

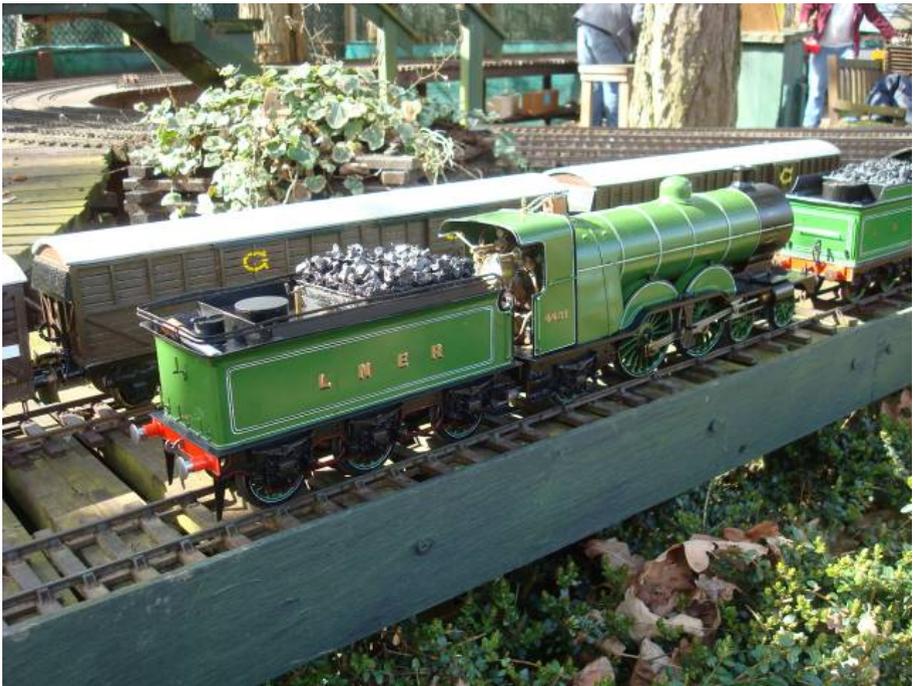
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The News Sheet

This Month...

**Toy Boat Regatta (page 5),
Junior Notes (page 18),**



Plus...

**From the Chair (page 2), Treasurer's report (page 3),
Marine Mumbles (page 4), March Loco meeting (page 6)
General Meetings Update (page 8), Mike's Musings (page 9),
Garden Rail (page 12), March General Meeting (page 14),
GLR News (page 16), Dates for Your Diary (page 19),
Officers, Council Members and Section Leaders (page 20)**

FROM THE CHAIR

This month has seen two very interesting meetings at HQ. Firstly, Mike Chrisp laid on for us the postponed members' workshop video, taken by our own Video Section members. It is always intriguing to have an insight into someone else's workshop; perhaps Dave, when you come to see me next time, I may offer you something stronger than a cup of tea!!

Then we had a talk by Dave Cockle about his experiences at work on the railways of Hertfordshire and North London, at the Loco Section meeting. That too, was fascinating to see an insight into the railway structure in our own local area. Dave had always taken photographs of his work area throughout his career, so we were able to understand the progression of his duties.

As always, only the usual enthusiastic members, around 20 - 25, were present. This is only about 10% of our Society membership. I often wonder why we get so few to these fascinating talks that are well within our sphere of interest. Wrong location, don't like driving in the dark, don't like driving to Finchley? Any comments would be appreciated.

We are now well into 2010 and there are many activities already being planned for the Society members to join in. Mike Chrisp has very kindly produced a calendar of events for the whole year. If you have any event that needs to be recorded, please let him know the details so that we can be kept up to date.

Winter at last seems to be behind us, and a late spring has just about started. The winter weather has delayed much of the winter work, as well as leaving the Colney Heath site still somewhat soft underfoot. In consultation with our Vice-Chairman, Mike Chrisp, I have decided to postpone the opening of the Colney Heath site to the general public, until 2 May. This will give the Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday morning workers more time to complete the construction work presently in progress, as well as making sure that the site is safe and tidy for our visitors.

