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# The News Sheet

*This Month...*

**The London Model Engineering Exhibition (page 3)**  
**Leighton Buzzard Railway "Great Coffee Pot Fest" (page 6)**  
**Site Manager's Report (page 7)**  
**Call for Nominations, 2011 AGM (page 9)**



*Plus...*

**From the Chair (page 2), Treasurer's Report (page 3),  
 Feb General Meeting (page 4), Feb Loco Section Meeting (page 8)  
 Marine Mumbles (page 10), General Meetings Update (page 11)  
 Mike's Musings (page 12), GLR News (page 16),  
 Dates for Your Diary (page 19),  
 Officers, Council Members and Section Leaders (page 20)**

## FROM THE CHAIR

One activity always takes precedence at this time of year, and that is the preparation of the Society's Calendar for the year ahead. There is a need initially to include all the main events, ie Club Days, Toy Regattas, Charitable Dates, Garden Railway (GIMRA) visits. Interspersed amongst all these dates are the Birthday Parties, organised by Rachael Chapman, the Fete and Fair events arranged by Jim Macdonald, and the public open days on the first and third Sundays. All these activities and events will keep many of us well occupied throughout the running season. Support from any of our members is very welcome, as the pool of locomotives and drivers is relatively small.

This winter has been long and dreary with early snow, frosts, rain and cold, dismal conditions. It is therefore surprising that work at Colney Heath has been able to proceed at all, but work has progressed through the stalwart efforts of an enthusiastic group who meet several times during the week. The foundations are ready for the Ground Level Railway traverser alongside the containers, and the steaming bays are already being dug out. The old garage is to be moved closer to the coach and the foundation platform has been constructed. The next few weeks will see the garage moved to its new location.

The space located by the garage will be used to provide a small building for washing and toilet facilities, as well as a compressor room and coal/oil storage. Hopefully, we can get some of the Colney Heath site cleared up as the ground dries out, before the public open days, but we shall have to put up with the building work for some time ahead.

I would recommend to you all the March General meeting Auction Sale - starts at 7.00 pm, so be early for your bargains, and the Loco Section meeting, Friday, 18 March, when we have joint speakers - The Enfield to Cuffley Line. Both will be worthwhile evenings as part of our Society's social scene.

*David Harris*

Front cover: Foundations for the new crossing of the raised track over the ground level track on the new land.

Photo: Mike Foreman

## TREASURER'S REPORT

At the February Council Meeting the subject of renewal subscriptions for the forthcoming year was discussed. Following the increase in the subscriptions rates last year and that our expenses are under control, apart from the possible unknown size of the rent review for HQ, it was decided that Council would recommend to the next General Meeting that no change be made in the rates for the year 2011-2012. All members will find enclosed with their copy of this News Sheet a yellow First Request form, which I would ask you all to complete and return to the Treasurer with your cheque, membership card and a SAE, as soon as possible, whilst the matter is fresh in your mind. I would much rather collect everybody's subscriptions now rather than having to chase them up later in the year, when other summer matters should take precedent on my time. I shall, however, not be available to collect or return subscriptions between the 27<sup>th</sup> March and the 4<sup>th</sup> April as I shall in Poland again, hopefully this time, on the footplate all week.

*Mike Foreman*

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### The London Model Engineering Exhibition. At Ally Pally. 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011.

Well members, the Model Engineering Exhibition at Ally Pally is over for another year. The selection of a theme, the form filling, the recruitment of suitable models, the transport of the accoutrements, the setting up of the stand and of course the stewarding and breaking down have gone but are not forgotten.

It is not the practice of the Club to mention folk by name so I won't! But a big thank you to all those who bravely loaned their precious models for the Show. In some cases it was similar to abducting a favourite daughter to take her to be trained as a pole dancer! Or at the least borrowing and displaying a treasured family heirloom which I suppose in many ways it was.

Anyway it is all over for another year and really the thing to do is to say a very **big thank you to all who unstintingly gave their time, muscles and models** to make the stand one of the best in the Great Hall.

