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# The News Sheet

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## The Chairman's Notes

Another month has passed, the running season at Colney Heath is nearly at an end, the annual mothballing of those overworked engines just around the corner and who knows maybe a chance to escape down the workshop (after winter work parties of course!) to carry on working on that project delayed by the enforced summer fun break.

However summer's one last hurrah is fast approaching and I am sure that our new Tyttenhanger Events Co-ordinators Owen and Rachael Chapman would love to hear from you to help out. Yes, it is nearly Halloween Night and the Chapmans assisted by MLM (MacDonald's Light and Magic) are planning a night of fun for all the family from Dusk (or there about) on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

Moving on to events from the last month, the Society entertained Mencap for what I am told is the 28th year running and it was great to see both the number of members and visitors up on previous years and back to those that we were achieving 10 years ago. Mencap is in my opinion the most important event the Society arranges each year, giving back to the community and entertaining individuals who get so much from so little of our time. My thanks go out to all those involved in making the day a great success.

The Fetes and Fairs Section and the Stationary Steam Section have again been active over the last month with a charity day at 'The Boot' public house in Chipperfield and the Fetes and Fairs Section

also attended a Classic and Vintage Car show at Capel Manor (for those of you interested there is a picture at <http://www.capel.ac.uk/News/CarShow2006/index.htm> of Mick Avery running on the portable track.).

Several members of the Society attended the Great Dorset Steam Fair this year gathering inspiration, enjoying an expensive pint and generally immersing themselves in a bit of nostalgia; if you have never been before the fair 'is one event you really should do before you die'.

The Video Group is about to start shooting (if that is the right word in our digital age) a piece called 'Wrong Number'; added to this the 'HO' and 'OO' Sections have a few exhibitions to attend during the coming months. Good Luck to you all, I hope it goes well.

Some Council business to round off the day: the Society has received the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies' information sheet on the Disability Discrimination Act, and discussion along with an audit of our sites will occur shortly. If anybody wishes to put a point forward on this issue please contact me, I am more than willing to discuss the matter.

At the September Council meeting the Constitution was discussed at some length and the Council feels that this is a document that has served the Society well for many years and does not require any further amendments at this time. Shortly the Council will publish the

Constitution as amended at the May 2005 EGM so that everybody has an up-to-date version of it.

Lastly the damaged section of the HQ roof has been repaired and hopefully the

possible water damage has been kept to a minimum, so that no further action will be required to that particular section of the roof.

Have a good October! Enjoy Halloween!

*Donal Corcoran*

## Treasurer's Report

September has been a quiet month on the financial front; with the exception of the repairs to the HQ roof over the North American layout, which is now complete, there has only been the usual expenditure for this time of year. The Tyttenhanger Committee now has its own bank account up and running in the club's name,

which will aid the Tyttenhanger Site Treasurer by reducing the number of cash transactions.

If the printing goes to plan, along with this News Sheet should be the latest copy of the membership list. If there are any errors or omissions in your entry then please contact me.

*Kieran Corcoran*

## Gala Weekend 2007

The Council has started the initial preparation work towards holding a Gala weekend on the Society's Tyttenhanger site to be held June or July 2007 (actual date to be confirmed).

Initial thoughts are to hold a similar event to that of our recent 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend, which was a success on all fronts. As was the case with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend all sections of the Society will be actively encouraged to participate in this event.

As this event is in its infancy it is now that we need your opinion as to what you want to be included, one suggestion being that we hold a 'Halloween' style night run on the

### Cover picture:

One of our senior and well-respected members who is rarely seen at Colney Heath these days: Geoff Wren travelling behind his 5in. gauge Speedy, on 23 September of this year; Colin Bainbridge in the driver's seat. We look forward to seeing Geoff again.

**Photo:** Sally

Saturday evening, but we do want more suggestions.

We do not want you to volunteer for a job (feel free to if you want) at this point but we are after any ideas you have; however abstract the idea may seem it might inspire the entire weekend.

*Your Council*

## General Meetings Update

Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are held at our Headquarters in Legion Way, North Finchley, 8 - 10pm.

We are grateful to our Ron Thorogood who provides welcome tea, coffee and biscuits at around 9pm.

### **6 OCTOBER 2006 – COLINGENT: THE ROLLS ROYCE MERLIN AERO ENGINE**

Our Guest Speaker for this special evening notes:- *“The Merlin, which powered many famous fighting machines, is probably the best known aero engine of WWII.”*

The first part of this evening’s presentation will discuss the engine’s design origins, its detailed design and progressive development. Manufacture of the engine in large numbers in both the UK and the USA will be discussed.

The engine’s applications in the air, on land and at sea will also be described, together with its ‘in-service’ history and comparison with other WWII aero engines.

Recent past experience indicates that seats may be available in the meeting hall to accommodate any friends who you think would enjoy this special talk and may wish to attend, so please feel free to invite them to join us. It would be good to extend to our Visiting Speaker the courtesy of a good turnout.

### **3 NOVEMBER 2006 – THREE WISE MEN: A TRIPLE BILL**

Why ‘Three Wise Men’? Among our membership we have many with skills, experience and an ability to talk to fellow members. For this meeting, I hope to find such folk prepared to give short (about 20 minute) presentations on topics of their choice.

