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*This Month...*



# The News Sheet

**Chairman's Chatter, Treasurer's Report, December General Meeting, Raised track report, New Year's Steam Up, Forthcoming General Meetings, Model Railway News, Ground Level Railway News, Jean's Birthday Treat, Mr. Grumpy, Garden Rail News (G1), Scribe's Scribbles, January General Meeting report, Letter received, Diary Dates, club contacts.**



## Chairman's Chatter

Well that is another year gone and a new one well on its way.

We trust that you all had a well-earned break over the festive period and are well refreshed to attack the New Year with added gusto.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our new Marine Section Leader in the form of George Cannon, who although a relatively new member of the Society has volunteered to take on this onerous task. [With his wife Shirley guiding him] I am sure that all members of the marine section will give their help and guidance to George in the coming months as he literally wets his feet in the pond. I would also like to thank all those who have acted as, or deputised as, Marine Section Leaders in the past.

Unfortunately I missed the steam up on New Year's Day as that day co-insides with our wedding anniversary, sorry. I understand that the event was well attended.

The next General Meeting at Headquarters on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 will be to discuss 'Boiler Testing' and 'Storage at Colney Heath'. Interesting topics for discussion.

I was able to call in on the Slot Car boys at Headquarters in the middle of December for one of the qualifying rounds of the BSCRA Area 6 National Championship for 2016. Now I have had and watched SCALEXTRIC in the past and even used our own children's layouts but that is nothing like the 100 foot long layout at Headquarters. These guys are all very professional and very aggressive in their approach to these championship races. The cars are all fine-tuned, even the tyres are machined for different races to give a specific ground clearance for the chassis. Too involved for me and when they race they accelerate along the straight often faster than the untrained eye can see them. Scale speed must be well in excess of the average F1 car. I hope that Ian Fisher the section leader will be able to enlighten us all a bit more.

### CAN ANYBODY HELP?

The picture on the next page is of an unknown 0-6-0 loco that somebody from South London would like to have put back into working order. He knows nothing about it but I understand it may have some sentimental value to him. If any of you would like to take on the task or have a chat to the owner please contact

me for more details.

In spite of the 2" to 3" of the white stuff that appeared at Tyttenhanger on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January we had a good turnout of mad but willing volunteers at Colney Heath all getting stuck into the many tasks to be completed ably assisted by cups of hot tea or coffee from a regular Sunday morning catering team. Funky had said the day before that he wanted another load of "black stuff" moving. No chance, I could only find "white stuff"!



That's all till next month.

Robin Thorn  
Chairman.

**Photo on front cover.**

Peter MacDonald out and about in snowy St. Albans enjoying a drive on his traction engine. The day was Sunday 17th January 2016. They were on their way to the St. Albans South Signal box. The Society were having an open day.

"Here is the picture from my friend Tom Clarke, it was taken on a mobile phone. If you look closely enough you can see Tom on the back of the cart but the steam obscures his face". – Owen Chapman.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Wishing all members and their families a Happy New Year.

The last two Council Meetings have been quiet affairs with no new members joining us. However, I omitted to mention in my December Report that one new member was accepted at the November Council Meeting. We welcome Mr. Ian Simons, who is interested in '00' model railways.

The February meeting will be slightly livelier with discussion of subscription rates being on the agenda. Whilst I can see no particular need to ask for an increase, it may nevertheless be prudent to increase the rate slightly as we have not had a change since 1st April 2014, to avoid having a bigger increase in one hit. Having said all this, some meetings have taken place with LBB regarding HQ, not particularly regarding the rent review, but their plans for the site as a whole. As soon as I have further information as to how this will affect us we will inform membership.

In the February 2015 News Sheet I made comment about Council and TSC discussing the possibility of a redesign to our website, which has been running in its present form since 1998. We have received some feedback from members, but more would be appreciated so that we can get a better idea of what we want for the future, please contact me in the first instance.

***Mike Foreman***

**NLSME.**  
**December General Meeting.**  
**The Christmas Party.**  
**Ian Johnston**

The meeting room at Summers Lane had been transformed over night to become a very appropriate venue for a Christmas Party. The new vacuum cleaner had done its job on the floors, tables erected and the odd thousand books safely moved out of harm's way.



