

Issue No. 792

August 2017

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This Month...



The News Sheet

**Chairman's Thoughts, The July General Meeting,
Treasurer's Report, Forthcoming General Meetings,
Marine News, Scribe's Scribbles, Steward List, Open
Garden report, Letter received, Fetes & Fairs in Enfield,
Diary Dates, Club Contacts.**



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The Thoughts of Chairman Ian



My Open Day, 2nd July 2017

The month of July seems to have gone quickly, Why? Because it has been most enjoyable for us members and with no disasters.

The Colney Heath Site looks good and with the drought the grass seems to have slowed down its growth. The public running days have passed off pleasantly; the only problem being visiting families having unannounced birthday parties. This has been very irritating to certain members and to some members of the public as well. And I must say that on the immediately previous Sunday running day a party held near the platform was rather noisy and proceeded for the whole of the afternoon. Showing that we are not pleased and telling them

to 'go away' when they have settled down is not

the way to win friends and influence people or to get compliance. The last council meeting suggested the notices should be prepared stating that;

something like 'private parties are not allowed' and put on the tables etc. Then it gives the alert stewards some leverage if a family is seen setting up a party. Perhaps they could be directed to the grassed area so that they are not in the way of general visitors and 'face' is not lost by anybody. Perhaps some calligraphically minded member could help-out here.

A worrying item is the parking of cars in the approach lane and by the householders on the 'green'. With rescue vehicles getting ever larger there could be a catastrophe; although the fire brigade did say they did not mind as they would just easily nudge the recalcitrant cars out of the way! (One cognoscenti did say that eight feet six inches is legally the maximum width possible, which with just a foot clearance on either side would need over ten feet six inches width of lane). I hope the time will never come where we do need the use of the rescue services. But we could sound like the owners of the Titanic saying that they ought to get rid of the lifeboats because they would never need to be used.

There is now a stretcher positioned in the First Aid bay in the coach. It is collapsible so please make sure it does not collapse when carrying a chap or chapess who has a back injury! Better still make a resolve to attend the next First Aid meeting and learn all about it!

Finally, we are getting a fine crop of new members. Please use your Arthur Murray school of Charm Certificate to welcome them and make them feel at home with a sense of belonging. By this welcome we will be able to sustain our membership, get new members to stay and to participate in all the wonderful facilities we have on offer.

Have a pleasant month folks.

Friday 4th August. BBQ at Colney Heath. This year instead of tomato soup it is to be vegetable with sausages as before. Please come along and join in but try to let me know how many sausages you will need! Come for a nice sausage and soup and a chatter. Bring the missus to see what you get up to.

Ian J. Chairman.

Front cover photo. 'Clyde Puffer' (see Marine News on page 8). Photo Owen Chapman.

The July 2017 General Meeting. Learning the rudiments of First Aid at Tyttenhanger

Ian welcomed a surprisingly large and enthusiastic group of members of the Society to the Colney Heath site. Cups of tea and chocolate biscuits were provided by Ian to await the stragglers delayed by the atrocious traffic congestion. They had gathered on the Station Platform at Tyttenhanger to revise some of the First Aid knowledge they had gained two years ago at the feet of Verity MaClachlan. This time Ian was accompanied by Dr Keeley Howard who was an experienced houseman at Watford General and part of the same team that produced the MasterChef. She knew a lot more than Ian, was a better cook and had passed her ALS (Advanced Life Support exam).



Ian led a skilful interactive discussion on all aspects of First Aid apart from child

birth and emergency contraception that is. As well as having an abundance of common sense one of the most important aspects was knowing the position of the telephone in the Coach and having an idea where the locations of the first aid kits scattered around the site were. When a call for help was made via a 999 or 112 then the essential action of sending a member to the end of the Lane to meet and direct the ambulance was established.

Dr. Howard explained the procedure for dealing with an unconscious patient and the realisation by the group that cardiac massage was in and Holger Neilson was out. But that mouth-to-mouth was back again after singing two verses of Nellie the Elephant in time to the compressions. But Keeley told the rapt group not to do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation if they felt squeamish about it. Ian gave out a new (2017) First Aid booklet that reinforced Keeley's instructions and advice.

