

Want to see this
in full colour?
Then visit
www.nlsme.co.uk



The News Sheet

This Month...

Ight and Abight in 2007 (page 4)
Tom Luxford memorial seat (page 6)
General Meetings Update (page 9)
Ascot 2007 Report (page 10)
Ascot photographic miscellany (pages 12 & 13)
Ascot Thanks (page 14)
August Bank Holiday Monday (page 18)



Plus...

From the Chair (page 2), Treasurer's Report (page 3), Site Manager's Report (page 3), September Loco Section meeting (page 6), GLR update (page 8), Tyttenhanger Site Committee News (page 15), Track Stewards' Rota (page 17), Committee Meeting News (page 20), Dates for Your Diary (page 23), Officers, Council Members and Section Leaders (page 24)

www.nlsme.co.uk

From the Chair

Firstly, may I welcome Andrew Smith, Managing Director of the Three Valleys Water plc at Hatfield, as our new President. Congratulations. Andrew has taken over from Peter Darby who has moved on to a new managerial position within the Group. We offer Peter our best wishes for his future role. On behalf of the Society, I have invited Andrew and his family to join us at Colney Heath one Sunday afternoon before the running season finishes, to see our activities and hear about our future plans.

I write this foreword as the 100th Model Engineer Exhibition closes. What a superb event it was, and what a stupendous venue the Ascot Race Course was for the 100th Exhibition. Clearly, many people had put a lot of effort in creating such an event, and how good it was to see so many model engineering societies taking part. The North London SME stand was first class; plenty of diverse models to examine, representing the great diverse Society that we are. The stand was well laid out so that the models could be seen at their best. My thanks to you all who were involved in whatever capacity - in setting up, stand manning, and clearing up on Sunday. A good positive effort - my thanks again.

My thanks, too, to the loco chaps who came to the MENCAP event on Saturday, 15 September, to either drive their locos or to steward. It was one of those brilliant autumn afternoons and so rewarding to see the pleasure on our visitors' faces after the rides. Thanks to all again; a very worthwhile effort for a deserving cause.

The running season is nearing its end; soon it will be the Halloween party on Saturday, 27 October. Tickets, priced at £1, are available from Rachael Chapman. The money received is to be used to defray some of the overhead expenses but also to give an accurate figure of possible attendance for safety requirements. Get your tickets early, offer to help with the event and make it a rousing (or fearsome!!) end to our year.

On a more serious note, may I suggest that as you dispose of your old News Sheets, you tear off the back sheet with names, addresses and phone numbers of our leaders, and shred it, or otherwise carefully dispose of it, to prevent identity fraud.

David Harris

GALA WEEKEND 28/29 JUNE 2008

The Council is seeking to gauge the extent of continuing interest in the Gala Weekend planned for next June, and also volunteers to form an organising committee to carry out the project.

If you would like to help, please contact D Harris, M Chrisp or T Dunbar.

Treasurer's Report

The influx of new members last month revealed that we had practically run out of Society badges. A new supply is being sourced at present and I will announce when they are in stock for anybody who wishes to purchase a new one. No new members were elected at the last Council Meeting; however, I was able to confirm that despite the sad loss of a few from our midst and normal natural wastage, we are in fact five more in number than this time last year, having attracted twenty five new members.

All those members who have paid their subscriptions will be receiving this issue of the News Sheet, together with a new name and address list, which I would remind you, is confidential and solely for the purpose of contacting fellow members. Of course, no sooner had the printing process for the new list been started than I was advised of an address change. So would those of you who have one of the first batch, please amend James Brimson's address as follows:-

Looking forward to next April's subscription renewal, I have had a number of enquiries from people wanting to set up a Standing Order Instruction with their bank to pay their subs. This would save time and trouble for them and the Membership Secretary and I am very happy with this idea. I have obtained a supply of the relevant forms from the bank and anybody wanting to take this payment option for the future, would they please contact me and I will send them a form for completion.

Mike Foreman

Site Manager's Report by David Harris

Already I have received offers of help regarding the list of jobs to be tackled at Colney Heath. Peter Funk has said that he will remove the dead wood from the apple trees later in the autumn, while Peter Brown and Nick Bone have offered to repair the shed door behind the tunnel and generally clear up the area. Thanks to all for your support.

There are still plenty of smaller jobs to be tackled, so if you would like an open-air activity for a couple of hours or so on a Sunday morning, come along and join a genial crew. You will be most welcome.

