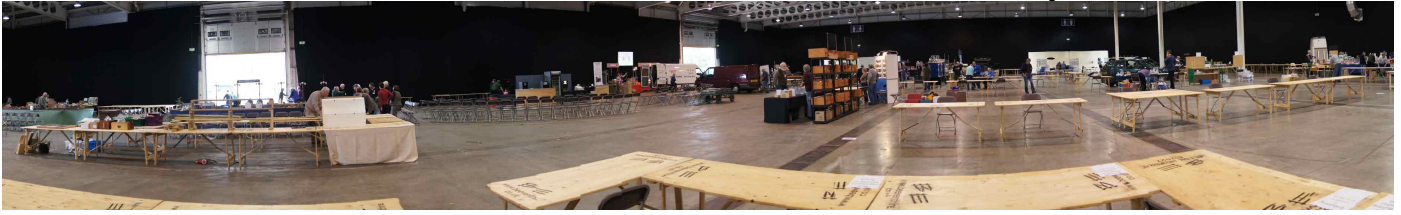


# Hampshire area Garden Railway Group

(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



March 2011

Here we go yet again,

Last month I said "I do have some photos of one of our local MOTY entries, but I'm holding that over until I can announce its won its class... Just hoping!" Well, it bloomin' did, so many congratulations to Bob Wilbur for doing what it takes, for Hampshire and winning the Lineside Trophy. I've just this minute sent the picture off to the assistant editor of "Model Engineer" magazine, as she asked me for a selection of photos for an article in the mag, that she is writing tonight!

I've put a picture above, which is one of those slightly silly panoramic ones that my camera can do, of the Stoneleigh Hall2 almost empty, on Friday afternoon, during setup for the 16mm Association Garden Railway show.



The show was truly excellent, I am informed. I have to take other people's word for it, as I only saw a bit of it for half an hour after we'd finished doing critical stuff on the MOTY (Model of the year) stand. Doing that competition for the first time is just a tiny bit stressful, and although there were a few wobbly bits, I don't actually think it went significantly wrong at any point. Next year will be even better of course, because I'll have a clue what I'm doing...

So, big "thank you's" are due this month to Paul Betts for putting up with my screw-ups on MOTY, to Sean Cullen for demonstrating his weathering skills at the show, and of course to Bob Wilbur for flying the flag for Hampshire. Sean is able to do the sort of weathering that he was doing at



the show for you, at very reasonable prices, so please contact him on 023 9238 0037 or via me. Bob has in the past offered to do demos for us on his figure making, and looking at the quality of the figures in his model, I think we should take him up on that.

I completely failed to make it to DJB's stand at the show to buy a slate wagon and some axleboxes, and all I bought was a Wickham trolley type 27a kit from IP Engineering, which I have just started, and an Accucraft W&L flat wagon which will find

itself converted into a sheep wagon before long. I bought the Wickham trolley 2 hours before the show opened, and the other one ten minutes before it closed. Next year I am determined to have more than half an hour to see the show... This means it would be good if more of us locals helped out for a couple of hours at the show, it makes for better involvement in the hobby, and its putting something back into the Association that you are a member of. You also get into the show free!

I did notice quite a few locals at the show and a couple of them came across to say hello, as did one very "not local" member, Matthew Foster for Japan, who is hoping his house will have stopped shaking by the time he gets back home.



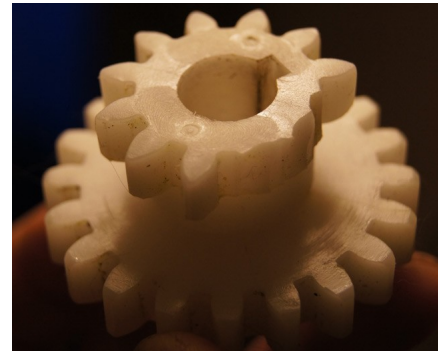
I'm keen to progress the matter of about possibly joining up with the Fareham and District model engineers, so please do come along and make a contribution to the debate, and if you are a members of said model engineers, please do help us to make this happen.

The week before the show I went to Rod's for a little impromptu steamup, and my vaguely comical tram engine snuffled its way around for half an hour or so, but I did get to see both David F's, and Rod's new Wuhu BR 4MT's in operation, so I've included a pic of Rod's one here. The picture on the bottom of the previous page was

not taken at Rod's last Friday, but somewhat earlier, and demonstrates very well that our little locos can still do their bit at clearing the snow from the garden.

I am making railway progress of a sort, in that my bottom lawn has been relaid for over a week now, so hopefully one day I might be able to get back near my railway when the grass has grown a bit!

Further to last month's comment that my milling machine was awaiting a belt drive conversion, that is now all sorted, and it also has a hefty column brace, and digital readouts to all axes. Here is a picture of the offending gear that started it all.



I have, thanks to being rather too tied up at Stoneleigh, a large bag of assorted Accucraft wheels, all of 32mm gauge, for exchange for 45mm ones that the 32mm runners will have lurking in the boxes of their Accucraft rolling stock. Local member Gordon is keen to swap these, and what he really wants is the 24.5mm diameter Lynton and Barnstaple pattern wheels, but he has on offer a range of wheel types (and I've just acquired another set of W&L 32mm gauge ones spare) I believe I have a taker for some of Gordon's wheels, but there are far more than that person wants.

Parting comment, how many of our local members weakened and ordered the new offering from Roundhouse, at the show? The Leek and Manifold loco, just as previously produced by Pearse, did look rather nice. Not my personal cup of tea, being keen on larger things such as Sierra Leone Garratts and Rio Turbio 2-10-2's...

See many of you on Friday 8th, I hope.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "William Bickers-Jones". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line underneath.

[william.bickers-jones@ntlworld.com](mailto:william.bickers-jones@ntlworld.com)

**PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: April 8<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> etc.,** on the second Friday of each month, from around 8pm. This means that those of you who are waiting for me when I turn up with the keys at about 7-50 shouldn't be suggesting I'm late!