

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



September 2008

Hello yet again,

A extremely rushed one this month, thanks to some computer problems and an extreme shortage of time, courtesy of work and bell maintenance commitments. I've nearly finished the great "preparing for the plasterer" mission at home, and thankfully I've seen the last of hacking off Artex for a while!

By the time you are at the Portchester meeting, I will be on my way to Derbyshire, so you can discuss Rod's message that comes a little later in this missive, without any biased comments from me!

Bob and Sue Petch had their open day on bank holiday Monday, 25th August, and several of us managed to get there, and the weather did actually manage to be OK, despite appearances the previous day. Photos from Paul from his visit are scattered about in this newsletter, and one of his latest renamed loco.



Rod reports:

The New Milton "South Coast Rails" group are keen to fill some vacant layout space and have asked us as the local 16mm/ Garden Railway group if we would like to go there for our meetings.

If we were to join them we would build and run our own 45mm and 32mm track and have a rep on their (our) committee. Space available to us would be 28 x 14 feet, so we would have an oval a bit wider than Southdown. We made some proposals and I had hoped to talk to Bill about it asap.

<http://www.southcoastrails.com> (see the

events section)

We may need a group meeting to discuss fully as there are a few things to consider regarding costs. I had thought we could include the Salisbury and Fawley 16mm groups to make up the numbers, but Bill tells me the Fawley group no longer exists.

The building has been improved since we were there last winter and has a fire safety certificate now. New lighting/power supply and fire exit. It would be nice to have an indoor year round meeting place with running tracks. Down side is of course the travel distance for many of us.

They would also like 5 of us to become full members of their club. This would then entitle 24/7 access to the facility and key holding. The cost of this membership is £52 per quarter payable by standing order. Because this is rather expensive if one is only expecting to visit on a monthly basis it was suggested that a group membership of say 20 persons would pay £1 per month to achieve the required "rent" of £1000 per annum. This proposal was initially well received but has since been turned down. Monthly visitors would pay £3 per night to have track access rights and refreshments.

This whole proposal is basically an alternative meeting venue to the Portchester site only with better facilities. The down side is the travel distances for many and the high cost for some if they were to become full members. It is not trying to take over from the 16mm Association, purely another venue to meet.

The next Western meeting is at Rod's on Friday September 26th. We were wondering if the Friday evening Western meetings were too hard to get to and would you find a weekend monthly steam up/meeting easier. Either a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday?



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. If anyone who doesn't have access to a computer, wants a printed copy of the Hampshire section of the current membership list, just ask me at Portchester, its free to anyone who has paid for their newsletter (so I'm on fairly safe ground there...)

I'm not sure how things are going with rebuilding Crumblin and as it will be making a showing at the Fareham & District MRC event in October, we need to give Dave Shotter and his limited band of helpers some support to make sure its ready on time. I hope we can help out at F&DMRC's event, as some sign of solidarity with the club that provides our meeting facilities at such a low price. Lets rustle up a stand with 16mm association details, and a display of locos and stock, that would give people a flavour of our hobby. Feel free to discuss that while I'm making friends with the M1 on Friday evening.

I'm also on the lookout for people to help out for an hour or two at the 2009 Stoneleigh Show. I do have one or two local volunteers, but compared to many other areas, we don't do too well on the stewarding front. Paul and Sean are effectively signed up for next year, so how about a few more of you? Don't forget, you get in free!

Won't see you Friday!

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 12th September, 10th October, 16th November, 12th December.

Details of Southdown's show attendances are here: <http://www.cslr.co.uk/southdownshows.htm>
Thanks to Paul Betts for hosting that.