

Welcome to the February edition of our lockdown newsletter. This is the usual mix of news, chat and snippets, hopefully similar to that which we get at our meetings. There is no structure to it and if you feel that it is not the right balance then please send me your contribution!

## Future Meetings:

Whilst it is hard to predict when we will be able to start our meetings, the impressive roll-out of the vaccines does give hope that we will be able to meet up again at some point in 2021. Personally I have found this lock down harder than the others and I think it is due to a mixture of "the novelty has worn off" and the cold weather restricting outdoor activities. I have been lucky to be able to continue with a number of modelling projects and look forward to sharing these when we can all get together.

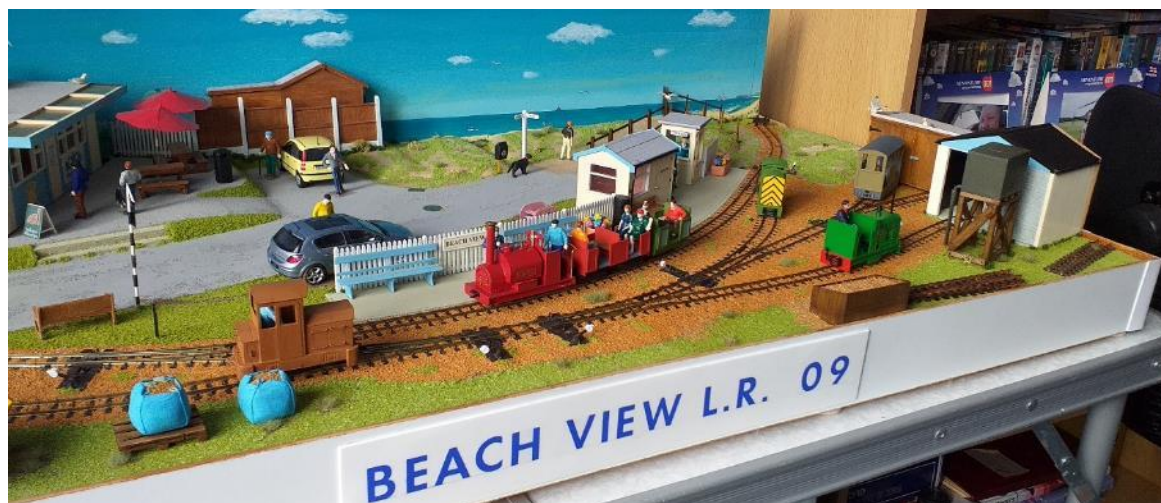
In the meantime these newsletters will continue to be published each month to coincide with when we would have been meeting. As usual, my thanks go to everyone who has sent in contributions and look forward to hearing about your own news.

## More Gn15 from Dave Dyer:

Dave has just completed a slightly longer flatbed wagon along with portable generator and the beginnings of few fencing tools to go with his Gn15 models featured in previous newsletters.



He has also sent in a photo of his 09 layout from a different angle to those we have featured before.



### A Model or the Real Thing? – Neil Smith:

Here are a couple of photos of narrow gauge Bayer-Garretts, one is a very fine model while the other is the real thing. I'll leave you to work out which is which.

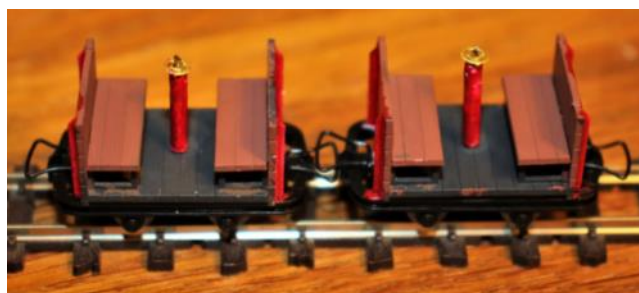


### Additional Braking Capability on Slate Trains – Martyn Davies:



Having finished the model of “Cackler” (almost finished!) described last month I decided to have a go at making something that could be marshalled into a slate train to provide additional brake power. The idea came to me when I was shown a box with what Minitrains call

“Passenger Cars” (5186). Now I don’t know about you but if I, as a paying passenger, was invited to sit and travel in one of those for more than a trip up the yard, I would be asking for my money back.