Soon the tables were groaning under the weight of sandwiches, pies, crisps, hors-d'oeuvres. A small cooker was positioned safely in a corner and upon it was bubbling a gallon of Chicken Balti with an accompanying rice bowl. Mike Crisp produced festive music not from his mouth organ but from his new 3D music machine. Mike Foreman contributed a fascinating film of activities at Colney Heath while Jim MacDonald produced a quiz regarding London Underground Stations. The clues were small standard images and much to the scribe's initial surprise many folk got the answers correct and identified the stations.

Amazingly all the Balti was consumed with a majority of the sandwiches finding hungry consumers. The drinks cabinet was laid waste perhaps due to the Balti.



All too soon it was ten-o'clock and the merry revellers moved away to other destinations while a loyal band cleared a not too dishevelled meeting room ready for the next occupiers.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

General Meeting at HQ 8pm

'Boiler Testing Discussion' & 'Storage at Colney Heath'

## **Raised Track Report**

The weather for the 2016 New Year's Day steam up was better than last year. We had eight locos on the track, a good number being 3 1/2" gauge, a varied selection of members and friends working off the Xmas excesses by consuming Ian Johnston's vegetable soup, teas, coffees and mince pies etc. Thank you Ian for doing the catering.

The Raised Track is now closed until probably the end of March, depending on the weather, whilst we replace three main beam sleepers which have reached the end of their lives, plus selected re-screeding of sections where cracks have appeared allowing water to penetrate through to the beams underneath. The checking and adjusting of the general alignment, super-elevation / cant will be done after the heavy work is out of the way, ready for the new running season.

The RTR passenger unloading platform has always given problems to some passengers as the rail to platform height was a lot more than at Tyttenhanger Station itself. This winter we have laid new platform of paving stones to the correct minimum clearance along both sides of the track for an increased length to cater for two trains at a time. This whole width on the fence side will be paved, as will the exit through the gate. The extra length will have the added advantage that a second train will be able to unload safely, even when the train in front is already empty and the driver is chatting! My thanks to George Cannon for doing most of the hard graft on this project.

It is also nice to see that Martin has been studiously cleaning and painting the full size Distant signal approaching the station. Good work, only three more to do.

I'm please to mention that Les has taken on the job of reinstating the old lift out section on the Cuckoo Line to a smooth curve, the lift-out had proved to be a problem with many locos as the curvature and alignment were not satisfactory. Attention will then turn to the general alignment and fixing of the rest of the Cuckoo Line. The only access point to the lake-side and the Cuckoo Line steaming bay is now beside the GLR unloading platform.

***Mike Foreman***

**NLSME.**  
**New Year's Steam Up at Tyttenhanger.**  
**Ian Johnston.**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January opened cool cloudy but with no rain. An ideal day for a New Year's Steam Up, that was appreciated by a number of members and their kith and kin.

Soon at least eight steam locomotives and a couple of electric miniatures were on the go on the raised track. The track had been signalled, inspected and walked beforehand with debris removed which was left by gale Frank.

Youngsters associated with the families enjoyed being taken round by enthusiastic members and only paused for mugs of vegetable soup, tea, coffee and mince pies at eleven-0-clock because of the tradition of stopping at that time for a break.

All too soon it was twelve mid-day and time for the excited youngsters to go home and get warmed up before their New Year's lunches. With lots of thanks to the intrepid drivers of the locomotives. Photo Owen Chapman.





## **Forthcoming General Meetings**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Boiler Testing & Storage at Colney Heath.** Everything you wanted to know about boilers, their testing, the testers and the way the findings are recorded; it will all be laid bare. So whether you are considering buying or building a boiler or just want to know more about boilers it will be there for you especially if you have aspirations to be a boiler tester. The problems will be explained and you may be able to take part in the decision process. If it is a commercial boiler, own build to published design or own build to non-published design, the difficulties will be dealt with. Please come along and perhaps **car share**.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Work in Progress.** Your last chance to show us what you were up to in the winter. So if you were not ready in November, now is the time to show the Club your prowess and progress. Locomotives please but this is a General Meeting so general engineering is welcome.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. David Render.** This evening David will talk about **Wartime Tanks**. David was the youngest tank commander on the Normandy Beaches and will give an absolutely fascinating talk both of his experiences and the Military Tank. I propose that the proceeds of the raffle should go to the widows of his group of Sherwood Rangers Tank Regiment.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. AGM. The Annual General Meeting.** This is a most important meeting where we summarize what great progress the Club has achieved in the past year. Where we plan for the future of the Club and where we elect members to take up various offices to run the Society for the forthcoming year. **Members only**.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. TBA**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July. First Aid Evening at Colney Heath.** Now the evenings have drawn out again we hope to entertain Verity at Colney Heath with our knowledge **of First Aid** and of course to be corrected by her expert opinions. Please make an effort to visit the track and see what goes on there. You never know when you will need that knowledge in an emergency; you could save a life!!

