

Sad loss of Society President

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Ken Hicks our President.

Ken died in Yeovil Hospital on the 7th April after a long and courageous battle against cancer. It was only recently that he underwent a course of chemotherapy at Bristol, during which time he shrugged off the severity of his illness by still attending society meetings during the period of his treatment.

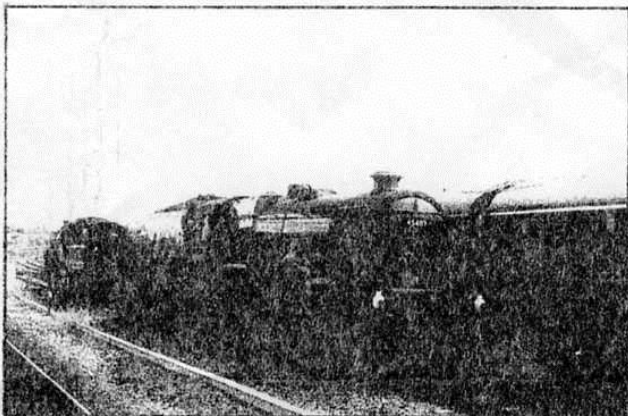


Ken joined the society at its first open meeting 33 years ago and he was always an enthusiastic member. Whenever we ran an outside trip or event, Ken was always there. More recently he attended the presentation of the Wilf Perry's memorial seat at the Yeovil Steam Centre, an event at which he was pictured on the footplate of 'Pectin'. Since becoming President of our society a few years ago, Ken always made a point of attending the committee meetings, although there was nothing in our constitution compelling him to do so. Being a gentleman in the true sense of the word, Ken always sent his apologies if for some reason he could not make either a club or committee meeting. We will miss you Ken.

'The Strong Countryman'

Past Time Rail ran 'The Strong Countryman' railtour on Wednesday 12th April to take in the circuit of Salisbury - Yeovil Junc. - Weymouth - Bournemouth - Eastleigh - Salisbury. The train, hauled by BR 2-6-0 No. 76079 and 'Black Five' No. 45407, was an opportunity to travel over the lines on which the two types of locomotives were a familiar sight, especially the S & D.

During a two hour lay over at Yeovil Junction both locomotives were turned and serviced.



45407 and 76079 during shunting movements at Yeovil Junction

Disaster was only narrowly avoided when a Biffa refuse truck collided with the railway bridge at Templecombe only minutes before the railtour train was due to pass.



MEETING DIARY

Tues. 2nd May: 'West & North Devon' - Peter Gray.
Tues. 6th June: 'Annual General Meeting' + Other.

Don't forget!

Pen Mill 150 Event - Saturday 29th July 2006.