Ian Johnston

## February General Meeting

### By OMAH

Mike Chrisp opened the meeting and ran through some of the past events and some to come. Everybody seemed to have enjoyed Ally Pally, even the traders. Mike Hodgson had been to visit Tilgear during the week following and they were pleased with the show and also the increase in business at Cuffley since the show. David Harris had no business to put forward but wished to congratulate those who had organised and set up our stand at Ally Pally. Mike Chrisp said that progress continued apace at Tyttenhanger despite the weather, everything seemed to be going as planned. (Wish I had my camera with me on Feb 13th when the new garage base gang cemented the perimeter. A beautiful job with 2011 neatly inscribed on one edge.) He reminded us that the March meeting would be the Bring and Buy sale. Viewing would commence at six o'clock and the sale at seven promptly. Ideally, anything heavy and/or bulky should be brought up during the afternoon to assist in the setting up procedure. Ian Johnson said that George Case was, at that moment, in Barnet hospital, hopefully he should be out by the following Monday, (Feb 7th).

Mike C had brought along the 'Railmotor', not to display the engine but the simple but sturdy wooden carrier, the ends of which were deep enough to allow the loco to be placed on the bench in any plane and still allow clearance to work on it. It was suggested that it would be possible, by increasing the end height to clear the cab, to convert it to a carrying case when ready for the track, (knowing Mike I suspect he will prefer to make a pristine custom made carrying case). He also described the tee junction which he had made for the blast pipe and the method of connecting the oil pump feeds to the main steam pipe.

Mike Hodgson had brought some bits, a Dickson tool holder and a suitable attachment to hold the DTI above the four jaw chuck when setting up. He prefers the lever arm DTI to the plunger type as it is less vulnerable. He also has a tool holder which is set to give correct centre height when his patent 'wobbler' is fitted. There was some discussion on ways of centring an off centre hole, one of the simplest being to bring a tailstock centre to enter the hole with the other end held by a point allowing the centre to float and then putting the DTI on the centre. The same would apply if you had not yet bored the hole, in this case the point of the centre would go into the centre pop hole which you have made at the appropriate location. Other methods were discussed.

On the subject of wobblers, Peter Badger said that one of the easiest to make was a convenient size piece of mild steel with a suitably sized hole to allow a short length of approx 1/8<sup>th</sup> dia. rod with a point at one end to go through a piece of rubber tube to allow it to wobble. He went on to mention an engine he was building at work during the lunch hour for which he needed three pieces of steel to fabricate a flywheel. During a quiet period he lowered a sheet of

suitable thickness from a stack that was stored nearby on a rack and flame-cut three circular pieces; he then turned them down to the required diameter and replaced the sheet so that the holes were not visible. Sometime later there was a shout of fury, accompanied by a few expletives, when somebody needed a sheet of that size only to discover that mice had been at it! Peter whistled an innocent air and hastily kicked the engine parts out of sight under the bench. Even later, when the engine was nearly finished and not so easily concealed someone from higher authority demanded to know what it was, "it's a central heating pump" said Peter "oh alright then, carry on" said higher authority, who wouldn't have known what a central heating pump looked like anyway! Halcyon days.

After some more discussion on centring, Mike C said that when he was teaching engineering a lot of the students got themselves tied up in knots when using the four jaw and he used to show them how easy it could be if you applied a bit of know-how. Having set it up for them he used to take it out and say "now you do it" and walk off, accompanied by mutterings from the student casting doubts upon his parentage! He then demonstrated via, drawings on the board, his method for centring a round bar. Initially he sets the 4 jaws by eye, using the concentric rings on the chuck body as a reference, and then, with the DTI at the top of the bar, checks which jaw is at the upper point of greatest error and adjusts the jaw opposite to that point for an equidistant error. Having done that he then turns the chuck to the point where the horizontal jaw with the greatest error is brought to the top position and the opposite jaw adjusted for the same reading. Always adjust the jaw opposite to the DTI point and you can save a great deal of hassle and only two adjustments are required. (This may be obvious to the experienced engineer but it was quite an eye-opener to me when I think of all the merry moments I have spent going round adjusting the jaws in sequence, albeit not recently.)

