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This Month...



The News Sheet

Chairman's Chatter, Treasurer's Report, Forthcoming General Meetings, '00' Model Railway News, Dave Trigg, The forthcoming February Discussion, Ground Level Rail News, Mr.Grumpy's bit, Garden Rail News (G1), Scribe's Scribbles, Diary Dates.



Chairman's Chatter

Its now time to start thinking of all things tinselly, and festive and boozy and over eating etc., etc., etc. So by the time you all receive your next newsletter the main event will be over, we will all be over spent and over fed and making New Year resolutions that may or may not last for the first week of 2016. So, most importantly Irene and I send you and all your families the very best of wishes for the forthcoming festive period.

Over the past year that is now rapidly coming to an end there have been many changes within the Society, some more popular than others, but all hopefully a general progression for all our associated sections to have improved facilities and hopefully making for a more enjoyable experience for all Society members.

As usual many of the improvements and changes are a result of very hard work by those who help out at the Tyttenhanger working parties and those who put in so much time and effort at Headquarters. Without these very generous efforts our Society and its facilities would be in a very sorry state.

It has been very pleasing to note that we have had quite an influx of new members over this last year with interests in all our different sections but we must also take time to remember those members, or their close families that are no longer with us.

Whilst finishing this little tome, just in time to catch the dead line, looking through the window from a cozy bed I note we currently have the best part of an inch of snow and it is still coming down. It's not the end of November yet! Still, that won't deter the hardy souls that make up the regular working parties, at least, I hope it won't.

So forwards towards another busy year for the Society with many of our regular meetings and events already filling the 2016 calendar.

So once again wishing you all the best for the forthcoming festive season and expressing heart felt thanks to all who have contributed so much to the Society, in so many different ways, over the last year.

Robin Thorn

Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

The November General Meeting 'Bring and Buy Auction' was well attended and our resident auctioneer Mike Chrisp did us proud with his skill at wheedling money out of deep pockets. It was good to see him back on his feet, literally all evening, despite only recently having had a knee replacement operation. The end result of the evening was that everything was sold and some useful funds were raised for the club.



Photo - Peter is pleased with his purchases.

The photo on the front cover of this issue was taken on 11th November 2015 during the visit from the St. Albans South Signal Box group. They spent the evening with us at Finchley mixing and mingling and admiring our facilities. They all had an enjoyable time trying out the different operating systems on the British '00' railway and on the North American 'H0' railway, where of course the 'Dispatcher' has control of operations and they use DCC control.



The photo above shows some of the team in action during a working session. The guys are bending rebar into hoops using Gerry's rail-bender machine. These hoops will form part of the reinforced steel work going over Ted's arched brickwork on the GLR tunnel.



The picture on the left is of the bridge spanning the track-bed of the old St Albans to Hatfield railway line showing the skill of the brick-layers a 100 years or more ago, to create a skewed span using seven layers of bricks. The picture was taken on 30th December 2014, whilst Fetes and Fairs ran a train service for the morning along the track-bed.

Mike Foreman

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.

For more information please ring Ian Johnston

Friday 4th December

THE Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party for all sections. Please come along at 8pm to our Headquarters at Finchley and have an evening of Christmas fun. New cuisine this year and meet folk you do not usually see in such convivial surroundings. ALL SECTIONS INVITED DON'T BE SHY!

2016.

Friday January 1st An evening of members **Slides and photos**. We all have slides taken years ago that we can talk about for a few minutes, so bring them along. Now that we are in the computer age, I think that we are now in a position to scan those cherished photos to show on the silver screen so don't be reticent. Not too many slides of old flames please unless of course they happen to be of the steam powered variety!

Friday 5th February. Boiler Testing Everything you wanted to know about boilers, their testing, the testers and the way the findings are recorded; it will all be laid bare. So whether you are considering buying or building a boiler or just want to know more about boilers it will be there for you especially if you have aspirations to be a boiler tester. The problems will be explained and you may be able to take part in the decision process. If it is a commercial boiler, own build to published design or own build to non-published design, the difficulties will be dealt with. Please come along and perhaps **car share**.

Friday 4th March. Work in Progress. Your last chance to show us what you were up to in the winter. So if you were not ready in November, now is the time to show the Club your prowess and progress. Locomotives please but this is a General Meeting so general engineering is welcome.