Cover picture:

A general view of our popular stand, on which items from all sections of the Society were displayed. Photo: Owen Chapman

IGHT & ABIGHT in 2007

by Jim Robson

It has been a good year for getting ight and abight, (or out & about as we common folk say); unfortunately I couldn't make all of the events but did manage a few. I went to several track birthday parties, and will, hopefully, appear at the remainder, (if there is not too many). We have been quite well supported in this area. We also did our usual events for the Childs Hill School autistic children and St Luke's School. We didn't get a visit this year from the Chernobyl children, which disappointed some of our stalwarts. Perhaps next year? Jim Macdonald has been faithfully dragging his portable track to various venues, one of the first of these being our annual goodwill visit to Colney Heath School. I was unable to make the Leighton Buzzard visit but heard it was very successful; sadly the Great Missenden rally had to be cancelled due to flooding, and we had to opt out of the Potten End Rally due to lack of support.

We were back on parade at the Redbourn rally, not overwhelmed with helpers, but the beer tent was excellent (or so I was told), the weather was kind, up until the end of the second day when the rain descended in force. Tim Watson had an eventful last lap; he was almost home in St Albans, having driven 'Madeline' on the road, when one of the passenger trailer wheels deflated shortly followed by the separation of the tyre from one of the engine's rear wheels. He phoned home and a rescue party, Tim's wife, brought the car and trailer to get him home. (He has since taught the tyres manners via a number of suitable bolts and nuts). The next outing, rather damp, was to the Flamstead Scarecrow Festival; despite the weather it was very well attended and widely reported. We ran the track in the churchyard, very conveniently adjacent to the Three Blackbirds, in which the Corcoran family have an interest, and very kindly kept us supplied with refreshment. A great outing, one not to be missed. Yet another birthday on the following Saturday and another track outing on the Bank



The line of Fowell engines at Old Warden, as captured by Jim.

Holiday Monday to 'The Boot' fun day at Chipperfield. This is the third year of this event, which goes from strength to strength.

'The Boot' is owned by one of our members, Roger Clarke and his wife Diane, and, once again, the hospitality was overwhelming. Thank you both.

On 7th September I went, with Jim & Alistair Mac and Peter Davies to the MEX at Ascot; what a fantastic venue. Most enjoyable. Another trip on 9th September was our second visit to Capel Manor at Enfield as part of their Vintage Car rally. An excellent place to take your wife to try and clock up some Brownie points, as the grounds are beautiful. It was a lovely day and all went well despite the initial manpower being just Jim Mac. It grew, Mike Avery towed the track and helped set it up on Saturday, as he has so many times, and on the day there was Peter M, Mike Hodgson, myself, Donal and Laurie with family. Another glorious day.

The 30th MENCAP visit was very successful with a large turnout of both members and visitors, the weather was excellent, in all, 'perfick'. On Sunday September 16 we had a family trip to Old Warden for the Bedfordshire Steam & Country Fayre, our 3rd visit and yet another sunny day. If you have not been to this venue, I recommend it most strongly. It was just as good as ever, my only disappointment being that I missed the Miniature Steam Parade in the show ring - blink and you miss it, so I didn't get any snaps of our members. The only familiar faces I saw were Peter Mac,



Jim's picture of an RC jeep at Old Warden; the driver and passenger have a full range of movements, and turn their heads when reversing!

and his young lady, (who told me they were having water problems) with David Spencer who had his 4in. Clayton & Shuttleworth traction engine 'Rose'. They looked a bit fraught so I did not engage them in conversation. I didn't see 'Madeline' but I saw the owner entering the beer tent as I was leaving; I am not sure if he recognised me as he appeared to be in a bit of a hurry, for some reason. The only snap I managed to get

was of the one of the star attractions, a collection of Fowell traction engines, the first time all the remaining seven had been seen together. I have to confess that I had not heard of the make; but apparently they had a small factory at St Ives in Cambridge and only made 109 engines. A great day; as ever, we only managed to see a relatively small amount of the total. I can't speak for the rest of the family but Julie & I were more than somewhat shattered by four o'clock so we departed. Hopefully, we will be back next year.

Tom Luxford Memorial Seat

Bryan Luxford recently delivered a fine bench seat to the track to commemorate Tom's long association with North London SME and perhaps more particularly, with the railway at Colney Heath. Members who have recently joined our ranks may not have known Tom but they are assured that the Society would not be the flourishing club it is today without his hard work, enthusiasm and kindness over many years. The pedestals on the columns supporting the station canopy bear the initials TLR which are intended to stand for Tyttenhanger Light Railway. Such was his contribution to the Society that many of us think of them as referring to Tom Luxford's Railway!

We are specially grateful to Ruth, Bryan and all the Luxford family for their kind gift and are honoured to have this memorial to a greatly respected and much loved member. The seat will be placed inside the track circuit at the station area not far from the Harold Pill memorial seat and a suitable commemorative plate will be prepared for attachment to the top rail of the seat back.

