



A number of museum and tourist railways are celebrating an anniversary this year, such as the Gulbene-Aluksne narrow-gauge railway BANITIS (see also page 5), photo: Andris Biedrins

MARK NOVEMBER MEETING IN FRANKFURT/MAIN

Please put in your diary: **FRANKFURT, November 3rd, 4th and 5th 2023.**

It is the weekend for the autumn meeting of the members of FEDECRAIL with the board and officers and Frankfurt/Main (Germany) will be the place. Easy to travel to and from by rail (!), air and road.

In my Update 56 Column about the 2023 Krems AGM, on page 1, I ended as follows:

If we have a wish for future meetings with the members, then we would be very happy to meet more new generation board members of the FEDECRAIL members, to discuss and develop future policies.

Discussing this wish in the light of the coming Frankfurt meeting, on which of course all members of FEDECRAIL are most welcome, the board decided to invite especially the chairmen of those FEDECRAIL members, who are chairing the national Umbrella organizations and who as member of FEDECRAIL represent a greater part of those organizations who are united under the FEDECRAIL Flag.

A part of this weekend in Frankfurt we will organize a chairmen's meeting, to discuss the wishes living inside the members and to have a look how some ideas in the board of FEDECRAIL can be fit into improvements of using FEDECRAIL as a facilitating activity platform by the members.

I see this Frankfurt meeting as an important moment of discussion in preparation of the AGM 2024 planned in the first weekend in May. The ideas discussed in Frankfurt and further developed afterwards by members and the FEDECRAIL board and officers as formal proposition papers, should become decisive papers, in which the route for the future – already put as mainstream, in the strategic plan 2023 – 2028 – will be

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worked out as practical cases to improve the results of our activities in the future for you, the members of FEDECRAIL.

The details for the whole three days program will be presented to the members as soon as possible and will include activities like a HOG meeting and where possible we will organize a visit of a nearby member of VDMT and so be connected to all of us in FEDECRAIL.

So don't forget to put in your diary: **FRANKFURT, November 3rd, 4th and 5th 2023.**

See you all over there!!

Jaap Nieweg
President of FEDECRAIL

UPDATE No. 57

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EUROPA NOSTRA:

7 Most Endangered — Deadline for List 2024: Friday 15 September 2023

Europa Nostra have now opened the doors for submission of nominations for the 2024 list. If you are aware of any threatened significant railway heritage location - whether a complete railway or just a building, bridge or other engineering structure, you may wish to consider making a nomination. Please do inform Fedecrail if you plan to take forward a possible application as we may be able to assist. Full details of the criteria and process can be found on the specialist 7ME website:

<https://www.europanostra.org/7-most-endangered-programme-2024-call-for-nominations-is-open/>

A tribute to the success of the 7ME programme was the return to full operation last year of the Achenseebahn which now has a secure future following inclusion in the 2021 list. As reported in our June *Update*, railways returned to the 2023 list with inclusion of the threatened Kortrijk Station building. Lobbying continues to try to secure a change of policy and to retain the existing structure. The deadline for applications for the 2024 list is **Friday 15.09**

***Peter Ovenstone - Co-Secretary,
EN Industrial & Engineering Heritage Committee***

WORKING INDUSTRIAL & MOBILE HERITAGE (WIMH):

New Partner — Survey Fuels — International Conference

A new partner has recently joined our WIMH Working Group - the European Federation of Light, Experimental and Vintage Aircraft, giving us for the first time input from the aviation heritage sector. EFLEVA represents national aviation associations from throughout Europe and the restorers and operators of historic heritage aircraft. For more details see: www.efleva.eu

The WIMH Group awareness raising activities with the European Parliament and official agencies are largely suspended during the parliamentary recess

and holiday period, but are planned to resume at the end of this month. In June our WIMH colleagues, European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) started the delayed survey of fossil fuel needs for industrial heritage sites and museums throughout Europe. We hope that this survey will eventually yield more valuable data about our future supply needs. As always, the more data we can gather from all parts of our sector the better!

Planning is well advanced for a major international two day conference at Katowice, Poland on Thu 16.11 - Fri 17.11 *Industrial Heritage in the Heart of Green Europe*, hosted by Poland's National Heritage Institute in collaboration with the EN Industrial & Engineering Heritage Committee and other sector bodies. The programme will include a panel discussion session on fossil fuel preservation and supply issues and again we hope will be a useful opportunity to raise awareness and support. Any Fedecrail members who might be interested in attending this conference should contact Peter Ovenstone to register your interest:

ovenstone@fedecrail.org Tel: + 44 7783 238108

Full details and booking information will then be sent to you once arrangements are finally confirmed.

***Peter Ovenstone,
WIMH Working Group Secretary***



Industriële Smalspoor Museum:

Two narrow gauge locomotives — Who knows more about Comessa?

In April / May 2023 a collector of first world war artifacts offered to sell the 'Industriële Smalspoor Museum' in the Netherlands two narrow gauge (600 mm) locomotives and some wagons from

Belgium. The locomotives are an Orenstein & Kopp, Type LD 2 and a Comessa, built by Comess Productions Mécaniques Schiltigheim-Strasbourg S.A.

The Comessa is based on the design of the Diema B10 which were fitted with a Junkers HK65 opposed piston engine. However this Comessa has an engine by CLM which was built under licence from Junkers. Whilst Comessa is based on the Diema B10, Comess made some changes and so some dimensions are different. The museum's research shows that Comess imported 44 Diema locomotives between January 1929 and February 1932 and that they started their own locomotive production on or after 1935 and that they also built models based on Gmeinder.

