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The News Sheet

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Left: Bert Mead inspecting visiting 3½ inch Indonesian CC50 Compound Mallet. Dutch based builder Roel Vötberg on the left.. (3ft 6in prototype, in service 1922-1980)
Photo: O Chapman 13-7-2003



Front cover: Graham Ainge B17 in the sun 2-10-2005
Above: Andrew Giffen (from Reading SME and winner of the 2010 3½ Imlec) South African Railways 15F 4-8-2 blows down as the evening draws on 26-10-08
Photo: Owen Chapman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Are you one of the sixty three members who have yet to renew your subscription? Help me to enjoy my summer by paying quickly so that I don't have to chase you. Those who have paid, I thank you, in particular those who paid that little extra towards their favourite Project or just to General Funds. Talking to an electrical contractor, who is involved with Sunday football, he couldn't believe how low our subscriptions were compared with his, leaving aside the weekly levy that he also had to pay. In this day and age we really don't appreciate what a bargain we get for our money. Perhaps we should take off our rose-tinted spectacles and get into the real world.

The first Council Meeting of the new Society year under our new Chairman, David Metcalf, welcomed one new member to our midst.

Mr. Andy Dyche. Interested in Locomotives, RTE and GLRly, Garden Railway, O, OO, HO and Marine

The first Public Open Day of the season went off very well, with a comfortable crowd of people, including visiting cyclists from Welwyn and Hatfield, giving a much needed boost to our funds. Since then we have had the first of two Toy Boat Regattas, which was much enjoyed by all those who came along in splendid weather.

Mike Foreman

WANTED

(A Member / partner or spouse, who is fluent in the English language and is interested in the well-being of the Society to act as Secretary to the Council, taking minutes of the monthly Council meetings and acting as focal point for communications from other Societies etc. Any interested candidates for this vital, unpaid position should in the first instance contact our Chairman, David Metcalf.

Birthday Parties at Colney Heath

For many years the NLSME has hired out the Colney Heath site to host Parties and family events to members of the public who visit us. These very pleasurable afternoons normally take place on Saturdays between 2 and 5pm and can be a very rewarding experience. The Parties differ from Sunday afternoon running as they are for exclusive groups of up to 30 children only and often include a break during the afternoon whilst the group have their tea. The parties are a very useful source of extra revenue for the society. We are always grateful to all the society members who regular support these afternoons but are always grateful for more, especially if you like hosting and stewarding the station, running your locomotives with passengers and driving. Please call Owen or Rachael Chapman if and when you can help. The first parties for this year to have taken place have been very enjoyable afternoons. A tremendous thanks to those who have supported us.

This year we so far have parties booked for 26th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th June, 22nd and 29th September and October 27th. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Owen and Rachael Chapman.

Passing Shots by Jim Robson

For those of you who like dashing to the railside to take snaps or video, the following trips, passing through St Albans, may be of interest.

- June 5th ; Royal Scot "Scots' Guardsman" en route for York 'Railfest' will leave Victoria at 09.10 and proceed, via Kensington Olympia, Neasden, Dudding Hill, Brent Curve/Cricklewood picking up at ST ALBANS at 09.10 and Luton at 09.40. (Return by diesel, yawn).

July 14th "Oliver Cromwell" will leave St Pancras at 08.20, picking up at St Albans at 09.00, proceeding to Lincoln and returning via the East Coast route to Kings Cross at 19.45.

(Those members who are also members of the St Albans signal box group may be particularly interested as I feel sure that the folk there will have the box open to provide a grand view).

Jim Robson

GENERAL MEETINGS 2012 – FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise indicated, General Meetings are held 8-10pm at our Legion Way Headquarters in North Finchley. Peter Davies usually presides over our raffle - for which all donations of suitable prizes are always appreciated, while Dave Lawrence provides us with tea and biscuits at around 9pm. Our thanks to Dave and Peter. 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. Hoping for a good attendance to support our speakers, we look forward to your company.

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

Tony Dunbar Reminisces - Part 2

Widely travelled and with long experience of full size and miniature railways, Tony is certain to use this presentation to intrigue and entertain us.