This decision applies solely to the opening of the Colney Heath site to the general public on Sunday afternoons. The site is always available to all members, although I do stress that they should take due care of themselves and any family or friends that they may have with them.

David Harris

Visitor John Bartlets LNER (ex G.N.) 4-4-2 Marsh Atlantic. Built from a Barrett kit and converted from coal fired to meths. Again a really nice powerful runner.
Photo: Dave Metcalf

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the last Council Meeting we were pleased to accept Joe Featherstone and his young son, Thomas into the Society. Welcome and hope you enjoy your membership.

I am very please to say that subscriptions are coming in at a steady rate and the number of additional donations to projects is much appreciated. Those of you who have still to renew, please use the form sent out with the March News Sheet and not forgetting your Membership card or a S.A.E.

The Society Insurance Policies are being renewed at the moment and hopefully after Easter I shall have received the relevant documentation from the Southern Federation Insurers. Any member who requires a copy of the Society Public Liability Certificate should contact me. You may wish to take out your own "Individual Members' Extension of Club Public Liability Insurance for 2010-2011", which for example costs £8.70 for £2M cover.

I also have forms for individual members to insure their models and model engineering equipment and / or workshops. The premiums rates for models are £0.80p per £100 of total value for a 12 month period from 01/04/2010. One final point is that any member who owns and operates a self-propelled road vehicle in any location to which the public have access, including roads, club sites, rally fields, parks, etc. must have Model Road Vehicle Insurance. This cover is a LEGAL REQUIREMENT and I have the necessary application form if needed.

Finally, please keep the subs. rolling in, but don't be surprised if you don't get an immediate reply back. I may be retired but I still have a lot to do.

Mike Foreman

MARINE MUMBLES (Rides Again).

I knew this would happen one day, having very little to write about. Probably wore my typing finger out last month. The only thing to report this month is the partial success of the "Lawrence Powered Pond Hoover/Pond Composter." It would have worked better if it didn't pick up every leaf in the vicinity and clog up. So we went back to the nets. A couple of weeks of netting and the pond bottom should be clear. With a bit of luck, and me in it. MEMO- Must keep Dave out of the water. You know what I mean.

I had quite an interesting night on the second Tuesday of the month. I was asked to give a talk to (wait for it) The Beds. and Herts. Advanced Motorists Society, on Model Making and Model Engineering, in Hitchin. It must have been quite good as nobody was asleep at the end, except me. They even gave me a pen as a token, and I won the raffle. Not bad for an evening's work.

Don't forget Friday 9th of April is our second Marine Meeting at H.Q. We will have a maritime video/DVD and more of your work in progress evening. Tea and Coffee supplied by Lawrence/Stern Rapid (not Rabid) Catering.

Our Toy Boat friends, from around the country, will be having their all day Regatta on Sunday 16th May at Colney Heath.

A big thanks to Keith and Jack for finishing the Towed Boat Storage unit under the shelter. Thanks to Malcolm Read for his continuing work on Wednesday's pond slopping. Last of all it was good to hear, via e-mail, from John Shrubsole with some good ideas regarding the pond. We will talk about them at the next marine meeting. Cheers John.

Well that's about it from me, considering I had nothing much to say.

Peter Stern.



TOY BOAT REGATTA 2010

Organised by Trevor Smith

The Toy Boat Regattas for 2010 will be held on the pond at Colney Heath on Sunday 16th May and Sunday 18th July. The gates will open from 9am when we will be welcome to play. The general public are allowed in from 2pm when they can enjoy not only our display, but also train rides behind steam powered miniature engines.

The pond is ideal for clockwork, slow electrics and toy steam. If you bring a high pressure model a current boiler certificate will be required.

Participants will be asked for a £3 per individual or family as a donation to the NLSME funds and if you bring a child you will be responsible for their safety.



Hope to see you there with or without your boats.



Highlights from the 2009 Toy Boat Regatta at Colney Heath
Photos Trevor Smith

THE MARCH LOCO SECTION MEETING

By Tony Dunbar

Thirty-Eight Years on the Railways in North London and Herts

I was intrigued by the title of this talk and began to wonder whether Dave Cockle's 38 years covered the same timespan as my own BR career. In the event it turned out that I served from 1955-1993 whereas Dave did 1969 to 2007. Nevertheless we both were familiar with the same territory, i.e. the bottom end of the ECML and the GE branches in particular. I was on the Civil Engineering side and Dave was on Signalling and Operations.

