improved by use and experience it will be **freely available** to any Heritage Railway that wants it to run a Rally.

Run throughs at Froghall

11.23 run throughs to 12.00

12.48 run throughs to 1.20

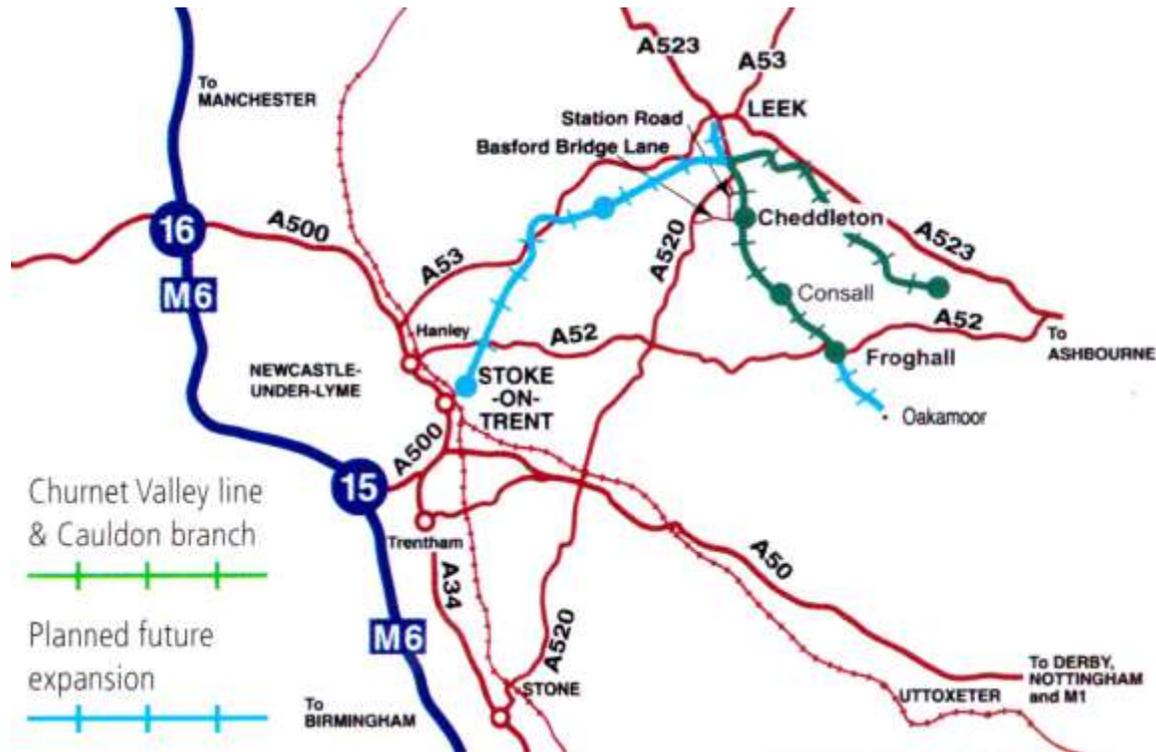
2.13 run throughs to 2.45

3.38 run throughs to 4.10

If you are bringing a machine please let us know as soon as you can so I can organise free Churnet Valley Railway train tickets and tea vouchers. Do come to our first Twilight Run, evening meal and social, it should be fun after the exertions. Bookings:

jackiethomas002@hotmail.co.uk

Or phone 01785 816810 or post at 48 Redwood Avenue, Stone, Staffs. ST15 0DB



Rally Accomodation

Google **LEEK Tourist Information Centre** 01538 483741 (between 9.30 and 5).
Or try The Churnet Valley Railway office on 01538 750755 between 10 and 3 weekdays (they have an accommodation information pack).