Mike Chrisp

The September Loco Section Meeting by Roger Bell

The topic for the evening was a presentation by Kim Winter entitled 'Narrow Gauge Railways of the First World War'. Kim's interest in the subject started after reading a book 'Narrow Gauge at War,' which has led to his club investing in the purchase of a Hunslet 4-6-0 steam locomotive. Whilst searching for a Hunslet to restore he contacted a guy in Australia who had found where the old Hunslet's were. Their locomotive, number 1215 formerly known as ROD (Railway Operating Department) number 303, was built in 1916. He is currently raising money for its restoration. There were fifty-five of these loco's built; theirs went to France in 1917 for the war effort, and in 1924 it went to Queensland in Australia from where it worked at various places until being given to a children's home in 1967. In 1995 after the home closed it was sold to the town council. Kim's club applied for an export permit to have it bought back to the UK, which was granted on appeal in December 2004. On 23 September 2005 after 81 years the loco came home. It arrived in a container transported 'at cost' by P & O. Kim would not have anything said against P & O; this was a fine gesture on their part. It was then further restored at Shildon, where it is now inside and on display and covered by their insurance. It is painted black as it was when it worked amongst the trenches. The next stage is to turn their club into a trust.

We saw various pieces of film of narrow gauge railways in action which Kim had bought from the Imperial War Museum; he has permission to show them to small

groups. This archive film was really quite incredible. To build the two-foot gauge track, a horse or mule and scoop-type plough were used to remove soil for the cuttings. Trains were seen carrying troops, ammunition, duck boarding and barbed wire. A trench was being dug and shuttered with a frame that wedged across the trench and supported the duckboards well above the bottom of the trench.

One long sequence with a camera mounted on an ammunition train (best place for a camera in those days as they were so big and heavy plus all the film) took one all the way from the railway to the front line, everywhere along the line was complete devastation, churned earth and wrecked buildings. Shells about twelve inches in diameter were restrained by a rope as they were lowered down an inclined wooden beam off the train.

Of the various shots noted were: - a loco replenishing water in its bunker tank by suction through a hose from a river. Sacks were hung near the railway to keep prying enemy eyes from watching railway movements. Letters from home were being distributed to the men.

This was a most fascinating talk, a mix of wartime and locomotives which demonstrated the benefits of the narrow gauge system. We thanked Kim warmly for an enjoyable evening.

The money raised from the raffle is to be used towards the new smoke box saddle and big end bearings. The raffle prize was a unique numbered print of one of the locos in the class.

St Albans Mencap would
like to take this
opportunity to thank the
members and volunteers
from The North London
Model Railway for their
continued support. They
have brought so much
pleasure to our members
their families and
carers for the past 29
years
THANK YOU!

G.L.R. Winter draws on.

To all those who intend to join our track building activities this coming winter season I personally welcome you and thank you in advance for the hard work that will have to be done in order to complete the loop around the hump!

Work has been on the back burner over the summer months and apart from the grass cutting boys, the track ballasters, the pallet obtainers and nail punchers, the G.L.R. planners and marker-outers, various committee and council meetings, not a lot has been going on, has it?

I have finished building an open wagon for the G.L.R. It was thrown together over the summer months and having started life as a double bed I initially looked at the unwanted slumber machine and saw a wagon (how strange the mind!). This is to be used to transport the heap of rubble and MOT from the gate to the rail head. It can be used by anyone for any purpose; it is hoped that the piles of concrete and MOT will be moved before the new president's visit, so pleasing our venerable chairman.

G.L.R. meeting

Thanks to all who helped to make a memorable evening especially Jim McDonald, Laurence Steers, Peter Davies and Les Brimson for that most enthusiastic explanation of the way forward. I was a little bit worried about the fact that when at the beginning of the evening looking at the morphed photos of some members I couldn't see or tell the difference! It was especially pleasing at the end of the evening to be thanked by a senior member for, in his words, "a great evening"; this couldn't have been the result of winning the bottle of whisky which apparently had a broken seal and whose contents have evaporated in the last week? May God bless you, member, and I know you will have enjoyed every last drop.

Council meeting

I attended the last council meeting and was very elated to hear the comments passed by the committee on the continuance of the G.L.R., especially those of our chair Mr D Harris. Although I have not finished the budget for the coming winter works it is evident that monies are available for the G.L.R. to get round the mound and will be forthcoming. The hold-up is down to the fact that I have got a bit busy at trying to make some beer vouchers to see me over the winter; the good news is that the steel prices for the next phase have not increased too much over last year, + 5% approximately, and with careful construction parameters it is hoped only three loads of MOT will be used on the project.