6 July: Working Models Evening.

3 August: Model Engineering Forum – Hints, Tips and Advice.

7 September: Speaker (to be confirmed).

5 October: Work in Progress.

GLR News

Goodbye George,

Driver Case has left Orchard Junction for the last time, being one of the old crew. George was a stickler for the rules. I guess that was a result of the experience he had in the working of the railway at Kings Cross. A few years ago, George warmed to the newly finished Ground Level Railway and could always be relied on to be first in line to want to drive the Canadian Pacific, pulling passengers on a Sunday afternoon, with his soft tones but stern ways I can see him now explaining to the juniors how it should be done. A man not to miss a chance of telling the best joke of the week to one and all, bless you George - all the crew will miss you.

BE AWARE TRACK MAINTENANCE.

There will be an ongoing job this running season as the small but beautifully formed GL crew are, as their motto says – ‘always on the job’ and may be working when you choose to have a run. There are now in place speed signs with more to follow. You will be expected to adhere to the set limits firstly to protect any passengers and secondly as important to avoid bending the point blades and because “the points were set the wrong way” is not really an excuse to bend them because you did not see, realise, or allow sufficient time to stop to change them. Just as important is to always run clockwise through “the narrows” unless instructed by the person in charge or the people that know on the day. The first loco and driver to run around the track must be aware and look for objects on the track, examples being fallen branches, twigs, dead rabbits, knackered G.L. crew, or the body of our new Chairman. Please read the running book whenever you sign in to find out if there is anything specific to be careful of, and if YOU notice anything that is broken/wrong on the track please report it in the running book or tell some else so that action can be taken to make repairs.

MORONS CORNER

The point in the old station was nailed up sometime between Sunday afternoon on the 29th of April and the following Thursday. Two 4 inch nails were hammered through the sleepers leaving the heads sticking up. For once I am lost for words. I hope it will not inconvenience whoever did it too much when we take the point out to fit the operating lever. We will try to do it ASAP.

RUNNING PROCEDURES

As you may or may not be aware, the G.L.R has introduced a wheel check tolerance bar to check YOUR wheel sets. This was done to further protect the

points and help reduce derailments. Anyone who wants to run his or her loco and carriages should present themselves to Derek Perham or his apprentice Ron Price on Sunday afternoons for a wheels check. This applies to all 7¼ locos and rolling stock new or old. The check is painless and shouldn't take long. It is in all our interest to try to get this right. Once done you will be advised and the result recorded.

As ever in the muck PA K Funk G.L.R. Section Leader.

Tyttenhanger Railway – Raised Track Report

Around our Raised Track Railway we have various examples of railway memorabilia; ¼, ½ and ¾ mileposts and until recently an ex. British Railways 15 mph Speed Restriction sign was located at the beginning of the back straight. This sign has now been removed.

The 15 mph sign was NOT an indication of the maximum speed that we can drive at on our Raised Track. When we are hauling passengers of any sort, the general public, birthday party children, even members, 10 MPH is quite fast enough down the back straight and 6 - 7 MPH is more than enough going around any of the corners.

To avoid any further misunderstanding the TSC has now introduced a maximum speed limit on the raised track of 10mph for all passenger hauling.

We drivers may feel comfortable at faster speeds, but our passengers are not used to it and may feel uneasy at higher speeds. Apart from using a radar gun, speed can be judged from the time interval taken from one signal to the next on the Signal Hut diagram, knowing the distance between the signals, to show if drivers are speeding. If observed speeding, the Senior Steward for the day has the authority of the Society Council and the TSC to caution the driver or instruct the driver to cease driving and remove his/her engine from the running line. Further action may be taken by the Tyttenhanger Site Committee to censor any driver who acts irresponsibly or endangers any member of the public by flouting these instructions. In a similar vein, Public Open Days on the first and third Sundays of each month are for serious passenger hauling and again the Senior Steward can and will request any driver to remove his/her engine from the track, if in the Senior Stewards view the driver is causing an unnecessary hold up to the smooth operation of the service.

Mike Foreman for the Tyttenhanger Site Committee.

Track Stewards - 2012

Please note there are amendments to the names for Stewards from those previously published. Please ensure that you sign in the roster book for your Stewards duty.

Track Stewards unable to make your scheduled duty are asked to find a replacement and to notify Sue Rose in good time to update the published rota for publication in the next News Sheet. If the change is at short notice please also inform the Senior Steward.