Friday 1st April. David Render. This evening David will talk about **Wartime Tanks**. David was the youngest tank commander on the Normandy Beaches and will give an absolutely fascinating talk both of his experiences and the Military Tank. I propose that the proceeds of the raffle should go to the widows of his group of Sherwood Rangers Tank Regiment.

Friday 6th May. AGM. The Annual General Meeting. This is a most important meeting where we summarize what great progress the Club has achieved in the past year. Where we plan for the future of the Club and where we elect members to take up various offices to run the Society for the forthcoming year. **Members only.**

Friday 3rd June. TBA

Friday 1st July. First Aid Evening at Colney Heath. Now the evenings have drawn out again we hope to entertain Verity at Colney Heath with our knowledge of **First Aid** and of course to be corrected by her expert opinions. Please make an effort to visit the track and see what goes on there. You never know when you will need that knowledge in an emergency; you could save a life!!

Friday 5th 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!

Friday 2nd September. TBA

Ideas please!

I would like to provide the opportunity for members in the Club to give some ideas and perhaps even run a General Meeting of their own device. Please contact me if you think you can help, thank you.

Ian Johnston (General Meetings Organiser)

'00' Model Railway News

With Christmas shortly to be upon us once more, it's that time of the year when we all think of those new models we yearn for. Whether your dreams come true or not, and on behalf of all members of the model railway teams here at HQ, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Having got that bit of waffle out of the way, it's time to bring you all up to speed as regard what we have been up to this year. As detailed in the March News Sheet, we started the year with a return visit to display our layout – Midsomer at the exhibition held by the Erith Model Railway Club. This was followed with a further return showing at the exhibition at John Keeble Church in Edgware, this being in April 11. Here we were able to set up on the Friday evening and at the time were the only layout in the main hall. This gave us the rare opportunity to illuminate the layout and test the street, yard and building lights and the organisers obliged by switching the main hall lights off. The resulting illumination was proved to be just right and the layout looked very authentic. Cheers all round from those present!

To round off the year, our third exhibition attended was over the weekend of October 31 and November 1st, this being held in Carshalton Surrey and organised by our hosts the Wimbledon Model Railway Club. Unfortunately, the gremlins struck not just us but several other layouts over the weekend. We were able, however, to work around our problem areas and eventually had a good and enjoyable time.

Back at HQ, work has progressed at a steady pace, with the emphasis being placed on the locomotive depot. With the re-wire now complete, much testing and tweaking of the track has taken place. A new loco shed building has been made together with the coaling stage. There is still a lot to do here, so it will keep us busy for some time to come.

On November 11, HQ teams welcomed members of the St Albans South Signal Box Trust, who came to see and play on the layouts. Everyone present enjoyed what they saw and they left with an open invitation to return any time again.

Which brings me back to comments I have made before. There are a number of members of the Society who are interested in the small scale model railways but despite previous invites, have not been to HQ on a Wednesday to join us. Indeed, the invite continues to stand for all members, regardless of your primary interest. I think, once you venture into our rooms and stayed for a while to digest the work undertaken within the 3 groups here, you may want to join us

always. We are after all, members of the one and same society and the kettle is always on for a cuppa.

With the end of the year approaching, the OO team will be operating our layouts every Wednesday from the Christmas holiday period through to the end of January and may even continue into February. So why not come down one evening and join us?

Geoff.



The photo above was taken during the visit by members of the St. Albans South Signal Box Trust on the 11th November 2015 when an enjoyable evening was had by all. Photo Jim MacDonald.

Dave Trigg.

Dave Trigg was never one to hog the limelight and he would find a big obituary very embarrassing so I shall keep it brief.

David Frederick Trigg 7th Jan.1939 - 1st.Oct.2015

Dave has always been a railway enthusiast, spotter, 00 Gauge, Live steam, LGB and 12" to the foot scale.

He and his late brother were both avid railway 'nuts' and were co-founders of Broxbourne model railway club and for which Dave served as Chairman for many years.

Dave has been a member of NLSME for only a few years, but in that time actively participated in the construction of the new G1 track, group visits, both to Colney Heath and other G1 tracks.

