

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 2012

Here we go yet again,

Last month I said I'd missed out on a steamup at Rod's to meet an electrician at home, however the electrician still hasn't given me the price for the work, and the tree surgeon has failed to keep his appointments too, so I'm feeling a bit fed up with tradesmen of late. I can't really use my railway till that is sorted, so railway activity at home is currently stopped due to useless tradesmen. At least I've got my nice new front fence! (thanks to Widley fencing!)

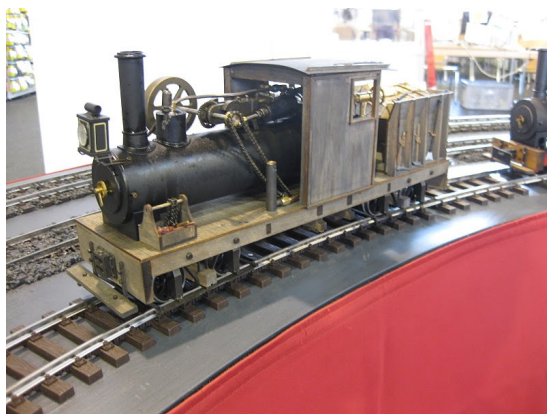
Last month I expressed surprise that Brandbright had emailed me to ask if they could hang onto the order for Accucraft couplings till

they got

the stock in, in a couple of weeks or so. Well, I'm still waiting... not sure if the problem is with Accucraft or Brandbright, but either way my W&LLR cattle wagons won't be seen for a while.

Those of you who will be considering purchasing new locos in Gauge 1 and also in 16mm scale, may well be advised to keep an eye out for new things from Accucraft. A local loco is very probable in G1, and rumours are growing of a 16mm loco which I have something of a connection with... Of course if you want another new Accucraft loco which I know some of us are fond of, then it

may help to buy your 16mm Association draw tickets, as "Lew" is one of the prizes. I've pinched a picture off Rod, of a new Regner Shay at a recent show he attended in Germany, which does look strangely like a nasty accident in a Victorian machinery shop. Not my sort of thing, but there are a lot of people out there who like Shays of various kinds. Regner's other new thing is even stranger, being a rack loco of what I can only describe as "entertaining aspect". So, for those with steeply sloping gardens, help is at hand. Our local Regner expert builder has shocked me by stating he



will NOT be getting one. However another Regner aficionado rather further afield might weaken, so maybe I will get to see one in action one day.

Talking of locos I have a connection with, it seems almost certain that locomotion at Shildon will have a proper display relevant to the Sierra Leone railway this year. Despite the NRM spending all of its money yet again fixing up that old crock "Flying Scotsman" (the bill is over £2.6m now) they do intend to do some new small bits, and were even talking about building 7 1/4inch gauge models! Anthony Coulls and Steve Davies, the boss of NRM have recently been to Sierra Leone, and Anthony has a CD of new photos, and some measurements for me. I think I may be busy after I come back from NZ!



Our header photo this month is one I took at Sean's yesterday, when we had a little steamup including Harry's ultra low-mileage Mamod, which is still a little stiff and Sean's ever faithful "Yak"

Those of us who came along last month did get the benefit of some of Bob Wilbur's knowledge on making stone buildings, which I will be putting to good use in my Sierra Leone station with stone walls and corrugated iron roof. Bob neatly demystifies some of this exotic stuff with his step by



step explanations, showing us the moulds and part built components. A photo of some of Bob's efforts is shown alongside, this is simply the best representation of knapped flintwork I have ever seen, very appropriate for our local churches. Don't forget Bob is also the current holder of the 16mm Association Imp passenger stock trophy, so its not just buildings he's good at! I still need to place an order for a water tank with you, Bob...

I've been doing a bit of reading and Youtube video watching of New Zealand Steam locos, and I'm heartened to see most of them are

British built or designed, and the thought of possibly being able to see a "Ja" class (NZ built) 4-8-2 loco out on the mainline (its 3'6", so its narrow gauge!) is quite something. There do seem to be quite a few railway and other steam things to see out there, as well as some truly amazing scenery and wildlife (if the breaking up of the ship "Rena" off the coast of the Bay of plenty hasn't killed it all off). We may end up helping de-oil penguins at this rate... other New Zealand news is that the Association members DVD is winging its way from its editor in NZ to Purbrook at the moment, so it will be in the February SMT. Any other news, please let me know!

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.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "William Bickers-Jones".

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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 9th 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...