Steam Days in 2013

www.statfoldbarnrailway.co.uk

1st June

We could not get there through the snow on 23rd March

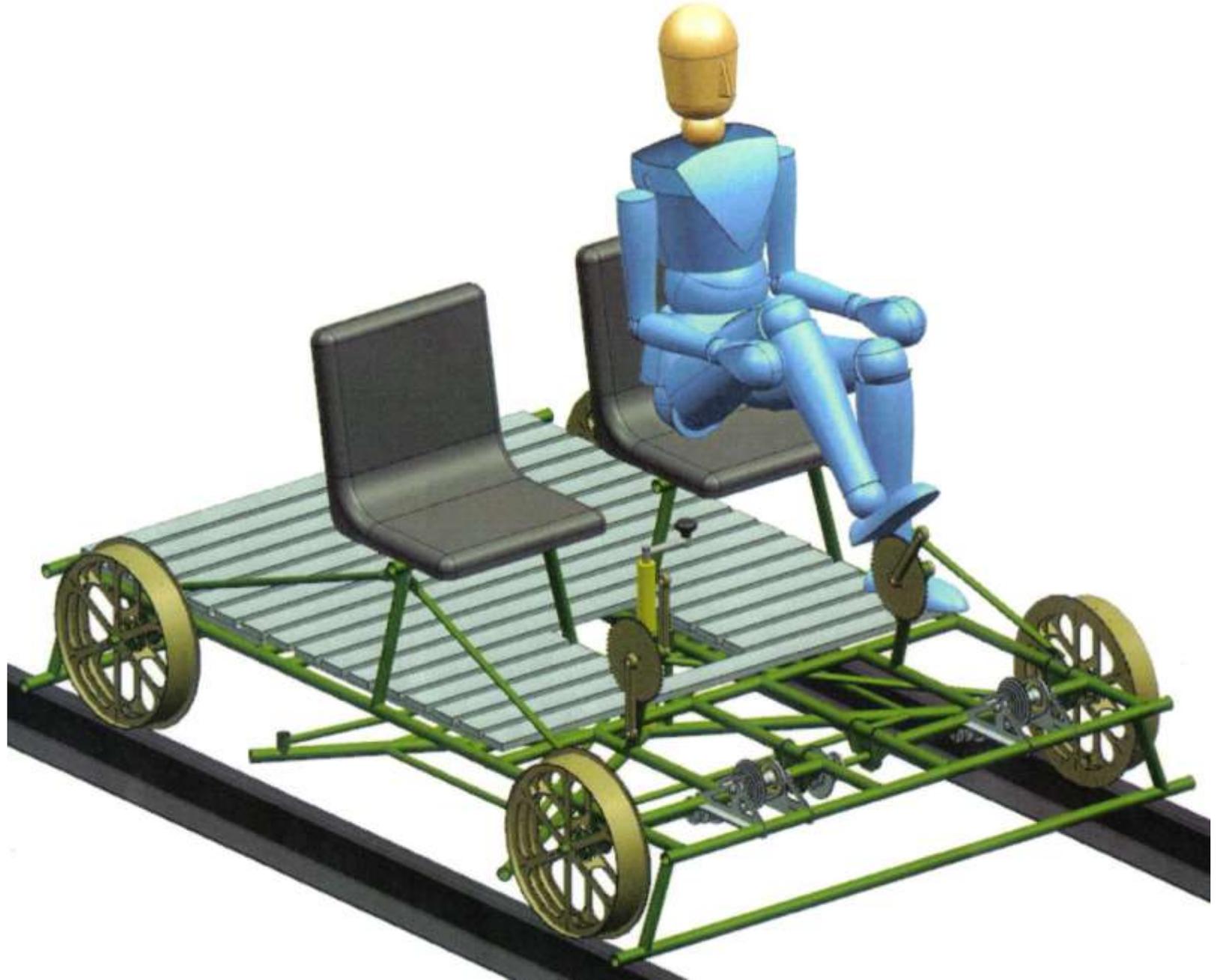
Another Steam Day on 14th September

Go to their Website, make the donation to charity for a ticket and come along.

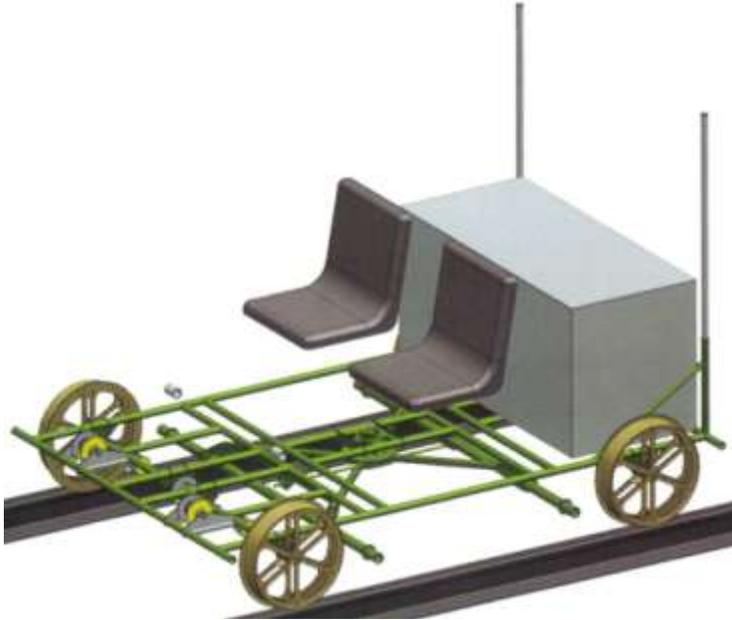
We always have machines there Jacqui & Kevin

The World's Newest Velorail built by Mark Egerton

Mark will give a short talk at the Saturday evening Social at the Rally, on the design and building of the most modern Velorail machines



These drawings show the evolution of Marks design for Judith, the Official Handover of the Machine will take place at the Rally.