MY TEAM & I CAN'T WAIT TO GET GOING

Loco section meeting

I have driven around a lot of France and Europe in previous years coincidentally visiting or passing through sites of major First and Second world war battles, and

upon watching the film show of Narrow Gauge Engines at war the devastation was beyond comprehension. To go there now it would be easy to miss the signs that there was ever such destruction - "lest we forget". A poignant fact I saw in the film was the apparent happy-go-lucky attitude of the soldiers working on and around the railway; perhaps they were the lucky ones away from the front?

There was half an hour to go when the film show ended, and it was my chance to show part of a video booked out of the club's new video library (more about this next month). The clip was intended to show that you're never too old to start building a railway or model, for example "Mr Bert Mead, what's the next project" and enjoying oneself in the best club around. So much to say and do, but so little time in which to do it. See you next month as ever, not yet in the muck.

Peter Funk

G.L.R. Section leader

GENERAL MEETINGS 2007 FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME by Mike Chrisp

Unless otherwise indicated, all our General Meetings are held 8–10pm at our Headquarters in Legion Way, North Finchley. We usually have a raffle and are indebted to Ron Thorogood for providing refreshment at around 9pm. Any donations of raffle prizes are much appreciated. All profits from teatime and the raffles go directly to club funds.

Please call me if you have an idea for a meeting, or if you feel you can enlighten and/or entertain your fellow members.

We can seat about fifty in our meeting hall. You are particularly welcome when we have special Guest Speakers. Friends and/or family are also welcome at any of our General Meetings. I look forward to your company ...

5 OCTOBER – FORUM: MILLING IN THE MODEL ENGINEER'S WORKSHOP

Generally speaking, milling machines are used to produce flat surfaces on components. They can also be used for internal and external cylindrical surfaces as well as spheres, spirals, cams and gears. Many model engineers use their lathe for simple small milling work. In recent years, the availability of relatively inexpensive milling machines suitable for the home workshop has resulted in their wider use by model engineers. Computer numerically controlled milling machines have also become available to the enthusiast.

This evening's meeting is intended to provide a forum for the exchange of views, opinions and experience concerning milling in the model engineer's workshop with the result, hopefully, that we shall all know more about using our equipment by the end of the evening. It would be good to augment our discussion with some examples of your work.

2 NOVEMBER – ON THE TABLE: WORK IN PROGRESS

What are you (or have you been) working on? Now the busy days of summer with their associated holiday arrangements, rallies, visits and exhibitions are largely behind us, we have the prospect of lengthening evenings and hopefully some time to spend in our workshops. Work in Progress meetings provide perfect opportunities to show fellow members our current project(s) and to discuss any technical matters giving us cause for thought.

A few colleagues will be invited to 'Show and Tell' during the evening, but please don't hesitate if **you** have something to bring to the meeting. A call to me beforehand would be very much appreciated so I can attempt to bring some form and order to what in the past has always been an informative, instructive and enjoyable evening.

7 DECEMBER – A PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Notwithstanding that shops and other establishments have been preparing us for Christmas for months, some may consider it somewhat previous to begin our festivities this early in December. However, over recent years our twelfth General Meeting of the year has become an opportunity for members, partners and friends to mingle and chat while enjoying a finger buffet. Tasty titbits and liquid refreshment of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic varieties will be available. It will be a pleasure to cater for our Ron who will be able to take the evening off and enjoy not having to make a brew for the rest of us!

I hope to arrange something to entertain, amuse and educate with reminiscences and anecdotes during this informal evening that will conclude our programme of General Meetings for 2007 that I hope you have enjoyed.

Ascot 2007

Report by Ian Johnston

It all happened like magic! Rather it seemed like *Magic (alia)* due to the tremendous amount of work put in by the willing team with an abundance of goodwill.

The team. I am extremely proud of the way that everyone handled the Show. Some members were a little headstrong in a cooperative way. This was quite easy to understand when in actual fact no one really knew how the stand should look for the

exhibition. After endless tweaking a very presentable stand emerged and I was rather surprised when we did not win the prize for the best club stand. The Dutch club next to us got the 'Best Club Stand' award so perchance the judges were confused! I ought to name some of the wonderful folk that contributed the most but then it would leave out the others who also gave up such a great deal of time and made so much effort. So all I can say is 'Well done all of you'.

The models. A cornucopia of models was available and had they all been presented then the stand would have collapsed under the weight. As it was it had a distinct wobble! Several members were bitterly disappointed at not being able to display their models in all their glory for the burgers of Berkshire to see. (At least I'm not using Cockney rhyming slang about the Berkshire Hunt). We had everything from 00 to 7¼" on the railway theme; everything from work at the 'workshop class' to very fine marine models; and in the period of construction, objects from well over 100 years old to hot air engines recently constructed. A big 'thank you' to all who allowed their exquisite and expensive models to be displayed to the public at Ascot.

