

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



January 2009

Hello yet again,

After wishing you all a Happy New Year (as usual I saw it in at Selborne, with a fair few of the villagers, taking part in what we seem to have established as a tradition, with them watching us ring in the new year) I start with a bit of sad news, for those not already in the know...

We have lost one of the leading lights of our hobby, the indefatigable, irreplaceable Colin Binnie. Colin left us much to enrich this hobby, from the frugal and practical, to the verging on the insane....

His well known "doodles" have brightened many a day, particularly so if you have had one produced especially in your honour, although that did usually involve the poking of good humoured fun at something you had done. His workshop hints, on how to carry out tricky tasks without investing in expensive equipment have helped many a tyro, myself included. Thanks to a few of the Association's membership, much of his accumulated wisdom will be preserved for future generations, and hopefully his hilarious and true tales of home made metal casting machines, and explosive forming of metal sheet, will live on to cause hilarious gales of laughter for future generations. His funeral was not exactly a solemn affair, being punctuated by attempts at muffling the laughter brought on by the tales recounted in his eulogy.

Colin produced his oscillating steam motors for some time, providing a useful way into producing your own steam loco. Based on that motor, he has also produced the famous "Yak" loco, and Sean has the honour of being the owner of that loco. Colin's unending generosity towards modellers, even those he had never met before, was remarkable, and was perhaps his greatest asset. He was free with his knowledge, and often with the products created with that knowledge. Our world is a better place for Colin having been in it. You may notice that all the photos in this issue are of Colin's creations.

On the home front, I have actually been doing a bit of rolling stock work myself, and actually managed to finish off a couple of wagons just in time to truthfully add the "built 2008" plates that Association members recently received free. I also added oak floorboards to my recently completed Penrhyn slate wagon, despite my bandsaw blade deciding that it was bored with life while I was slicing up the timber leftovers from our dining room floor, to use for railway works.





My drawing activities have been somewhat slowed down by having to learn another CAD package, thanks to our friends at Microsoft having b*****ed up my PC! I'm slowly getting the hang of TurboCAD, but I'm convinced they deliberately made every command as different from AutoCAD as they possibly could...

I've had another chat with the Chairman of the G scale society today, and as well as having one large G scale layout at Stoneleigh, and another that doesn't declare a scale, but I am pretty confident that its as near 1:22.5 as matters, we will be having more events in common this year, and invites to visit garden railways in both scales will be forthcoming, so I'd like to ask those of you who are having

open days or running sessions, to consider inviting the local G scale lads along, so they can see how we do it. I can make contact with their local organiser, Jack Nisbet, and I know that a couple of you know him anyway. Lets extend the hand of friendship to them!

David Fleetwood has been suspiciously quiet lately, so I can only assume he is up to no good, and another epic creation will soon be manhandled out of his workshop. Paul Betts has actually been doing what this is all about and running trains, rather than playing with computers. Rod has been mending other people's locos and therefore hasn't had as much time as he'd hoped, to play with his own, but I do know he has been involved with another type of motive power lately, with a nice big V twin engine.... I'm looking forward to seeing and hearing that one go. I hasten to add that this is not 45mm gauge...



I'm off to the London Model Engineering show on Friday 16th January, on our way up to a family wedding in Stamford on 17th, so I can collect small things at the show for others who may need stuff, but nothing too heavy! There will, of course be 16mm representation there, courtesy of our friends in the East Surrey Group, so I'll be stopping by for a chat with them

If anyone has any news of running sessions, or events, please let me know, and I'll add them to the next newsletter. Always remember to phone before visiting an open day, please, and always ask if you wish to take (well behaved) children, as not all gardens (or owners) are child friendly.

See you Friday! (maybe wearing warm clothes might be a good idea!)

william.bickers-jones@ntlworld.com

PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 9th January 2009, 13th February, etc, on the second Friday of each month, from around 8pm.

Details of Southdown's show attendances are here: <http://www.cslr.co.uk/southdownshows.htm>
Thanks to Paul Betts for hosting that information.