

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

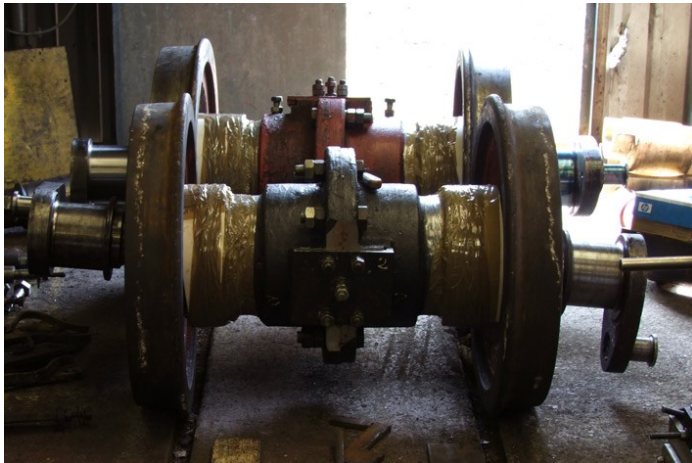


May 2009

Hello yet again,

I've done this newsletter a bit earlier than usual, because I wanted to remind you all of the upcoming event at Portchester Parish Hall in Castle Street this coming Saturday, 2nd May from 10am to 3-30pm, admission £1 for adults. Various of us will be staffing the layout Crumblyn, as so ably rebuilt by Dave Shotter, with help from a select few of our number. There are other smaller scale layouts in attendance as well. I will actually be shifting myself to turn up with some rolling stock I've borrowed from Marguerite together with one of her locos, and I know Sean will be running his Yak there. I don't have any steam locos suitable for running on it, as even my steam tram "Colin J Binnie" is a bit on the lumpy side for Crumblyn. It also lacks certain niceties like bodywork, so it currently looks a bit like something Roland Emmett might be ashamed of.... (but at least it goes!) We hope that as many as possible of you will make it to Portchester to see Crumblyn in action on 2nd!

Our Header pictures this month are courtesy of David Fleetwood, who has revealed quite what he's been up to. Knowing David, it doesn't take a lot of imagination to believe he's been making another bridge, as he is definitely a bridge fetishist of the first order... I have to be a bit careful there, as I've got some rather silly bridge ideas of my own. Some of you will know I've got a bit of a "thing" about Connel Ferry bridge... Marguerite was very tolerant when I diverted to go and see it whilst on holiday, and promptly filled up a 2Gb memory card with pictures of it.



I've put in the picture alongside, mainly for Paul's benefit, to keep him on the sensible path of articulation, and not to be lulled into thinking Klein-Lindner articulated axles are a good idea. These are the ones from Resita no 19 on the W&LLR, and I suspect there are a few folk there who now wish they hadn't heard of Messrs Klein-Lindner's devices... they've just come back from Baguley engineering after one of them snapped on gala day last year.

As we all now know, it was Geoff who won the Butterley trophy for his exotic Asmara rail trolley, which can be seen on the Association website at <http://16mm.org.uk/> under "MOTY competition". Geoff, I'll try to ensure my laptop isn't being used for playing DVD's at the next meeting, so you can actually see it on there. I also hope you've managed to find a temporary home for the doorstep (sorry, I mean trophy) which you get to keep for a year...

I'm afraid the only railway activity I've done lately is to break one of Rod's dies making a bit for Geoff (breaking a die does take some doing.... but I managed) and I actually did something positive on a few days off this week, by testing and then re-plumbing my steam tram. Next step is to finish off my refurb of my SLR rolling stock, and make boxes for it to go to Shildon and Freetown, but B&Q have not helped here by stopping selling the plywood I need. Paul has been up to summit on his garden (dreadful pun fully intended) and has managed to get some running in.



Rod has been opening Regner boxes again, the bad boy, which tends to lead to drooling sessions on visits by me.... just why is their standard of casting and machining so much better than anyone else's?

I think I feel 2 sets of Regner cylinders coming on, for my planned Monarch model. See the real thing above, just after being partly repainted by yours truly, recently. Hopefully ashe will have a replica nameplate fitted on the side seen in the photo, by the time of the Gala, so passengers on the passing trains can understand quite what this rather garish green and red creation is. I did sneak another look at the real Pickering coaches in the shed alongside where Monarch is, just to remind me what my Accucraft ones will look like, when they eventually turn up, hopefully some time in the next month.

I do have news from Tony Lee of his open days, the first of which is on 9th May, with others on 13th June, 11th July, 8th August and 12th September. These generally start at 1330, but its best to contact Contact Tony on 01256 892567 well in advance of the day or email on tony.v.lee@btinternet.com.

See www.welbecksports.co.uk for details of the new 16mm Association clothing suppliers. They have the details of our logo, and if you arrange it through me, we can get the cost of the "artwork" reduced to the minimum. Just out of perversity, I'm featuring a pic of Paul, taken at Reading I think, in May 2002. I may be doing one or two of these ancient ones , from time to time (unless you pay me to stop..)



I do have details of running sessions of our colleagues in the very active local branch of the G scale society, so if you fancy going along to any of these, many of which are open to live steam locos (they don't just do electrics you know, their chairman was running a steam loco at Stoneleigh!) just speak to me, and I'll give you the details. We're also liaising with the Reading area group, and I'll be publishing some information on their activities shortly.

See you Friday 8th, and don't forget its the Portsmouth festival of steam the next day, and Southdown will be there. (Hopefully I'll be on time, and have the key)

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "William Bickers-Jones". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line underneath.

william.bickers-jones@ntlworld.com

PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 8th May, 12th June, 10th July, 14th August 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.