The site. I don't think there could be a better site for an exhibition. The Grandstand at Ascot was ideal. The building was light and airy. The floor space was very adequate. The clubs on the fourth level were well served with lifts, escalators (one member has the scars to show how he carried a 5 inch Black Five up the moving stair case!) and toilets and there was good airy seating just outside on the Grandstand looking down on the racecourse. The second floor was reserved for precious model collections (Cherry Hill et al) and the ground floor for the traders, Gauge One and 7¼" clubs, not forgetting very adequate refreshment areas.

Access to the Ascot Grandstand was a problem; the M25 can be very fickle, so a journey time can be trebled with just a twist of someone else's wrist or wheel. Gaining access to the centre was also a problem. A combination of *Magicalia's* understandable caution and a rather particular Ascot management who did not want model engineers' old leaky cars on their pristine tarmac made getting models onto the fourth floor rather time consuming and difficult. Risking an on the spot fine of £10 for just walking on the grass kept me on the straight and narrow path.

Conclusion. A very fine show was put up by the NLSME. It was a pleasure to lead such a group. In the future we will perhaps learn from the experience and moderate our appetite for splendid models which were most willingly lent. Perhaps we should communicate more so that we don't duplicate activities. **Well done!**

FOR SALE

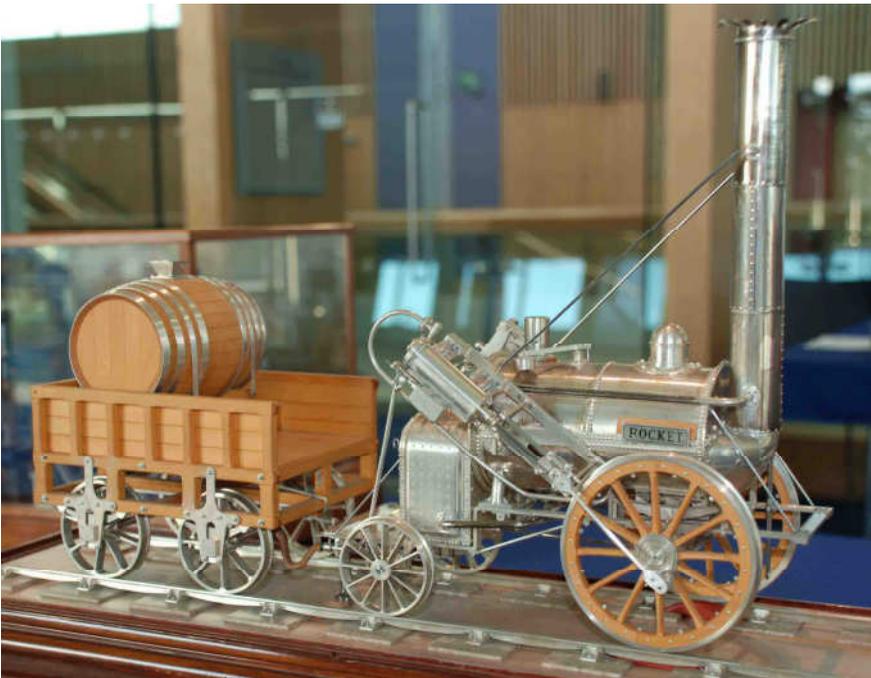
Warco VMC mill, bench model imperial with number 3mt, good condition, 240v single phase. £650

Contact: Ron Todd ☎



Brian Baker & Tim Watson admire Paul Norrington's superb model Fowler A8 Road Loco in the magnificent display of models on Level Four.

**The Centre
Engineer
Royal
(7th to 9th
Part of a collection
digitised by**



Cherry Hill prepares her unique model of W.F. Batho's 25 tonne Road Roller of 1870 for display.



**enary Model
Exhibition at
Ascot
(September)**

**ction recorded on
y Mike Chrisp**

**All picture captions
by Mike Chrisp**

Left-hand page at bottom: Retrieved from storage at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Bradbury-Winters' Silver Rocket was made available for MEX 100, but it may be some time before it is seen in public again. Outside the building a 7 1/4 in. portable track had been laid, and locomotives were run to give rides for visitors. Mike Hall is at the regulator of Terry Aspin's 'Golly Gosh' featured in Model Engineer some years ago.



Centenary Model Engineer Exhibition

I wish to add my personal thanks to all who supported the North London SME presence at this fantastic exhibition in such a superb venue. Our well-stocked Society stand was full of variety and interest and was well stewarded throughout the three-day event. Although the Judges considered our neighbours from Holland to be the 'Best Club' present, we have nothing to be ashamed of and can hold our heads high!

It was good to see so many more club and society stands at this Centenary Exhibition than have attended in recent years. Although some previously regular traders were missing, plenty were present at Ascot, including some that had been absent from the post-Christmas slot for some years past.

