

# 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



January 2008

Hello,

Well I actually made it to the Portchester meeting last month, and fully intend to be there this month as well! I also managed to make it to the western meeting at Rod's on 21<sup>st</sup> December after worrying Rod a bit by saying I would be there after an office leaving do, and giving him the impression that I might be slightly the worse for wear, I turned up stone cold sober. The young office staff member who had arranged the venue, chose one that didn't sell anything I would describe as beer, and was possibly the worst pub I have ever been in.... (and believe me I've tried a few...)

At the western meeting I experienced Rod's effort to cause global warming all on his own, with his much vaunted new garden floodlighting, and even managed to avoid eating any mince pies (mainly because I was concentrating on the other stuff...) We saw some spirited running in the cold and dark from David and Paul, and then we retired inside for a spot of conviviality.

The pictures above are what Rod has been doing, replacing the smokebox of his K28 after an unfortunate incident (I won't give details, but I suspect Rod's first words upon witnessing it weren't "oh dear"). The other one is something I'd love to have seen, but I was in bed feeling distinctly unwell at the time, and that was Trevor's absolutely wonderful fully working steam crane, coupled to his Accucraft Garratt. There are not many railway things that I actively covet, but Trevor, just don't let it out of your sight if I'm around....

Down to more prosaic matters.....

We urgently need to sort out if enough of you really do want to get a minibus to the 16mm Association National Garden Railway Show at Stoneleigh on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008. I know it was discussed last month, as Paul Betts has kindly made the running on organising it, but we need rather more than the current total of 8, to make it work financially. get you names in to Paul this month, if its to happen.

Regarding the Stoneleigh show, it is in Hall 2 at Stoneleigh, that's the biggest one there, about 40% bigger than last year's venue, which was itself about 25% bigger than the previous venue. There are 10 layouts attending, and about 63 traders at the last count, and there will even be a real 12" to the foot scale industrial train there. Unfortunately it won't be running, but there will be vintage locos including our old friend "Phurcombe Hall" on one layout, and of course the ever popular coal fired Garratts on "Ttarrag Shed" I'll be there hoping for some clue from Ian Pearse on delivery dates for the Accucraft W&LLR Pickering coaches I have on order, and maybe even finding out which year our Finescale quarry Hunslet will be delivered in!

Its appropriate for me to give a reminder of Mike Dunckley's DVD for sale, that is dedicated to our friend the late Don Jones, Contact Mike on 02392 465443 to buy one (or more).

If anyone has any news of running sessions, or events, please let me know, and I'll add them to the next newsletter. As for me, on 18<sup>th</sup> January, I'm off to the London Model Engineering Exhibition, (yes, I've pre-purchased tickets!) to pick up some more materials for the next effort, and see if I can find any bargains....



Following on from last month's pic of the frames of the real "Joan", here's a pic I took recently of Marguerite's Accucraft one, with very minor cosmetic improvements, whilst doing photos for a section of the revised 16mm Association "New Member's Guide". Included for no other reason than I think its a good looking loco.

Next month you are likely to be subjected to another picture of my Hudswell diesel, which is even nearer completion, having been sprayed in the correct green, and is ready for lettering and works and nameplates to be fitted. I'm currently making timber slatted louvre windows for the cab. The real ones are sliding, but I think I'll pass on that bit of the detail....



Above is pictured what David F has been doing recently. The only problem with it is, I can't see where to put the coal.... I gather David has been converting it to an alternative power source, more later on this.....

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "William Bickers-Jones". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish underneath.

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**PORTCHESTER Friday meetings:** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Details of Southdown's show attendances are here: <http://www.cslr.co.uk/southdownshows.htm>