

# 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



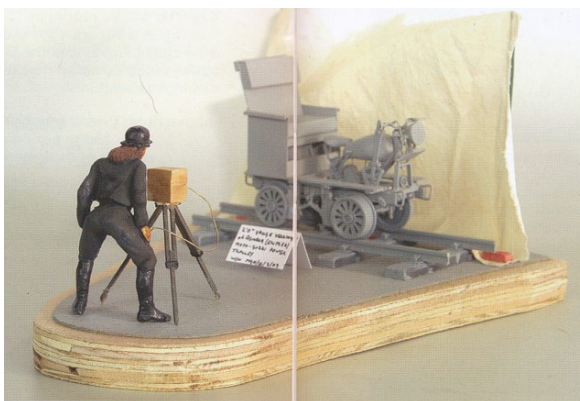
December 2011

Here we go yet again,

A bit of a thin effort this time, as domestic things have rather taken over my time. I missed out on a steamup at Rod's to meet an electrician at home, so I'm rather low on railway activity of late.

Well the local news, and very sad news it is, is that our friend Geoff Hebditch has died after a road accident in which he was hit by a motorcycle whilst cycling recently. Geoff was certainly an unusual character, and quite a character, who I have known for at least 40 years, since meeting him at work in Gosport.

Marguerite and I, Sean and Mike Hanks attended his funeral last week, and quite a funeral it was, too! The only one I've been to where there was a morris dancing performance in the street outside the church afterwards! Its certainly what he would have wanted, to go out in the same flamboyant manner in which he lived his life. We have been offering his long term partner Mary, some support since his untimely death, and I can pass on any messages to her as required. So it'll be the first, and quite probably the last, time I'll be putting pictures of morris dancing on this newsletter...



*This delightful scene of an Asmara Rail Trolley by Norman G Hebditch secured the Butterley Trophy. If that's our snapper Keith Dyer at left he has grown his hair!*

Alongside is a picture of one of Geoff's creations that won the Butterley Trophy at the 16mm National show a couple of years ago. Yes, it did run!

I have very little news of local activities of late, purely because no-one has told me anything, and I've been too busy for detective work. So, if you want to hear interesting news, then you have to make the news first... and then tell me about it.

I have really finished the Penrhyn workmen's coach now, having fitted DJB couplings to it. See the picture nearby. I have also done the DJB slate wagon kit, good value at £30 absolutely complete (well, apart

from the fact that David evidently forgot to pack the 10BA screws, but Sean came to the rescue there!) After my comments last time about Brandbright and their email, I have had a bit of a shock. I ordered (the old fashioned way, by post) some Accucraft couplings for the W&LLR cattle wagons I'm scratchbuilding, but Brandbright are evidently out of stock at present. Bit of a shame, but they emailed me to ask if they could hang onto the order till they got the stock in, in a couple of weeks or so. Stunned, I was...

Paul has been engaged on some repair and improvement work on one of his locos after an unfortunate occurrence during the Victorian event at Portsmouth Dockyard recently. (these things happen very occasionally despite the best planning) The header pictures are by Paul, from that event. One shows some of the scenic buildings, created in this particular case by David and Susan Fleetwood, and the other picture is of Paul's Roundhouse Trophy winning loco "Engineer", a 2-8-0 based on Roundhouse parts but with Paul's design of chassis and superstructure. This has performed very well over a number of years, and works hard, like all of Paul's locos.

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.

I've still got some loco boxes, and I'm considering disposing of one or two items of rolling stock, to leave space for what I'm scratchbuilding. If anyone has anything else for sale, or things they are searching for, do let me know. Note the picture alongside of my latest Penrhyn wagons, which I'll be very pleased with when I work out how to make the true to scale couplings work! The slate wagon is very nice indeed, with its lost wax brass castings and etched brass bodywork and chassis.



It takes some care to solder together, but is strong, and rolls along nicely on its Slater's wheels.

I'll be looking for volunteers to write the March newsletter next year, as I'll be off looking at New Zealand steam locos...

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**“PORTCHESTER” “Friday” meetings: the general rule is on the second Friday of each month, from around 8pm. Next Friday date is 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Volunteers for the next meeting venue, please! - and ideas for a seminar subject and presenter, too! If you don't suggest it, it won't happen...**