However, put a brakes-man in each with a brake at his disposal and you have something which could have existed. It probably did somewhere on a Welsh narrow gauge railway! Answers on a postcard please! The hand-wheels come from a brass etching, which also provided those on "Cackler", marketed by Wizard Models.



It's amazing what you get up to in a National Lockdown.

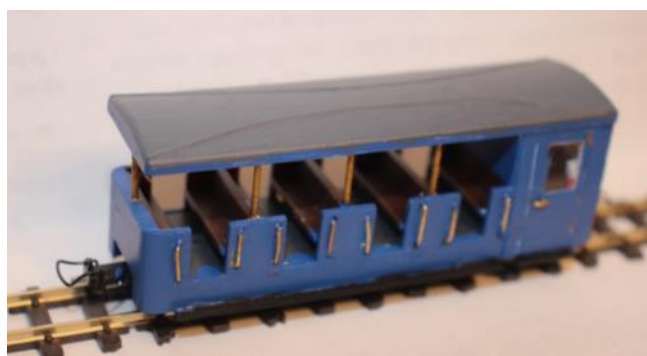
### More Messing with Minitrains – Martyn Davies:

As I am obviously in an alliterative mood this could be retitled Martyn's Major Manic Modifications. A few years ago I was lucky enough to purchase five Decauville Toastrack coaches for a good price. However, there was no braking facility except the locos own brakes so I decided that like the slate wagons additional braking was needed. The simple answer would have been to have marshalled an ordinary braked coach in the formation, well we were in a lockdown with some time to spare. So having been shown one of the new Minitrains coaches which come in Red & Grey or Green & Grey, my "Little Grey Cells" started functioning and how about turning into a braked toastrack to join the others?



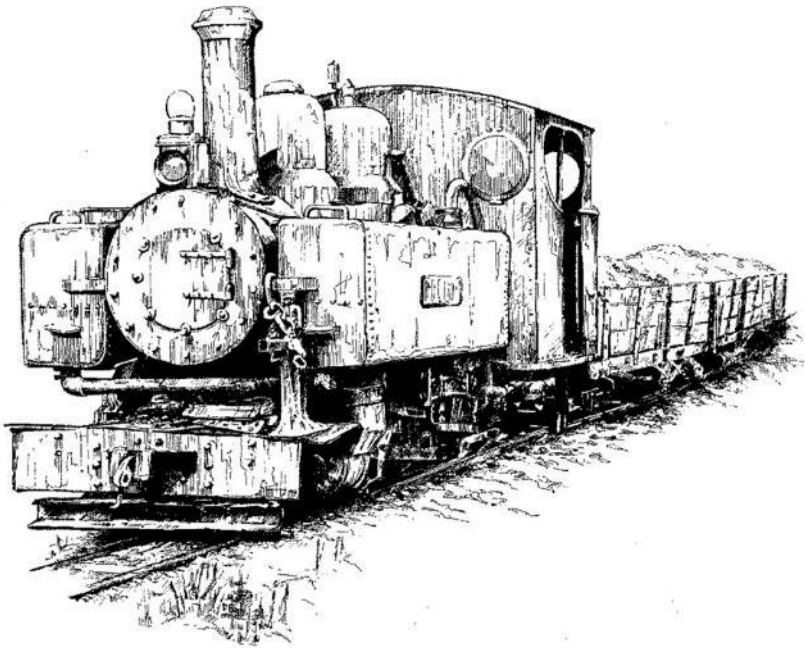
So some plasticard for the panels, bent brass wire for the door handles and grab handles and mixed paint to my formulation. Some microstrip for a rain guard on the roof and red for the end panels and brass to re-colour the roof supports, and you end up with this. I must remember to leave the drilling of the holes for the door handles until a morning session better light and no effects from the pint of Old Peculiar I had earlier in the evening!