My sheet is blank at the moment, but I hope this is a temporary state of affairs! As ever, if you would like to contribute to this evening’s enlightenment and/or entertainment.



## 1 DECEMBER 2006 - A PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

While some may consider the first of the month a little early to begin our Christmas Festivities, over recent years the December General Meeting has become an opportunity for members, partners and friends to mingle and chat while enjoying a finger buffet (bring your own fingers!)

Liquid refreshment of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic persuasions will also be available – our Ron will be able to take the evening off! I hope to arrange for all present to be entertained, amused and educated by reminiscences and anecdotes during this informal evening.

*Mike Chrisp*

## Marine Section Review 2006 by Chris Plattford (all photos by Chris)

Autumn 2006 marks the tenth anniversary of start of work on the boat pool at Tyttenhanger. When clearing my house for the move down to Eastbourne this summer I came across a few old photographs showing the early work on the project. Those of



*Discussions and advice beside the pool*

of the Marine Section for the time being.

I have been concerned about the heavy use of chemicals in the pool, experiencing irritation to my hands after a number of sailing sessions last year; and the most recent problems in the pool, defying earlier chemical treatment this year, would suggest that aside from a really good clear out of the pool bottom, a pumping mechanism should be

you who keep old editions of the Society's News Sheet might find one or two of these pictures. We all looked a lot younger then! Thankfully members of the Society have continued to show interest in the pool and have made improvements over the years, particularly to the surrounding areas, and help with general maintenance. Various members have been helping to clear the pool this year. However, I am grateful to Dave and Andrew Lawrence for their work on the pool since my departure in July and to Dave for agreeing to take on the leadership

installed to ensure a constant circulation of the water.



*The Robbe U-47*

the speed of the engines); and some using various pumping mechanisms. One of the photographs shows a sealed pumping unit which can be purchased as a complete item and inserted into the hull of your submarine. They are normally very reliable but do come at a price! Another photograph shows the Robbe version of U-47 which is built in two sections bolted together by a central screw thread. Submersion is by dynamic diving. Inevitably there was dockside interest as captains adjusted their diving mechanisms and the stability of their submarines. However it was probably a frog that stole the show when it decided to spend a long period of time

Fortunately none of our open days was adversely affected by algae problems in the pool and all three events were successful. My particular thanks to Andrew Lawrence for his organisation of the submarine day in June. A number of participants travelled some distance to attend the event including one driving down from Blackpool early in the morning. There was an interesting range of submarines in action; some using dynamic diving as a means of submersion (ie., diving by increasing



*Frog steals a ride!*



sitting on the bow section of U-47 enjoying a free ride around the pool.

Models on display ranged through history from the Holland 1902 (the first British submarine) to a 1964 US missile submarine, the Woodrow Wilson. Included in the photo feature are a Type 21 U-boat scale 1:48 (see photo at left) which performed extremely well on the water (operated a static diving system)

and a very detailed model of a Type 23 U-boat scale 1:32, with dynamic diving system (see photo at right).. With the crew in the conning tower, the captain decided not to dive this model. Both classes of U-boats were equipped with a snorkel system but, fortunately for us, they were built in the latter half of 1944 and their introduction into the German navy was too late to alter the outcome of the war at sea.



Exhibitors were keen to describe their submarines and to exchange information with our club members and visitors. It was a rewarding day for all those who took part and perhaps it is an event that could become part of the marine programme in future years

## **The September General Meeting**

### **by OMAH**

**(all photos by Mike Chrisp)**

The subject for the evening was Work in Progress and there was an encouraging amount of bits on display. Mike Chrisp welcomed us and hoped we would have an enjoyable session.

Sadly, the first piece of news that he had to communicate was the tragic loss of Bert Mead's younger grandson at Brookmans Park station. On behalf of the Society Mike expressed our condolences and sympathy to Bert and his family.

Our apprentice raffle king, Dick Page, set off to separate members from their money. George Case had kindly provided the prizes. Mike reported that a good day was had, by those who attended, at the 'Fun Day' on Bank Holiday at Roger Clark's pub, *The Boot* at Chipperfield. Among those present were Jim Macdonald with track and 'Sweet Pea', Brian Baker with his chain driven Fowler, and Tim Watson, beaming all over his face, giving rides with traction engine and trailer for the children, his first such outing. Last but not least, Bryan Luxford driving Roger's approx half-size steam wagon, a sort of Clayton. The interesting bit was that when the cover was removed it revealed a 7¼in. loco driving the vehicle via a chain to the gearbox! Owen & Rachael Chapman are now organising birthdays and other events at the track. Mike Hodgson will be co-ordinating our stand at the St Albans MEX. Maurice Cummins has had to step down due to his bad health. (I think a vote of thanks is due for all his work in the past.)

We still are in urgent need of a Secretary, any volunteers?

The ensuing silence was broken by Mike asking Grahame Gardner to step up and tell us a bit about his current project. This is an 0-6-0 7¼ in. gauge tank loco, Martin Evans' "Holmside". He has been working on it for some 9 months and is well on. He had some initial problems with the frames: having purchased some 3/16 bright mild steel he cut it to size at the supplier using their bandsaw, which resulted in some horrendous warping so he went to plan B which was laser cut frames. He has fitted needle roller bearings, expensive but efficient. The rather nice smoke box was rolled up from a brass sheet, which once gave the opening times at Barnet Library, until thrown out. If you look inside the smokebox you can still read them.