I personally will miss his company and banter on a Wednesday and his vast knowledge on railway matters.

Norman Back

G.L.R. News, December 2015.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !

Winter works

The crew have now begun work on the ground level; the track has been blocked by the erection of a temporary walkway just in front of the tunnel entrance, this will be used for the transportation of the batches of concrete that will be used to reinforce the tunnel roof. Shuttering is to be made on each side of the works so far, these will be made in eight foot sections and concrete is to be poured to complete each section in turn. It has been a long slog on this tunnel project, from me sketching the first drawing to the pouring of concrete there has been so many people involved, so many discussions, so much hard work achieved, I am truly amazed that we have got this far and can see the end is now in sight, I know that I am biased but it is unbelievable that only a few years ago the new land was just an overgrown wasteland what a transformation!

Cable Laying.

It has been agreed by The Tyttenhanger Committee that a new power cable will be run to the tunnel mouth initially to service the needs of the crew knocking up the concrete for the reinforcing work and thereafter to be used for lighting up the beautiful pointing that Ted has done to further enhance the brickwork in the tunnel. Piggybacked to the power cable is a cat 5 exterior cable this is to facilitate an emergency phone at the tunnel mouth in case of any derailments.

The track has also been broken at the entrance to Orchard Junction, the bushes on the point here need replacing, and this will also be the start of sleeper replacement round to the diamond and back down to the car park. Some of the other urgent jobs are; to fit some sort of locking device to the G.L. turn table, deposit some stainless steel weld onto the track detection sections, weld in some more check rails on certain bends, across our bridge, and through the tunnel, not much to do this winter so get in quick and claim your job or be disappointed. Unfortunately the G.L. track will be out of commission for most of the winter so please check with me if you plan to have a run and I will be able to tell you what parts are ok to run on.

Show Stopper.

I managed to get to the Midlands show this year and as always a nice set up with plenty on show for the avid modeller, amongst the stalls I found the C14 that our very own Jeffrey Bolton had built, having laid down the frames thirty one years ago, now that's dedication. It gained a highly commended and was well deserved of its place. Well done Jeff.



See you next year P. Funk G.L. Section Leader.

Steam Oil For Sale

A new supply of Steam Oil 460 Grade, is now available for members to purchase for £4.00 in two pint plastic bottles. Contact the Treasurer at Colney Heath on Thursdays or Sunday mornings, or by arrangement.

Mr. Grumpy's bit for December.

Another month has slipped by and the Sunday morning working parties are running as normal over the winter months and generally very well attended.

There is still very much to do over the winter months to ensure that by the start of the next running season all will be looking pristine, fully operational and safe to use.

The outstanding tasks to be completed are normally listed on one or both of the boards located at the Tyttenhanger site. If you are not yet one of our regular Sunday morning attendees, please consider the opportunity and have a go. Many of you I am sure would benefit from some additional exercise in the open air whether your particular section runs at Tyttenhanger or not. We are more than pleased to see as many bodies there as we can muster each week.

I hope to include a full list of outstanding tasks to be completed in the February 2016 News Sheet.

Working parties are not restricted to Sunday mornings only with Thursdays and Saturdays being regularly attended also.

Progress has been made with re-roofing the garage workshop to make this area more usable. This needs to be followed very soon with a new roof for Smallford Station. Any volunteers please?

A further set of doors should arrive on site early in 2016, when Ron has got his legs functioning again, and this will ensure rapid progress with fitting out the spaces between the four containers to gain the most useable storage space that we can.

Work on the new traverser for the raised track is progressing under the guidance of Alan Marshal and hopefully that work can be rapidly followed by the new base for the workshop to be re-sited too. Much to do and not many bodies as usual.

Power and communication cables have been laid from the T.L.R. Signal box to the new tunnel so as to provide power and lighting in that area and a future telephone system. The power availability will prove extremely useful for the amount of concrete that needs to be mixed to cover the brick lining of the tunnel.

The ballast for the concrete has arrived and will need to be painstakingly transported to the new land ready for mixing. Along with the ballast, a lorry load of scalplings has also been delivered for ballasting the remainder of the T.L.R., and other uses.

This week should see the arrival on site of a new over bridge for the Garden Railway section to greatly improve access to their running areas, many thanks to John Judson for making this possible.

