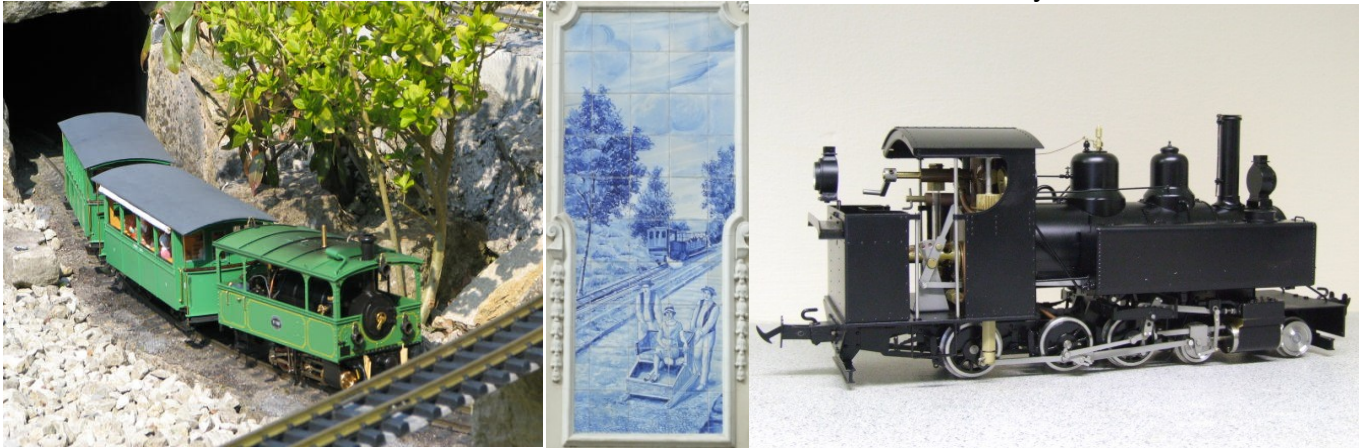


Hampshire area Garden Railway Group

(incorporating the Hampshire area of the Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers, and the Southdown Railway Co.)

Associate members of Fareham & District Model Railway Club



April 2007

Hello,

The 16mm Association National Garden Railway Show at Stoneleigh is over for another year, but any dreams of relaxing can go out the window until after I've finished analysing the results of the exit poll, and produced the 2007 membership list CD. Well, I hope those of you who went to the show thought it was a success (I did see some of you carrying suspiciously large boxes)... but it is evident that we really need to do something about the caterers (getting rid of them, springs to mind...)

The new much larger hall gave far more room to manoeuvre, although some said it was impersonal and barn-like, and we had far more visitors through the doors (and they didn't have to queue for anywhere near as long, unless they were daft enough not to have bought their tickets in advance.) We were also privileged to see the first pre-production sample of Accucraft's latest offering, a WD Baldwin 4-6-0 tank, which I got to photograph in secret on Friday, as we needed a photo of it for the grand draw stand, as we were giving away one of them as a prize. The draw sold so many tickets we had to buy two more steam locos as prizes, so even more people went away happy.

Apart from the show, I've been on holiday to Madeira, where I photographed what little remains of the old rack railway there (see the middle picture of a tile frieze on the wall of what is now the Toyota dealers!)

I know Rod has been busily fettling his K28, and has now added the ultimate garden pest remover, a rather fetching snowplough pilot on it, and has finished off his Chiemsee-bahn loco, pictured above left.

Paul And Pippa Gander are having a little running session at their railway in Totton on 14th April. It is 45mm gauge with, as I recall, reasonable curves and clearances. Please call Paul and Pippa on 023 8087 3307 (or speak to Paul at Portchester) if you want to come along and run there. I hope to make it with one of our smaller locos and our W&L stock. Tony Lee has his open day on Saturday June 2nd, more details on that, later. Southdown is now confirmed as attending the Celebration of Steam event at Portsmouth Dockyard on May 12th and 13th.

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 13th April, 11th May, 8th June.