*'Holmside' is a chunky 7¼in. gauge engine; Grahame described his progress to date.*

Bert Mead was next to step up to tell us of progress on his gauge 1 Drummond 4-4-0, based on The Project. It is now nearly complete and will be going to John Shaw for painting in Southern green. Bert described some of the features of the prototype and some of the changes that were made by later CME's. Next we had the cabaret from Ian Johnston. Being concerned by the shortage of Hedgehogs in the garden he has constructed a tunnel and some suitable dwellings, all mod cons, for them to shelter in and possibly hibernate. His second construction, based on an article on the net, was a Magpie trap. (These items being somewhat large he had brought photos.) The Magpie



*We all had a laugh at Ian's accounts of his trials and tribulations with hedgehog tunnels and magpie traps.*

trap had a central cage, intended for a 'lure' in the shape of a 'calling bird' and in a circle around it several larger cages each with a cover which dropped down and indicated that a bird had been caught. It has, so far, been spectacularly unsuccessful. A 'calling bird' not being available, bait in the form of pet-food was placed in each trap and the following morning the flags showed that all the traps had been sprung. On investigation, all the bait had gone but there was no trace of the perpetrator. Ian surmised that a local fox had eaten it and departed, being quite strong enough to lift the drop entry flap. He then made a gadget which keeps the flap closed. The following morning disclosed next-door's ginger tom and a large Hedgehog, both equally indignant. The latter did show that Ian had not made his entry tunnel large enough and he plans to present it to the Garden Railway. (Further bulletins will be issued?)





Mike Foreman has recently purchased a 5in. gauge LNER V1 tank which runs very nicely, (even I couldn't muck it up). Mike is in the process of upgrading it to a V3, adding some bits that make it even more accurate in outline and making a lubricator for the Westinghouse pump, which in time honoured fashion has been adapted as a boiler-pump. The pump is beautifully constructed but lacked a positive lubrication system. Mike has now managed this and the pump ticks over sweetly and provides an additional feed besides the high and low-pressure injectors.

*"Donkey pumps are temperamental things" explained Mike, who told us how to put it right for his new acquisition.*

Another of our more affluent members, Dick Payne, has purchased a 5in g Stroudley 'Terrier' , 'Portihead', built to Martin Evans' design. Intending to do a few mods he found himself doing a virtual re-build over a period of 8 months, but the end result looks excellent and I look forward to seeing it run, hint-hint. The ports were one of the biggest abortions and he has been at some pains to get these the correct shape and made use of a fine diamond lap to get a good surface fit. He also made 'tumbuckles' for the valve rods so that he could set the valves under pressure.

*The overhaul of Dick's engine involved more work than he had bargained for.*



A further one of the affluent, Mick Avery recently purchased a 5in. g 'Shire' class loco which at first seemed spot on but developed off-beat symptoms. These proved to be play in the crank-axle due to two of the pins being loose. On attempting to drill them out Mick found that they were not pins but cap head bolts inserted and then

*With the result visible for all to see, Mick described repair work on the crank axle of his recently-purchased locomotive.*

having their heads removed! He took the chassis round to Mike Chrisp's workshop and with the aid of a jig on Mike's mill managed to drill right through the pseudo pins and replace them with taper pins secured with Loctite 603. Initially Mick was worried that the more secure fitting of the crank axle might have shifted the wheel position relative to the coupling rods, but all was well and the valves have been reset on air, with a tube from the drain cock into a jar of water, the bubbles indicating the valve events. The only other thing that Mick wants to do is fit a reliable injector; this will go under the drag beam with the overflow coming out to the normal position.



*In inimitable fashion Dave entertained us all with descriptions of work on his French trawler.*

Dave Lawrence then spoke of some of the events during the completion of his model of a French fishing boat. This was originally started by the late John Old and will be called the 'John Old' in his memory. The thing which impressed me most was that he had replaced the provided plastic prop with a brass one that he had made himself, and very nicely too. It is radio-controlled and powered by a golf caddy motor! Dave says it does not lack power, why am I not surprised. He had

to add 5kg of ballast to get it down to the correct level in the water. On its maiden voyage it showed a great turn of speed going ahead until Dave's son put it into full astern which immediately flooded the vessel. Fortunately Dave had put the radio on the inside just below deck level and the water did not reach it. They will be somewhat circumspect in going astern in the future. Dave is still in the process of finishing the 'paintwork', he has tried several paints and means of applying them. The most successful being plastic brushes which cover varying levels nicely. (The paintwork overall has an interesting texture, I feel sure it will all come together when complete.)



