

# 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



August 2011

Here we go yet again,

Well I did come back, after temporarily residing in France for a while, mostly doing building work, but with a few diversions to either test steam new locos for Pascal's customers, or to indulge my other odd obsession, big railway bridges, and I have shown a picture of the Viaduc du Fades, which was for a long time, the highest railway bridge in the world. Sean and I indulged ourselves on our visit to the Le Mans 24hr race, and I went off on a TGV in the vague direction of Pascal's the next morning, leaving Sean at the mercy of my satnav to get him home... (I've seen him since, so I know he made it back, and he's just got back from another visit to France.

So, we have another steamup next time! We will be at Sean Cullen's Treweek sidings, at his home in Widley, from around 7pm. His home phone number is 023 9238 0037, so you can check if you can't understand the maps attached to the email version of the newsletter, and also let Sean and Fran know you are coming along. This railway is 32mm gauge, and is small and tight, suitable for quarry and industrial locos only, and particularly suited to little battery "crawlers". I gather an Accucraft Excelsior will go round O.K. and my own quarry Hunslet has certainly been round it quite a few times. We are looking for a host for the September meeting, it might be at my place, or does soemone else wish to host a meeting?



The Southdown team have been busy lately, with the show at Tinkers Park in East Sussex last weekend (header photo), and as I type this, they are at Shildon, hopefully saying hello to my old friend, W&LLR no85 while they are there. Photos of that event will hopefully be included later.

For those interested, early news suggests that Accucraft are going to be doing the W&LLR cattle wagon in pre-GWR rebuild trim, (just as I'd gathered the materials together to scratchbuild it...) and they are also likely to be introducing a Gauge 1 model of a local favourite, the B4 0-4-0 tank locos as used in Southampton docks before those dreadful USA tanks appeared (the fact that I nearly got run over by one of those, as a small child, has not improved my opinion of them.). The B4 should be an ideal G1 starter loco. No, I'm not tempted, as apart from the fact that anything to do with Southampton is unlikely to be my favourite subject, I'm slowly resigning myself to owning a 16mm model of W&LLR's Monarch sometime, as Pascal has sent me a CAD drawing of part of it, and keeps asking for more technical info. I will be unable to resist that temptation!



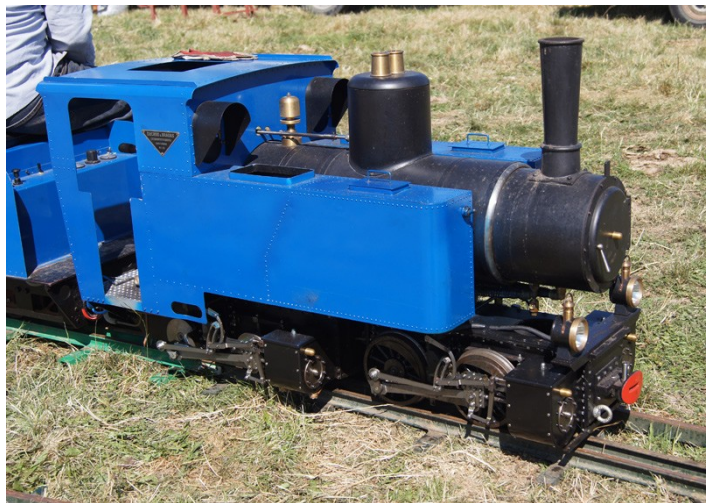
There is of course one critical and very pleasurable reason to go to Southampton, and that is Bob and Susan Petch's open day on 29<sup>th</sup> August, which was in last month's newsletter. I do intend to be there, with Lilian and rolling stock.

I've included the pic of the Mamod above, to show that they do make it to France, this one belongs to a customer of Pascal's, and is being test run after it had its gauge glass replaced, having been bought on ebay and turned out to be not quite as it should have been. Thanks to Harry for donating some camel dung tablets for its test run, and Sean for the loan of the meths burner, and to Dream Steam for the rapid shipment of the gauge glass!

The great Accucraft wheel swap is still on, we need 45mm gauge wheels, ideally the 24.5mm diameter Lynton and Barnstaple pattern wheels, but Gordon has on offer a range of wheel types in 32mm gauge. We did swap some at the last meeting, but we have a lot more to go!

Don't forget we do have info on meetings of the Reading Area Group, The Solent G scale Group, and also Tony Lee's running sessions. Ask me for more details about all of these. Always remember to phone anyone before attending one of their running sessions, and remember that most are not child inclusive, unless specifically stated that they are.

The rather bright loco to the right, is a very fine Mallet I saw at "Festivapeur" somewhere in France, at which I also saw the absolutely scary replica of Cugnot's original steam wagon, and had a ride behind an English (Allchin) traction engine, and a trip in a little steam launch, which is now on Youtube! Sadly the Mallet is a trifle large for my garden...



A footnote for those 3 of you who live in Gosport. Beware, I work there now! I managed to get another job, albeit on not much more than half my previous salary. Can't win 'em all!

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "William Bickers-Jones". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive font.

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

**"PORTCHESTER" Friday meetings: August 12<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup> etc.**, on the second Friday of each month, from around 8pm. These days they seem mostly not to be at Portchester, but in people's gardens, but come the colder darker evenings, we shall see...