Ian Johnston (General Meetings Organiser)



“Ian, thank you so much for the invite to the steam up this morning. We and the boys had such a fun time and it was a great way to blow away the cobwebs!”

**Captions for the Model Railway report on the following pages -**

photo 1 - A brace of Adams 02 0-4-4 tanks, in OO and O gauge

photo 2 - View of the new loco shed and turntable with still a lot of work to do.

photo 3 - Beyer Peacock 2-4-0T from IOW (W13 Ryde) meets a RSH 0-4-0 industrial saddle tank at Midsomer

photo 4 - EE type 2 (Class 31) with Metropolitan Vickers built gas turbine loco 18100 at Seabrook station

## **Model Railway Section News**

It is often said that patience is virtue and if you have the ability to wait, you could be said to have the patience of a saint. Whether this applies to me or if this would be classified as madness, I'll leave you to decide. On the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010, information came to light via the vastness of the internet that Kernow Models, who are a model shop based in Camborne, Cornwall, were to produce a ready to run model of the Adams 02 0-4-4 tank loco being made to both mainland and Isle of Wight specifications. Being a fan of the latter, I duly placed my order via their web site.

Kernow had originally commissioned Dapol Models to produce the model for them but after about 2 years, the two companies parted and the project ground to a halt. Behind the scenes however was David Jones, previous MD at Dapol, who had left to set up his own company and he took the mantel and restarted the project. 5 years, 2 months and 6 days later, yes that is correct, I took delivery of the model ordered. Was it worth the wait? One word answer – yes! Having viewed the model from all angles and compared it to numerous photographs and books, I cannot find anything to complain about. In other words, it is probably the best model tank locomotive available today in 4mm scale.



The photo on the previous page shows the newly acquired model against one I made earlier, this being an Alan Gibson brass kit in O gauge.

As mentioned in the December News Sheet, work is continuing on the new loco shed area and just before the Christmas break, a new turntable was installed. This still needs to be made operational and blended into the surrounding area. The new loco shed has been installed on a temporary basis and the photo shows this as at the current time.



As is usual now, we are enjoying an extended running season on the layout with much varied traffic being seen, both new and old – the four accompanying photos will give you a taste of what we are up to.

I know I've said this before, but Wednesday evenings at HQ are not restricted purely to our small band of OO, HO or O gauge enthusiasts but open to all members of the Society. So why not get rid of the winter blues one evening and join us and have some fun.

Geoff Howard.



## **G.L.R. NEWS.**

May I wish you all a glückliches neues Jahr and especially to the small but beautifully formed G.L. crew who have begun the new year with dogged determination, already I can cross some of the jobs to do off of my list, The crew have started to replace the rotten sleepers from the diamond crossing working backwards towards Henley halt. We have been ever minded of the strange weather patterns this winter as the daffodils first came into flower at the beginning of December!!! Elsewhere on site the snow drops are up in full flower, although mild it has been a bit damp.



The warm weather has worked in our favour by allowing the Tunnel crew to keep going at a pace rivalled only by the Chunnel Crew. So much so that they have nearly caught up with the brick layer (Tunnel vision Ted) I may suggest or better still get someone else to ask him to extend his shift into the night time (Note make sure Ted is not holding his trowel at time of asking), now that we

have an electric supply and arc lights why not, I wonder what he would say to this suggestion?



The section that Graham is working on in the picture above has now been cast and the formers moved along to where the black sheeting is covering the last bricks laid, by the time you read this I expect that we will have also completed this section weather permitting.

Last Saturday 09-01-16 the track crew helped Ted move the Arch Former along and by this coming Thursday 14-01-16 Ted hopefully will have bricked it up ready for the next move.

It was nice to see Ron up and running at the track after recently having two new knees fitted, Ron was measuring up for the set of doors to be made and fitted in number two space, now there's a man who don't let the grass grow under his feet, his fast recovery testament to his determination.

I am retiring from paid work this year and looking forward to those long balmy summer days just sitting around watching my loco in steam, polish a bit of brass, pull a few passengers, and can't wait.