I resolved to come along (my first visit to HQ this year!) thanks to Rai Fenton and I was certainly pleased that I made the effort to attend a superb presentation by Dave which turned into one glorious trip down memory lane for me by showing just how much change there had been and, incidentally, reminding me of the variety of projects I had become involved with and how the completed works were being put to use by the Operators. Enough about my involvement, let's talk about Dave and his career.

As a lad he loved trains (didn't we all!) and his first picture showed him running down Bush Hill Park station with a broad grin on his face - full of enthusiasm. He told us how he spent many hours at one of the local stations helping the Porters until, one day, he was asked to take a can of fresh water to the signal box which was sited just off the end of the platforms. He delivered it and entered the world of signalling becoming engrossed with the block bells and signal levers and how the railway was actually operated. He soon decided he wanted to become a signaller on leaving school. In those days we still had hundreds of semaphore signals each controlled from a signal box which covered a small length of route. Communication between the boxes was by telegraph lines using morse code and telegrams.

On leaving school he applied for a job on the Railway and was appointed as a Telegraph Lad at Finsbury Park No.6 Box. He had learnt morse code at scouts so was one up on some of the other youngsters! Eventually he became a Signaller moving between various boxes, some of which had up to 70 levers, e.g. at Wood Green, and down to the 'garden shed' which served as the Bayford Box and had a 5 lever frame!

Eventually (14 years) he grew tired on continual shift working and opted for a period in Enfield Town Ticket Office where he learnt about the commercial side of the Railway which was to serve him in good stead later as he became the Station manager at Enfield Town and, later still, Area Manager at Tottenham Hale where his area included the Enfield Town Branch.

In the middle of this he did a stint at Hitchin as the Area Signalling Inspector and even worked at Bounds Green Depot in charge of overseeing that the quality of the sleeping cars was maintained to the highest standard. It was here that Dave and I probably met as I was often at the Depot trying to keep the Depot manager (John Cronin) satisfied with one scheme or another!

During his talk, Dave recalled a few incidents which raised a smile or two:-
A down train passed Bayford Box with a door completely missing and a single male passenger sitting nonchalantly reading his paper. On arrival at Hertford he was asked if anything unusual had happened. 'Yes' he said 'I'd had a couple of pints at Finsbury Park and needed to visit the loo'. Apparently as the train entered Ponsbourne Tunnel, he opened the carriage door which hit the tunnel wall and pulled it off!

A heavy shunt at Hertford appeared to have caused no damage until the coaches were brought into the platforms the following morning where the passengers found the upholstered seats all displaced on the compartment floor. Quickly the seats were put back in place and the train departed only a couple of minutes late.

Lincoln Road level crossing (near Enfield Town) was the scene of a couple of incidents. The manually operated crossing had operating hours of 06-00 to 18-00 but motorists were continually finding it not working until a more gentlemanly hour of 07-00. The Keeper was found to be sound asleep in the job - he left! Another Keeper was found to be selling electricity from his cabin by allowing the adjacent timber yard to plug an extension lead into his supply. He also left!

All good things come to an end and following privatisation of BR Dave joined one of the train operating companies where he finished his career training staff in the peculiarities of the Moorgate line operating practices. The train used for the 'hands on training' was specially named the 'Dave Cockle Special' to celebrate his last day.

If I've missed a lot out or its in the wrong order I apologise but I was too busy enjoying a superb presentation by an obviously enthusiastic Railwayman the likes of which are sadly missing on today's railway. An excellent evening, Dave must come again.

GENERAL MEETINGS 2010 – FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are held 8–10pm at our Legion Way Headquarters in North Finchley. Thanks to Peter Davies (a man with a persuasive manner) we usually have a raffle (donations of suitable prizes appreciated), and thanks to Ron Thorogood (maestro of kettle and teapot), we usually have refreshments around 9pm. All profits from meetings go directly to club funds. All members are welcome at any of our General Meetings and we are always happy to see members' friends and family, too. We like to see a good attendance to support our speakers and look forward to your company.