*The opportunity for a close look and to learn a few additional details half way through the meeting always goes down well when accompanied with tea, coffee and biscuits provided by Ron Thorogood.*

Derek Perham has resumed work on his 5in. Class 5. He is currently working on the cleading, which will be done to full-size practice, ie the top of the boiler cleading is split longitudinally along the top since, if it were rolled as we normally do it on miniature locos, it would be impossible to fit. This meant that he had to find a method of joining the two pieces and has done so by making two strips of brass, one for the fire-box and the other for the barrel, with holes for the safety valves and top feed. These are tapped 12BA for the bolts to bring the cleading together. These are known in full-size practice as 'crinolines'. The whole will cover the balsa wood insulation. Derek had also brought along the cover for the backhead, quite a difficult task to get the curvature right, lots of annealing needed. Another nightmare was the dome cover, which looks a simple shape but isn't. Derek regrets that he has never managed to draw metal up, as Ron Price can, so has to settle for drawing it down which works OK but doesn't have quite the same smoothness of curvature change. He has a nice set of hammers, dollies and 'Gilbow' snips. He is always careful to keep the hammer heads polished and free from blemishes and the 'Gilbows' sharp and clean.

So ended yet another interesting evening and Mike thanked all those who had participated.

## Tytenhanger Events Report and Update

Rachael and I would like to officially send out a big thankyou to all those members who have supported the Tytenhanger events this last month since we have taken on their organisation. We have had three very successful parties, including one organised for a Thursday afternoon and at the last minute. Those of you who have answered the call to run have done us proud and the club electric locomotives have been able to take life much more easily. We would especially like to thank all those who attended the Mencap event. We managed to keep our heads above water with over 100 guests coming to enjoy the afternoon we put on with the help of the local organiser, who has sent us a special letter of thanks. The Mencap group gained several new members and took no small donation, which surprised us all. We were especially pleased to start the afternoon with six steam locomotives and a traction engine, with more available in the wings to run electrics and even more steam if that had been necessary. Later on in the afternoon the ground level ran both steam and Big Blue also. You all know who you are. Thank you for your support.

Coming up we have the final Birthday Party of the year on the 21st of October. This is for a close neighbour of the track and we feel very strongly that we should give them a good afternoon, despite it being so late in the season. Finally, coming up soon is the **Halloween** event, which has become a victim of its own success. **PLEASE SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 16 OF THIS NEWS SHEET.** We would like to know if you plan on running that evening or if you would be prepared to help to steward or with the catering. Please sign up via our email, phone or the sign-up sheet in the coach.  
*Owen and Rachael*

Track Steward Rota 2006			NO SHOW	
Date	Senior Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward
16-Apr	Ron Price	Maurice Cummins	Graham Price	Jack Edwards*
23-Apr	Nigel Griffiths	John Amos	Mark Braley	John Shave
30-Apr	David Harris	Adrian Newson	Derrick Franklin	Keith Ashman
07-May	Brian Aphorpe	David Jones	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
14-May	Jack Edwards	David Spencer	Kevin Wilson	Adam Gorski
21-May	Grahame Ainge	Peter Foreman	Jeremy Deans	Peter Brown*
28-May	Grahame Gardner	Peter Precious	David Burman	Ian Johnston*
04-Jun	Robert Oldfield	Frank Hills	Richard Castle	Michael Dear
11-Jun	Les Brimson	Roy Hall	Roger Brown	Derek Eldridge*
18-Jun	Keith Hughes	Victor Burgess	Philip Rowe	Reginald Axton
25-Jun	Jim Robson	Ian Buswell	John Riches	Frank Adams
02-Jul	Ian Johnston	David Snellgrove	John L Morgan	Naughton Morgan
09-Jul	Mike Avery	John Winson	Jonathan Avery	Nicholas Rudoe
16-Jul	Roy Chapman	Mike Hodgson	Peter Badger	Anthony Mason
23-Jul	Ian Cliff	Peter Lancaster	John West	Bob Gamble
30-Jul	Keith Bartlam	John Cattle	Gerald Moore	Peter Fraser
06-Aug	Mike Chrisp	Ian Reddish	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	David Foster
13-Aug	Mike Ruffell	Brian Baker	Lawrence Steers	Brian Kennedy
20-Aug	Mike Foreman	Alan Marshall	Peter Berkley	Mike Franklin
27-Aug	Donal Corcoran	Peter MacDonald	R. Thompson	Alex Chapman
03-Sep	Tony Dunbar	Colin Thomson	Owen Chapman	Peter Lancaster*
10-Sep	Brendan Corcoran	Peter Davies	Peter Brown	Dave Green
17-Sep	Jim MacDonald	David Marsden	Paul Bexfield	Ian Reddish*
24-Sep	Adrian Reddish	Dick Payne	Nicholas Bone	Peter Fox
01-Oct	Stephen Smith	Lawrence Wood	Paul Lacey	Peter Brewster
08-Oct	Kieran Corcoran	John Sandwell	John Mills	Richard Hesketh
15-Oct	Chris Vousden	Gavin Lang	Ron Todd	Malcolm Reid
22-Oct	Terry Baxter	Peter Weeks	Derek Smith	Derek Eldridge

**NB: For any selected date/row, please read across both pages to obtain the names of all designated stewards.**

### Steward Rota

For us to carry out our “**Duty of Care**” for our members and visitors it is imperative that all Stewards turn up **or make alternative arrangement**.

