



## It works! Nick Harper driving the Eimco 401 on its first run at Lea Bailey

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the November 2016 Newsletter is the 31st October 2016.

Submissions are welcome that would be of interest to members of the LBLRS. These can be forwarded to me as text/disc by post or you can email or telephone. If you require anything returning please ask. Photographs, plans and drawings are acceptable as long as permission has been given by the copyright owner.

### Lea Bailey Light Railway open weekend

This is a 4 page extra newsletter to celebrate the successful first run of the Eimco 401 on 11<sup>th</sup> September following the successful pressure test on 30<sup>th</sup> August. The WR8 'Murphy' has also successfully been tested with a full set of five 12v batteries. Both locos will be performing at the Lea Bailey open weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, together with the Simplex and the rockershoovel plus a visiting Lister loco brought by Gareth Rees. Any LBLRS members who would like to help will be very welcome. If you are not a member, come along and see the fun, and maybe consider joining the society.

**Rob Needham**



Eimco going through points - in the video it can be seen that the loco bumps over the checkrails at two of the points at Lea Bailey. This is due to the thick wheel flanges, similar to those on the rockershovel; the solution will be to move checkrails in by  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The video of the first run of the Eimco is on YouTube, to find it see the railway's Facebook page.



The Eimco posed in the entrance to the mine at Lea Bailey (note how door on the right was bent by vandals attempting unsuccessfully to gain entry).



As well as the Eimco 401, WR8 'Murphy' has recently been restored to full working order. Although working for the May open days, it had been suffering from poor performance resulting in rapid flattening of batteries. This has now been cured and the loco will be performing on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September open days.



To demonstrate its return to good health, on Sunday the WR8 was used to shunt the dead Simplex. On 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, the Simplex and Gareth Rees' visiting Lister will be in action as well as the Eimco 12B rockershovel



WR8 'Murphy' following the Eimco 401 loco.

### **Eimco 401**

Eimco compressed air locomotives were manufactured in Salt Lake City in the 1960s by the same company that produced the well-known compressed air 12B rockershovel. It is powered by a 5 cylinder Eimco Type 200 rotary airmotor (as also fitted to the 12B). The motor is connected to a 2 speed transmission. Over 200 were built (highest works number known is 221. There appear to be at least 5 surviving in the USA, including one converted to diesel-powered. Number 401-217 is preserved at the Britannia Mining Museum in British Columbia. Number 401-216 at Lea Bailey is thought to be the only survivor outside North America. It's working pressure is 110 psi and a full charge gives a running time of approximately 10 minutes. No 216 is owned by Nick Kelly, who arranged for its shipping from British Columbia where it had been used by a mining contractor, having last been run on 18" gauge in 2012. Following restoration of the Eimco 12B to working order at Lea Bailey, Nick offered the 401 to Lea Bailey on a 2 year loan. It has been converted to run on 2ft gauge.

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