Suggestions (and volunteers) for suitable General Meetings topics are always welcome.

2 APRIL 2010 SHARPENING LATHE TOOLS THAT REALLY CUT!

Blunt tools of any kind are notoriously dangerous. If they happen to be lathe tools, they also lead to frustration because they rarely deliver accurate work with a good surface finish. The aim of this evening's presentation is to get back to basics and show how to make sure that the lathe tools you use are properly ground and sharp.

7 MAY 2010 – LOCOMOTIVE SECTION MEETING

To permit the Society's Annual General Meeting to be held on 21 May, thereby avoiding a clash with the popular Harrogate Exhibition (8-10 May 2010), Mike Ruffell has kindly agreed to move the Locomotive Section meeting forward for this month only.

21 MAY 2010 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members with an interest in Society affairs and their management are urged to attend this meeting.

4 JUNE 2010 – CLIVE YOUNG

Reminiscences of an Ashford Apprentice.

2 JULY – WORKING MODELS

An informal evening to bring and run something on air – or whatever!

MIKE'S MUSINGS.

When you read these very short musing (did I hear a cheer?) some of you will have had the pleasure of listening to Dave Cockle giving his presentation on the Railways in North London & Herts, I hope you enjoyed the evening. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Foreman for hosting the evening for me, thanks Mike.

We are now only a few days away from opening our track to the public, however this may have to be postponed due to the underfoot conditions (I am writing these notes at the beginning of March). *Ed The Chairman has decided to postpone the opening of the track running session to 2nd May due to the ground still being water logged.* Assuming we do open on Easter Sunday, then may I request that before we do, a group of you who have been using the kitchen/mess room during the winter months carry out a thorough spring clean. It shouldn't cause too much of a delay from the more enjoyable aspects of the day. As this area is on show to the public then it is very important that they see it as a clean and hygienic area.

Forthcoming Loco Section Meetings.

Friday April 16th :-

This evening we are in for treat as our Vice Chairman Mike Chrisp has offered to give us one of his very entertaining talks. His talk tonight is entitled "building a 7 1/4 inch County Donegal Rail Car, No. 4".

Friday May 7th :-

Please note the change of date for this months meeting, this is due to the AGM which is scheduled for the 21st. The subject tonight is work in progress from the winter workshop.

Friday June 18th:-

It's going to be a lovely dry and warm evening today so I have arranged the first of three track running evenings and BBQ's. (Hope I don't have to eat my words)

Mike Ruffell.
Loco Section Leader

Track Stewards Rota 2010

Date	Senior Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward
02-May	Lawrence Steers	Peter Prior	John Sandwell	Michael Dear
09-May	Alan Marshall	Roger Brown	Nigel Griffiths	Michael Smith
16-May	Derrick Franklin	Victor Burgess	Paul Godwin	Nicholas Griffin
23-May	Jim Robson	Derek Smith	John Riches	Brian Baker
30-May	Geoffrey Mogg	John L Morgan	Naughton Morgan	Dave Rose
06-Jun	Mike Avery	Geoffrey Burton	Johnathan Avery	Nick Rudoe
13-Jun	Roy Chapman	Mike Hodgson	Peter Badger	Anthony Mason
20-Jun	Ian Clift	Peter Lancaster	John West	Steve Coffill
27-Jun	Owen Chapman	Keith Bartlam	Gerald Moore	David Metcalf
04-Jul	Mike Chrisp	Chris Dean	Alex Chapman	David Foster
11-Jul	Mike Ruffell	Brian Baker	Richard Hall	Guy Ellerby
18-Jul	David Broom	Peter Precious	Mike Franklin	David Morgan
25-Jul	Donal Corcoran	Mervyn Smith	R Thompson	David Burman
01-Aug	Tony Dunbar	Colin Thompson	Dave Chisnall	Malcolm Barnes
08-Aug	Brendan Corcoran	Peter Gooch	Michael Gibbs	Peter Badcock
15-Aug	Jim MacDonald	Peter Sheen	David Marsden	Peter Brewster
22-Aug	Mike Foreman	Dave Green	John Firth	Martin Ginger
29-Aug	Kieran Corcoran	Roger Bell	Paul Lacey	Barrie Davies
05-Sep	Dick Payne	Gavin Lang	John Mills	Richard Hesketh
12-Sep	Chris Vousden	Graeham Brown	Ron Todd	Malcolm Read
19-Sep	David Harris	Peter Fox	Mathew Stallard	Rosemary Turner
26-Sep	Tony Guerrier	Peter Weeks	Ian Buswell	Roger Clarke
03-Oct	Edward Kitchener	Peter Funk	Bill Bass	Tim Watson
10-Oct	Derek Eldridge	Dave Laurance	Roy Mears	John Cattle
17-Oct	Peter MacDonald	Robert Ambler	David West	Robin Barfoot
24-Oct	Terry Baxter	Les Brimson	Robbie Brimson	Roy E Tyler
31-Oct	Peter Davies	Chris Stewart	Brian Lees	Daryl J Lapham

