

# 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



March 2011

Here we go yet again,

We're back onto pictures I've taken again this time, but the header picture isn't me showing off what we've got, its for member Eddie Roberts, and I think he understands why. Happy birthday for a while ago, Eddie! The loco in question is looking a little different now, as its in bits, in the middle of conversion to get the valve gear operating exactly to prototype, as per David Bailey's modified loco. I'm nearly there with it, just a couple of little niggles to sort, then its off to Rod's to have radio control installed. He's a bit of a demon at doing radio installations, so I'm happy to let him practice the art of servo linkages, which is something I'm not too familiar with. I have a nice shiny new Spektrum DX6i transmitter to use with it, one of my last rash purchases as an employed person... no more of that sort of thing unless I can get another job!

I'm keen to progress the matter of about possibly joining up with the Fareham and District model engineers, and I gather a couple of our members have news on this (not necessarily positive!) so whatever the outcome of this, we need to decide if we really do need a regular meeting place, or do we do like most other local area groups do, and meet for a steam-up at someone's garden railway about once a month?

For a little trial of that, I'd like to invite you lot round to our place for the May meeting, so that's 25 Alsford Road, Purbrook, PO7 5NE, shall we say a little earlier as we want to see where we are running, so lets say about 1930 to 2130ish. I have both 45mm and 32mm gauges. Radii on 45 are about 2.4 metres and rather less than that, maybe 1.5metres on the 32mm gauge. As some of you may know, its partly dual gauge, so a degree of discipline is required if running both gauges at once, to avoid collisions. That said, I have successfully run both at once, for hours on end, without incident. Clearances are generous, some pretty large locos have run in our garden.



The loco in the picture above is one of them, but I've included a pic of it only to show an example of Sean's weathering, and as an excuse to comment that my concern that the battery pack may not have the capacity to run a sound unit was somewhat wide of the mark. It ran hauling a very solid aluminium wagon carry an engineering paviour brick for over 9 hours non stop recently, and that picture was taken during that run. Not only that, but I left the transmitter on all the time and that was still alive and healthy at the end of the run. I dread to think what the actual endurance of

the loco battery pack is, but somehow I suspect it'll manage to run a sound unit. So if anyone's wondering, a 14 cell pack of AA's is just fine for a big hefty 0-8-0 loco!

The great reseeded of my bottom lawn has made a fair bit of progress, just as well, or I wouldn't be able to invite the group round. There is still ongoing concrete breaking still, which Sean very kindly helped me with last week. I think I'll still be doing that next year...

I'll repeat my request for help with a large bag of assorted Accucraft wheels, all of 32mm gauge,



for exchange for 45mm ones that the 32mm runners will have lurking in the boxes of their Accucraft rolling stock. Local member Gordon is keen to swap these, and what he really wants is the 24.5mm diameter Lynton and Barnstaple pattern wheels, but he has on offer a range of wheel types. We did swap some at the last meeting, but we have a lot more to go!

The picture to the left is the smallest item in my stable, a Wickham trolley built from an IP kit, I'm rather pleased with it, that's another SLR item dealt with...

For fans of Listers, I spotted this one

(below) at Twyford pumping station on Easter Sunday, a thoroughly enjoyable trip out. As well as a nice triple expansion steam engine in the pumping station itself, there are various skips from Allens and Hudsons, and two Listers, and various other artefacts.

As for a "who's done what" round-up this month, I'm a bit stuck, as apart from knowing Sean's been doing some track relaying and improvements in between helping me break up concrete, I think Paul B is well on his way to completing his relaying and bridge building, I've got little idea who has done what. So, to prevent me waffling on about what I've done, let me know what you've been up to lately. I suspect many of you have taken advantage of the unseasonably good weather and got on with garden tasks, so if they involve your railway, please send me more photos. I'm sure Paul has sent me a pic of his bridge, so where did I file that?



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.

See many of you on Friday 13th, I hope. At my place, unless its positively precipitating with rain... Phone 9226 3462 if you need more info, and speak to our answering machine, it is ALWAYS on.

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](mailto:william.bickers-jones@ntlworld.com)

**PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> etc.**, on the second Friday of each month, from around 8pm. I will not be there for the June or July Meetings, as I'm going to the Le Mans 24hr race with Sean, and I'm not coming back for quite a while... If we meet at Portchester, this means someone else will need to hold the key.