

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



November 2009

Hello yet again,

From a personal point of view there has been some critical progress on the railway front, and I know the same is true for at least one other of our members.

Rod has had considerable success with sorting out some very complex locos, and one or two of them have even been his own... He has seen some examples of unknowing owners sadly lacking in knowledge of how to run their locos causing them damage, which is quite upsetting, and makes us all think that we need to be doing our best to not only welcome new members to the world of garden railways, but to give them a helping (steady) hand. They aren't really all that difficult to run (after all, I can manage it..) but maybe its a function of our pre-packaged ready to use society, that new owners of expensive steam locos often don't realise there is some learning to do, before they can be operated safely and sensibly. After a bit of familiarisation, a far more fulfilling experience can be had.

David F has been so quiet lately I am worried that he really is building a gas turbine loco... if you're stuck for something interesting to do, I need several new bridges! I do know Paul has been rather busy on domestic issues, after he and Karen managed to persuade their eldest that his future lay in his own flat, not staying at home... as for Pete W, I know he's been acquisitive lately, as have one or two of us, willingly redistributing the collection of the late and sadly missed Peter McCormack. Its worth pointing out that Rod has recently acquired a few more items from Peter's estate to dispose of, so please keep in touch with him to see what may be available.



Well my infamous non-existent brick wall is now a real live actual brick wall, and very nice it is too! At last we can get on with lawn, patio and railway. I have also laid some of my new dual gauge track, and one of the dual gauge turnouts can be seen in a photo here. The keen eyed will notice that it seems to have no moving parts.

Several of us have been to another event at Wickham, namely the Solent G scale gathering, courtesy of a kind invitation from their local

organiser, Jack Nisbet. Michael, Paul and I manned the stand making sure everyone knew what 16mm live steam was about, while I surreptitiously nabbed a run on the adjacent Ridgmont layout. I did wonder if they were deliberately taunting me though, as there were 2 locos running on that layout that we have on order and are patiently waiting for delivery of. Well that's not entirely true, as my patience is beginning to run out on the quarry Hunslet... A delivery date would be nice, it has been 2 ½ years now. I do at least have an approximate date for the second loco, the Accucraft Earl, which was only ordered in September.



I may well be equipping that loco with a “Summerlands chuffer” having seen the quality of manufacturing, and heard the impressive sound effects.

Alongside is a picture of Sean's “Yak” loco at the previous Wickham event, and I am pleased to announce that it didn't quite hit the camera, and no, that wasn't the last shot I took before I moved the camera...



We have received one piece of news of progress from elsewhere, and that is from John Tomlin, who has been bridge building. David Fleetwood, I think you have something to answer for!

As a parting shot, I'd like to wish and hope that Dave Shotter has managed to sort out his recent transport problems that prevented him attending our last meeting. Should have stuck to steam power, Dave... Which reminds me, I have two words to say to you... “Decauville”, and “Stoneleigh”

For those who have not visited our Portchester venue, and wish to, feel free to contact me preferably by email, or by phone, for the precise location (its at the Eastern extremity of Harbour View).

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "William Bickers-Jones".

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 13th November, 11th December 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.

This space is left blank because no-one other than John has given me any news!