

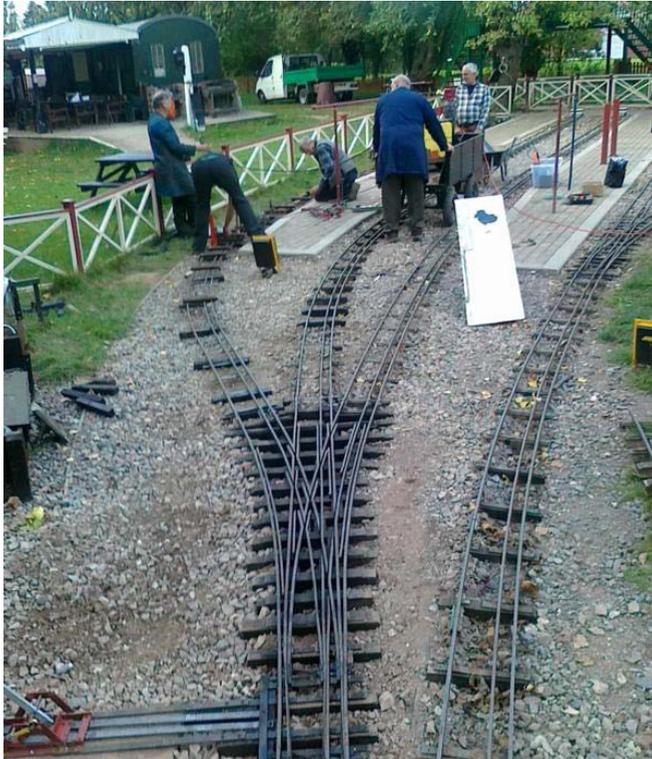
Want to see this
in full colour?
Then visit
www.nlsme.co.uk



The News Sheet

This Month...

North American Section is 25 years old (page 4)



From the Chair (page 2), Treasurer's Report (page 3),
Marine Mumbles (page 4), GLR News (page 5),
General Meetings Update (page 6), Garden Railway (page 7),
Sept General Meeting (page 11),
Sept Loco Section Meeting (page 13),
Dates for Your Diary (page 15),

Plus...

FROM THE CHAIR

As we go into October and the end of the summer running season, I am aware that we have just two more public running days, 2nd and 16th October, and that the winter working parties will shortly start on 6th November.

Looking back over the summer, work has continued on the Raised Track extension, with Grahame Gardner and his enthusiastic team making great strides in building the foundation supports across the new land. Their rapid progress is the result of many days work per week throughout this season.

The Garden Railway Section now has its new facility up and running and it is well liked by its users. They plan to build a shelter over their steaming bay area this coming winter.

Progress has continued throughout the summer on the painting of the GLR station in the car park, and the canopy over the steaming bay. This work will continue as long as the weather/temperature allows. There is still plenty of maintenance work to be done, particularly on the station coach structure.

We welcome Nigel Griffiths and his small team that have undertaken the maintenance of the ground work of the Colney Heath Site. Already it is looking a lot tidier, but as the autumn progresses, and the leaves start to fall, they will need more support.

The sailing pond has remained clear and clean; very soon the netting will have to be placed across it, to prevent debris falling to the bottom.

The support the Society gave to the MENCAP visit was good, with several steam locos giving rides for much of the day. The weather too was reasonable, so all had an enjoyable day with plenty of activity.

David Harris

Front cover: GLR members installing the 3 way point at Orchard Junction to enable the use of the 3rd platform.
Photo: Peter Funk

TREASURER'S REPORT

A quiet month on the Finance side, the public open Sunday's at Colney Heath have in the main this Summer coincided with outbursts of rain. However, Fetes and Fairs continue to thrash their engines up and down the portable track in almost all weathers, earning much need funds for the benefit of the Society. Birthday Parties at Colney Heath have also continued pulling in the funds.

At the last Council Meeting we were pleased to accept three new members into our Society.

Master Jack Coker, Interested in Locomotives and OO.

Kenneth Simpson, Interested in Locomotives and Stationary Steam.

Johan Jonker, Interested in General Engineering, Marine and Video.