Mark says “If any of my machines were to inspire someone to build a machine I would be very pleased, after all the machines that which were already made inspired me to build mine! and I would always be happy to give any advice that I may be able to, and build machines or parts if people wanted”.

OR Look at these photos below off the internet and get inspired to build your own machine using our “**DISC**” wheels. Go to www.velocipedes.co.uk **Build Your own Machine** and **Click on Track Bike**

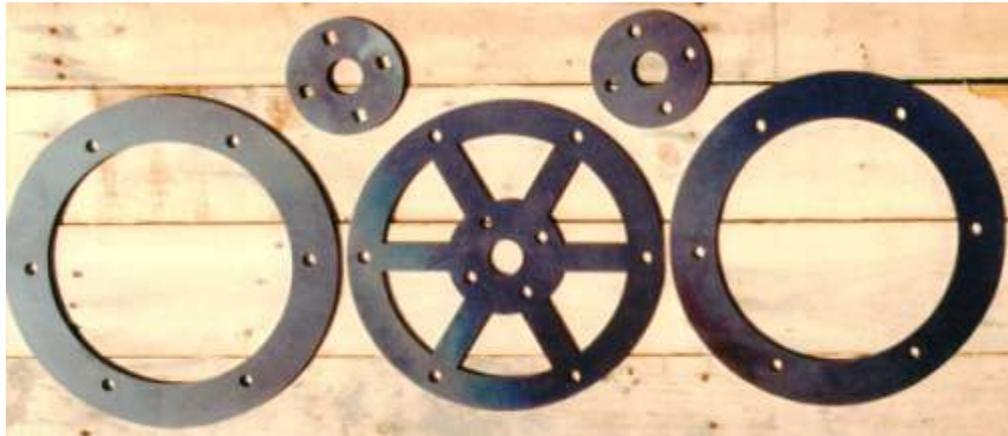
Get Building

We can snail mail you the **AutoCAD code FREE** on a computer disk to have wheel parts laser cut locally for a 3 wheel double flange machine (will only go through points one way, you have to hop off and push it through). **A good first machine for about £200.**

(We are still working on the conventionally single flanged 4 wheel machine, that will go through points. We will email out a Newsletter Special edition as soon as the design is ready.)



Trevor Catterson's beautiful wheels for a 3 wheeler (from the Auto CAD code), with studding (threaded rod), tube spacers and nuts on the end. The only welding on the wheel is the center boss (with square holes) to the axle.



Parts of a lasered small outrigger wheel, there is no spoke welding on these wheels (from the Auto CAD code).

The wheels are usually the most expensive part of a project, if you can find any. These are about £50 or less each to have lasered locally.

3 wheel 3 seaters off the internet follow (both need a trailer to shift them).



Below 4 wheel conventionally flanged machine off the internet, to go through points (needs a trailer to shift it).



Or talk to Roger Fuller about Making rail wheels out of scrap road wheel centres, he is the expert. Join Roger on Facebook, Railbike UK, Community page



One of Rogers wheels.



Or resort to woodwork

Like John Eineigli of Kirkland in Washington State in the USA.



Or this New Zealand Machine

Come to the Rally and chose a style like this

Green and Red 3 wheel Folding trackbike in the Estonian Railway Museum at Haapsalu, you could pop a copy in the back of the car or up on the roof rack.

Wickham Rally 2013

“Platelayers Gala”

WickhamofWare@yahoo.com

Hi Folks,

I'm the Events Coordinator for the **Mid-Suffolk Light Railway** and I am

arranging a **Gala for Wickhams**. We have one at the railway together with a trailer, and it would be good to see it in action with many others. We have a short standard gauge track of just under half mile on an incline. We do run steam trains and have a diesel shunter.

We now have set aside the **week-end of**

28 and 29 September 2013

when other attractions will include Historical Machinery and a Ransomes shunting tractor giving demonstrations with our Engineers Wagon. We will also demonstrate getting our Wickham on and off the track by using the 'skis' and turntable.

It would be really good to see some of you there with your Wickhams Please get in touch.