Dave Lawrence expounded upon the joys of pond maintenance, particularly the removal of leaves, and silt from the bottom of the pond. He mentioned several of the methods used in the past and those hoped for in the future, the punch-line was that the ideal method required a fair amount of effort and they were hoping to do this when the weather improved but soon enough to start the season with a clean pond. It would be nice, hint-hint, if this could be done at some time when there was some additional labour present who could be persuaded to assist. After a short silence, Ian Johnston ran through some of the photos that had been used on the stand at Ally Pally to illustrate various items of work and personalities of the Society, some of whom were no longer with us, and he thought it would be nice to place some of them round the meeting room, as in the past, to show members who's who and what they, and we, have done in the past and are doing currently. Having been recently to Ewen Hall, where the Society has held exhibitions in the past, he thought that we might like to consider having an exhibition there in the not too distant future,

particularly since we haven't had a show since the one at Barnet College.

There was some further discussion on various subjects before the meeting was closed by Mike C with his usual thanks to the Ron and Jim MacDonald for their efforts in the tea and raffle departments. (I have noted before that meetings like this with very little material content can be very successful and a lot of information is passed to and fro and for every problem there are several solutions, nice one.)

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## Leighton Buzzard Railway "Great Coffee Pot Fest" 14 – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011

The event will bring in 2ft gauge vertical boilered 'coffeepots' and display not only these in action but have other gauges operating, from 7¼", 5", down to 16mm gauge and '009'. There has been huge enthusiasm from those approached, and six 2ft acceptances have been received. Additionally, the 134 year old 'Chaloner', on which so many models are based, will be operating on the day. Contact has been made with the lesser gauges and cooperation is assured. The advantage of the concept is that it brings in the general public, NG enthusiasts, miniature buffs, general vintage transport enthusiasts and modellers. All gauges have vertical boilered types and if we can embrace them all in the same place at the same time it will indeed be memorable. Leighton Buzzard have arranged for about 100 ft of 5" and 7¼" gauge track to be laid, which will transport those arriving on the 2ft foot gauge trains to an exhibition of model railways, again featuring 'coffeepot' models in action. It will be the biggest public gathering of the type since four headed the first train into Washington D.C. in 1834! I understand that at least one of your members, Peter MacDonald, has a superb example of the type and I hope there are others who may wish to participate.

The weekend is designed to produce a highly memorable event and to raise funds for our appeal to replace our decrepit station building with a new one incorporating community rooms for the adjacent new estates. I very much hope NLSME members will be able to participate in this to make it a unique success and look forward to hearing from you.

Alfred Fisher  
Vice-President The Leighton Buzzard Railway

# SITE MANAGER'S REPORT - MARCH 2011

As Site Manager for the Colney Heath Site, my task is to attempt to maintain and repair the structure of the site due to the ravages of wear, tear, and the weather. To that end, I try to coerce members who are not deeply involved in the major project activities to assist me, mainly on a 'when-you-are-available' basis.

The list below indicates the current maintenance type jobs that need to be completed, and offered assistance.

1. The main station finials need to be rubbed down and painted. **URGENT**
  2. The side wall of the coach needs to be repaired. **D Franklin, once wood-work has been repaired.**
  3. The treads on the bridge need to be coated with an anti-slip surface. **G Moore.**
  4. The GLR station (car park) has protruding nails which should be cleared up.
  5. The GLR station (car park) needs to be totally painted. **Peter Brown.**
  6. There is much dead wood on the old apple trees which should be pruned.
  7. The Sack Barrow at Dingly Dell needs to be restored before it drops to bits. **Peter Brown.**
  8. Grass areas adjacent to the main station require re-seeding.
  9. Benches on the station should be repaired and coated. **Roger Bell.**
  10. The garage is to be moved from its present site to a temporary location. **Derek Perham etc.**
  11. The workshop needs to be cleared out and emptied ready for being dismantled.
  12. There are pot holes in the lane which will need filling before we open in May. Appropriate material will have to be purchased.
  13. The car park driveway will need to be re-built further away from the steaming bays due to the positioning of the containers.
  14. All the soil will need to be shifted from the car park to the far end of the site. **Severall.** This is an urgent task. **Ongoing.**
  15. The coach steel walls are in a poor state and should be clad, sealed and repainted. **Peter Weeks.**
  16. All containers will need to be painted to provide some weather protection. **Peter Rose.**
- Clearing up of leaves in public areas and along railway tracks. **D Harris etc.**

David Harris

## February Loco Section Meeting

By Roger Bell

Mike Ruffell chaired the meeting and a discussion took place regarding the purchase of a 7 ¼" gauge petrol hydraulic locomotive for hauling soil etc during work at the track. One for sale has been looked at and another being considered. It was suggested that the club make one; a design built by the Bristol SME was in the ME magazine and called 'Pegasus' could haul 40 passengers would do the job. Jim Macdonald thought it could be built in six weeks, he will see if he can find volunteers to make parts.