And the models! I believe that with the possible (and arguable) exception of SMEE 100 in 1998 at Brunel University, there has never before been such a wonderful display of magnificent models under a single UK roof.

If the Model Engineer Exhibition is to be held again at Ascot – and I for one would be pleased to learn that it will – I hope North London SME will be there. I'm sure Exhibition Manager Lou Rex will do everything possible to facilitate the delivery and collection of stand equipment and models at any future event.

Mike Chrisp

XX

Owen and I would like to thank every one who helped us with the Ascot MEX and made it such a success. Our stand had a good variety of models from all of our different sections.

This exhibition would not have been possible without everyone's help; I cannot possibly mention every one as there would be no room left in the News Sheet for any thing else, but you all know who you are, so thank you.

So thank you all once again for your help and support. I hope the next exhibition that Owen and I do will be as good if not better.

Just a reminder that Halloween is creeping up on us as ever. If you would like tickets, to run your engine, or to steward, then please let me know.

Rachael Chapman

Loco Section & Tyttenhanger Committee News

Those of you who came to the Mencap day will have seen the joy that the many visitors had, on such a bright summer's day. Both mainline and ground level railways were running. Gerry and I had a very busy afternoon to satisfy the demand for rides on the ground level railway, and from what I could see the main station area was also very busy. I think they all went home with a smile. This makes it all so worthwhile.

What a superb talk we had by Kim Winter at the September Loco section meeting. Quite an insight into what it must have been like at the front in WW1. We owe so much to the men and women who served our country in both wars.



1215, on the night of arrival at Shildon

(See Roger Bell's report of Kim's talk on page 6)

I have received an email from Kim thanking us for the £32.55 raised in the raffle for the War Office Locomotive Society. Those of you who would like to know more about the society and see more pictures can use this link: <http://hughesi.460.users.btopenworld.com/frontpage.html>

The **October Loco section meeting** is "The year gone and the year to come." A lot has happened over the last 12 months and we can reflect and be thankful to those who freely gave of their time last winter. The "New Land Project" has started with the planned Ground Level loop around the mound. Feasibility measurements that Les has so far made for the extending of the main line appear most encouraging. Also Mike Foreman's crew have started the "Deviation Project" on the raised track. Another team has been rediscovering the possibilities of redevelopment of the Steaming bay, workshop and storage area. So come along to the meeting for general discussion to see how you can contribute to these exciting projects for the year ahead. The future of our society is looking good.

At the **November Loco section meeting** we will be remembering our good friend Frank Dell who we sadly lost recently. Over the years he contributed so much to our society and became a good friend to quite a few of us. He will be sorely missed. John West has some videos to show that nobody has seen yet. But this event is open to anyone who would like to share their moments. Please let me know what you can add to this evening. Mike Chrisp has kindly agreed to front the evening, but we do

need your input. We also hope that Frank's family will be there.

Winter working parties will soon be with us so dig out your boots and winter wear ready to start on Sunday morning on the 28 October at 9am. Also, every Saturday all day the Ground level team will be working hard. Come and join us. The earlier you start the more we will achieve. A general clean-up is needed on the first day. It will be great to see as many of you as possible so we can achieve much this winter. Camaraderie is the feeling when others around you are set to the same goal as you are. This does not need to be a group of friends, but often is a stepping-stone to a great friendship and those who come enjoy themselves. Please remember to park your car outside in the lane. See you there.

- Fri 19 Oct The year gone & the year to come. - Loco Section Meeting HQ 8pm.
Open discussion.
- Sat 27 Oct Halloween
- Sun 28 Oct Winter Working Party/ clear up day
- Fri 16 Nov A Celebration of Frank Dell. - Loco Meeting HQ 8pm. Input required.

Adrian

(Loco Section Leader)

Note by the Editor

The News Sheet in the Electronic Age

One or two members have recently asked whether it would be possible to receive their News Sheet electronically, for example via email, thus saving the Society printing costs and postage (it is good that there are some members who are concerned about these matters!). One of the problems is that even in PDF format the file-size is quite large, ie about 5MB; most folk would not be too happy to receive an email with an accompanying attachment of that size! Having consulted our technical advisor, Peter Foreman, the view seems to be that an alternative solution might be to provide a hot-link to the Society's website so that members who wish to can access the News Sheet via their PC.

What do you think? Would you be willing to have access to the News Sheet by this route? If so, please drop me an email or snail-mail me.