Senior Stewards are asked to contact your team beforehand to confirm their attendance. Please also contact the Senior Steward for the next running day to remind them of their duty and to pass on any helpful information.

Duties sheets are to be found in the lectern in the workshop.

3 June 2012

Mick Avery – Senior
Steward

Ashton Miles
John L Morgan
Naughton Morgan
John Riches.
Steve Coffill
Aaron Brady
John Johnston
Robert Anderson
John Mills
Keith Hughes

17 June 2012

Nigel Griffiths – Senior
Steward

Nicholas Griffin.
Mark Braley
Robin Thorn
Jim Robson.
Derek Smith.
Richard Cross.
Malcolm Barnes
Peter Funk
Paul Godin
Peter Brewster

1 July 2012

Edward Kitchener – Senior
Steward

Roy Hall
Roger Brown
Derek Eldridge
Graham Ainge
Robert Ambler
Mervyn Smith
Owen Chapman
David Brand
John Judson
Colin Reeves

15 July 2012

Mike Foreman – Senior
Steward

Brian Lees.
Peter MacDonald.
Bill Bass
Peter Prior.
Nicholas Gear.
Alex Chapman.
Michael Dear.
Gerald Moore
Rob Brook
Peter Seymour-Howell

5 August 2012

Roy Chapman – Senior
Steward

Geoffrey Burton.
Roy Thompson
Tracy Johns
David Broom
Denis Edwards
John Morgan
Ian Buswell.
Stephen Don
Derrick Franklin
Jonathan Avery

19 August 2012

Paul Godwin – Senior
Steward

Richard Hall
David Morgan.
Barrie Luckhurst.
Doug Kennedy
David Dunlop
Peter Fraser.
Keith Doherty
Dave Snellgrove.
Ross Durling
Roxanne Nickels

2 September 2012

Mike Ruffell – Senior
Steward

Colin Thomson
Anthony Mason
Brian Baker
Dave Laurance
Bryn Morgan
Martin Ginger
Mike Woolsey
Peter Foreman
Adam Gorski.
Ken Simpson

16 September 2012

Richard Payne – Senior
Steward

Peter Precious
Dave Green.
Mike Franklin
Roy Mears.
Rosemary Turner
Brendan Corcoran
Donal Corcoran
Peter Moore
Alan Marshall
David Marsden.

7 October 2012

Ian Johnston – Senior
Steward

Dave Chisnall
Peter Stern
Micheal Gibbs
Roger Bell
Paul Lacey
Barrie Davies
Keith Wakefield
Lawrence Steers
Tim Watson
Peter Cook

21 October 2012

Chris Vousden – Senior
Steward

Ron Todd.
Colin Rouse.
Peter Smith.
Robin Barfoot
David Harris.
Peter Fox.
Susie Frith
Peter Sheen
Raymond Gillings
Ian MacCabe

Marine Mumbles (Rides Again)

Now if you all joined the Marine Section you could sail on a clear, warm Friday night as we did on our first pond meet. NO RAIN!! It was particularly good to have Frank Inman come along to the get together. Dave Chisnall brought along the Clyde Puffer, which is at the latter stages of completion, to show us. A few more bits and pieces (wasn't that a song in the 60's) and we should have a fully running masterpiece. Dave did his usual pond vandal bit with that there miniature speed boat of his. Still going strong. Pity. Young Peter Weeks also came along to check what I write isn't made up, or do I owe him money? Anyway it was a very pleasant evening. Thanks for coming everybody.

The high point of the month of May was the Toy Boat Regatta held on Sunday 13th. The Trevor Smith Boat Show came to town, and was very well attended. You see the Marine Section and good weather go together. Another beautiful day. The wind even came along just at the right time to power the yachts. I have included some pretty pictures of the regatta in this write up.