- If you cannot attend on your allocated slot for whatever reason, **arrange a swap with another member. BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW** so I can amend the published list.
- If you appear on the list and you do have a valid reason why you should not. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**
- If you notice someone who has left or has a valid reason not to be on the list **PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**

			NO SHOW	
Date	Track Steward	Track Steward	Tea Steward	Tea Steward
16-Apr	Peter Weeks*	Steven Don	Ron Thorogood	Mrs Thorogood
23-Apr	Dick Payne*	John Waldock	Mrs. Griffiths	David Metcalf
30-Apr	William Mason	David Snellgrove *	R Lidzey	Mrs Harris
07-May	Nicholas Bone*	John Fitzgerald	Mervyn Smith	Mrs Apthorpe
14-May	Reg Piper	Mike Foreman*	Raymond Goss	Robert Hatton
21-May	Frank Hills*	Simon Pearson	Ray Smiles	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
28-May	Mike Avery*	Jonathan Avery*	George Case	Mike Chrisp*
04-Jun	Geoffrey Bullock	John Sandwell*	Ron Thorogood*	Mrs Thorogood*
11-Jun	Jack Sanson	Arthur Rixon	Mrs Reddish*	Ken Wilsher
18-Jun	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Dave Lawrence	Frank Inman
25-Jun	Brian Baker*	Richard Cross	Peter Prior	Nicholas Griffin
02-Jul	Geoffrey Mogg	Owen Chapman*	John Morgan (M)	Mrs J Morgan
09-Jul	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Colin Bainbridge	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
16-Jul	John Beesley	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Mrs Badger	Graeme Brown
23-Jul	Philip Rowe*	Alan Marshall *	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Mrs Clift
30-Jul	Jeffrey Bolton	Maurice Cum mins*	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Harold Barrow
06-Aug	Paul Godin	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Alexander Robinson	Jim Robson*
13-Aug	Peter Sheen	Guy Ellerby	Chris Dean	Mrs Reddish
20-Aug	David Broom	Chris Vousden*	David Morgan	Mrs Foreman
27-Aug	Ian Clift*	Philip Hyde	Peter Funk	Mrs Clift*
03-Sep	David Buman*	Geoffrey Eccles	R Chapman*	Roger Bell
10-Sep	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Larry Cheeseman	L Brooks	Mrs P Corcoran
17-Sep	Barrie Davies	Chris Reynolds	Mrs. MacDonald	Julie Davies
24-Sep	Mike Franklin*	Martin Ginger	Pat Badger*	Kate Reddish
01-Oct	Alex James	Derrick Franklin*	Mrs Smith	Mrs Brewster
08-Oct		Michael Gibbs	Rai Fenton	Mrs Betty Fenton
15-Oct	Tim Clementson	Brian Apthorpe*	Derek Perham	Richard Hall
22-Oct	David Harris*	Roger Bell*	Mrs Baxter	Jenny Baxter

- Most importantly if you do not appear on the list and should be **PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**

We also ask that **TEA STEWARDS** as well as **TRACK STEWARDS SIGN THE RUNNING BOOK** for monitoring and insurance purposes.

It is not much to ask to do your duty, **but to just not turn up is unreasonable.** It is your responsibility to yourself and your club to make sure this season runs smoothly, so we can carry out our responsibility for health and safety for all those that visit and enjoy our wonderful facility. The Tyttenhanger Committee thank you all, in advance, for your help.

*Adrian, Loco Section leader*

## Loco Section & Tyttenhanger Committee News



The Mencap day was very successful and popular as a larger number came this year and all enjoyed the day. There were also several parties this month. Our thanks go to all those volunteers who helped to make these events go so well. Much joy was had by all our visitors.

On Saturday 23 September we were delighted to welcome a special visitor – Geoff Wren, brought to our track by Vena's daughter Sally (who kindly supplied these pictures). Members present were glad to greet Geoff with his ever happy smile.

*Geoff admires the Atlantic which he completed many years ago and which has since travelled many hundreds of miles*



We all enjoyed seeing and talking to him again and were pleased that it was possible for him to have a ride on the main line under steam. Here we see him as a passenger with Colin Bainbridge driving Geoff's fine Speedy.

We now have the 7¼" bogies, so designing and building the ground level carriages can proceed. The Coach now has a new notice board created and fitted by Mike Dear. It looks great, thanks Mike.

**Winter Working**

The winter working parties are rapidly approaching. A list of jobs is being prepared and will be shortly displayed in the coach. Any suggestions would be appreciated. This is the time of year that we can all give back to our great society by getting involved in the winter workings parties. Jobs that need doing only get done if you get involved. We again ask all members to keep their cars parked outside to minimise damage to the already poor condition of the car park over the winter.

**Loco Events**

Fri 20 Oct	Loco Section Meeting HQ 8pm – “Bring your videos films pictures & memories”
Sat 21 Oct	Birthday Party – Parkins (help required); contact Owen & Rachael
Sat 28 Oct	Halloween Evening
Sun 29 Oct	WINTER WORKING - 9am start – “Clear up day”
Fri 17 Nov	Loco Section Meeting HQ 8pm – “Workshop goals you have this winter.”

**Vacancies (No pay, large reward, liaising with Loco Section Leader)**

If you enjoy our wonderful facilities and would like to give back, like me, something to our wonderful society, there are a number of vacancies that will be coming up soon. We have these immediate positions available, if you would like to know more at what is involved please come and have an informal chat.

