

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



June 2007

Hello Again,

Since I last rushed to write the previous epic epistle, various of us have been with Southdown to the 2 day Celebration of Steam at Portsmouth Dockyard, where a good and succesful time was had by all, and needless to say, I bought another railway book... We also went to the Hollycombe steam event last weekend (see pictures of Jerry M in his new colour scheme, and Rod's Shay on Southdown), where one of our member was working on the 12" to the foot scale stuff, and appeared in front of Southdown in full regalia i.e. "black as yer hat". We also all got prepared for Bob and Sue Petch's Open Day, a much looked-forward-to event, but the weather gods took exception to us playing trains, and laid on the worst May bank holiday weather I've seen for quite a few years, and ruined all Bob and Sue's preparations.

What I completely failed to mention last time, was that some of us went along to Paul and Pippa Gander's line in Totton, and had a great time. Paul, you are far too modest about your railway, its lovely! I suspect you may find a few locos somewhat larger than you are used to, paying a visit before too long. I had a few runs round with my manually controlled Caradoc, going slowly up the gentle gradients, and less slowly down them, and Rod's Shay went equally slowly all over the place...

I completely failed to get to Tony and Ginny Lee's open day, as I was at Hollycombe, but hopefully some of us made it. Its a very interesting and scenic line, and you really must see Tony's buildings!

Other news, after many years as the 16mm association's one and only boiler tester and more years doing the task for Hampshire members, Dave Shotter has retired his official test kit. The new Hampshire boiler tester is Paul Betts, you can contact him via the boiler testers page on the Association website, or by the details to be published in the August issue of "Exchange". Many thanks for Dave for his years of unstinting service, and help and advice over the years.

David and Susan Fleetwood have their open day on their complex 45mm gauge garden layout, on Sunday 8th July (more details in next month's epic, as long as I get it done in time!)

See you on Friday!

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

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 10th August.