For Sale

5" gauge Phoenix loco. Type 14 Teddy Bear kit complete with driving truck chassis, battery charger, Loksound sound system and 1HP electric motor. All kits unused. £2,000. ie 50% of new price. Contact the webmaster.

Date	Track Steward	Track Steward	Tea Steward	Tea Steward
02-May	Robin Thorn		Frank Inman	Gauge 1 Member
09-May	Graham Gardner	Leslie Dobbs	Mrs Marshall	Mrs Griffiths
16-May	David Brand		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
23-May	Richard Cross	Paul Godin	Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
30-May	Steven Francis		John Morgan (M)	Mrs J Morgan
06-Jun	Dave Snellgrove	Steven Don	George Case	Gauge 1 Member
13-Jun	John Beesley	Andrew Burbury	Mrs Badger	Rachel Chapman
20-Jun	Gregory Metcalf	Mike Randall	Mrs Clift	Gauge 1 Member
27-Jun	Jeffrey Bolton	Matthew Stallard	Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
04-Jul	Rob Brook	David Lapham	Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
11-Jul	Norman Back	Peter Fraser	Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
18-Jul	Ian Johnston		Val Johnston	Gauge 1 Member
25-Jul	Kieth Hughes		Richard Deal	Gauge 1 Member
01-Aug	Bryn Morgan		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
08-Aug	Michael Woolsey	Rai Fenton	Mrs P Corcoran	Gauge 1 Member
15-Aug	Doug Smith	Tony Brooks	Mrs MacDonald	Gauge 1 Member
22-Aug	Adam Gorski	Keith Barltrop	Ron Thorogood	Mrs Thorogood
29-Aug	Peter Stern		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
05-Sep	Paul Bexfield		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
12-Sep	Tim Clementson		Les Brooks	Gauge 1 Member
19-Sep	Mike Dwyer	Kieth Hughes	Mrs Harris	Gauge 1 Member
26-Sep	David Dunlop	Rai Fenton	Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
03-Oct	R Lidzey		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
10-Oct	Peter Smith		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
17-Oct	Brian Baker		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member
24-Oct	Susie Frith		Mrs Baxter	Jenny Baxter
31-Oct	Thomas Betteridge		Gauge 1 Member	Gauge 1 Member

For Sale

The Engine for the "Teddy truck" is now residing in the elements at Tyttenhanger site and if left will just deteriorate. Council have therefore agreed that as it is unlikely that the Society will have a future project into which it could be utilised it should be offered for sale to any member that may have a use for it on the condition that it is removed from the site.

Any member expressing an interest in procuring the engine should in the first instance contact the webmaster.

GARDEN RAIL

(photo by Dave Metcalf)

Here we are with another little offering from the 'GR section'. At long last the weather seems to be turning in our favour, and this, as you may well imagine has made us all a little bit more keen to get out and run our models. We are also progressing again on the new track.

With the finer weather has come a few really good Wednesday running sessions, on a couple of occasions over a dozen members present with in excess of twenty locomotives. The vast majority of which are live steam. One of the most encouraging things we see is every week more and more new rolling stock appearing. Many made up from good quality kits, however more and more are being scratch built (I would like in a later scribbling to go into the subject with more detail and photo's) most builders making up trains of regional stock to match their locos.