Two interesting exhibits of the day come to mind straight away. The first was a waterway system of canals which had "pop-pop" boats, and the world's smallest RC boat I have seen running along the water channels. The second



was a brilliant piece of logical thinking. A Thermo-Electric Boat. No, No, not a Thermo-Nuclear Boat. That would be silly and dangerous!! A gentleman bought some two inch square by one eighth of an inch thick cooling units from a 12 volt camping fridge. A 6 volt current was passed through the unit. One



side got hot and the other side went cold. So this is how one of “them” fridges work. Dead clever!! Anyway his thinking was - If you heat the cold side with indirect heat, and the hot side using the pond as a very large heat-sink, you will get a voltage produced. The more heat, the increase in voltage. I know it works ‘cos I saw it going. How about that then!!

Once again an impressive regatta on a beautiful day. The next one is on Sunday 22nd July.





Our next very own pond sailing evening will be Friday 6th July from 6.30 pm until we can't see each other.

See you next time, and the pond is clear!!!! (See I had to mention it).

Peter Stern



April Loco Section Meeting

By Roger Bell

Tony opened the meeting with the sad news that our old friend George Case has passed away, he had been unwell for some time. We stood in silence in memory of him. Notes of the funeral arrangements were passed amongst us.

A railway sign warning of the penalties for trespassing was donated to the club by Paul Lacey.

The topic for the evening was a selection of photos from Owen Chapman's collection; initially Owen was unable to start as we were a cable short for the computer, so whilst he went off to procure one. Tony stepped in with a DVD of model railways.

The following were some of the scenes of action from the DVD:-

Bill Lanes 'Superior and Mid-Western' layout built in an 8' x 7' box room in the early 1960s.

Cliff Young's 'Denver and Rio Grande Western' (D&RGW) built in the dining room at his home in Woodford, it had a card system and a timetable for passenger trains, it was a joy to operate.

Roy Dohn's 'Victoria Northern' located in Montréal and filmed during my first North American trip in 1966.

Mango lines a small club logo layout located in Chicago again filmed in 1966.

My GN layout which I have built in my bedroom and Slades Rise filmed about 1963.

I converted the loft in late '63 and transferred the layout up there and extended it to fill the space available. It eventually had a card system, filmed in 1967.

Following on from the scenes of action,

The North Mid Club layout that we built at British Legion, Southgate. It had three gauges OO, EM and HO. Seen here at Church House, Southgate (now the Masonic Hall) after we had built an extension to house the EM and HO terminal stations. We took this to St. Pauls Institute at Winchmore Hill (which is now demolished).

Another move took the club to Woodside House at Wood Green where we build three separate layouts HO, OO and EM. Woodside Union Terminal (WUT) seen here after its showing at the MRC Easter show in 1971.

On again this time to St Michael at Bowes Church Hall, - a huge barn of a place. Naturally with plenty of space we extended WUT1 a little and started work on WUT2. Pictured here was a special event where we put both layouts WUT1 & 2 up and transferred operations to WUT2 via a temporary bridge. WUT1 was then scrapped. This was about 1980.

A commercial film concluded of the 3 foot gauge Cumbres and Toltec Railroad. It is still running and I have been there three times now. Double headed 2-8-2s hauling long trains up a 1 in 25 for about 13 miles make it memorable. The line was part of the D & RGW narrow gauge system.

By then Owen had returned, fitted the cable and was able to start his presentation which covered the period over the last five years and were all taken at the track, all bar two are digital. The following is a brief description of some of the photos shown:-

The steaming bays in 2001 were busy with visiting clubs, one from Colchester. From 2002-2003 we saw Ron Price's A4, Bert Mead inspecting a very large American loco and Frank Dell on the garden railway. Ian Murray was playing his squeezebox on the station.

