

Welcome to the July edition of our lockdown newsletter. This time it reflects our first face-to-face meeting for more than a year. There is no structure to it and if you feel that it is not the right balance then please send me your contribution!

Re-starting our Face-to-face Meetings:

We had our first meeting on the 26th July and there is a brief report later in this newsletter. The evening was attended by about a dozen of us and was an opportunity to show off recent models and generally catch up. We anticipated that a number of our members would not feel comfortable meeting given the recent rises in Covid-19 infections. We felt that opening up would benefit from our own voluntary measures to give everyone a bit of reassurance. These worked well and will be retained for our next meeting on the 23rd August. The greatest challenge was finding individually wrapped cakes and biscuits so the choice available was more limited than we have been used to in the past.

Please note that this will be on the 4th Monday of August and not the Bank Holiday.

To line or not to line?

Following my query last month on whether I should be lining my locos, the consensus appears to be *"only if I am confident of doing a good job"*. I agree and think that I need more practice! The view was summarised nicely by Alan Hargreaves:

"Please forgive and interloper from North Wales for weighing in with his tuppence worth."

A couple of correspondents have asked for thoughts on lining and my simple thought is don't!

Unless expertly done lining spoils many a good model. There is also the question of scale; a lot of locos are lined out way over scale; my 16mm locos have very fine lining and even that is somewhat over scale (see photo courtesy of Tony Willmore, Rhos Helyg Locoworks who painted and lined my engine).

Unless absolutely ex works it should be enough to have a suggestion of lining; otherwise break up large areas such as tanks and cab sides with crests and works plates and leave it at that.

Doubtless this will not meet with universal approval but it is my opinion.

However, congratulations to the makers of very fine models shown in your pages.

Cheers,

Alan Hargreaves"



18th Wiltshire Group 009 Society Open Day - 7th August 2021:

Barring any government pronouncements, The 009 Society Wiltshire Group will be holding their Open Day at the Bouverie Hall Pewsey, on the 7th of August between 10am and 4pm. Admission £4.00.

There will be 8 to 9 layouts and the Society Second Hand stand as well as Lardy Cake.

Layouts will include 'Melin Dolrhyd', 'Garreg Wen' and 'Goathorn' which is making its show debut and is based on the Isle of Purbeck narrow gauge lines.

Ticket Arrangements for 7mm NGA Exhibition, Burton-on-Trent Town Hall, Saturday 16th October, 10:30 to 16:30

With the continuing pandemic, the 7mmNGA Committee have decided to make this year's exhibition an all ticket event. The tickets are free of charge. Tickets are limited to members and one guest plus up to two children who should be close family members. There will be no general public admission on the door.

The August issue of Narrow News will carry full details of how to book and the booking system will go live on the 7mmNGA website – www.7mmnga.org.uk – on the 1st of August. Please use the online booking system if you possibly can as this automatically generates a ticket for you to print and feeds into a database of names which can be printed for the door volunteers on the day.

There are also arrangements in Narrow News for those without internet access to get tickets but the on-line booking requires no further manual intervention to generate the ticket and log those who have booked.

Please book early as numbers are limited.

Please remember that no ticket will mean no entry!

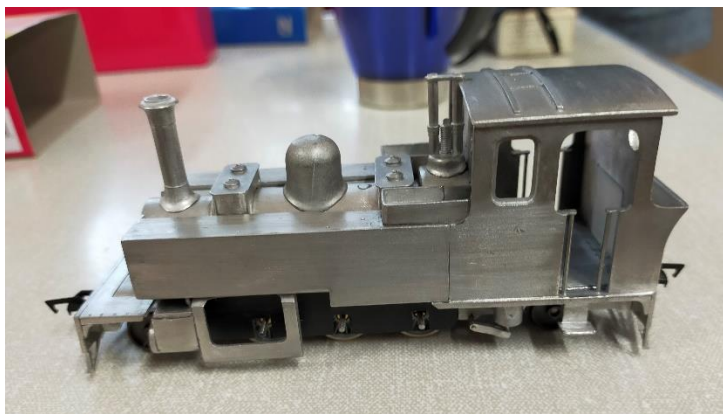
Our First Meeting since February 2020:

Monday 26 July heralded our first face-to-face meeting for 16 months just over a dozen attending. It will take a while for things to get back to some sort of normality but we all had a great time and there was plenty to look at and talk about. There are a few challenges at the moment with face masks and social distancing restricting our normal interactions but these didn't stop us from enjoying ourselves.

As some members are not yet ready to return to our meetings or some have to isolate as they have been 'pinged', we will continue with the newsletter and try to report on some of the discussion and models on display. Your roving reporter apologises for a lack of detail as he was busy trying to set up the new catering arrangements in the kitchen. Overall these worked well despite the cake and biscuit options being more limited.



Two of the recently released Heljan L&B Baldwins were happily running on the 009 test track and the livery finish on both looked superb. The lining on the front buffer beam on the L&B livery version (right hand photo) was particularly fine and I was surprised to learn that the prototype was supplied with a nice cap on the chimney which the SR replaced with a very utilitarian stovepipe chimney. Altogether a very nice looking loco even if it did look extremely fiddly to put on the track to my 7mm scale eyes!



By way of contrast, Adrian Ponting had a 7mm scale L&B loco kit that he had modified in a similar way to a couple of 009 Stenning kits he built many years ago.

This gives a shorter, more compact loco whilst still retaining the features of the original Manning Wardle locos. He is scratch building the chassis and said the loco was a distraction to a distraction.

As reported in an earlier newsletter, he has been working on a new 009 layout but got distracted to progress a 2m by 0.4m 016.5 shunting layout.

This loco is probably a bit too big for that layout but he fancied have a 7mm go at his 009 conversions.

Neil was running his completed rake of TR inspired coaches and like all the models on display they looked even better in the flesh.

Michael showed us the progress with his home designed 3d printed Shay and was running his Double Fairlie. Both of these were impressive models and shows what can be completed with a bit of effort to understand 3d CAD and printers (something that I think is well beyond myself).

John showed us his Emmet inspired loco and rolling stock.



Finally Dave was displaying his test track now fully developed into his 09 Estate Railway. There is a fantastic amount of detail in such a compact space and yet Dave has succeeded in making it look very open and uncluttered. I think his secret is to have lifelike details placed in a thoughtful and realistic manner. It even came complete with countryside sounds and local church bells in the distance.

I think the evening was a success and our measures worked well to provide confidence to all who attended.



We are unlikely to make any changes for our next meeting on 23rd August.

Another date for your diary:

CRADLEY HEATH
8th MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Saturday 9th October 2021
10:00am - 4:30pm

NEW BIGGER VENUE
Ormiston Forge Academy
Wrights Lane · Cradley Heath
West Midlands · B64 6QU

SAME GREAT VALUE

Adult £5.00
Child (4-14) £2.50
Family (2+2) £11.00
Children under 4 go FREE!

Free Parking · Refreshments
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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 20th August. In anticipation that we will be able to hold our second face to face meeting on 23rd August, I would anticipate posting the newsletter a few days later so that I can include any news from that meeting.

In the meantime stay safe and happy modelling,

Robin Edwards

Please send your news to

robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com

Or

neil.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com