

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



March 2008

Hello,

Well I did actually manage to run on one of the 3 days of the Brighton Modelworld show, and met a few old friends there, especially the chaps on Ttarrag shed, who entertained us as usual with plenty of olfactory effects from their coal firing. I also managed to spend too much time and money at the Modelpower stand, and bought a battery pack and a very fancy charger there, which will be very useful once I've worked out how on earth to use it.

One of the things I ordered there was a battery pack for the device on the above right, which I hope to enter in the MOTY competition at Stoneleigh, if only I can get it from 99% complete to at least 99.8% complete! the show had other useful effects for me, as I could get there by train, which was very stress-free, avoiding all the parking hassles, and we managed to sort out the problem with my gas tank filling on my Caradoc, so a big thanks to Rod for having a spare Accucraft gas valve in stock. I was also met from the show by Marguerite, who had been doing some shopping for me, unasked, so that was a major bonus.

I trust everyone has managed to get sorted out for transport to Stoneleigh. I ought to warn those who may be travelling with Paul Betts that sunglasses might be a good idea... I shall say no more!

Paul has been busy making pointwork for his railway, and has only a metre or so left to close the circuit for his railway. He's done better than me in that respect, as I've made no progress on the railway itself, at all, things not being helped by the lawn being soggy and waterlogged. Sean has also been making progress, as is proven by the picture above left, of his first building for his railway, which I gather must be a GVT design. How come Sean's railway actually looks like a railway, when mine looks like a soggy garden with some track in it?

Paul has reminded me that he will be at Portchester on Friday with the Association boiler testing kit, so if anyone needs testing, please let Paul know in advance if possible, especially if its an unusual loco that might need a test adaptor made for it. that usually means me remembering how to use my lathe, which is now easier, with the luxury of several quick change toolholders, as I've now got over Warco's lovely behaviour of selling me half the kit, by buying the missing pieces from Chronos. I should have gone to them in the first place.

A reminder also, that David and Susan Fleetwood are hosting a "Western meeting" at their home, call David or Susan on 01425 611372 to let them know if you are attending. this is the evening before the Association Stoneleigh show, so I won;t be there, as I'll be setting up the show from Friday morning onwards. So please think of me in a grotty little Travelodge room Friday evening!

On the subject of Stoneleigh, you will of course all be going, won't you? Ten layouts, 60+ traders, a chance to meet all those folk you met last year and can't quite remember their names.... lots of really good and pricy prizes in the grand draw. If any of you win anything and aren't there, you will have to pay me a carriage charge to bring it back for you, or you could just hand the prize over to me....

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).



The above is a clue what else I've been doing recently, preparing to take a mould off the above plate, from Bagnall articulated loco "Monarch" of 1953, so I can make a replica plate to use on the loco when it goes on public display. Its a shame you can't leave the real plate on, but nice people will always help themselves to such things.

If anyone has any news of running sessions, or events, please let me know, and I'll add them to the next newsletter.

That's it, if I've forgotten anything, then we'll have to go without.

See you Friday!

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 8th August, 12th September, 10th October, 16th November, 12th December. I'll be away for the June and September ones, so you can all do exactly what you want, then!

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