The evening was a 'Work in Progress' and Mike Foreman bought along the cylinders from his Rob Roy; he reckons that the pistons have gone up and down two million times since it was built in the 1970's. When built a hole was drilled between the inlet and exhaust ports which had to be plugged, this now weeps a bit so will be reworked. The piston rings are 'O' rings and when built the motion was too stiff to turn but at the end of the afternoon running it was a rolling chassis. Mike is getting it as perfect as possible for LittleLEC to be held at the track on 11th / 12th June. This is open to locos that weigh less than fifty pounds. The application of 'O' rings was discussed and the danger of touching an 'O' ring that is overheated, as the material goes through the skin and is very dangerous health wise. PTFE which is used to make glands gives off dust when machining it, inhaling the dust whilst smoking is a short lived occupation.

There being nothing else on the table Dave Lawrence described how the leaves were removed from the pond with a net, he is pleased it succeeds but next year will try another method by sinking the net to the bottom with stones at the end of this season then next year raise the net with leaves and all in one go.

Bert Mead's books have been donated to the club by his son. It was suggested that we have a Bert Mead section in the library.

Ian Johnston had bought an electricity consumption meter for £6 which can monitor what the shed heater uses. It can also be used over a 24 hour period to check the efficiency of ones freezer. Another suggested use was to monitor supply to ones in door vegetable factory.

Jim MacDonald said that there was to be a proposal put to the council that we hold an exhibition in 2012 as we held some ten years ago at Barnet. The purpose would be to promote the hobby, pull the club together and make some money. Every section would be expected to contribute something. Jim will put this to the council with an estimate of the cost.

On the weekend of 24th / 25th September 2011 there will be a 'Railways on the Air' event to celebrate the anniversary of the first steam powered passenger railway which took place on 27th Sept 1825. It will also promote amateur radio. Mike Hodgson will get a special event call sign from OFCOM which will possibly be GB3TLR. The equipment will be supplied by Southgate Amateur Radio Club (which started in 1936). It will be set up under the station canopy, the antennas set up the week before. Mike has a licence to speak on the air and others may do so under his supervision. On the air time is 9am to 4pm.

There were fifteen of us at the meeting.

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## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, 2011 AGM**

Calls for Nominations are hereby issued for the posts of Officers of the Society of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and five ordinary members of Council and Editor of the News Sheet and are to be received in writing by the Secretary by Friday 18th March 10.00 pm. (An appropriate form is available from the Secretary if required).

All candidates are required to have a proposer and seconder who are members of the Society and to support their adoption submit a paragraph or two on why they wish to be elected to the position sought. This information will be published with the formal notice of the AGM in April.

Members should be aware that the present Chairman of the Society (D. Harris) is standing down and the Society needs to have a candidate(s) for the forthcoming year(s).

Alan Marshall  
Secretary

## Marine Mumbles (Rides Again)

The February Marine Meeting Kicked off with a quick (and I mean quick) discussion on the pond and netting. The outcome was that we would remove the nets, milk bottles (sorry floats), leaves, and any society members found floating in the said wet haven as soon as possible. More on this interesting subject later.

Young Master D. Lawrence showed off his latest acquisition. Guess what, another airbrush! He is either trying to keep e-bay "going" or it's a hard airbrush addiction which requires help. Seriously for £16 these double action units are brilliant, and work very well, when you realise named ones go for around £110. Definitely to be recommended.

We all wanted to see Peter Badger's "small lathe" (you know, that one with the 7ft faceplate that extends to 12ft), not forgetting the nettle cultivation in his garden. Dave showed us the whole Shed DVD with "Estate de Badger" on it to prove this thing exists. Peter suggested that we should hold a future Marine Meeting at his abode. Honest Mrs Badger it was your husband's idea. If nothing else we can try the assault course to get into his workshop. Thanks Peter, we will take you up on your kind invite. Somewhere during the evening we did have tea and biscuits thanks to Ian doing all the leg work.