The intricacies of the AED machine were discussed as well as the much better chance of survival with the AED as opposed to getting violent thumps on the chest by a beefy character from the Ground Level Railway.

The importance of acquiring a clear airway and maintaining the recovery position in the unconscious patient were stressed.

Convulsions expected and unheralded were explained and their relevance to both the casualty and bystanders.



The procedures for dealing with the gory issue of bleeding externally; fortunately by this time the party had finished their tea and chockie bics.

Recognising when a pal was having a stroke was the important bit of information gained by the interested group and the immediate action required explained especially when survival is almost the order of the day provided it is recognised in the first place.

Darkness was falling when the newly informed gang cleared up and returned the 'Little Annies' to their normal abodes in zip up bags. They then wound their way home or to welcoming hostelries for the remains of the evening.

Forthcoming General Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated General Meetings begin at 8pm at our Legion Way Headquarters in North Finchley, usually ending at about 10pm. All members are welcome and we are always happy to see friends and family attending. We hope for a good attendance to support speakers. Please remember that many of the meetings depend on the club to provide the catalyst for a stupendous evening.

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Friday 1st September. My Life in Drag Craig Lowes is an ardent Drag Racing enthusiast and with his brother have built drag racing vehicles and I have heard that he could hold the record of the world fastest speed of 224 MPH. Do come and hear first-hand about this sport and of course the engineering aspects.

Friday 6th October. Powder Coating. Brian Parker from Peterborough has devised a method of powder coating and he will share his information with you with a talk and a practical demonstration. Soon everything and everybody will soon be covered with a powder coating. Hope it tastes good.

Ian
General Meetings Co-ordinator

Marine News

Oh well... as with all life, time passes and not a lot to report. Another Toy Boat Regatta went off without any casualties and the next, which is the last one this year, is planned for September 10th. There was a limited number of visitors which I am informed is mainly due to our general age related problems not feeling too well and also distance to travel for some of them is quite far and expensive on the diesel. We did however have quite a few of our own members making it a good social event with common interest. Gregory M and his son brought a Frigate recently built and hope to bring a Destroyer HMS Kelly to the next event if building goes to plan. I know I am biased towards steam and sail but my favourite had to be the schooner, which sailed so well in such a light breeze by owner Roy V.



Many thanks to the replies I had regarding gas shut off by r/c. Jeremy L sent me a link to an electronic timed relay. Couple of quid sent and it was received all the way from China quicker than local supplies ordered at a similar time. It allows me to adjust the times to open or close a relay. So now with one servo supply wire through the relay it will close circuit after 10mins and allow the servo to activate my gas shut off valve. Even if then stranded in the centre of lake at least it is not boiled dry whilst I forgot about the time. Springer Tug to the rescue...

The club owned Clyde Puffer (see front cover photo) originally donated to NLSME by Alan M, assembled by Dave C then motorised by Dave L has been delivered to site and is available for anyone to use. I will keep an eye on it generally including making sure the batteries are maintained but if you do use and spot a problem let me know.

As no one else has been forthcoming in articles this month it just leaves me to say the Water is Wet and hope to see you pond side soon.

Sorry.... Nearly forgot. Many Many thanks for all who help out on the regatta days with special mention to Steve C who not only manages to keep the tea flowing he also finds time to take the pictures we keep publishing.

George
Marine Section Leader.



Scribes Scribbles



Well I was underwhelmed with the rush to volunteer for the task of Site Manager at Colney Heath. However Graham G has agreed to take on the task temporarily this summer. Now I have to put in another plea to members, this time for those with carpentry or painting skills. We have so much maintenance work to undertake at Colney Heath and it is not just winter working parties when it occurs. It has to happen all year round. The good weather enables painting to be done and outside woodwork that is deteriorating to be replaced. Have these skills? Willing to have a go? Please contact either me or Peter B the TSC Chairman

or Graham G. If you fancy strimming or gardening have a word with Nigel G, he would welcome help in cutting back weeds and brambles around the site.