Nick Rudoe

Track Steward Rota 2007							
Date	Senior Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward	Tea Steward	
07-Oct	Les Blimson (2)	John Sandwell (1)	John Mills	Richard Hesketh	David Marsden (2)	Rai Fenton	Tea Steward Ms B Fenton
14-Oct	Terry Baxter	Gavin Lang	Ron Todd	Malcolm Reid	Peter Brewster (1)	Ms Baxter	Jerry Baxter
21-Oct	Dick Payne (1)	Peter Weeks (1)	Derek Smith (1)	Derek Eldridge (1)	David Harris (2)	Brian Apthorpe (2)	Roger Bell (1) Pat Badger (4)

STEWARD DUTIES IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

1.TEA & TRACK STEWARDS TO SIGN THE RUNNING BOOK

- 2.Raised embarking Station.
- 3.Raised Steaming Bay.
- 4.Ground Level Car park station.
- 5.Gatekeeper & Car park management.
- 6.Raised Disembarking, carriages & Boating Area.
- 7.Ground Level Henley Halt & Toilet Area.
- 8.Tea Stewards to bring fresh milk and after clearing up, remove and take home black rubbish bags. The only way that rubbish can be disposed of is by members taking them home.

If you cannot attend on your allocated slot for whatever reason, **ARRANGE A SWAP with another member.**

Adrian
(Loco Section Leader)

August Bank Holiday by Mike Crisp (photos by Mike)

2007 saw the third Bank Holiday Monday Fun Day at The Boot, Chipperfield, a tavern in the care of NLSME member Roger Clarke and Diane. Several colleagues were pleased to help with this event to raise funds for the St Francis Hospice in Berkhamsted and were relieved to be blessed with fine weather throughout the day.

Jim Macdonald's portable raised track was prepared for a busy day's passenger hauling. Brian Baker steamed his rope-hauling engine and spent his day giving rides to children of all ages in a trailer made for the purpose. Roger now has a fire engine in his collection and Laurie Steers was kept busy making sure it was kept full so that those who wanted to try could get a feel for the effort needed to control a powerful jet from a fire hose nozzle. Peter Macdonald and Ian Reddish steamed and drove Roger's steam lorry – and fixed it at the end of the day!

Below:

Laurie Steers and colleague were able to look after Roger's fire engine all day to the delight of those who wanted to try their hand at managing a fire hose.



Other members rallied round to help with lifting, shifting, driving and helping to consume the excellent ale, beef burgers and hot dogs available during the event. A live band played 'our kind of music', a grey 'Fergie' hauling a trailer gave rides on straw bale seating, a classic lorry made an appearance and children could have their faces painted, wear themselves out in a bouncy elephant(!) and play on the equipment in Roger's adventure playground.

All NLSME members, families and friends who helped had a great day. Visitors seem to have been generous with their donations to support the St Francis Hospice at Berkhamsted. Our thanks go to Roger and Diane for their hospitality throughout the day, and for their kind donation to Society funds.



Above: *It's the smile that does it! At the end of a busy day Roger, Diane and staff at the Boot were in a position to make a useful donation to the St Francis Hospice at Berkhamsted.*



Left: *Driver Robson, at the regulator of this 0-4-0T version of Simplex, took Jim Macdonald and Mick Avery for a run to check the portable track before taking passengers.*

Committee Meeting News

13th August Council Meeting

Six new members have been approved by the Council.

The roof above the old library has been found to be leaking and has caused some damage to the HO layout Young Street Yard. This will be investigated further.

It was reported that at the last birthday party a child fell into the pond. It was suggested that a lock be put on the gate to the area during birthday parties.

Nick Rudoe presented two proposals to the council. 1) That the society's annual accounts be circulated in advance of the AGM to all members together with the agenda, Chairman's report and any other relevant documents. It was proposed that the AGM be moved to the 3rd Friday in May as this would make circulation more practical for the Treasurer. This was carried forward and agreed. 2) That the council agree to a suitable resumé of the discussions and any decisions taken at each monthly meeting of both the Council and Tyttenhanger Site Committee be published in the News Sheet immediately following those meetings. It was agreed that both sets of minutes would be sent to Nick who would summarize them in the magazine.

20th August Tyttenhanger Site Committee Meeting

Improvements are in hand for the path to the toilet block.

Raised track sleepers for the 'deviation' have been delivered and paid for. Mick Avery has drilled a jig, and track panels are in the process of assembly.

A notice is to be made and fitted to the traverser to emphasise the relevant track rule which says that the running book must be signed before running or steaming any loco.

David Harris circulated his Site Manager's Report.

Whilst it is obvious that many people have worked hard to improve the site, particularly around the Tyttenhanger Station area, many other areas still need to be improved.

The first impression that a visitor gets to Colney Heath is one of tattiness and lack of TLC. The entrance to the site is marred by general hardcore/rubbish to the left and a mound of building material to the right. The car park remains a potential sea of mud and puddles, particularly on a very wet day like the Sunday morning when David visited. A walk through the car park shows even more rubbishy material dumped

against the container and sheds. A rather poor impression is gained of this premier model railway site.

