

Welcome to the August edition of our lockdown newsletter. There is no structure to it and if you feel that it is not the right balance then please send me your contribution!

Our Second Face-to-face Meeting:

We had our second meeting on the 23rd August 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. Our own voluntary measures to give everyone a bit of reassurance worked well at our first meeting and will be retained until further notice. The greatest challenge is finding individually wrapped cakes and biscuits and the choice available is more limited that we have been used to in the past. This is likely to be the first measure that gets relaxed!

The next meeting will be on Monday 27th September.

Prototype Inspiration:

I managed a couple of weeks touring Scotland in early August and visited the Beamish Open Air Museum on the way North. I could only go on a week day but I was blessed with good weather and found a 'Tin Turtle' on distant display.

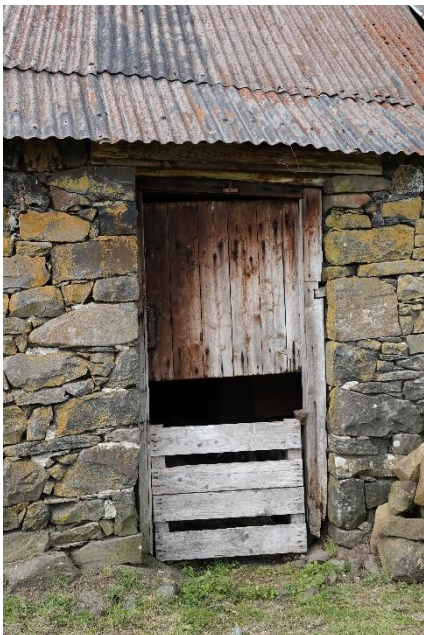
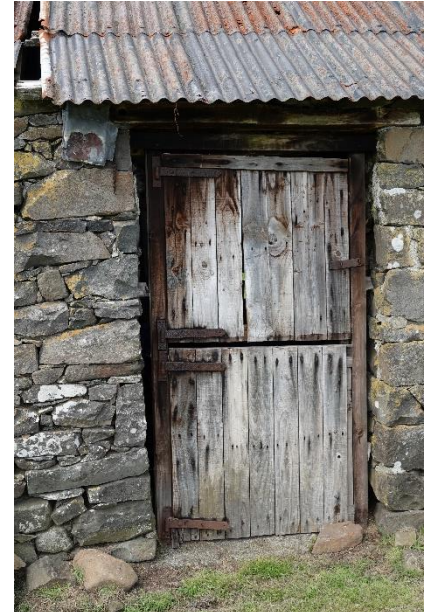
I also took the opportunity to take a couple of detailed photos of the roof over the row of four Miners Cottages. This is the sort of detail that I have struggled with in the past both in terms of the lead flashing around the chimney and the staining/weathering on the slates.

Now I have no excuse!



More Prototype Inspiration:

Part of my holiday in Scotland was on the Isle of Skye. The place we stayed at had this character-filled outhouse/barn which I thought was an excellent example of stone, timber and corrugated iron ageing/weathering. As with the Beamish roof, I now have no excuse not to get such details right in the future!



My friend in North Wales, Paul Holmes summed it up perfectly describing it as follows:

"The colours here are fabulous, once you realise the 'grey stone' has no grey whatsoever. Yellow ochre, burnt sienna, raw umber and every combination imaginable. As to the door, it's magnificent!!"

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

The on-line booking system for tickets is now live with details provided to members in the latest issue of Narrow News. This also detailed the arrangements those members without internet access. This exhibition is limited to members and their guests, so if you want to go and you are not already a member you will either need to join or find a member who is willing to include you on their ticket!

Please book early as numbers are limited and remember that no ticket will mean no entry!

Our August Meeting:

We held our second meeting on Monday 23rd August with seventeen attending. It felt like things are starting to get back to some sort of normality and there was plenty to look at and talk about. There are a few challenges at the moment with face masks and catering restrictions 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.



It was great to welcome back Martyn Davies and the table of tempting goodies on offer from The Hereford Model Centre. Martyn reported that he was able to take advanced orders for the long awaited Bachmann 009 Quarry Hunslet 0-4-0ST. A video discussing the design and running of the pre-production samples is available on YouTube through the following link:

<https://youtu.be/rS3N2lcpaSE>

Martyn had good stocks of Minitrains, Bachmann and Peco products and is happy to take orders for any available items that can be brought along to our meetings.

Brian Mallinson had a delightful and impressive 009 deWinton vertical boyled loco running on the test track. He had built this from an [RT Models](#) kit and said he found it a bit challenging due to its small size. He had it pulling a rake of three WDLR Class A wagons that he had built from WD Models (available through [Dundas Models](#)). They made a very nicely finished train and the loco ran very well due in part to its whitmetal body weight.



Roy Schofield demonstrated his radio controlled tram style loco and coach which I think are [Smallbrook Studio](#) products. The control units and batteries are now small enough that 7mm scale is easy and the controller can handle up to 12 locos at once. The track can be weathered as much as you like as it is not required for power!



Finally Roger Brown was seen testing his 014 Roy C Link Ruston LBT chassis on the 14mm gauge test track. The chassis is milled brass with Tenshodo gears running on a layshaft. The builder has to add pick-ups to get a working chassis and the running was impressive given the lack of body weight. Now he just needs to find the time to build the body!

I think the evening was a success and our measures worked well to provide confidence to all who attended. I would welcome comments and views on these measures which are likely to remain in place for our next meeting on 27th September.

Trade News:

Mosskito Models new 009 wheels:



Two new wheels and an axle by Mosskito Models are now available from [Light Railway Stores](#). There are 9.1mm diameter disc and 6.2mm three hole wheels. These are to the same standards as their earlier 7, 8 and 10mm diameter wheels and are set on a shouldered axle that is 2mm diameter in the centre to take Tenshodo gears. Also available is a brass 1.5mm diameter pinpointed axle suitable for 00n3 (12mm gauge). At 19.7mm long it is probably suitable for 014 KB Scale 'Hudson' style wagons too.



High Level Models resume service:

After a period of consolidation, re-design and re-supply, [High Level Models](#) have resumed their mail order service. They produce high-quality gearboxes, motor bogies, suspension components and chassis kits for use with other makes of kits, or for upgrading Ready-to-Run (RTR) models. These are complimented by a carefully selected, tried-and-tested range of 12 volt motors. Primarily designed for 16.5 mm gauges and above they are ideal of 7mm narrow gauge and their new web site makes ordering far easier than before. I have no connection with them other than as a very satisfied customer (Robin).

Further Zoom meetings?

We held a small number of Zoom video meetings earlier in the year. Most of those who took part have been able to come to our face-to-face meetings apart from our European member Jürgen. I think it would be nice to stay intouch and also offer the opportunity for our other members to join in too. I propose a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 8th September at 14:30 (a time that seemed to work well in the past). Please email me at robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com if you are interested and I will send you the meeting link.

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 24th September. In anticipation that we will be able to hold our third face to face meeting on 27th September, I will post 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