

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



April 2009

Hello yet again,

The first thing I need to tell you all is that there is no meeting at Portchester this Friday, as it is Good Friday, and we don't have meetings on religious holidays. I was so busy doing preparations for the Stoneleigh show, and end-of-year stuff for work, that I hadn't realised.

I had already managed to tell a few of you yesterday at Stoneleigh, after a quick consultation with our own reverend member confirmed I'd make a bit of a foul-up.

Well, for those who didn't make it to Stoneleigh, I have bad news. You missed what I and many others reckon is the best show we have ever put on. More layouts, more traders, more space, two "come and run" layouts, the only thing missing was my quarry Hunslet, which is going to be ANOTHER year before its delivered. One thing that was less, were the queues to get in, because the prepaid queue was pre-checked before opening time, and had been lining up in orderly fashion, possibly due to a well known female personage armed with an umbrella.

Needless to say, it was a very busy time for me, having got there at about 1230 on Friday, after a painful journey up there (to the person who set fire to their lorry on the A34 causing its total closure, I do hope you are being sent the bill by the highways authority, we had some very uncharitable thoughts about you during our convoluted 3 hour journey to avoid you). We helped



set up on Friday, ironed out a few problems, and after a convivial meal at the Oak at Baginton (less than half the price of the Stoneleigh Park Lodge, and better food and drink), had a fair night's sleep before getting back to the event at 0730, the first of our crew having got there at 0645. We eventually escaped after seeing the last layout out of the door, and this year I was not the last one to leave, Phil Thompson and Andrew Cooper had that honour, as the trader from Squires painstakingly took hours to put away his display one item at a time, refusing all offers of help.

Maybe we won't invite him next year...

At least one of our number has weakened at the show, and placed an order for something just a tad more expensive than the 3 books I purchased. Another member was hoping for delivery of a loco, but it was not ready in time. Very good books they are, too, being about various slate railways, and also Mark Horovitz's latest effort. I also got a British Transport



Films DVD, and Marguerite bought some wagon kits and some fire irons to replace the lost ones from my Caradoc.

Most notable of all, was that one of our number has won the Butterley Trophy for his modelling effort. We do need to keep this up, having at least one of the trophies resident in Hampshire, so please get modelling and enter something next year. I don't have much hope, but maybe Paul will, or maybe Ken or Brian with some of his beautifully built rolling stock? Lets hope plenty of you come along on 20th (the revised date) as I want to present the winner with his trophy on behalf of the board of directors (of which I am no longer a member, having stepped down at the AGM). My replacement (Tez Pickthall) has already got his act together far more than I ever did, in league with Ian Shields and others, so we can expect more stuff relating to area groups to be forthcoming. Only one of us won anything in the draw, and it wasn't a loco! (and it wasn't me, either...) that's over 20 years without a win... I wanted that Countess!

A fair number of us went along to Karen and Paul Betts running session on 14th March, and I managed to run my Caradoc with wheelsets at different gauges, one axle being a millimetre under gauge, not helping smooth running. Everyone else managed to avoid such silliness.

Pictures this month are unsurprisingly all based on the 16mm annual show, including one intended to spur Paul on to another effort at winning the Roundhouse cup, namely the picture of Allen Morgan striking a daft pose whilst collecting the Roundhouse trophy. We want that back in Hampshire next year... The other one is Geoff's MOTY entry, which I'll return at the meeting.



If anyone has any news of running sessions, or events, please let me know, and I'll add them to the next newsletter. I do have news from Tony Lee of his open days, the first of which is on 9th May. Contact Tony on 01256 892567 or tony.v.lee@btinternet.com. I hope Paul can list them on his website, and I'll list them all next time. There is also news of a new Association clothing supplier, with a far wider range of stuff than before. See www.welbecksports.co.uk for details. 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.

See you Friday 20th! (Hopefully I'll be on time, and have the key)

A handwritten signature in green ink, which appears to be "William".

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 20th March, 10th April 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.