Overall though I am happy with the results, and more importantly it has helped keep me sane during these lockdown hours. I expect that many of you build your own stock and make a better fist than I have but if you don't or perhaps haven't yet then give it a go, the satisfaction I have got from these three little projects is very worthwhile. Now to apply the railways coat of arms to the carriage. Going to try and produce some transfers on the house printer - you might get another article soon Robin, on what not to do when producing transfers.



Change of date for the 7mmNGA Exhibition, all being well it will go ahead:

# Model Railway Exhibition



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**Admission: Adults: £5, Members: Free  
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**For full details of available refreshments and  
bar, and for local car parking, please check  
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**Saturday  
16<sup>th</sup>  
October  
2021**

**10.30am – 4.30pm**

**[www.7mmnga.org.uk](http://www.7mmnga.org.uk)**



### Snow on the C&CSRR - Bill Longley-Cook:

Our Yorkshire member Bill took advantage of the recent snow as #494 prepares to take Rotary OM out of Donkey Corners yard up to Rockery Ridge.



Bill's indoor layout "Atlantic Cable Mine" is booked to exhibit at the 7mm NGA Exhibition in Burton Town Hall on the 16th of October which will be its first public outing.

### Progress from our European Correspondent - Jürgen Heinritz

Jürgen has sent some pictures of a crane he built on a Peco O-16.5 flat wagon. His painting techniques for the wood effect on the wagons was covered in our August newsletter. He says *"Please excuse the poor lighting conditions, I had to take them in my studio (aka dining table)."*



I was intrigued by the inside bearing wagon at the end of the train which looks to be scratch built out of wood and Jürgen kindly provided the following description:



*"I always wanted some inside framed wagons but couldn't find any axle bearings for them. One night (it must have been around 3 o'clock in the morning) I had the idea to use insulation material from electric wires. The rest is wood, paper and glue. The inside bearings are made from fireworks sticks. They are delivered for free every New Year's morning. One delivery lasts usually for the rest of the year and they come already naturally weathered. The planks are coffee stirrers made from birch (1000 of them about 7€ including p&p). The weathering is dust from pastel chalks scratched off with a*

*sharp knife. This is applied with a mixture of half distilled water, half white spirit and a few drops of mouthwash to reduce the surface tension. The finished wagon is sealed with matt varnish from the spray can. The black iron angles at the corners are made from black "Fotokarton" (coloured through heavy paper). Not cheap at 2.50€ for an A3 sheet but it has the big advantage that you don't have to paint the cut edges. I think that one sheet will last for the most of my modelling career, so I think it is well invested money. The rivets are drops of wood glue applied with a cocktail stick. The nut, bolt & washers are from Grandt Line via the 7mm NGA. The wheels and the couplings are bought. I think this is my very first scratch build wagon. And as it is the first in a row you can call it a prototype. With complete justification you can call this wagon prototypical."*

#### **Narrow Gauge Railway Museum activities:**

Those enterprising folk at the Narrow Gauge Railway Museum at Tywyn have produced some activities and puzzles for you to try at home. They are based on items relating to narrow gauge railways, some of which can be found in the Narrow Gauge Railway Museum itself. They are primarily intended for children and the Activity Sheets can be downloaded and printed. These contain activities to help with home schooling.

The Jigsaw Puzzles are completed online. They contain around 100 pieces, but you can adjust the number to make them easier or more difficult. The help menu provides more information. They can be quite a challenge if you go for the maximum number of pieces!

<https://narrowgaugerailwaymuseum.org.uk/activities/>

I hope you are all keeping well and using your free time to good effect. Thank you to the contributors to this issue and don't forget to send us your news so that we can all stay in touch. I would appreciate any contributions for the next newsletter by the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

In the meantime stay safe and happy modelling,

**Robin Edwards**

Please send your news to

[robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com](mailto:robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com)

Or

[neil.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com](mailto:neil.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com)