Mr. Grumpy

A.K.A
Robin Thorn
Site Manager.

Society Activities.

Every Wednesday; Garden Railway Section at CH (11am – 4pm), also 0, 00 and H0 Model Railway Groups and Video Group meet at HQ (evening)

Every other Wednesday; Slot Car (Retro) meet at HQ (evening).

Every Thursday; Working parties at CH (all day) and Slot Car section meet at HQ (evening).

Every Saturday; Working parties at CH on GLR, including Junior section (all day).

Every Sunday; Morning working parties at CH (start 9am).

Garden Rail (G1) report.

This month has been fairly quiet, no groups visiting! Had the odd solo visitor (they are always welcome) Weather has not really been that great on Wednesdays, so Tuesdays and Thursdays have seen some use.

As you are all aware, it is our policy to keep the GR going all year round regardless of weather, if it rains we can sit in the boothy, eat our sandwiches and drink tea (although it will seem a emptier place without Dave Trigg sitting at the end)

Right from the start many of us pressed not just for a GR track but for a model railway, scale features are already being made. However the boothy is getting quite full with the station and other bits and pieces so we are now beginning to turn our attention to fitting out our new store shed. Firstly, many thanks to Mike Foreman for finishing off the 'hot' roofing felt, it is appreciated.

We will be looking to add more lineside features during the winter months, Geoff has already volunteered to make an engine shed for the end of the station straight. And we will shortly be looking to get a list of other items needed ie: water towers, halts, cattle landings, footbridges, platform furniture, trackside features etc. next a list of volunteers to make them will be called for. Here, care must be taken, fidelity to scale, style, period & colour will be paramount, Norman has set the standard high with the station/bridge assembly, this level of scale and detail will have to be maintained.

Also soon needing to be replaced is our old wooden bridge across the track at the boothy end, now repaired so many times it's getting a bit "heavy" luckily we have been offered a superb metal footbridge at a keen price! So we are going ahead with the purchase of it (with support from the TSC & Council) keep your eyes open as it will soon be installed, it will make an attractive addition to the GR track, and site in general. Many of you will be familiar with it spanning the track at John Judsons, John is 'down-sizing' so it has found a new and appropriate home with us.

Be warned We are looking for volunteers for working parties, there will be many to be organised so get yourself ready to help, clearing leaves, laying more slabs, painting the boothy, fence, posts and trellises etc. so until next time, happy steaming!

David M.

NB. Please notify Alan Marshall (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.

Dates for your Diary

DECEMBER	2015
Tues 1st Dec.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Friday 4th Dec.	General Meeting at HQ. Christmas Party for all sections. 8pm to 10pm. All welcome.
Sunday 6th Dec.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sat 12th Dec.	Fetes & Fairs at Berkhampstead, contact Jim MacDonald.
Sun 13th Dec.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 13th Dec.	BSCRA Area 6 2016 1:32 National Championships Qualifying Round at HQ, slot car event all day.
Tues 15th Dec.	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
Sun 20th Dec.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Wed 30th Dec.	H0 Section Christmas operating session, all members welcome. Meet at the Tally Ho! (Upstairs) for lunch at 12 noon then at 2.00pm at HQ for running.
JANUARY	2016
Friday 1st Jan.	New Years Day running at CH – contact Mike Foreman
Friday 1st Jan.	General Meeting at HQ. Members' slides & photos. 8pm.
Sunday 3rd Jan.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 5th Jan.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Sun 10th Jan.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 17th Jan.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 19th Jan.	TSC Meeting – St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
Fri 22nd Jan	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for February News Sheet.</i>
Sun 24th Jan	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 31st Jan	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
FEBRUARY	2016
Tues 2nd Feb.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Fri 5th Feb.	General Meeting at HQ. 'Boiler testing and storage at Colney Heath' - discussion. 8pm.
Sun 7th Feb.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 14th Feb.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 16th Feb.	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
Sun 21st Feb.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 28th Feb.	BSCRA Area 6 2016 1:32 National Championships Qualifying Round at HQ, slot car event all day.

NORTH LONDON SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS
Officers, Council Members & Section Leaders

The views expressed in this News Sheet are not necessarily those of the Chairman or Council of the NLSME.