

In these days of lock-down, a number of us are missing our regular monthly meetings and exhibitions, so Neil Smith suggested that we should produce a brief newsletter that could be emailed out to our members.

This is the initial attempt to “test the water” and gauge opinion. It is a random mix of news, chat and snippets, hopefully similar to that which we get at our meetings. As such, there is no structure to it!

## Dave Dyer's 09 Test Track:



I got this simple track on a board at our November meeting from the bits and pieces that were being sold off from Richard Stranks estate. I decided it was shame that if no one wanted it was going into the skip. I thought that it would make a good test track for my 09 engines. The existing electronics were removed from centre of the board and the wiring altered accordingly. Black foam board was used to put a suitable edge to the plywood board to give a nice finish.



All the buildings are scratch built from a selection of Bass wood, thin mirror ply, bamboo with blue foam brickwork with individual painted bricks. The tools are made from very thin aluminium sheet and bamboo. The bird bath, pond and sun dial are also made from blue foam. Still some work to be done to complete. I seem to have got carried away with it, but it has helped to keep sane at this terrible time. The lock-down has provided him the opportunity to develop it.

## Exhibitions:

Many exhibitions have been cancelled or postponed. While some may be rearranged for later in the year it may be quite some time before ‘Social Distancing’ restrictions are relax to the point where organisers, exhibitors and visitors all feel safe. I was particularly looking forward to Narrow Gauge South on 18<sup>th</sup> April and I understand that, as it hosts the 009 Society AGM in alternate years with the North West show at Rainford, it is unlikely to be held before 2022.

There are quite a few ‘virtual’ exhibition videos on YouTube as well as videos of individual layouts and techniques. My problem is that I find it all too easy to get side-tracked watching these and I end up missing out on valuable modelling time!

### Robin's Photo Plank:

My own modelling has been a bit limited by the recent good weather and the demands of the garden. However, I have made a start on a photo plank as I have realised that although my own layout *Tony's Forest* is photogenic it is just too difficult to photograph the locos and rolling stock. I have promised a series of articles for the 7mm NGA magazine and I need to get some decent photos, hence this project. I intend to use bits that I already have at home and luckily I have quite a few scenic items left over from building *Tony's Forest*. I couldn't resist this photo to remind me the reason why I decided on this particular project!



### 7mmNGA News:

Burton Exhibition and AGM: Sadly, but unsurprisingly, the 7mmNGA Exhibition on the 13th of June at Burton on Trent Town Hall has been cancelled for this year. However there is some good news and something to look forward to, the same venue has been booked for our 2021 exhibition which will be on Saturday the 5th of June 2021. A date for your diary for next year.

Association Sales: The 7mm NGA Sales Team are operating as best they can in the conditions. Richard's American image On30 Depot is still active, email him on [on30depot@7mmnga.org.uk](mailto:on30depot@7mmnga.org.uk), Publication sales is also still going, order on-line via our website and Neil's Modelling Goods is keeping going although only doing small items – less than 45cm long, email him on [goods@7mmnga.org.uk](mailto:goods@7mmnga.org.uk).

### Apedale Valley Light Railway – Neil Smith:

To bring some happiness into these dismal times, here's a couple of photos of locos at the Apedale Museum site near Stoke-on-Trent.



It's well worth a visit if you haven't been and something to look forward to when the distancing restrictions are lifted.



### Driving Creek Railway, North Island, New Zealand – Neil Smith:

Back in 2006, Alison and I blew some of my redundancy money on a trip to New Zealand, which included stopovers in Singapore on the way out and Sydney on the way back. We were away from the 30th of January to the 6th of March.



*Base Station*



*One of the switch-backs*

One place we visited was the Driving Creek Railway – [www.dcrail.nz](http://www.dcrail.nz) – which is a 15" gauge railway that climbs a hill on the Coromandel Peninsular to the east of Auckland by series of zig-zags. The railway is only 2.7km long but climbs 115 metres in that distance. The view from the top is magnificent, well it beat February in England anyway, and there is a top viewing platform and cafe known as the Eyefull Tower.



*The top terminus*



*The view from the Eyefull Tower*

### Final Journey:

Nicolas Wheatley's book, [\*Final Journey: The Untold Story of Funeral Trains\*](#) is ready for publication.

He is happy to supply people with extracts from it as there are several instances of coffins being transported on narrow gauge railways.

### Brian Fayle:

On a sadder note, I recently heard that Canadian modeller Brian Fayle has died. I used to correspond with Brian when he was a member of the 7mm NGA and learnt a lot about figure painting from him. The 7mm NGA Chairman, Neil, was sent a copy of "The Platelayers Society" newsletter which included an obituary for Brian and in reading it I never realised that he was originally from our area. Here is a brief extract, courtesy of The Platelayers Society:

*Brian was born in 1930 in Dursley, Gloucestershire, attended a Prep school near Worcester, and Sherborne Public School in Dorset. His medical training was done at St John's College, Cambridge University and The Middlesex Hospital in London. After graduating he went to Canada and had a successful career becoming a pioneer in Diagnostic ultrasound.*

*Brian was also noted for his expertise and leading ideas in his model railroading activities and helped form the 'Narrow Gauge Madness Group'. Brian perfected the art of painting the figures in model railroading and demonstrated his painting techniques at many events.*

I hope you are all keeping well and using your time to good effect if you are subject to the lock down constraints. This is a very rough and ready newsletter to try to get the ball rolling and it would be great to hear of your news so that we can all stay in touch.

Stay safe and happy modelling

Robin Edwards

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