Location is Brockford Station at Wetheringsett, Stowmarket

IP14 5PW

Thanks for reading, Regards to all, Barry.

www.mslr.org.uk

**Remember the Yorkshire
Rally in November**

Mangapps Railway Museum

Hand Power Rally

“Open to any man (or woman) powered vehicle”

John Jolly in Essex is holding the event on

Sun. 8th September 2013

www.mangapps.co.uk

Tel 01621 784898

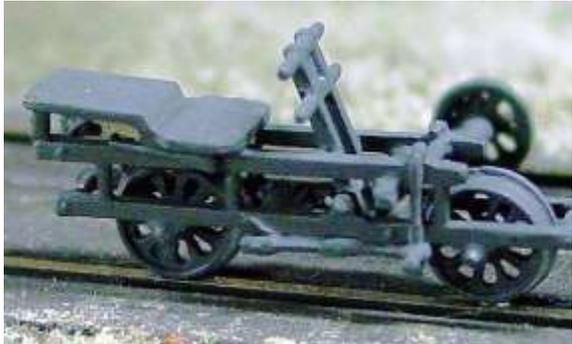
From Jonathon Flood

www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk had a Pump Trolley Marathon in February to raise money for a repairing a land slip.



The trolley being used, is this one which we are convinced is a Wickham Steel Framed Pump Trolley. Spa Valley is from Eridge to Tumbridge Wells in Kent.

**A velocipede for
\$9.89**



In HO_{n3} by Sequoia Models in the USA

Last summer was a bit wet



Google Bentley RAILBIKE – railbikes & railbiking

You Tube For Us in the USA

Railroad Bike by Kyle Holdridge

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aE6gM-qjtTU>
(Would invite him to the Rallies if he lived closer).

Rail Biking Spring 2010 by prothdc

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl9EfFrguQs>
(Wow, he needs Rallies to go to)

Worlds Fastest Rail Bike by Bike Hal Levine

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8WHnzkaZfw>
(I assume he is joking)

Railbike by billdreamwhip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqzAv0wc09o>
(A tandem, we haven't got one of those in the UK)

Bob Palmer
has found a new Track Bike

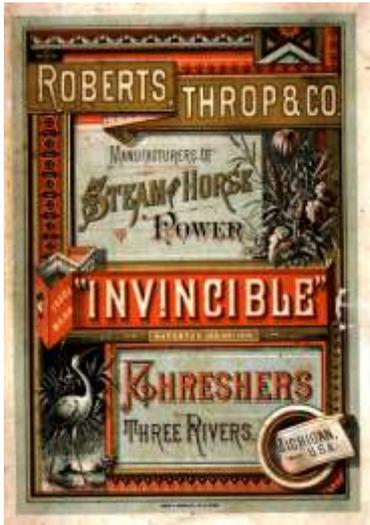


Looks like 7 ¼ inch gauge pedal power, on very beautiful pressed steel sleeper Jubilee Track.

Well worth visiting
www.railroadhandcar.com

Roberts, Throp & Co.

Roberts, Throp & Co. of Three Rivers Michigan, were normally Agricultural Engineers and made the very successful "Invincible" Brand Threshers and some rail equipment.