Mike Foreman

LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Club,

My granddaughter and I wish to thank those members who turned out to run trains on the occasion of my great grandson's birthday on 2nd September at Colney Heath. Our thanks go to Derek and Brian for running their locos. To Ron, Waz, Martin and Paul for their help and stewarding and the Society for use of the track, all of which contributed to a safe and enjoyable afternoon.

Regards

Guy Ellerby

Marine Mumbles (Rides Again)

Last month was a bit of a quiet one for us again. Something to do with the fact it never stopped raining on the days Dave and I had set our minds on going to the pond. I know we are meant to be wet folk but there is a limit even for us. I would just like to take time out to thank John for cutting the grass around the pond. Also to Dave and Johan for giving the pond a bit of a clear out.

Trevor Smith's floating circus (Toy Boat Regatta) will be with us next May and July. He has booked early to avoid the rush. Well, sort of rush! Normal service within this column will resume next month as usual. This means the winter dry sailing season at Finchley HQ starts on Friday 14th October at 8.00pm. We will bring "the Project", and other things too numerous to mention. You just bring yourself and your goodies to the party. See you there. (Phew that was padded that out better than I thought. The question is, will anybody notice?)

Peter Stern

NORTH AMERICAN SECTION IS 25 YEARS OLD ON 26TH OCTOBER

Believe it or not, it will be 25 years since the North American Section was formed following the election to the Society of the former North Middlesex Model Railway Club members who had lost their club room.

Please come and join us for a small celebration at HQ on Wednesday, 26th October commencing at 19.00 hours when refreshments will be served and our 'Woodside Union Terminal' layout will be in operation.

Looking forward to seeing you.

The 'WUT Nuts'.

GLR News

What a busy month September has turned out to be right from the off with the juniors late night run through to the replacement of the two way point to Orchard Junction ,my unexpected and most enjoyable invitation to The Great Cock Row railway, culminating this weekend with a visit to and hopefully steaming Romulus at Fareham DMES all this for around a quid a week (must have died and gone to heaven) the only word I can think of to describe it all is SUPERB.

The Ground Level crew have again excelled and shown that they can still “do it” to see the new third way into Orchard Junction completed was really pleasing for me, another bit finished. The crew namely Brian Baker, Ted Kitchener, Mike Hodgson, Peter Brewster, Johnny Black Dog, Martin Kennedy, and the clubs newest asset Ken Simpson have produced work that is another great feature for us all to use and enjoy, I can't thank you enough lads well done. We have also started to level and elevate where necessary throughout the track starting at Orchard Junction off round the Cuckoo Line and on to the new land. 10 tons of MOT has been ordered to be used to reinforce the track where needed, some sleeper replacement may be needed as found by Robin and David. I am looking at plastic alternatives (perhaps our lovely librarian could point me in the right direction on this one?).

Visit to Fareham

Saturday 24th September visit to Fareham. Those that were going had all assembled at the track by 8am. Unusually I was just on time and was thinking of the great day ahead when I pulled into the car park. The lads were all standing around number 5 container trying to get the lock off so as to load my loco on the trailer. After 20 minutes of key wriggling and the occasional “Oh blast” we had to give up as by now we were running late, so off we went loco less and peeved! Sulking in the back I passed the time by asking the driver are we there yet! His reply was something about moo cows and baa lambs?

We arrived, the sun came out, the engines were out, off we went, the day was not long enough. We were fed and watered and entertained all day, my highlight was being asked if I would like to drive a very large Tinkerbelle. Discretion being one of my hidden attributes I tried not to smile too much as I snatched his hand off the regulator. What a great bunch of like minded people thank you so much for a great day out, I look forward to next years visit hopefully with my loco. By Sunday afternoon the lock had been replaced and the container was once again secure thanks to all involved in the repair a real team effort.

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

GENERAL MEETINGS 2011 – 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.

7 OCTOBER 2011 WORK IN PROGRESS

An informative, instructive and enjoyable evening when we can show our current project(s) to fellow members and discuss any technical matters giving us cause for thought. Hardware particularly welcome!

4 NOVEMBER – REVIEW

Time to look back on a busy season and forward to a productive winter.

2 DECEMBER 2010 – PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

An informal time together with food and drink 'On the House'. All members, families and friends are welcome.

6 JANUARY 2012 – A DIFFERENT VIEW

Our Video Team present an evening revealing aspects of Society activities.