As ever in the muck P.A.K. Funk

G.L.R. Loco Section Leader.

## **Mr. GRUMPY'S BIT**

The Winter Working Parties have been marching on in spite of the festive break and the inclement weather.

Work on the G.L.R. tunnel is still progressing with the brickwork lining almost at the half way point and the concrete overcoat has had two sections cast and a third ready to be cast as soon as the weather permits.

Also on the G.L.R.; the work of lifting the track and replacing the ballast; plus fitting new plastic sleepers is also making very good progress. It is taking considerable time and effort to realign and rework some of the turn-outs and crossings that have developed twists over the years but the trusty but small team is pressing on.

Meanwhile, on the raised track, several rotting support timbers have been removed in preparation for installing new ones, made from old railway sleepers. Once the new support timbers are in place a screed of concrete has to be applied before the track can be replaced and re-aligned. Then all the cabling and anti-tip rails can be refitted.

A lot to do and not many weeks before the start of the next running season. Again it is the usual small team that gets stuck in.

Still on the Raised Track, Alan is making excellent progress with the foundations for the new traverser that is to be installed. The raised platforms for the unloading section of the raised track are almost complete.



Smallford Station has had the two wing roof sections removed as they were both very rotten and about to collapse. Work is again moving forwards to have this completed with new roofs and guttering before the start of the running season.

These are just a few of the many tasks currently in progress.

For new members and those of you who are not accustomed to the Winter Working Parties, we normally work through the winter months on Sunday mornings from as early as you want to get there till you have drunk enough tea and the Sunday lunch beckons. The tasks are many and varied and I normally try to keep a black board up to date with the most urgent tasks appended.

As usual, it all depends on the weather at the time and jobs can vary from filling potholes in the lane, shifting bricks and ballast to the new land, checking and adjusting the condition and super elevation of the running tracks, keeping the pond clear of weeds and leaves, to note just a few.

As mentioned in the last News Sheet; there is no obligation to come to any of the working parties but those who do come often say it is a good opportunity to get out of the house for a bit, or get a taste of fresh air, or lose a few pounds from a bit of physical work, and get to know some of the other Society members. All in all it gets to be a bit of a laugh most of the time. If you haven't tried it, don't be shy, come and give it a try.

Mr. Grumpy.  
Tyttenhanger Site Manager.  
[A.K.A. Robin Thorn]

## **Garden Rail (G1) report. - December 2015.**

As is usual this time of year we are getting ourselves ready for the Christmas break, this of course means for us men a chance to get down to the track and get some extra runs in, although our wives may have other ideas!

Those of you who visit the site will see that next to the track we have a rather nice metal over track bridge awaiting installation, this the society has purchased, as I said last month our existing wooden bridge is starting to fail, despite it being regularly repaired! The chance of getting the bridge was simply too good to miss. It will also be a reminder to many of us of all the great times we've had at the wonderfully sited 'Little Wainsford' track, John and Lizzie were always good hosts, "victualing" us all well! It will also, put not too fine a point on it, see us all out.

The major job of course was the collection and transport to site, for this we are indebted to Robin for bringing along his 'Smart car' trailer to site where a band of volunteers loaded it on, fit was perfect. As it is made from solid welded metal it was not a light job, fortunately many hands made light work of it.



The photo shows us all collecting the bridge on 25th November 2015.  
Photo taken by Patrick Judson.

The new-year will see us dismantling and removing the old wooden structure, putting in new concrete bases, getting it lifted over and bolted down into place. Perhaps a re-paint? That will have to be decided later.

Lastly I will express a sincere thanks to Ian Johnston for laying on such a superb Christmas party at HQ on the 4<sup>th</sup>.Dec, a group of us went down, a great time was had by all, Ian's curry was superb, there was food a plenty, company and conversation was enjoyable and excellent. I would recommend next year for more to come along.

Until next time, Happy steaming.

David Metcalf.

### **Society Activities.**

Every Wednesday; Garden Railway Section at CH (11am – 4pm), also 0, 00 and H0 Model Railway Groups and Video Group meet at HQ (evening)

Every other Wednesday; Slot Car (Retro) meet at HQ (evening).

Every Thursday; Working parties at CH (all day) and Slot Car section meet at HQ (evening).

Every Saturday; Working parties at CH on GLR, including Junior section (all day).

