

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



September 2009

Hello yet again,

Well, I've got a major announcement to make, that I've actually been doing some of what this is supposed to be all about and I've been running trains at home! I would even have finished the dual gauge section if I hadn't miscalculated the amounts of materials I need and ended up a bit short.... I've done the 2 points and tested them, so after finding I couldn't do the track-laying, I spent the time running my Caradoc, and Marguerite's Merlin, with a hefty W&LLR mixed train. I'd forgotten what a well mannered loco the Merlin is, especially with its radio control being by the ever-accurate Spektrum 2.4GHz system.

Upon reading our latest copy of our magazine, I was reminded of how at the last meeting I had fairly forcefully reminded Dave Shotter of how much folk were looking forward to seeing his exquisite little Decauville run at next year's Stoneleigh event, as it was a key part of the review of the heritage section of this year's show, by Derek Wiggins, who masterminded the whole Heritage aspect. Hopefully Dave will take the complimentary comments in SMT as motivation to find a way to get it back in running order for next April!

We met Dave, in fine form, at a small running session at Mike Dunckley's recently. I was concentrating on watching and filming myself, but I was amused by seeing Dave with his trademark string of Binnie tippers in a big loop, preparing to be hauled at not inconsiderable velocity by a tiny loco.

On the subject of visiting and running, don't forget the list of Tony Lee's open days mentioned before, and also the Reading area open days, and the G scale society's open days as well. Further details from me, by email or 023 9226 3462.

We went along to the Great Garratt gathering, at MOSI, Manchester, and meet Col. Steve Davies, its director, after having a slight shock during his presentation on the Sierra Leone Railway Museum. He was showing pictures of the Hudswell diesels, and then the next slide was of the inside of my workshop, containing a part built model of said diesel! I undertook to send him a picture of the completed model, which Anthony Coulls currently has under his protection. We also hatched a sneaky plan to get no85 on the W&LLR painted the correct colour, not knowing that our voices had not gone unheard, and it had been painted black that very day!



The Garratt event was brilliant, more articulated beasts than you could shake a stick at, and good company, and I must confess that some beer was consumed during the weekend.... Progress on "my" Garratt has been accelerated, partly due to hearing that Steve Davies wants one too! I do now have the working drawing of the driving and coupled wheels, which I need to make into a CAD drawing to get them CNC machined.

The Bank Holiday weekend saw one remarkable occurrence, that it didn't rain on Bob and Susan Petch's open day, in fact the weather was glorious! A pleasant relaxing afternoon was had running trains, and one picture of an Atelier Vaporiste Billard T50, and a beautifully lined out Roundhouse Taliesin is shown above.

Paul has made an excellent suggestion – considering the our magazine, Sixteen Mil today, does quarterly features on Area Groups, isn't it about time that Hampshire was featured? So, how about getting your thinking caps on and writing a bit for our magazine, and collecting some photos of our gatherings, and getting our area featured?



Another thing from Paul, elderly Chris has been most generous with supplying him with rather a lot of useful wire, suitable for wiring all sort of things including one's models. This leads Paul to suggest that there is actually enough there for everybody who needs any, to get some useful supplies. So, be prepared for Paul to appear at our next meeting looking like a cable salesman...

To the left, we have a photo I took at the MOSI Garratt event, of our 16mm Association chairman Nigel Town, preparing his coal fired NGG16 for a run. There was a conspiracy at the event, to give me lessons in coal firing, in

the belief that I will need to be able to coal fire a loco of my own before too long.... (dream on)

By the time we meet again, many of us will have been to the W&LLR gala and the model show, and I suspect some money may have been spent by then. I'm hoping to get away with nothing worse than some rail joiners and a brake van, but I can't promise... The Southdown crew will of course be there, and a special guest with a special loco will be on Southdown.

Our final photo this month, is of a rather fine steam tram loco produced by Tony Lee, using his own scratchbuilt brass bodywork, and Regner mechanicals, resulting in a beast that is both usable and attractive. My own steam tram achieves the former aspect, but so far has signally failed in the latter!

For those visiting our Portchester venue, please remember what I said last time about parking in the car park, not the road. For those who have not visited there, 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, which appears to read 'William'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive hand.

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 11th September, 9th October 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.