American Switch Lamp

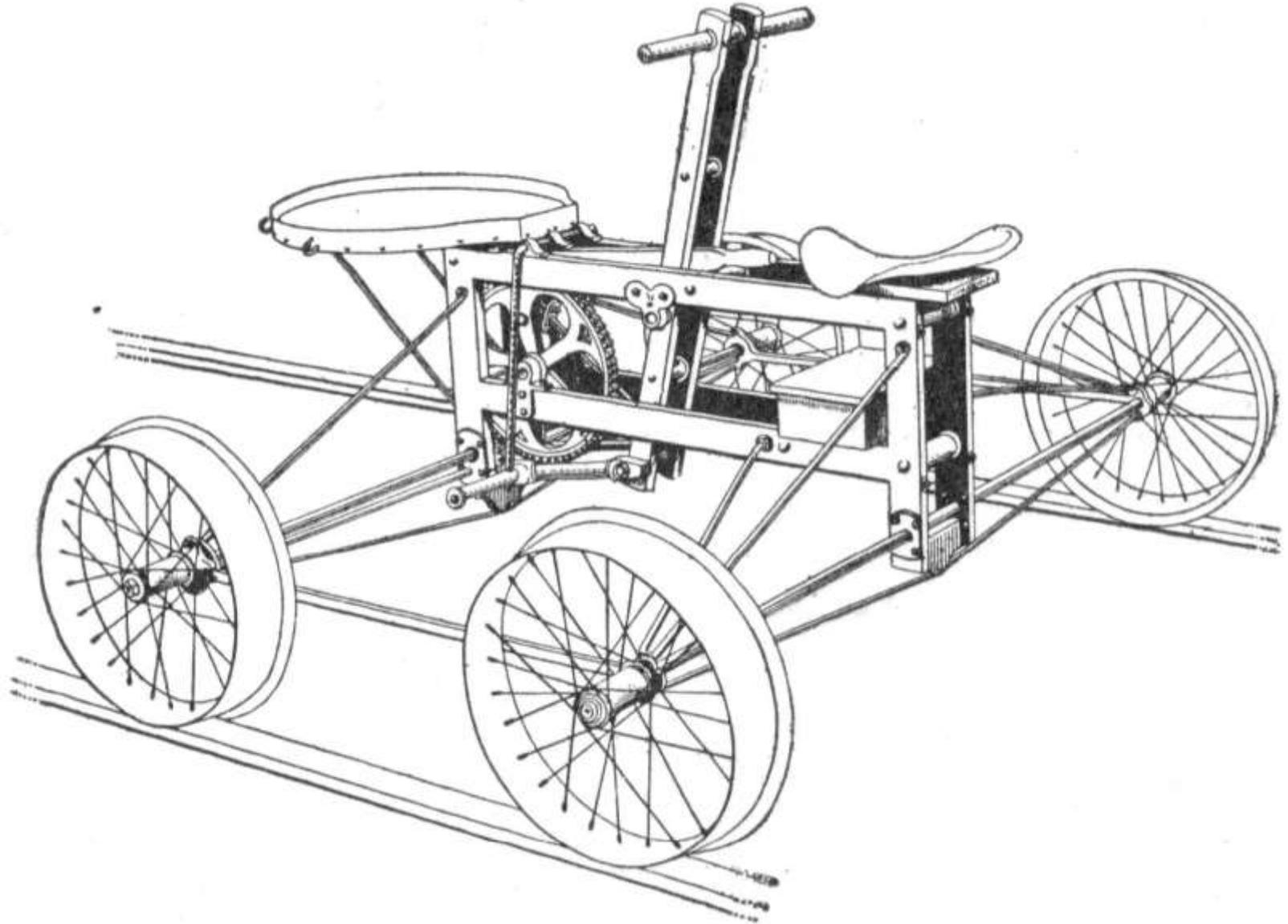


Fig. 143.- Roberts, Throp & Co. Velocipede with Switch -lamp Attachment

Low Clearance Velocipede

James West is a director of the Deeside Railway
www.deeside-railway.co.uk the home railway for his machine.
The machine is an unusual “low clearance” one, they were for railway tunnelling use, mine railways were usually narrow gauge.



James and his machine at Deeside.

You Tube link to a good film of

Velocipede Onboard Camera – Beamish Colliery Railway

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRAMk5oZJVw>

Low Clearance Row Boat

Sheffield did a 4 wheel, narrow gauge “No. 12 Mine Velocipede” with low clearance



Photo by Mark Hambly

Sheffield No 12 at the Luciana Mine

<http://cdm16079.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15330coll22/id/36846>

Sheffield No12 Electrified

<http://cdm16079.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15330coll22/id/38806>

Sheffield No12 handcar inside mine

<http://cdm16079.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15330coll22/id/37942>



New Blood

By Jacqui Thomas

Where do we find NEW builders of historic machines or modern ones

I don't have any problem looking at a photo or a woodcut and reverse engineering a machine from it but it has dawned on me that for the 21st Century I have a 19th Century attitude and skill set.

I am a rural Colonial from a past where daughters and widows had to muck in and build, machine, mechanic, weld, because no one else was going to do it.

The kind of builder skill sets we need are now rare in the general population but in abundance in one group.

The Model Engineers

Many have Railway Interests and if we approach them correctly we may spark it. We can easily hit the button

I
could
do that

I want
to do
that

But making them hit the "I want to do that button" is the challenge.

Compared to building a 5 inch live steam model, full size hand power is simple, cheap and quick.

What we have to offer is access to several well organised runs on Heritage Railways each year with friendly people who have similar interests (we have them both and will have more).

We will have to appear at

Model Engineering Shows

and take a portable full-size outdoor test track with one of Mark Egerton's state of the art machines and a historic Velocipede they can have a go on.

We need a display stand to go inside the Exhibition where we can whet their appetite with a 7 1/4" gauge machine sitting above a full size one.

Screens to play DVDs of Rallies and a slide show of pages from the Website.

We have to chat and give them build disks with drawings and the Free AutoCAD code for laser cutting. We have to be an uncomplicated, cheap, fun option where you get a big popular toy for your money.

We also need to get a build series in the **Model Engineer** or **Engineering in Miniature**.