By the time this is published a temporary fence will have been erected alongside the raised track line from the station to the steaming bay.



The purpose of the temporary arrangement is to see how a fence generally affects the site amenity and how effective and practical such a fence would be

to prevent the public, children especially, approaching too close to the running line on public running days which is perceived to be a safety hazard as often they can be observed running alongside trains leaving the station or placing hands on the track. Whilst most parents are aware of the safety of their children, children being children can take off in a moment and accidents can happen in the blink of an eye.



The temporary fence

Those visiting Colney Heath cannot but be impressed by the work being done by Jon D on what we now call the Narrow gauge layout opposite the station. When all the layout buildings and furniture are out the layout is transformed, and the work is on going. Unfortunately poor John has suffered a broken hip joint due to his enthusiasm for riding off road on his bike so work will be put on hold for some weeks whilst he recuperates. However by the time you read this he may be out and about with a refurbished hip albeit with crutches.

Alan (Secretary)

Captions for Owen's photos on pages 21 and 22

The club 31 Diesel/electric has had a refurbishment over the winter including a repaint and added cab and crew details and is now performing regularly once again at Colney Heath and for Fetes and Fairs.

Secretary Alan M returned to running his Maid of Kent around the raised track after the heat of early June put him off getting out his Ground Level train.

Mike's new Sweet Pea locomotive, as featured in last month's News Sheet, now named Victoria, begins its first run around the track with passengers on the 16th of July 2017.

LMS Crab piloted by Nigel G climbs above the newly repainted girder bridge with members of our North American Section.

Wanted.....

Drivers and Stewards for a charitable visit by the Belmont Community Luncheon Club of Hemel Hempstead on Wednesday 16th August. Usual time of 2.00 till 5.00.

The club is for the elderly and they will be accompanied by their organisers.

Please let Alan M. know if you can be available.

Miniature Railway and Open Garden. In Aid of the Jubilee Sailing Trust. July 2nd 2017.

At last the great day had arrived, after a tremendous amount of preparation and subtle advertising both on social media and by flyer it was time to get to work and welcome the public. The garden would be open to the all comers from 11.00 am to 17.00.



Gazebos were erected and a large tent built up to keep any rain off but in fact became useful in sheltering folk from the sun! Flags were put up and the fairground organ showed us that it could play anything from Scott Joplin to Nellie the Brahms Elephant to be a musical roustabout and welcome the visitors in.

Willing donations of bottles of wines and spirits adorned the Tombola Stand and with numbers zero and five getting prizes

the lucky punters had a five to one chance of winning with the purchase of just a few tickets of a pound each.



Hours of cooking had gone into the preparation of deliciously adorned cakes that sold like hot cakes which some were!



The plant stall sold seedlings carefully nurtured over the weeks by several keen gardeners and sold quickly to other gardeners who recognised a bargain when they saw one. The courgette plants were popular as usual due to the excellent reputation they had gained over the past few years.



The water urn was soon boiling and dispensing hot teas and coffees to all and sundry with the addition of homemade cakes and sandwiches. Lunch was provided by the host with sandwiches purchased from a nearby supermarket.

The Bric-a-brac stall was soon doing brisk business; water barrels

and a typewriter used by Lord Robbins' secretary soon being carried off, no doubt as investments in the future.



A local artist gave water colour painting lessons to all who required tuition and sold several excellent paintings all with the story behind them which clinched the deal. What better thing to do than to buy a lovely water colour painting with a fascinating story to tell.

Of course, the reason why so many folk attended was to see and ride on the five inch railway (see photo next page) hauled by Janet (a planet locomotive; the full size locomotive being built for a time in North London). A lady said that her child was three when he first travelled round the garden on the train and now he is thirty. We wonder where those twenty-seven years have gone.