- **Loco Section meeting organiser**
- **Spare Track Steward duty: 8 Oct.**

*Adrian*

(Loco Section Leader)

## **LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME**

1. Amstrad EMailer/ Phone  
Send emails by phone. Complete with instructions.
  2. FREEVIEW Set-top box  
Less than one year old. With instruction book
- No charge for above items**

**Contact: Ron Thorogood**

# Halloween: Important Notice

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

Due to new fire regulations restricting the number of people on site to 300 this will be a **TICKET ONLY** event. All those wishing to attend will be required to purchase a ticket from us or via the track committee. **This includes members and non-members.** Tickets will cost £1 per head; eg, a member who brings 4 guests would pay £5 in total.

**You will not be allowed entry  
without a ticket.**

We need to have stewards prepared to rotate around the site, which will include a chance for free time so please volunteer via Rachael and Owen. We also need to know exactly **who will be running trains** this year, so again please contact us. Only six trains may operate and all stewards and drivers will have a free ticket. The evening will officially run from 6:30pm till 10pm. Please help us to keep this event going as the run-away success it has been in the past.

**There can be no exceptions to the entry conditions.**

**Tickets will be going on sale  
from October the 1<sup>st</sup> at the track.**

**Owen & Rachael Chapman**  
(Contact details on back cover)

## **The September Loco Section meeting By Roger Bell**

Regular readers may well ask what has happened to the last two reports; these meetings were held at the track and enjoyable as they were did not provide me with anything of great substance to report upon. This was a blessing in disguise as it gave our Editor space to place articles that had been outstanding for some time.

A while ago I remarked to Nick that if there was an award for best club's news sheet surely we should win it. I was therefore surprised to find in the August "Model Engineering in Miniature" magazine an annual competition for just this. First prize is £150 and £50 for two runners up. The article read:-



“So if you feel your newsletter editor is doing a good job why not send your latest edition to us marking the envelope: 'Club journal competition'. Judging of the publications will be undertaken by a panel of leading model engineers and professional printers and we hope to display newsletters entered and announce winning newsletters at the Midlands model engineering exhibition in October.” After consultation with Nick, I sent our July edition in the new A5 format, off for scrutiny.

The topic for the evening was “A look back at the season” by Adrian Reddish; previous Loco Meetings were arranged by Ian Johnston and were both entertaining and varied. Adrian mentioned a few of the highlights: Terminal Four by Chris Vousden, The Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway by Robert Candlish, Manchester by Jim MacDonald, Steam in China by Gordon Massey, Argentine Railways by Ralph Copnall. I was going to list them all, but when one includes the General Meetings there are really too many and I will leave it to members to flick through past News Sheets to see for themselves. Alternatively one could browse our website [www.nlsme.co.uk](http://www.nlsme.co.uk) and read them there where all the photographs are in colour. Other events mentioned were the MENCAP children’s visit, the visit by children from Chernobyl, and the longest steam run organised by Peter Funk, to name a few.

The rest of the meeting was the business part and will be recorded in reports elsewhere in this News Sheet or ones to follow. Suffice to say that Les Brimson outlined the proposed plan for the ground level track extension which includes provision at a later date of an extension to the main line. Colour coded pegs have been laid out to mark the route; red is ground level, blue is raised track.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## **Brian’s Visitors Day**

### **by Will Mason**

On 12 August Brian Apthorpe once again organised his visitors day, whereby members of a number of clubs make their annual visit to Colney Heath. This year however, they failed to agree among themselves as to who would be responsible for the fine weather that they have habitually enjoyed. Thus they had to put up with some of our left-over rubbish which was past its ‘sell-by’ date.

The result was a cold, windy day with some drizzle, although the eight locos drove all day without cease, and the many visitors said that they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There were a few notable absentees whom we hope to see next year.

The list of visitors' locos and the clubs they belong to is as follows:-

1	Alf Manktelow	5in Midland 2P 4-4-0	Wimborne
2	Peter Evans	5in Jubilee 4-6-0	Gravesend
3	Martin Parnham	5in GWR 28XX 2-8-0	Maidstone
4	Sue Parnham	3½in Juliet 0-4-0	Maidstone
5	Tom Parnham	5in LNER V1 2-6-2	Maidstone
6	P. Kingsford	5in GCR Jersey Lily 4-4-2	Maidstone
7	J. Carter	5in Class 52 BO-BO	Maidstone
8	J Hawkins	5in Freelance 0-6-0	Maidstone
9	Nigel Thompson	5in Claughton 4-6-0	Erewash
10	David Mayall	3½in Conway 0-4-0	Bracknell
11	Francis Mayall	(her loco)	

A few other guests turned up just to socialise and meet old friends, and Sue Apthorpe, as usual, did us all proud by making tea and coffee all day.

Thank you, Brian.

Nick Rudoie  
Editor  
The News Sheet  
NL S ME

Dear Nick,

As reported in the last issue of The News Sheet the society had a visit to Colney Heath on 12 August by several loco owners from A variety of clubs.