One of those busy building is Patrick, very nice to see him back at the track after his recent serious illness and accompanying surgery. Patrick feels his convalescence has been much aided by him building some vacuum vans. Nice job he has been doing on them as well.

As all of you who visit the site will see, work has restarted on the new G1 track. I would imagine that by the time the article is published we will have all the main track support posts in position and be getting most of the pipes filled and top studding set in place. Next job will be the manufacture and fitting of the top support framing for the 'Hardy' backer board we are using for the main deck. Steaming bays and stock yards will be built once we have the main tracks and sidings running.

David Metcalf.



Work is now underway again on the new "G1" track. In the foreground Matt Stallard, David Wesy & Norman Back are busy filling the pipe with concrete and setting the top studding. Geoff Mogg is at the back checking laser levels are correct.

THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING BY OMAH

We had a good turnout and were duly welcomed by Mike Chrisp. Tony Dunbar is home and looking bright and speedy on his Zimmer frame. Track work is still proceeding despite the weather although we could go a lot faster if we had Laurie's digger up and running, Dave Lapham is going to see what can be done to repair it. Keith Bartrop's celebration is on May 8th and he will be grateful to hear from those who will be attending and whether they prefer pork or veg. Next month's meeting will be "Sharpening lathe tools that really cut." Mike then handed over to Dave Lawrence who, together with Mike Dwyer, had produced another 4 videos of members workshops.

The first was Pt 2 of Peter Stern's stamping ground, this time looking at his downstairs, outside, wood workshop with equipment, both hobby and professional, basically guitar making. It started off with a shot of a water feature in the garden, (something that always makes me feel fidgety), moving into the workshop we were shown a Picador lathe that Peter is refurbishing. It is a versatile machine with circular saw, sanding and other attachments beside turning ability. Peter displayed a couple of spent shell cases, one from a Bofors and the other a two pounder. He intends to turn two wooden 'shells' to fit and, suitably painted, they will make a couple of nice items, door stops, what have you. There was a nice bandsaw on one of the benches which has doubtlessly figured in his professional activities, one of which was a beautiful bass guitar, part finished in a wonderful variety of woods. The colours complimenting each other wonderfully. The off cuts from the guitar making go into other activities, nothing goes to waste. Another interesting item was a full size ships wheel from a chandlers at Oulton Broads. Brand new never been on a boat. By a stroke of good fortune the boss fitted perfectly on the top of a stand which Peter already had and will make a very nice coffee table. At this point they decided that it was just about time for a cuppa, a familiar stopping point in the remaining episodes.

The next visit was to Graham Gardner who has some very nice kit including an elderly but still serviceable Seneca Mills lathe from the US of A and another from Mr Warco. Also a mill drill and a ferocious MIG cutter, which they were unable to demonstrate due to the brilliance of the flame which could damage the eyes if not protected, but we were able to see what a nice clean cut it could make. Graham's 7¼" 'Holmside' is coming on well and he had just finished forming the endplates for the boiler. Suddenly it was time for tea.

The 3rd offering was of Dave & Sue Rose's shared workshop, and heaven help anyone who trespasses on Sue's patch! Here is a passenger carrying line

between the house and workshop but it was too damp to use. There is also a miniature railway for Sue's products. There was no shortage of equipment including; a Boxford and a Warco lathe and a Warco version of a Bridgeport mill. The latter had proved problematical since it developed a bad oil leak which took several visits to fix. Sue was working on a 'River' class loco from Finecast which was coming on nicely. Dave is working on a narrow gauge Hunslet with an 8in barrel which will weigh in the order of ½ ton when complete. Guess what happened next? Time for tea.