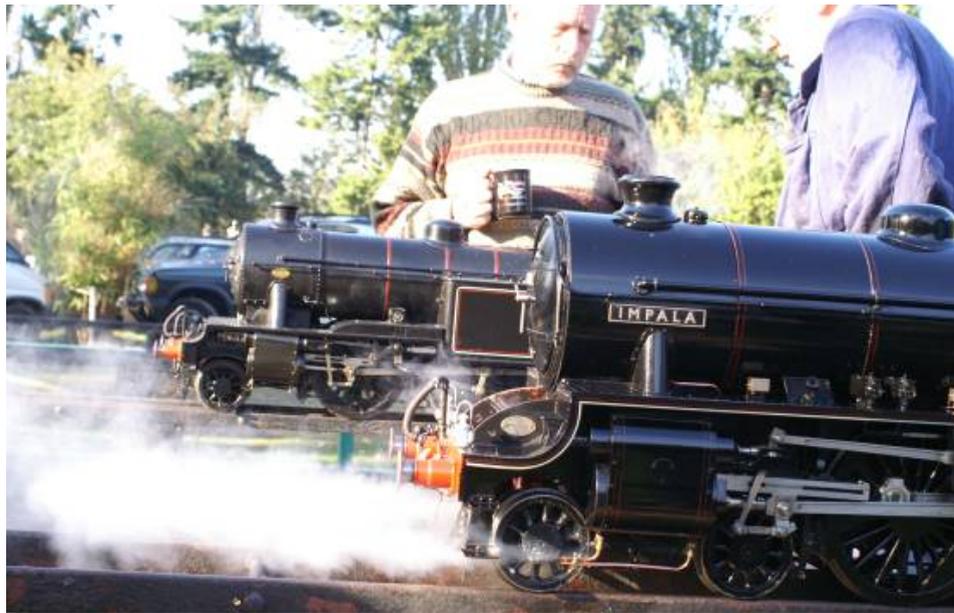
From 2004 Derek Perham was driving a full train of wagons on the GLR. Ron's 'British Enterprise' was in action. The club's 60th anniversary weekend where locos and boats were on display in a marquee and children were having a lovely time driving the cars on the slot car track. We saw the Stevens roller 'Borough of Eastleigh' and Mike Foreman with his Rob Roy.

From 2005 Brian Apthorpe was driving his Midland Compound, Elsie B in its rebuilt stage, Tony Dunbar allowing other members to drive his Britannia and Reg Piper with a Black Five. Followed by Graham Ainge with his B17, the Franklin Street New Orleans Jazz Band was playing in the station. Spectacular shots followed from Halloween with the night lighting, like the absolute white steam as a loco was blown down on the steaming bays. The station was busy with the MENCAP visit. Ted on his first run with a bright red Polly. Keith Catchpole was captured with his Pecket.

At the official opening of our Gala, Brian Baker was with his traction engine; Bert Mead gave the opening speech, and fifty members were hauled on one train at the opening of the GLR.

Owen is a superb photographer and his pictures capture our members, the track and our locomotives as an all time historical record for the benefit of all. We are very grateful to him for his work and an enjoyable evening.

The next loco section meetings will be held as informal barbeques at the track until the September one which is back at Headquarters.



Above. Eastern Regions Duo, B1 Impala and Mike Forman's V3 in the steaming bays 21-10-2007

Below. The official inaugural train on the GLR carrying many members and driven by our then President leaves (The Former) Henley Halt under the unfinished bridge, breaking a banner as it goes and heads for the new line. 28-6-08



A Farewell to George

George Case recently passed away after a prolonged series of illnesses. For a man as active as George who could never bear to be idle it must have been both distressing and frustrating. He was involved in a number of activities, in addition to those in our Society; golf, walking, a Bridge club, for many years he was a special constable, rising to the rank of inspector, and they are just those I am aware of.

During his many years in the Society he turned his hand to many activities, he was never found wanting. For some time he was joint loco section leader, after which he became site superintendent trying to keep things tidy. A keen supporter of G1MRA he was usually to be found on their stand at exhibitions and when the garden railway was proposed at the Colney Heath site it was natural that he would take an active interest. He was always pottering about doing some task and in later years, as his health declined he was always available to take a turn at driving. When the ground level became active he was at his happiest when driving Laurie's 'Big Blue' with a load of passengers, his look of pure contentment was something to behold, it is the way I like to remember him.

When he first joined the Society he was still gainfully employed by the railway on which he had spent his entire working life. He was so keen to become a railwayman that he got a job as Train Register Lad at Holloway signal box, unfortunately he was still officially at school and after three weeks authority caught up with him and he was dismissed and sent back to school. However, in December 1940 school finished and George was officially working for the LNER, albeit as the lowest of the low, Messenger Lad. Having progressed through a series of jobs he became an ASM, Assistant Station Manager, at King Cross until he retired.