These are model engineers who I have known for several years and request a visit to our track each year. Many of us go back nearly 30 years to the days of the Pontins model festival held at Breaton sands near Weston-Super-Mare

As they come from various parts of the country it is convenient to have an annual 'reunion' at our track as we are fairly central to the overall catchment area plus we have one of the best raised tracks in the country both for scenery and quality of track.

As many members will know my wife and I are the 'fixers' at this end whilst Nigel Thompson of Erewash Valley M E S organises the other end.

I have received a letter of thanks from Nigel on behalf of all who visited with a request to visit again next year. I enclose a copy which I hope you will be kind enough to print in the news sheet.

Finally Sue and I would like to offer our sincere thanks to all members of our society who came and helped on the day. Without your help and support we could not have managed.

Regards

*Brian*

Mr B. Apthorpe  
11. The Limes,  
Hitchin  
Herts. .

Dear Brian,

Please pass on to your committee and fellow members the thanks and appreciation of all of us, that once again had such a super day at Colney Heath. Although the weather was not up to our usual standard, we all had a most enjoyable day, and the very little rain did not in any way spoil the proceedings.

We are all friends who have meet over many years of going on holiday to Somerset, and "Playing trains" for a solid week at a different club track each day. We come from many parts of the country, and on this one occasion in the year thanks to your Society have the chance to meet and catch up, with each other.

Some of us come quite considerable distances, I personall have a journey of 110 miles as I live in the East Midlands, some even come up from Dorset and beyond.

I am sure that those of your members who always come to see us, also enjoy the day even though it must be hard work, doing everything to make the pleasure that we all have, so please pass on our thanks especially, of couses not forgetting Sue, who does such a fantastic job of keeping the "liquid refreshments" constantly available..

The offer of Saturday 4th August for our next years reunium is fine, we look forward to seeing you then

With best wishes.

*Nigel*



*Brian at the controls of  
No. 8308  
"Klipspringer", his  
Thompson B1.*

**Photo:** Owen Chapman

# MIDLANDS MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION 2006

Friday 13th - Wednesday 18th October



**10am - 5pm daily**

Last admission one hour before closing

**Late night Tuesday 17th open until 6.30pm**

Closes at 4pm on final day

**At the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre**

Fosse Way, near Leamington Spa on the junction of the A425/B4455

Sponsored by



For further information and Queue Buster Advance Ticket Bookings visit

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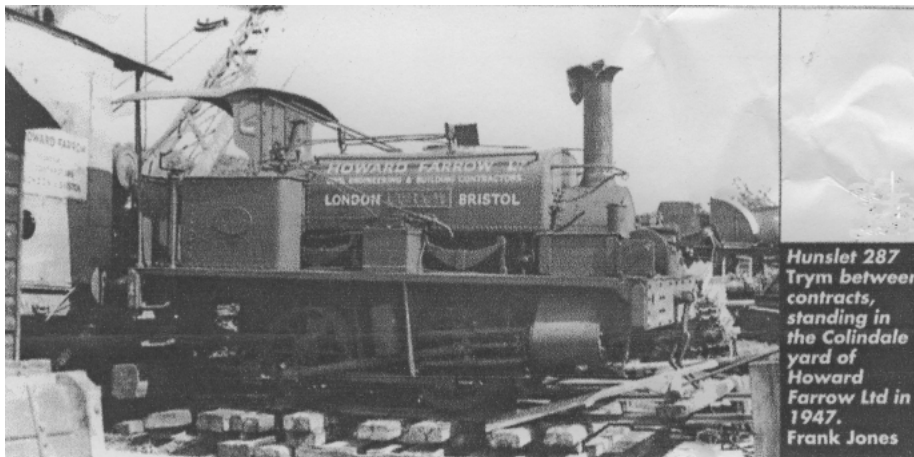
Tel: 01926 614101

Fax: 01926 614293

<b>Ticket Prices</b>	<b>Discount</b>	<b>Full Price</b>
Adult	£7.50	£8.50
Senior Citizen	£6.50	£7.50
Child (5-14 incl.)	£4.00	£5.00
Family Ticket	£19.00	£22.00

## Down Memory Lane: Howard Farrow Ltd

### John Mills recalls his early career



**Hunslet 287**  
Trym between  
contracts,  
standing in  
the Colindale  
yard of  
Howard  
Farrow Ltd in  
1947.  
Frank Jones

I worked for Howard Farrow Ltd, about 1951-55. They did a lot of work in North London, along the North Circular I think, mainly roads and drainage. Howard Farrow Ltd was quite a big firm of civil engineers and I joined them at Hemel Hempstead when they constructed the main drainage and sewerage scheme in the town. The Water Gardens were dredged out of very boggy ground around the River Gade. Back gardens between Cotterells and Marlowes were drained, and a big culvert was built, about 10 ft by 10 ft, from the Gade at Bury Road, now Queensway, to the gravel pits at King's Langley! 2 Miles! This culvert is just under the river at Two Waters Road and goes under the canal twice. The trunk sewer was built alongside it and it follows the canal and thence to Maple Cross sewerage works.