Now for the moment you all have been waiting for, or some of you- THE NETS ARE OFF. Playtime can now commence. Dave, Two Pressed men (that's navy pressed not flower) from the Garden Railway and I took them off fairly easily, leaves and all. Some leaves had got in at the side during the winter, but these were dealt with. The net was left rolled up, with leaves, on the side to dry out before phase two. Oh, that's the bit where we "loose" the leaves. Then of course this summer yields a whole lot of Lawrence inspired new dredging nets. Don't forget to book your tickets early to witness one of these spell binding moments.

There will an April Marine Meeting at Finchley HQ. on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm for those with a strong constitution. From then on it's pond sailing.

Peter Stern

## **GENERAL MEETINGS 2010 – FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME**

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

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

**4 MARCH 2011**  
**BRING & BUY AUCTION SALE**  
**VIEWING FROM 6.00 – SALE COMMENCES**  
**7.00pm PROMPT**

We have been given collections of tools and other items for sale to Society members at this Spring Bring & Buy Auction Sale. We hope you have had time to collect some of your own surplus bits and pieces for sale during the evening. We will be very happy to accept donated items or will sell on your behalf in which case 20% of the selling price will be retained for Society funds. Please restrict yourself to tools, materials and other things likely to be of interest to fellow members – no 'rubbish' please!

**1 APRIL 2011 – PETER BADGER – THE LEVANT MINE WINDING ENGINE**

A volunteer driver for the Levant engine, Peter has been involved for some 25 years. This evening will provide us with a unique opportunity to hear about one of his favourite activities.

**6 MAY 2011 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

**3 JUNE 2011 – DAVE METCALFE – WHITEMETAL CASTING**

A knowledgeable creator of working model boats and miniature locomotives, Dave has developed the process to suit his own applications. This evening will be an opportunity to discover the art, craft and practice of the technique. (Subject to confirmation.)

## MIKE'S MUSINGS

Those of you who have recently visited our Finchley HQ will no doubt have noticed a large collection of railway books on the table at the end of the main meeting room. They originally belonged to Bert Mead and have been donated to the Society by his son Brian. It is intended to place them in a special Bert Mead section of the library so please do not remove any of them. If you have already taken one of the books on loan please do not forget to make an entry in the green loan book. There are also several railway jigsaw puzzles on the table. These will be auctioned on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, all proceeds to Society funds.

Last month I published the draft Stewards Rota for public running days. As I expected, for various reasons some of you are unable to attend the track on my selected date. Thanks for letting me know and also for your alternative dates. I have reallocated those members to a new date. However due to various reasons I have 3 dates which need to be filled, namely the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 21<sup>st</sup> August and 18<sup>th</sup> September. Volunteers will be gratefully accepted but please let me know. Hopefully all will be OK now, if it is please put it in your diary.

Once again may I remind you that once the running season starts and if you wish to change your allocated date will you please do the swop yourself and then let me know who you have swapped with. **Do not** phone me a couple of days before your duty expecting me to phone round and sort it out.

If everybody adheres to what is requested of them, then I'm sure that the stewarding will run smoothly.

In February's News Sheet I stated that it is my intention to relinquish the position of Loco Section Leader. Unfortunately I have not been buried under the pile of names from members wishing to take on the job. No doubt you are all holding back as you do not wish to appear over eager! Therefore once again may I request that you all give some consideration to taking on this vital job, otherwise the section will not have a leader. I do feel that at this very busy time in the Society's development at Colney Heath it is vital that we have a hands on Section Leader. Surely with over 140 members who have a declared interest in the Loco section there must be at least one willing volunteer?

Date.	Stewards Name.		Date	Stewards Name.
1st May.	Brian Apthorpe.		15th May.	Ron Price.
	Derek Perham.			Maurice Cummins.
	David Jones.			Graham Price.
	Peter Brewster.			Jack Edwards.
	Peter Brown.			Alan Crittenden.
	Peter Weeks.			Steve Jones.
	Mike Hodgson.			Rai Fenton.
	Peter Badger.			Keith Bartlam.
	John Beesley.			Jeffrey Bolton.
	Peter Lancaster.			Lesley Dobbs.
	John West.			Ian Buswell.