All too soon it was time to close and pack up. Tents were taken down and the few remaining items stored. Money counted and the sum of £1,850 acknowledged to be worthwhile and to be doubled by an anonymous benefactor. The scribe says 'worthwhile' because it will all go to helping the Jubilee Sailing Trust keep sailing and changing the lives of those less fortunate than those attending the Open Day.



The N.L.S.M.E. visit to Fareham M.E. Society. **Saturday 19th August 2017**

Fareham have an excellent pond, a Gauge "0" track as well as the usual 3 1/2", 5" and 7 1/4" railways. To round the day off we usually gather at a local (Kings Langley) hostelry for a meal on the way home.

I would be obliged if members intending to go would let me know so that Fareham can make the appropriate arrangements regarding catering etc.

I can be contacted by telephone
e-mail,
or at the usual meeting places.

Thank you,

Mick A



Fetes & Fairs at the Epping and Ongar Railway. 23rd July 2017.

“Today has seen a miniature railway in operation on platform 3 at North Weald. We hope that this will become a feature on some operating dates in the future. Thanks to North London Society of Model Engineers.” Ian M.



Jim driving and Peter our 'Station Master' at North weald.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It was a pleasant surprise to find the photographs of the majority of the Fairs & Fetes team in the July issue.

It also made me stop and think of the age profile in respect of our activities when considered against the 200+ members of the Society.

One does stop and think just how long can we continue unless we can get some new recruits to help out with the busy programme.

You don't have to belong to a particular section as training will be given 'on the job' and you certainly don't need a locomotive to become an active member of the team. Yes, its hard work but it is rewarding and beneficial to the Society.

So either contact Jim or any of the team for a chat to discover the joys of a successful event.

Hope to see you.

Tony D.

Fetes and Fairs at St. George's School, Enfield. **17th June 2017**



Our Fetes and Fairs section enjoyed another successful day in Enfield on the 17th June 2017. This was the second time that the team have been booked to entertain visitors at the school.

The visitors enjoyed a fabulous day of sunshine and fun, lots of happy families and plenty

for all to see and do.





Matt pulls away from the station with happy passengers in tow, Jim prepares the steam engine at the far end of the line.



Recent activity at Colney Heath.

Some photos kindly supplied by Owen Chapman. (captions on page 11)





Dates for your Diary

AUGUST	2017
Tues 1st Aug	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Wed 2nd Aug	Bob Todd Memorial – Ian M.
Fri 4th Aug	General Meeting. BBQ at Colney Heath, 8pm.
Sat 5th Aug	Brian A's visitor day at Colney Heath.
Sun 6th Aug	Public Running at Colney Heath
Wed 9th Aug	Kent Gauge 1 visit
11th to 13th Aug	Fetes & Fairs at Flamstead Scarecrow Festival.
Tues 15th Aug	TSC Meeting at St. Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<i>Fri 18th Aug</i>	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for September News Sheet</i>
Sat 19th Aug	NLSME Visit to Fareham ME Society. Mick A.
Sun 20th Aug	Public Running at Colney Heath.
Sun 20th Aug	Fetes & Fairs at Epping & Ongar Railway
Wed 30th Aug	East Anglia Group visit, invitation by Gauge 1 group
SEPTEMBER	2017
Fri 1st Sept	General Meeting, HQ. 8pm. 'My life in drag'.
Sat 2nd Sept	Visit by Gravesend ME Society – Brian A.
Sun 3rd Sept	Public Running at Colney Heath
Sun 3rd Sept	Fetes & Fairs at Capel Manor, Enfield
Tues 5th Sept	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ
9th/10th Sept	Fetes & Fairs at St Albans Signal Box
Sun 10th Sept	Toy Boat Regatta – George C.
Sat 16th Sept	Fetes & Fairs at Wheathampstead Railway
16th/17th Sept	Fetes & Fairs at The Plough Air Ambulance Day
Sun 17th Sept	Public Running at Colney Heath

NB. Please notify Alan M (Secretary) of all meetings and other Society events for inclusion in the Society Calendar. Approval for special events still rests with Council and/or the Tyttenhanger Site Committee.