Whole streets were excavated (like Alma Road) from kerb to kerb. The culvert and sewer went under the railway

#### **Hunslet Engine Co No 287**

(The note below is from *Railway World*)

This loco was originally delivered on 2 November 1883 to Cardigan Ironstone Com Corby Steelworks, where it was named *Vigilant*. It was purchased by the contractors Whittaker Brothers of Yorkshire in 1903, and so began what was to become a half-century of contract work. During this time it was used by various firms and saw service on many railway-related contracts, including one at GWR Exeter St Davids. In 1921 it was working on a contract at Bristol and it was on this job that it received the name *Trym*. By 1940 it was owned by Howard Farrow Ltd. However, by the early 1950s work for contractors' locomotives was beginning to dry up, and *Trym* was put in store at Farrow's yard in Colindale, N London. It endured various moves, including a sojourn between 1969 and 1989 at Quainton Road, from whence it was transferred to its final resting place at the Northamptonshire Ironstone Railway Trust at Hunsbury Hill, where it is awaiting restoration.

embankment, where Kodak's office now stands, and joined the branch from Boxmoor and Chaulden estates.

Berkhamsted sewerage works was rebuilt by Howard Farrow soon after, but never connected to the West Herts Main Drainage at Boxmoor. Howard Farrow also drained the marshes at Boxmoor, and built a storm-water pound upstream of Old Fishery Bridge. They built a complete sewerage scheme at St Neots, Huntingdonshire, in about 1953-54. Previously, all their drains emptied into the River Ouse! It must have been a great stink!

Howard Farrow then started on a trunk sewer from London Colney to Colney Heath alongside the River Colne. The ground was so boggy that wheeled and tracked vehicles found it impossible, so 2ft. gauge Jubilee track was laid across country. The old *Hunslet* was never used here, only small diesel *Rustons*

pulling wagons full of concrete, steel and concrete pipes and other materials. Only a few years later did the Water Works site at Colney Heath open for the NLSME.

Their next contract was from Colney Heath to Potters Bar, South and North Mimms and Welham Green.

I remember well the old *Hunslet* loco at their depot at Colindale. They kept a large amount of plant and machinery there. Their engineers and fitters were very good at maintaining all their Caterpillar dozers and scrapers, all their Ruston Bucyrus excavators and Drott Internationals. Even a Mole Plough was in use near Colney Heath, and that took some power to pull through the ground.

Does any other old-timer remember Howard Farrow? The old depot at Colindeep Lane has gone and is now flats.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

### And finally.....some groaners:-

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says: "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly: "I was artificially inseminated this morning". "I don't believe you," says Dolly. "It's true, no bull!" exclaims Daisy.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says... "Damn!"

## 📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

**Friday 6 October**

**8.00pm General Meeting; Colin Gent: the Merlin Aero Engine; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley**

**Do attend if you can!**

- |                                                                          |                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 9 October                                                         | 8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                                                       |
| <b>Fri 13 - Wed 18 Oct</b>                                               | <b>Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition; The Fosse</b>                                                      |
| Friday 20 October                                                        | 8.00pm Loco Section meeting; Bring your videos, films, pictures and memories; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley |
| Friday 20 October                                                        | <i>Deadline for copy to Editor for November News Sheet</i>                                                   |
| Tuesday 24 October                                                       | 8.00pm Tyttenhanger Committee Meeting; Colney Heath (coach)                                                  |
| Friday 27 October                                                        | 8.00pm Workshop Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                                                      |
| Saturday 21 October                                                      | Birthday party (help required)                                                                               |
| Saturday 28 October                                                      | 6.30pm to 10pm; Halloween Evening at Colney Heath                                                            |
| Sunday 29 October                                                        | 9am; start of Winter working parties at Colney Heath                                                         |
| Friday 3 November                                                        | 8.00pm General Meeting; Three Wise Men; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                                       |
| Monday 13 November                                                       | 8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                                                       |
| Friday 17 November                                                       | 8.00pm Loco Section meeting; "Workshop goals you have this winter"; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley           |
| Friday 17 November                                                       | <i>Deadline for copy to Editor for December News Sheet</i>                                                   |
| Friday 24 November                                                       | 8.00pm Workshop Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                                                      |
| Tuesday 28 November                                                      | 8.00pm Tyttenhanger Committee Meeting; Colney Heath (coach)                                                  |
| Friday 1 December                                                        | 8.00pm General Meeting; Pre-Xmas Social Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                              |
| Monday 11 December                                                       | 8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                                                       |
| Friday 15 December                                                       | 8.00pm Loco Section meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley                                                  |
| Tuesday 26 December                                                      | 8.00pm Tyttenhanger Committee Meeting; Colney Heath (coach)                                                  |
| <b>Fri 29 - Sun 31 Dec</b>                                               | <b>The Model Engineer Exhibition, Olympia 2</b>                                                              |
| (see <i>Model Engineer</i> issue dated 29 Sept - 12 Oct for Entry Forms) |                                                                                                              |
| ☺ ☺ ☺                                                                    |                                                                                                              |
| Every Wednesday                                                          | Miniature Railways, British and American and Video Group at HQ; Garden Railway section at Colney Heath       |
| Every Thursday                                                           | Slot Cars Section at HQ                                                                                      |
| Every Sunday                                                             | Morning work parties at Colney Heath (start 9.00am).                                                         |