Garden Railway

On Wednesday, 10th August at 10:30am we held our first "G1MRA" Get-together on the new track. We were visited by over 40 G1MRA members who bought their locos to run; they came from all over the southeast as well as from afar as Birmingham. There were some really beautiful locos and rolling stock present, in fact the size of the new track and the length of some of the sidings positively encourages people to bring their own rolling stock, good to see that. Track running on the day was under the command of Nick, all other G1 club members took it in turns to steward, and I think a good time was had by all as we had no alarms! With such a large track it is easily possible to run two trains per track and as we have three tracks (inner, middle & outer) this meant it was quite usual to see six running. This also gave club members a chance to steam as well.

As usual we supplied a good B-B-Q. Matt Stallard and myself worked away in the kitchen, Malcolm Read finishing off at the charcoals, so there was plenty of tea, coffee, sausages, burgers etc, all of which was well received. I would like to add here that whilst I was away after lunch organising the raffle (which was a



MEMBERS AND "G1" VISITORS AT START OF DAY

great success) Matt Stallard did all the washing and drying up, then tidied away and cleaned all the pots, pans, plates, worktops and cooker so the kitchen was absolutely neat and spotless, quite a large and thankless job well done.

Also in the last month we have been for a day visit to one of our own member's tracks; David West's delightful twin track garden railway at Epping is blended into his beautifully kept garden to perfection. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable time running to our hearts' content. David and his wife were warm and friendly hosts supplying excellent victuals throughout our visit. Yet again many thanks David from us all.



*STEVE, EDDIE, PATRICK, JOHN, NICK & MALCOLM AT DAVID WEST'S;
NOTE THE GWR "CITY" PASSING THROUGH STATION.*

We are very pleased to say that we have been invited as the NLSME's "Gauge 1" group to attend the in-augural model railway show to be held this year at the National Railway Museum, York from 22 to 30 October inclusive. Messrs Hornby and Bachmann are sponsoring the whole event and a number of model railway societies will be present including G1MRA, whose Yorkshire Group has a portable track which will have pride of place next to the turntable in the main hall of the NRM. This is the first time that the NRM has staged a model railway exhibition; the date coincides with half term week, and the NRM have told us

that they expect to see over 50,000 visitors in that period.

As it is a 9-day event many of G1MRA's local groups are providing runners to cover the period; our chosen day is the 25th October, so we will be the main attraction on the G1MRA track on that day. Meths, water and rolling stock will all be supplied; we have to just take our locos and firing gear. This is quite an honour for us as a club to be invited to attend this most prestigious of events, and I will of course supply a written report, perhaps with pictures, in a later newsletter.

Rather fittingly many of us have taken advantage of the cheap train ticket web sites (as advertised on TV) and have booked in advance to go up by train (Stevenage to York) for about £20 return! (the standard return fair being over £140.00). I would add that a couple of years ago my wife went from Stevenage to Edinburgh and back for under £30.00.

Owing to our section leader Nick being on holiday I also had the pleasure of attending the September Tyttenhanger site meeting as Garden Railway representative. I found all those present most friendly and welcoming, Mike Chrisp was an excellent chairman and I actually enjoyed it. Until next time, Happy steaming.

David Metcalf



USA S160 class 2-8-0 built by a Dutch model engineer, taken in July during the International Steam Meet held at DBC Holstein's track in Schackendorf, North Germany.

Photo: Mike Foreman



Above: From the Geek's weekend, the radio operators of GB0TLR at Tyttenhamger.

Below: Bruce Hope's 15F from Guildford Club hauling a three car train with 15-16 people per train

Photos: O Chapman



September General Meeting

Tony Dunbar Reminisces

By OMAH II

The loyal readers of this journal will have to put up with the jottings of OMAH Mk II yet again. It had been suggested that OMAH was absent because he was saving himself for free beer on offer somewhere the following day; but perhaps he really did have a strep throat.

As usual, the erudite Mike Chrisp opened the meeting by welcoming the throng and with the appointment of Mike Hodgson as Fire Marshal.

Mike C then proceeded to outline the past events and the attractions involving the NLSME for the next month. I seemed that there was so much going on that a member could totally absorb himself or herself in the many varied activities of the club without recourse to life outside in the real world; if the world outside is in fact real.