David listed the jobs that he considered needed action. {These appeared in David's report in the September News Sheet – Ed}.

The raised track deviation is progressing; a survey of the existing track will take place in October.

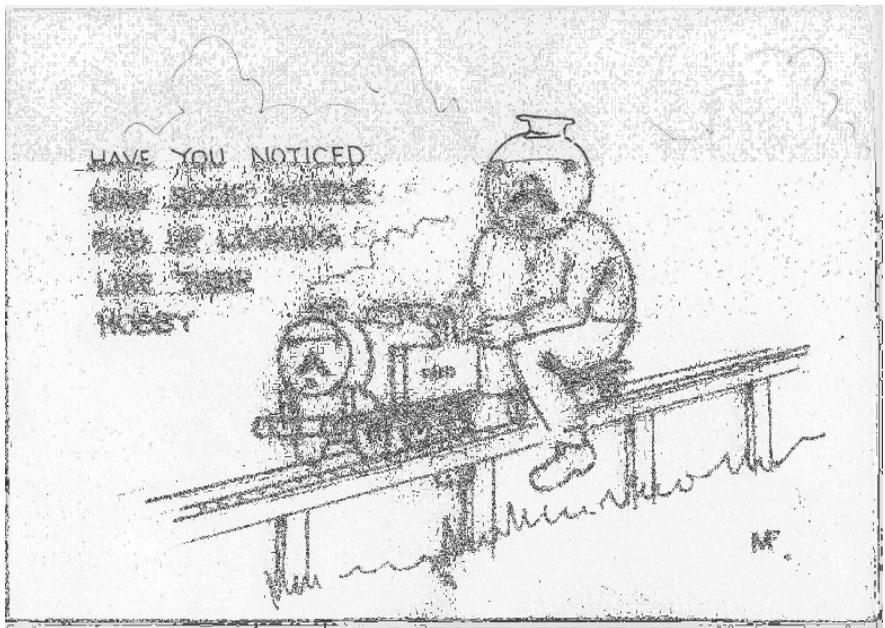
An offer of help with building the points for the Ground Level Railway has been received from a member, and was acknowledged with gratitude.

Brian Baker reported an excellent visit to the Scarecrow Festival at Flamstead.

Legislation: A guidance note is in preparation by the Southern Federation concerning the recent legislation relating to 'children and vulnerable persons'. Representation to local Members of Parliament in opposition to this legislation has been proposed.

Reference was made to Derek Perham's concern that batteries must not be charged in an enclosed space; however the batteries are sealed and connected to the correct type of charger so there is not an issue.

XX



Chuckle Corner

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his torch around, looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you." He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his torch out, and froze.

When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a holiday after the next big score, then clicked the light on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you,"

Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his torch beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" He hissed at the parrot.

"Yeah," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you,"

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"Moses," replied the bird. The burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird 'Moses?'"

"The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler 'Jesus'."

And some more.....

A Polish immigrant went to the DVLA to apply for a driver's license.

First, of course, he had to take an eye sight test. The optician showed him a card with the letters:

'C Z W I X N O S T A C Z.'

"Can you read this?" the optician asked.

"Read it?" the Polish guy replied, "I know the guy."

📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

Friday 5 October	8.00pm General Meeting; Forum - Milling in the Model Engineer's Workshop; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Monday 8 October	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Sat/Sun 13/14 Oct	Invite to Thames Ditton Railway MDSME
Friday 19 October	8.00pm Loco Section meeting; The Year Gone By and the Year to Come; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 19 October	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for November News Sheet</i>
Saturday 20 October	Birthday party (engines & stewarding help required)
Sunday 21 October	Invitation to Colchester SMEE track
Monday 22 October	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Site Committee Meeting; the coach at Colney Heath
Friday 26 October	8.00pm Workshop Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Saturday 27 October	Starting at dusk! Halloween evening at Colney Heath
Sunday 28 October	9am Start of Winter working parties at Colney Heath
Friday 2 November	8.00pm General Meeting; On the table - work in progress; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Monday 12 November	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 16 November	8.00pm Loco Section meeting; A celebration of Frank Dell; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 23 November	8.00pm Workshop Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 23 November	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for December News Sheet</i>
Monday 26 November	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Site Committee Meeting; the coach at Colney Heath
Friday 7 December	8.00pm General Meeting; pre-Xmas Social Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Monday 10 December	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Wed 12 December	8.00pm North American Section Open House, with refreshments; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 21 December	8.00pm Loco Section meeting ? ☺☺☺
Every Wednesday	British and American Miniature Railways and Video Group at HQ; Garden Railway Section at Colney Heath
Every Thursday	Slot Cars Section at HQ
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.