

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



December 2009

Hello yet again,

Well, we've got a bit of news to impart this time, but all Association egroup members should already know, that a new "North Hampshire" Association group has been formed (without any reference to the long established existing Hampshire Group, I might add!)

The announcement goes:

On Saturday 12th December between 10am and 4pm, the recently formed North Hampshire Group warmly invite all members to join them for a run on their new 350 foot raised running 32mm gauge track, based at Andover and District Model Engineering Society. There is also a 45mm running line available.

If you would like to attend please contact Stephen Tucker, Area Group Representative, on 01264 353992, e-mail: stephentucker8@googlemail.com

Directions to the layout are as follows: From the A303 take Stockbridge Road and turn in the direction of Stockbridge (not Andover). After passing Andover Golf Course, take the next left signposted Wherwell and drive up the road for approx half mile where you will enter a wooded area. Look out for a green Nissen hut and turn left at this, where you will find the new 16mm line.

Any Hampshire members are more than welcome to take advantage of this running opportunity, and join the group if that is what suits you. It is based at Andover and District Model engineering Society, but I have no idea of whether or not membership of that is required to regularly run on the tracks there.



I must confess that I am a little put out that they didn't even have the common courtesy of contacting me first, as the coordinator of the long established Hampshire Group, but it seems that decent manners are a thing of the past, and writing to some Hampshire members to solicit their membership without contacting their coordinator is evidently considered OK these days. If this is considered the norm, then I'm afraid I evidently belong to a bygone age, and wish to pass on the baton to someone either younger and more dynamic, or retired with enough time to spare, to do the job justice. I am in need of shedding assorted responsibilities, to

concentrate more on doing stuff for myself and my family, rather than other people, so this is a serious comment. Any takers?

Well I've found out what David F has been doing. Being not very well, poor chap! So, many good wishes for your forthcoming "interventions", David. I won't be hassling you over bridges for a while, then.



Well so much for taking advantage of my newly built infamous real brick wall! The weather has made it impossible to do anything much in the garden, but despite that I have completed laying my dual gauge track, and actually fitted the last piece of the 32mm section in a torrential downpour. I now have to fix the lot down, as half bricks laid on top of it aren't really the thing.

Last month I mentioned the local G Scale coordinator, Jack Nisbet. Well if he'd been one of our local steam-up crew, I'd have ribbed him about a confession I think he needs to make,

but I don't really know you well enough for that, Jack! (I will reveal that it relates to a well known Swiss lady, though) After moaning about delivery dates on quarry Hunslets, Marguerite took pity on me and harassed (she insists she politely enquired..) Tony Sant at Finescale Engineering. As a result of that, I have entered the "not-yet-delivered, but hopefully February", Hunslet "Lilian" in the Association "101 Hunslets in steam", attempt at the Association monster show on 10th April next year. This has also necessitated getting my rather larger SLR Hunslet locally known as "Pig" (due to another delivery date saga) back from Locomotion at Shildon, so many thanks to Paul B, or whichever member of your family actually brought it back, for that. And thanks to Anthony Coulls for arranging it!

I mentioned the "Summerlands chuffer" last month, and Ken Warren kindly brought his loco equipped with one, to demonstrate at our Portchester gathering, and if the noise it made when running under "no load" was anything to go by, then I won't be disappointed. This for a grumpy old *** like me, is quite something. Those of you who know me well, are getting worried that I have so far not sworn at my new PC in the month or so I have had it. It just does its job, and damn quickly too. Never had that before....

Finally, photographs.. I have taken very few lately, thanks to the appalling weather, so we're having a "blast from the past" session today, with photos from past gatherings at the late Colin Binnie's, and Bob Petch's.

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). That invitation extends to those in the North of the county as well, but I understand that as we are mostly based around the more populous areas of South Hampshire then it is a fair old way to go, with little hope of a running facility at present, although when things warm up, we will be in luck, I think.

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: 11th December, 8th January, 12th February, 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.