

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



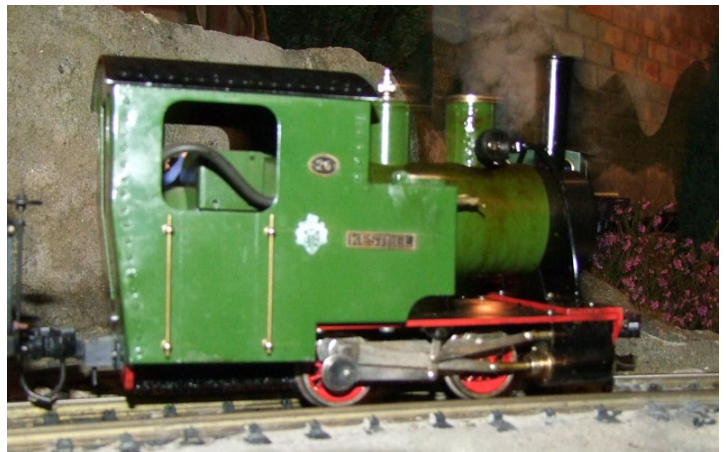
March 2009

Hello yet again,

I'll start this time with some event news, firstly a couple of events at local model engineers clubs. Chichester model engineers are holding a series of open days, which are free to get in, to see their facilities, and their extensive passenger hauling railways. They are off Blackberry Lane in Chichester, on March 29th, April 26th, May 31st, and more that I'll tell you about later. Closer to home we have Fareham and District model engineers open weekend, on 25th and 26th July, at the usual Segensworth Road Titchfield, location. Postcode PO15 5DY, for the satnav dependent among us. That costs £3-50 to get in.

For a fiver, of course, you can get in to that "must see" event, the 16mm Association show at Stoneleigh, in Hall 2, the same place as last year's massive event, and that's on Saturday April 4th. There are 70 traders, 12 layouts, with members being able to "come and run" on both 32mm and 45mm gauge layouts. Anyone who can spare time to do a spot of stewarding (which also gets you into the show free) should contact Keith Dyer, who is easily found on the membership list which you got with your February SMT, or via the stewarding email address on the "contact us" bit of the Association website.

On the subject of February's SMT and the membership list, I'll bring along a few copies of the Hampshire section on paper, for the non computer owning ones among us. I'd appreciate it if you'd stick an extra 50p in the tea money pot at Portchester if you have needed one of these. You are paying your £1-50 a time for tea and rent, of course, aren't you?



Right, onto very local events (for some of us), Karen and Paul Betts are having an afternoon/evening running session on Saturday 14th March, from about 3pm till you get thrown out or we run out of gas or water. I've got a box of 12 cans of gas, and I've got about 20 litres of filtered rainwater in stock... Seriously though, if you'd like to visit the CSLR, then call 02392 341859 to confirm attendance etc., its a 45mm gauge track, suitable for steam or battery, plenty of rolling stock available to haul if required. Or just come to watch.

This month's pictures are of a recent small steam-up at Rod's one evening recently, where Paul's "Engineer" and David's "Kestrel" are seen running in the dark, hence the rather tricky



photographic conditions. The one alongside here is of the famous Timpdon Lake railway, at the Wickham G scale show late last year. An excellent event I intend to attend this year as well. Folk may know I've got bored with the colour of my Caradoc, and as the paint had crazed anyway, I've repainted it now, and a photo of it in its nice new bright colour scheme is included below. Some of you are also aware of the fact that I've got Photoshop on my PC....

I'm not sure what most of the rest of you have been doing, apart from Sean looking for railways in Marrakech, Rod has actually

been running all sort of things on his line and fettling some large articulated devices, something a member not far from me might try to find time to do soon, eh Pete? I've just been painting the aforementioned Caradoc, and today I've been replacing the battery pack on Marguerite's Merlin, and doing a bit of general fettling, as well as lots of boring paperwork for the Association.

I really need to get on and fettle my Sierra Leone rolling stock, and clean up the SLR Hunslet and SLR Hudswell diesel, because in June I will be taking them up to Shildon, to the NRM "outpost" up there, to go on display in a Sierra Leone exhibition, probably with some of my photo collection as well, and then probably onto the railway museum in Freetown, Sierra Leone. I'll may be without them for up to a year. Just as well I do have other locos and stock! Of course I soon hope to have some rather large Pickering coaches to run behind Joan, as soon as Accucraft get them delivered to back 2 Bay 6, where they've been on order for over a year... after that I may actually get our quarry Hunslet "Lilian" from Finescale, which will probably be a three year wait from ordering... Just as well I've got plenty of scratchbuilding on the stocks.

If anyone has any news of running sessions, or events, please let me know, and I'll add them to the next newsletter. Always remember to phone before visiting an open day, please, and always ask if you wish to take (well behaved) children, as not all gardens (or owners) are child friendly.



Don't forget local chap Keith Searle, on searle41@btinternet.com. who has a 32mm gauge line available in Fair Oak, which doesn't see enough running, and he'd welcome visiting runners. A visit there would make a pleasant change for some of us?

See you Friday! (Hopefully slightly less cold this time...)

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 13th 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.