
THE ZURGENA RAILWAY NEWS

December 9th 2020

Nº 1



Hello to all Association members and friends. These newsletters are intended to be a bit of fun, and more importantly, to keep everyone up-to-date with the news. If anyone has an old photo to put in the newsletter, please send it to me at maxcastril@gmail.com .

The news this week is that on Friday 4th December there was a meeting between The President, Rafael; The Treasurer, Raymond; The Vice President, David Greig, the two Marías - councillors for the Town Hall, and myself (I wanted to be in charge of vice!!). The items discussed were the Railway Cultural Week which is being proposed for 5th - 10th July. Hopefully, this will be an annual event with a different theme every year. This year, the theme will be 'Gustavo Gillman' as we want to build an area by the roundabout as a seating area with information signs and a statue, and it will be nice for all to be appraised with what he did for the railway. If you would like more information about Gustavo, please see www.gssr.es/ggilman.php .

The other news is that all of the sterling work by Jim and his team will be carried on. We are in consultation with the Town Hall about converting the station to a railway museum and workshops.



Zurgena Museum - Area 1: public area. Area 2: workshops. The Gustavo Gillman area is shown also.

There is still much to discuss regarding the museum, but we are lucky to have Rafael, who is well versed in dealing with Spanish paperwork and navigating the labyrinth.

The tourist line from Zurgena to Huércal-Overa was also discussed. The idea of this is to run steam trains, with some diesels as well, along the track (to be built!!). I would like to see the line extended to Almendricos where it can link up with the "main" line from Lorca (and hence Murcia, Alicante, Barcelona, Águilas etc). That way we can attract other train nuts from all over Spain. I have just been watching old episodes of 'Pie in the Sky'. A connection, perhaps? Let's think positively!!

Hopefully we will be able to have some sort of general meeting once the Covies are over. One issue that was planned to be discussed at the (abandoned) meeting was getting the membership fees collected by direct debit to save the committee having to try and collect the cash person by person.

Referring back to the museum, we are collecting many artifacts to display in the museum. There is a chap (Juan) in Águilas who has a private railway museum in his house (Really!!! - yes, and he's married!) and he has collected a number of articles for us. In addition, the museum in Murcia (worth a visit - see my website) has saved us some exhibits. I will be going to Águilas as soon as allowed, to buy a collection of railway workshop tools from around 1910 which I will loan/donate.

Whilst in Águilas, I will talk to the curators of the museum there as I am sure that they have many artifacts in a storeroom somewhere.

Regarding the outside areas of the museum, there are many items that we are planning to collect which at the moment are rotting away - two cranes, two signals, a locomotive or two, some coaches etc. We are depending heavily on Rafael to use his communicative and persuasive skills for us to collect these items and repair them in the workshop.

Of course, this is all conjecture at the moment, but we are very enthusiastic and optimistic.

Hopefully, we will be able to publish this little newsletter on a fortnightly basis.

Don't forget that there is much information in www.gssr.es about The GSSR. However, if you have any questions, please email me and I will do the best I can to answer them.

Max