Tony Dunbar was then introduced by Mike C (as if he needed an introduction) to the restless audience who were waiting with bated breath for the words of wisdom to be divulged. Then Tony admitted that he did not really have a plan for the evening and that he would just start at the beginning. What resulted was an intriguing talk pulling in both personal and professional reminiscences that would not have been achieved if it had been tightly scripted.

Anyway Tony's beginning occurred on the first of April 1939 in Wood Green; it was not long before World War II broke out, but I suspect that was one calamity that Tony was not responsible for. Soon it was time for Tony to enter kindergarten where his love of things mechanical developed in the form of a wooden '*Meccano*' set. He streamlined construction by side stepping the nuts and bolts by hammering in nails to connect the pieces together instead. A desire to become a bridge engineer was expressed. This mechanical bias was compounded by the appearance at his father's furniture shop of a pedal model of a J2 Vauxhall car of about six feet in length. Tony's love of railways was soon initiated by the appearance of an American catalogue for *Lionel Model Trains* and subsequently a subscription to a US model railroader magazine.

Soon a change of school occurred where he developed his love in maths and learnt to swear fluently. Transfer to a technical school further expanded his skills in maths, chemistry, physics and in swearing no doubt. Abruptly at the age of sixteen he left school because he did not wish to proceed to college. A career in engineering and rail was the appeal and British Railways was beckoning him. In no time at all Tony found himself as a junior tracer at Kings Cross; from that point he never looked back because he seemed to move ever

onwards and upwards gathering up friends and experiences that have stayed with him for life.

At a natural break, David had cups of Lapsang Suchong ready with digestive biscuits for the thirsty and hungry listeners. Keith Barltrop managed the raffle excellently and quite forcibly; several members being persuaded to buy extra tickets, lured on no doubt by the magnificent bag of newly gathered runner beans that he had supplied as a premium prize from Keith's own allotment.

Soon Tony was back into the rostrum, regaling the club with tales of daring do at Kings Cross and Stratford. He seemed to climb through departments at irregular intervals gaining knowledge and experience at every level. Not only did he gain knowledge but he gained a wife! Actually who gained who is debatable but soon the typing puddle of two was short of one attractive employee. Tony married the 'easy on the eye' Margo in 1972 who has remained his right hand woman ever since.

Tony and his BR pals made a group trip to Canada and the US to see their latest railway developments, there they were treated to hospitality as only our brothers across the pond can dispense. They were even given the use of a Pontiac road/rail car and drove down the rails to Niagara in it as a 'special' train displaying white flags. They would have gone further but the Pontiac did not float. That expedition on its own would deserve an evening's talk.

Tony told the Club about many varied railway engineering experiences such as re-laying the track in the Potters Bar tunnels, the reorganisation of the 'throat' at Kings Cross with our own George Case as a Station Master, the problems of Continuous Welded Rail, and making car parks in Basildon where he managed to unearth a live CEGB wire and get promotion simultaneously.

He worked on the extensive redevelopment of Liverpool Street Station where he explained that when problems occurred such as with piling for the superstructure, that they could be solved by meeting at the appropriate pub and talking it over with the guys in dispute. That is something that could not be done today.

Mike C drew the evening to a happy conclusion by thanking Tony, mentioning that each escapade would have been worthy of an evening to itself. The gathered horde would have to contain itself for the next episode of the Dunbar Saga that must inevitably come to a hall near us soon. Right on time the satisfied group left Headquarters in search of further sustenance.

September Loco Section Meeting

By Roger Bell

In the absence of a volunteer to take over the organisation of Loco Section meetings at Headquarters, it fell to Mike Chrisp in his role as Interim Chairman of the Tyttenhanger Site Committee to run this evening's meeting. In view of the calling notice published in the September *News Sheet*, Mike expressed his disappointment that no other members of the TSC were present. Two Council members and one Section leader were among the nineteen members in attendance.

Mike opened the meeting by reminding those present of the two escape routes from the building in the event of an emergency and asked everyone to mark their attendance in the register being circulated. He noted that reported attendance at recent third Friday barbecues at the track had dwindled greatly which indicated the need for a return to Headquarters. He then reviewed the schedule of Society commitments for the forthcoming weeks including the St Albans DMES exhibition from which NLSME would be absent this year.

Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend was reported a great success with visitors from Chelmsford, Chingford and Fareham societies together with Alistair Macdonald's 'Geeks' Day' and Peter Funk's evening run. All participants had agreed that the combined event should be repeated next year. Mike read a letter of appreciation from John Dalton of the Chelmsford club.

It was noted that the raised track extension project is proceeding remarkably well to the extent that visitors taken on conducted tours to view the work have expressed admiration. It was also noted that the Garden Railway Group is planning a canopy for its own steaming bay area. They have been asked to ensure that the structure will be adequately strong and in keeping with other structures on site.

The Steaming Bay Project was also discussed. Regrettably, work on this substantial and costly project seems to have stalled. Much has been done but plenty remains. It was noted that the project has been on the go for at least thirteen years. Our William Mason suggested a configuration and built a model of a steaming bay design that was to be 'Project 2000'. The aim was to produce an attractive environment with all the required facilities. Much has changed during the intervening years but the objectives remain unaltered. It is unfortunate that enthusiasm for this project has faltered with the unfinished work leaving that part of our otherwise idyllic site unattractive.

We were reminded that we are pursuing a hobby activity for our enjoyment! Progress during the summer months is not expected to be rapid because this is the running season and folk have other things to do and events and places to

visit. However, it is hoped that volunteer labour will be available from November when the winter working parties resume. It is appreciated that unless the working parties are well managed, volunteers attending at the outset may be disappointed and find somewhere else to go on Sundays.

It was reported that a splendid three-way point has been built by Peter Brewster and installed at Orchard Junction to give access to all three platforms.

The TSC has recommended that public running should continue on the first and third Sundays of each month next summer. This was approved by all present.

Mike asked if those present wished to have a Loco Section meeting in October. On receiving a positive response, the next question concerned the topic. It was agreed that a review of the current status of projects currently in hand was required so that everyone knows what's going on! It will also be necessary to make arrangements to be sure that the imminent winter work is properly managed. It is important that project leaders and others involved are available to lead this meeting.

I'm away for the October meeting so we shall be without a scribe. If you are prepared to stand in for me and do a write-up, please e-mail it to our Editor Nick Griffin by the following Monday.

It was reported that members have been invited to visit St Albans South signal box. It was evident that this would be popular and was suggested as a possibility for the November Loco Section meeting. The visit would include signalling demonstrations running on the operating floor, a presentation showing restoration plus railway videos.



Gresley A4
"Quicksilver"
making a return
visit to the Colney
Heath track,
whilst members
of the Colchester
S M E visited us
on Sunday 25th
September
Photo M Foreman

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 1 Oct	Birthday Party, Angie Hart; Colney Heath
Friday 7 Oct	8.00pm General Meeting; On the Table : Work in Progress; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Tuesday 11 Oct	8.00pm TSC meeting; Colney Heath
Wednesday 12 Oct	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 14 Oct	8.00pm Marine Section meeting; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Friday 21 Oct	8.00pm Loco Section meeting
Monday 24 Oct	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for November News Sheet</i>
Wednesday 26 Oct	7.00pm North American Section 25th Anniversary; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Friday 28 Oct	8.00pm Workshop evening; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 29 Oct	Birthday Party, Maria Chinnick; Colney Heath
Friday 4 Nov	8.00pm General Meeting; Review, look back on a busy season and forward to a productive winter; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 5 Nov	Fetes & Fair section at Southgate, Contact J McDonald
Monday 7 Nov	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Tuesday 8 Nov	8.00pm TSC meeting; Colney Heath
Friday 18 Nov	8.00pm Loco Section meeting (TBA)
Monday 21 Nov	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for December News Sheet</i>
Friday 25 Nov	8.00pm Workshop evening; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Friday 2 Dec	8.00pm General Meeting; Pre Christmas Social; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 3 Dec	Fetes & Fair section at Berkhamstead, Contact J McDonald
Wednesday 14 Dec	HO section Pre-Christmas Open House; HQ; Legion Way; Nth Finchley
Friday 16 Dec	8.00pm Loco Section meeting (TBA)
Wednesday 28 Dec	HO Section running session from 1300; 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.