Date.	Stewards Name.		Date	Stewards Name.
5th June.	Nigel Griffiths.		19th June.	Peter Funk.
	John Johnston.			Reg Piper.
	John Mills			Mark Braley.
	Ashton Miles.			Alan Marshall.
	Keith Hughs.			Jim Robson.
	John L Morgan.			Derek Smith.
	Naughton Morgan.			John Riches.
	Dave Rose.			Peter Fraser.
	John Morgan.			Richard Cross.
	Steve Coffill.			Paul Godin.
	David Dunlop.			Nicholas Griffin.

Date.	Stewards Name.		Date	Stewards Name.
3 <sup>rd</sup> July.	Edward Kitchener.		17 <sup>th</sup> July.	Mike Forman.
	Roy Hall.			Peter Prior.
	Roger Brown.			Alex Chapman.
	Derek Eldridge.			Michael Dear.
	Michael Smith.			David Foster.
	Graham Gardner.			Nicholas Gear.
	Mervyn Smith.			Robert Hatton.
	Owen Chapman.			Brian Lees.
	Graham Ainge.			Peter MacDonald.
				Bill Bass.
	Robert Ambler.			Andy Benstead,

Date.	Stewards Name.		Date	Stewards Name.
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Mike Avery.		21 <sup>st</sup> Aug.	Roy Chapman.
	Victor Burgess.			
	Keith Barltrop.			Geoffrey Burton.
	Derrick Franklin.			Dave Snellgrove.
	Paul Godwin.			R. Lidzey.
	David Broom.			David Lapham.
	Mike Franklin.			George Case.
	Aaron Brady.			Ian Johnston.
	Lawrence Steers.			David Burman.
	Johnathan Avery.			David Morgan.
	R. Thompson.			Barrie Luckhurst.

### Forthcoming Loco Section Meetings.

#### **Friday March 18<sup>th</sup>:-**

I have tonight been fortunate in securing a return visit from Dave Cackle who along with Roger Elkin will be giving a joint illustrated talk entitled "Centenary of the GNR's Enfield – Cuffley line". I understand that this is an excellent presentation so don't forget to put this one in your diary.

#### **Friday April 15<sup>th</sup>:-**

Tonight it will be my pleasure to introduce you to Bill Davies who will be giving us his presentation

Date.	Stewards Name.		Date	Stewards Name.
4th Sept.	Mike Chrisp.		18th Sept.	Dick Payne.
	Jim MacDonald.			Peter Davies
	Dave Laurance.			Michael Gibbs.
	Colin Thompson.			Roy Mears.
	Anthony Mason.			Mike Woolsey.
	Bryn Morgan.			Ron Peirce.
	Peter Gooch.			David Marsden.
	John Firth.			Peter Brewster.
	Martin Ginger.			Roy E Tyler.
	Adam Gorski.			
	Richard Hall.			Dave Green.

Date.	Stewards Name.		Date	Stewards Name.
2nd Oct.	Mike Ruffell.		16th Oct.	Terry Baxter.
	Dave Chisnall.			Tony Dunbar.
	Brian Baker.			Graham Brown.
	Roger Bell.			Ron Todd.
	Paul Lacey.			Colin Rouse.
	Barrie Davies.			Tim Clementson.
	Peter Stern.			David Harris.
	Gavin Lang.			Peter Fox.
	John Mills.			Harry Henderson.
	Richard Hesketh.			Peter Smith.
	Paul Bexfield.			Peter Sheen

entitled "On and Off the Footplate" based on 42 years of Railway Experiences.

### Friday May 20<sup>th</sup>:-

Tonight Owen Chapman has very kindly offered to give us a picture presentation on the Festiniog/Welsh Highland Railways. Owen's pictures are of a very high standard and I'm sure we will have a very enjoyable evening.

*Mike Ruffell.*  
Loco Section Leader

## GLR NEWS

Hi folks,

Not a lot to say this month other than the weather is still making things difficult for all the various projects in hand. Gerald Moore has thankfully come out of hibernation and is beginning to put his stamp on the new traverser. Both Gerry and Ted Kitchener worked quite a long shift on Saturday, thanks boys, we hope to complete the traverser before the running season begins (a tall order for anyone). I have ordered 20 tons of scalplings to fill in between the concrete runways that the traverser runs on. Hopefully the walkways will blend nicely with the roadway; we may want to consider moving the large Bamboo plant to give a wider road and view at this point for vehicular access? And maybe a barrier to separate people on and around the container nearest the road?