If anyone knows more about Comessa in general or about the Comessa above it would be very grateful if they would contact Toon Steenmeyer by email toon.steenmeyer@gmail.com

Industrieel Smalspoor Museum

Chemin de Fer à Vapeur des trois Vallées:

50th Anniversary of CFV3V

Several (continental) European heritage railways and tramways have been founded at the beginning of the 1970's and have recently celebrated or are now approaching their 50th birthday ! This is also the case in Belgium, where the CFV3V (Chemin de Fer à Vapeur des trois Vallées) will be organizing a "50th Anniversary Steam Festival" from 22nd until 24th September 2023. It is hoped that 10 steam locomotives will be in steam and heading trains on the scenic railway line between Mariembourg and Treignes during these 3 days, including 4 visiting locomotives from Luxembourg (AMTF Train 1900), France (Train Thur Doller), the Netherlands (Hoogovens Stoom Ijmuiden) and Switzerland (Vapeur Val-de-Travers). More information about the event can be found on <https://site.cfv3v.eu/site/> and <https://www.febelrail.be/news/2023/MCFV-2023-09-Festival-Vapeur-V2B-01C.png>

Joseph Van Olmen / Febelrail



SA01 (Anglo-Franco-Belge, 1945) and AD05 (Tubize, 1926) at Mariembourg. Photo: CFV3V

Leighton Buzzard Railway:

On the 220th Birthday of Sir Paxton

The Leighton Buzzard Railway celebrated the 220th birthday of Sir Joseph Paxton on Thursday 3 August – a polymath whose talents as botanist, gardener, organizer of men, garden designer, parks designer, architect, and engineer. His design of the Great Exhibition Building in Hyde Park London – affectionately known as the ‘Crystal Palace’ – was built in less than twelve months. An extraordinary talent especially in the use of glass. Sand from the Leighton Buzzard quarries, some 400 tonnes – was used by Glass makers Chance Brothers of Smethwick. The name became associated with a football team, two railway stations, and a district of South London.

His design for an exhibition building in Paris was never built; the 1850’s being a somewhat turbulent time in the French capital.

Tony Tomkins, VP LBLR/LBRM

Joe Horsley deceased

It is with great sadness that Leighton Buzzard Railway announces the passing of Joe Horsley (born 1953) following a short illness.

Joe became a member of Leighton Buzzard Nar-

row Gauge Railway Society in early 1974 and was Publicity Officer from late 1977. In May 1984 he became General Manager, a volunteer role he held for almost 40 years. During that time, as well as taking responsibility for the safety and overall operation of the Railway, Joe did rostered turns as Duty Operations Manager and Guard. In addition on most Mondays he would be out with the Permanent Way gang. A remarkable demonstration of commitment to our Railway.

Joe was a railway professional with a background including periods with Network Rail and South West Trains. He then became a management consultant providing expert advice to various railway operators. His knowledge and wise counsel will be missed by everyone at Leighton Buzzard Railway and we have passed on our sympathies to his wife, Caroline, and their family.

David Wood, Chair, Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway Society

BANITIS:

120 Years of Gulbene-Aluksne Narrow-gauge Railway

Anniversary in Latvia

The most popular heritage railway and tourist attraction in Baltic countries – Gulbene-Aluksne Narrow Gauge Railway or BANITIS celebrate 120th

anniversary since opening this railway line. The celebration will take place on 1-2 September 2023 including BANITIS Festival followed by the international conference under the title “Preservation, revitalization and cultural tourism of the railway’s industrial heritage in the context of regional development.” Organizers of the event are Gulbene and Aluksne regional Councils as



Photo: Andris Biedrins

well as heritage railway operating company “Gulbenes-Alūksnes Bānītis” Ltd.

The celebrations are due to be attended by the Minister of Transport and other representatives of Latvian government as well as by delegates from Great Britain and elsewhere, including the President-Emeritus of Fedecrail Mr. David Morgan.

It should mention the history of the Gulbene-Aluksne Narrow Gauge Railway (GAR) goes back to turn 19/20th centuries when Vidzeme Branch Line Company (Liflandskoje obschestvo Podjeznieh putej) constructed the Stukmani-Gulbene-Aluksne -Valka railway line which was opened for passenger/freight traffic in 1903. In course of time railway line became shorter – from 210 km to 33 km since 1973.

This heritage railway located in Northeastern part of Latvia is the last operational narrow-gauge line in Baltic countries and is operating by a consortium of local authorities and railway enthusiasts since 2002. This heritage railway having been developed using British expertise as a tourist attraction based on preserved railways in the United Kingdom as well as with assistance from FEDECRAIL.

The small railway with regular passenger traffic between two district centers has become a much-loved tourist destination, attracting visitors on account of its historical rolling-stock, including Gr-319 steam engine, and infrastructure, as well as its heritage value and frequent entertainment activities. Visitors can enjoy the Special Events – Annual Narrow Gauge Railway Festival on the first Saturday of September, as well as Saint Martin’s Day, Christmas, and Easter trips on the board of narrow gauge train. www.banitis.lv **Andris Biedrins**



APHTRO Conference and Excursion

APHTRO, the Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation, is now resuming its annual conferences in conjunction with an excursion programme after the Corona pandemic. The conference will be held online on 16 and 17 December 2023, and the excursions will be to Indonesia from 18 to 24 November. Various railway museums and museum railways will be visited.

<http://www.aphtro.info>

A Questionnaire on ECM

The European Union Agency for Railways (formally known as ERA) is required to report to the EU Commission on the progress of certification of implementing entities in charge of maintenance (ECM). They have set up a questionnaire to assess progress which can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ECM_evaluation.

All users of railway infrastructure please do fill in the questionnaire and send it to the agency by 15th September 2023.

Ian Leigh,
Secretary of Heritage Operations Group

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UPDATE Nr. 58 will be published in the end of October 2023

Deadline for textes and photos is October 8th

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