The last in to bat was Alan Marshall, due to the inclement weather the lads didn't manage to get there until 9pm but were made very welcome nonetheless. The first piece of equipment we saw was a 57 year old Myford Super 7 which had belonged to Alan's dad and was purchased by Alan when he was 15, paying by instalments. Among his aircraft models were a Fiesler Storch and a 'Tiger' Stunter, scratch built and good performers. Coming back to the equipment there was so much and I got a bit confused trying to get it all down and even with the recorded commentary I suspect I may not have done it justice. There was one of those clever Warco bend, shear, roll devices, an Alpine Mill/Drill, an AIS mill with DRO, a very clever oven with pre-set temperatures for tempering, normalising, hardening, etc, a tool grinder/sharpener built by Alan, an XO Mill controlled by a computer. All of these had been put to good use in the shape of a vertical boiler for injector testing, etc, an Allchin 1 ½ in traction engine, a showman's engine, a Foden C wagon and a radio controlled yacht. (There might be some I missed!) Then, we all joined in the chorus, "time for tea".

Having had the raffle and our own tea, courtesy of Ron, whose wife Rita is well on the mend, we had some more video. Mike Chrisp's 70th birthday party and the record of a trip from Tower Bridge to Southend on the P.S. Waverley. This brought back happy memories to those who had already been aboard and hopefully encouraged others to get on the next available trip, not to be missed. This took us nicely up to 10pm whence some of us departed to a nearby hostelry.

(Despite written notes and recording, I have a feeling that I have not done full justice to those depicted. Apologies for anything that I have missed or got wrong. JPR)

G.L.R. News

Our Tyttenhanger Daffodils are late this year although at last thankfully the site is beginning to dry out. (must be global warming) We can now put the finishing touches to the new station, after much discussion and deliberation the crew voted on a name for the new station, (ORCHARD JUNCTION) was the eventual winner and preparations are under way to produce some nameplates. The nameplates will be sited on the walkways where gaps in the brickwork have been left and of course on the signal box. Peter Brewster has kindly offered to mill these out using his new cad package on his Bridgeport. They will be made out of well seasoned Teak, and I think I had better go along to help by bringing an industrial Hoover along to clear up the wood swarf.

The area adjacent to the station has been dug and sown with Rye grass mix, and we respectfully ask all members using the site not to walk on this area hopefully giving the grass a chance to grow in the coming weeks.

Donations to the G.L.R. projects fund continue to build with one gift of £100! A very welcome and generous gift. This not only lifts my spirits and the crews it also eases the burden on club funds. It means that other members from other sections believe in what we are doing. Thanks again to all that have given.

Dear old Jeff Bolton has been up the track recently with his jetting machine blowing the muck and debris away from the worst affected areas caused by the winter works around the station areas. Thanks Jeff it's all coming together.

The steps to the bridge have been treated and replaced. Repairs to the toilet point have been completed (broken dowel pin), to leave finishing track building and laying around the Cuckoo Line, ballasting, and a general clear up and its done!!! Hopefully before the opening of the site. The lads and lassies have really worked hard this winter and I can't thank them enough for giving the club another great feature. N.L.S.M.E. G.L.R. IS BACK IN BUSINESS. Maybe we will have a special celebration this summer to officially open the station what do you think?

I have thanked every one except for a certain hound dog that goes by the name of Grommet. A helpful dog that likes to exercise his owner by playing chase across the common. He also likes to dig and mix cement. Ted Kitchener our master builder was beside himself when he watched how it was done!

Grommet helping Ted says, Is this cement wet enough Ted?



Where would we be without life's little mishaps?

P. Funk

G.L.R. Section Leader

Addendum from OMAH (out and about at the track)

From my lair in the coach, whilst brewing up on Sunday mornings, I can see little of what is going on outside, but recently I was made aware of two incidents which, in my opinion, are deserving of the Society Medal of Honour, if we had one. The first concerns the gentlemen's facility in the toilet which has been problematical since last year. Mike Foreman recently took it upon himself to clean out the bottle trap (yuk) only to find that there was a further problem in the pipe leading from the trap to the next stage which was almost totally blocked, until Mike unblocked it (double yuk). It is now re-connected and flowing freely. The next occurrence was last Sunday morning when I arrived to make tea, only to discover a total lack of electrical power, which made it impossible to provide refreshments. The mood among the workers grew ugly; there was talk of a strike. Fortunately, Peter Macdonald came to the rescue with a portable generator which he connected to the urn which came to the boil just before 11am, the magic hour at which I was due to serve refreshment to the restless crowd. (It also coincided with the moment at which the power returned!) Our thanks are due to both these gallant gentlemen.