Last week my old mate Roy Hall called me and asked might I be able to help him look over a 7¼" loco he was thinking of buying. Plans were made and off we went. A short journey to Brentwood through the pouring rain was the order of the day. On arrival at the private airfield Roy had to check in over the intercom. In due course the automatic barrier disappeared into the ground and we move off to the car park. Set in palatial grounds with manicured lawns a Grand Manor house was dwarfed by an aircraft hanger stuffed full with pristine veteran and vintage motors (at this point I thought I must check my lottery)

We were met by a pleasant young gent who showed us the way to the loco shed. Up to this point there was not a bit of track in sight and on arrival I thought that the loco shed looks more like an aircraft hanger. Sure enough the hanger was shared; half planes, half locos. Everything was in tip top condition all covered over and not a thing out of place. The pleasant young gent by this time had began to unwrap one of the loco shaped bundles. It was just like opening christmas presents the night before you should and Roy's face was a picture as the last cover came off. There in front of us was this smashing 0-4-0 petrol hydraulic Dock Shunter gleaming from head to toe (the loco not Roy). A full and precise lesson was told of how it was built as a project and hopefully more to come as a business venture. It was now time for its new owner to take it out for a short run and onto the loading ramp. I'm sure Roy was already thinking (six loads a day, half a ton a load, soon be able to move that mountain in the car park). The track I was told will be 2 kilometres long and will eventually be open by invitation only with the occasional public running days to boost funds. Pushing my luck I asked could one visit with a loco and stay for the weekend with maybe a camper van? Yes he said oh joy I thought must get going on finishing my loco. By this time the rain was horizontal and Roy had arrived at the loading area quite damp but in good spirits. Alighting from the loco Roy proceeded to power it up the ramp and on to the waiting trailer. Job done, no problem. The journey home was uneventful. Tired and happy we

made plans to unload the next day. I will let you know how we got on next month.

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

Right: Roy loading his loco.  
Apologies for the poor picture quality due to the weather  
Photo: Peter Funk

Below: NLSME stand at The London Model Engineering Exhibition, Alexandra Palace 2011  
Photos: Owen Chapman





Above: 87002 & 67012 departing Euston at the head of the 3 peaks challenge train for the Railway Children. 24/06/10 Below: 37264 rescuing the 4 VEP at Harmans Cross on the Swanage Railway after 73119 on the rear failed. 08/05/10 Photos: Nicholas Griffin



## 📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

Friday 4 March	8.00pm General Meeting ; Bring & Buy auction sale; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Monday 7 March	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Monday 14 March	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Meeting St. Marks Church Centre, Colney Heath
Friday 18 March	8.00pm Loco Section, Centenary of the GNR's Enfield – Cuffley line presented by David Cockle and Roger Elkin ; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
<b>Monday 21 March</b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for April News Sheet</i></b>
Friday 25 March	8.00pm Workshop evening; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Friday 1 April	8.00pm General Meeting ; Peter Badger—The Levant mine Winding Engine; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Monday 4 April	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 8 April	8.00pm Marine section at HQ; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Monday 11 April	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Meeting St. Marks Church Centre, Colney Heath
Friday 15 April	8.00pm Loco Section, Bill Davies, On and off the footplate; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 23 April	Fete's & Fair section at Grundy Park, Cheshunt, Contact J McDonald
<b>Monday 25 April</b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for May News Sheet</i></b>
Friday 29 April	8.00pm Workshop evening; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 30 April	Fete's & Fair section at Baldock beer festival, Contact J McDonald
Sunday 1 May	1st public running day at Colney Heath
Saturday 2 May	Fete's & Fair section at Christchurch Southgate, Contact J McDonald
Friday 6 May	8.00pm General Meeting ; Annual General Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Every Wednesday	Garden Railway Section at Colney Heath (11am - 4pm); OO and HO Model Railway Groups and Video Group at HQ (evening)
Every Thursday	Slot Cars Section at HQ (evening)
Every Saturday	Morning working party on GLR including junior section.
Every Sunday	Morning working parties at Colney Heath (start 9.00am).

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