He had a remarkable store of anecdotes related to his progress and entertained us on several occasions at HQ. He wrote books on his boyhood and life on the railway which may still be available from Potters Bar Museum, if obtainable they are well worth reading. Among his other activities, using his influence, he arranged at least three outings to York at special prices the most memorable of which was on a 125 where we were ensconced in the first coach behind the front power car and were taken up in groups to the cab. Standing behind the driver with the needle sitting at a steady 125 mph was a unique experience. (Sadly, I was unable to attend the funeral but have been told that it was an excellent turn out, close on 100 folk; family and friends, including some 15 Society members. The cleric conducting the service read a tribute to George prepared by the family.) I feel sure that all who knew him will have their memories of George and he will long be remembered.

GEORGE SAMUEL CASE 1926-2012



Jim Robson

Loco Section meetings

Friday, 20th April - 20.00 hours at HQ. Owen Chapman presents a selection of photos from his collection. The usual tea and raffle will be on offer.

As usual meetings during the summer months will take place at the track with a barbeque, dates are :-

18th May
15th June
20th July
17th August

We will resume our regular spot at HQ on Friday, 21st September with a speaker (to be confirmed).

I have been asked to find out if there is any interest in a mid-week visit to Duxford being organised. It is intended that we would take one of the various tours available and see behind the scenes. It won't be a cheap excursion but should be worthwhile. Two of our members are active in the Duxford museum. Please let me know by 15th May.

Tony Dunbar

FROM THE EX-CHAIR

May I thank the Society for the gift of a glass paperweight in recognition of my Chairmanship of the Society over the past five years.

For those who were unable to be present at the AGM, or missed seeing my gift, it is inscribed:-

"Presented to David Harris 4th May 2012. In appreciation of your Chairmanship of the North London Society of Model Engineers 2007-2012" The Society emblem is also reproduced.

I am delighted to receive this gift. It is already in use in our office/computer room at home, applying some order to the pile of printed emails and other papers.

David Harris

📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

Friday 1 June	8.00pm General Meeting; Tony Dunbar: Reminisces (Part 2); HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 2 June	Birthday party Chris Dalton; Colney Heath
Sunday 3 June	2.00pm Track open to the public; Colney Heath
Sunday 3 June	Fetes & Fair section at Aldenham, Contact J McDonald
Saturday 9 June	Party Barracuda Swimming Club; Colney Heath
Sat/Sun 9-10 June	Fetes & Fair section at Oaklands, Contact J McDonald
Monday 11 June	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 15 June	8.00pm Loco Section Meeting; BBQ; Colney Heath
Saturday 16 June	Birthday party Shireen Bailey; Colney Heath
Saturday 16 June	Fetes & Fair section at Hertingfordbury, Contact J McDonald
Sunday 17 June	2.00pm Track open to the public; Colney Heath
Friday 22 June	Deadline for copy to Editor for July News Sheet
Saturday 23 June	Birthday party Dawn Dorman; Colney Heath
Saturday 23 June	Fetes & Fair section at St Albans, Contact J McDonald
Tuesday 26 May	8.00pm TSC meeting; Colney Heath
Saturday 30 June	Birthday party Chris Dalton; Colney Heath
Sunday 1 July	2.00pm Track open to the public; Colney Heath
Sunday 1 July	Fetes & Fair section at Longfield, Contact J McDonald
Friday 6 July	8.00pm General Meeting; Working Models Evening; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 7 July	HO section at the track. Begins with lunch at The Plough, Tyttenhanger (12.00pm) and at the track from 2.00pm
Saturday 7 July	Fetes & Fair section at Katy's School, Contact J McDonald
Sunday 8 July	Fetes & Fair section at Dunstable, Contact J McDonald
Monday 9 July	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 13 July	6.30pm Marine Section meeting, pond sailing night; Colney Heath
Sat/Sun 14-15 July	Fetes & Fair section at Redbourn, Contact J McDonald
Sunday 15 July	2.00pm Track open to the public; Colney Heath
Friday 20 July	8.00pm Loco Section Meeting; BBQ; Colney Heath
Friday 20 July	Deadline for copy to Editor for July News Sheet
Saturday 21 July	Fetes & Fair section at Ware & Highfield park, Contact J McDonald
Sunday 22 July	9.00am Toy Boat Regatta ; Colney Heath
Every Wednesday	Garden Railway Section at Colney Heath (11am - 4pm); O, 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.