JUNIOR NOTES

Just lately I have been assigned to light duties due to back problems (what I will do to get out of digging and lifting!!!). So I have been made the head of making tea and the lunch and then more tea and then more tea again, then tidying and cleaning the coach ready for the next group up Colney Heath. At least I have been able to keep an eye on my secret stash of chocolate biscuits so the junior's can't get their hands on them and scoff the lot. It's been great to see the new junior's and their parents helping muck in with the ground level project.

One of our newest junior members namely Amy Featherstone spent most of last Saturday helping Peter picking up brick rubble. Peter was digging and after a while Amy asked if she could rake the area in front of the new station and once shown how to do the job much to Peter's delight had a keen eye for getting the job of levelling right. She really worked hard that day and deserves a mention in the newsletter. Peter says thank you Amy, you have shown the boys how its done. This area has now been seeded. See G.L R report do not walk on grass.

Whilst on the work subject our resident boffin Mike Hodgson has said he will overhaul their new acquisition (JUNIOR) including re-gauging and donating a set of NICAD batteries. (what makes it go) It is hoped to cut the axles and sleeve them to the correct gauge. Once the correct size has been established the body will be sanded down again and then painted brighter the better!! Not for the junior members but for the safety of everyone else. Bright yellow has been suggested.

Thanks to Jim Macdonald and his engine Hercules. A lot of the junior member's day was made this Saturday when they were allowed to have a drive. Not only were they allowed to drive the steam engine they were told to go full steam ahead pulling the mot truck and a truck full of smiling faces.

We will be planning to do some activities throughout the summer season. Also if you are a junior member and want to be involved please let me have your parent's email and contact numbers.

Mike Woolsey

📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

Friday 2 Apr	8:00pm General Meeting Sharpening Lathe Tools that Really cut; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Friday 9 Apr	8.00pm Marine section meeting at HQ Legion Way, North Finchley
Monday 12 Apr	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 16 Apr	8.00pm Loco Section, Mike Chrisp talk is entitled “building a 7 ¼ inch County Donegal Rail Car, No. 4”; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 23 Apr	8:00pm Workshop Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Saturday 24 Apr	Fete’s & Fair section at Grundy Park, Cheshunt. Contact Jim McDonald
Monday 26 Apr	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Site Committee meeting; St Mark’s Church Centre, Colney Heath
Monday 26 Apr	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for May News Sheet</i>
Sun/Mon 2/3 May	Invitation to the Miniature Railway Gala weekend at the Vale of Aylesbury Model Engineering Society (VAMES) at Quainton
Monday 3 May	Fete’s & Fair section at Southgate. Contact Jim McDonald
Friday 7 May	8.00pm Loco Section, work in progress from the winter workshop; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Saturday 8 May	12:00pm Birthday Party Keith Barltrop 80th. RSVP required. See March news sheet.
Monday 10 May	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Sunday 16 May	9.00am Toy Boat Regatta; Colney Heath
Friday 21 May	8:00pm Annual General Meeting ;HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 22 May	Baraquda Swimming club; Colney Heath
Sunday 23 May	Fete’s & Fair section at Park Street. Contact Jim McDonald
Monday 24 May	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Site Committee meeting; Colney Heath
Monday 24 May	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for June News Sheet</i>
Monday 31 May	Fete’s & Fair section at Watton on Stone. Contact Jim McDonald
Friday 4 June	8:00pm General Meeting ;Clive Young Reminiscences of an Ashford Apprentice HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Every Wednesday	Garden Railway Section at Colney Heath (11am - 4pm); OO and HO Model Railway Groups and Video Group at HQ (evening)
Every Thursday	Slot Cars Section at HQ (evening)
Every Saturday	Morning working party on GLR including junior section.
Every Sunday	Morning working parties at Colney Heath (start 9.00am).

NB: Please remember to notify all meetings, events & exhibitions, in advance, to Owen and Rachael Chapman, who act as Keepers of the Society Calendar and Tyttenhanger Site Events Co-ordinators.