Every Sunday; Morning working parties at CH (start 9am).



Construction work on the new tunnel continues apace. The photo above shows Mike putting the new cement mixer to good use. Photo Mike Foreman.



Photo left. Alan arrives with the tea trolley to keep the workers happy. Photo Keith Hughes.

**NLSME.**  
**January General Meeting.**  
**Ian Johnston.**

Ian Johnston opened the meeting which was held on New Year's Day 2016. A surprising number of 'not too hung-over' members attended for an evening demonstration of visual aids.

Reports from section representatives were received namely Ground Level where progress is being made with the brickwork and concrete reinforcement for the speedily developing tunnel. Fetes and Fairs have been active with events at local schools long after what one would take to be the end of the running season, (Global Warming no doubt). The forthcoming Council Meeting was announced with a fairly muted response.

First off was Mike with 'slides' concerning his work at DeHaviland. Electron slides were seen depicting failures in the electronics in aircraft structure and running this was of course after the Comet aircraft incidents. It transpired that gold was by far the best conductor of electricity and that it was used extensively in the electronic surveillance of the skies. Several slides were seen depicting numerous years' work on his cherished Morgan with four wheels.

Next off was Mike Chrisp with his usual fascinating videos; this time of Bazelgette's response to the Big Stink. A goodly proportion of the film was devoted to the Crossness Sewage Pumping Station. Unfortunately the sound would not perform so nothing deterred the gathered group from making a lively summary as the film proceeded. Some facts were true and many fabricated but that made it more fun. Mikes last contribution was a film sponsored by the London Canal Museum of the Regents Canal. Again with no sound a lively commentary resulted, probably more informative than the original sound track.

The final show came from Geoff who produced an electronic gadget no bigger than ones forefinger which he nonchalantly rammed up the backside of Mike's laptop. Amazingly after the initial 'ouch' he was able to display over four thousand slides many of which were more than one hundred years old. Only a few slides of the collection were selected depicting the fascinating life on the old Great Central Railway including the Brill Tramway.

Ten-o'clock loomed and reluctantly the evening was drawn to a conclusion with thanks to David for the teas, thanks to the contributors and of course thanks to the assembled group of members who attended a rather interesting evening.

## **New Marine Section Leader**

“George Cannon spoke with me today and advised that having spoken with a number of regular marine section users of the lake that they were happy for him to take on the role of Marine Section leader following David Lawrence's decision to relinquish the post”.

Since joining the Society George has been a regular user of the lake and also a regular attendee at Colney Heath site joining in with working parties during the week and at weekends. His wife Shirley, some will know also comes with him, and has been very much appreciated in the kitchen! (as well as her company!)

George has advised me he will attend the TSC as Section leader and hopes that all interested Society members using the lake facility will let him know if there are any issues relating to marine matters that need addressing so that he can find appropriate solutions.

Alan Marshall (Secretary)

## **George Cannon writes -**

Why Me?

I find myself asking the exact same question. After many years sterling work put into the marine section by Peter and Dave which follows on from leaders before them they have decided to stand down. I have been approached to fill the vacancy and like a fool have said I will consider it if no one else comes forward.

I have to admit I have no background or real knowledge in model engineering of model marine but full of enthusiasm and never too old to learn. I spend a few days per week at Colney Heath always willing to lend a hand with whatever needs to be done. I am the one seen pushing my better half Shirley in her pram. Although we have not been members very long and also being distracted into the loco sections, we try to spend at least one of the days per week on the “lake” with our yachts and steam launches.

I would hate to see the facility fall into disrepair or fail after the many years of other people's hard work that we are now enjoying in our leisure years. And to that end I am happy to be the point of contact and take responsibility for the marine section in so far that I believe without a contact point how and whom does any member tell if they see a problem or have a request. Maybe it's that illustrious “somebody” should or “somebody” will do it I frequently hear about but

have yet to meet. This I can do without in depth knowledge.

But if there is another member especially with marine model background who would like to step up to the plate let me or any of the NLSME officers know and I am more than happy to stand aside yet still offer any help required as I always believe in putting back into the club life at least part of what I get out.

Hopefully you understand what I am dribbling on about. Gatekeeper for marine section I can do but front of any knowledge I am not.

George Cannon.

### **New Year's Day Steam Up.**



“A photo I took this morning at about 9.45. Ironically the loco is based on a New Zealand design, so that would have been 12 hours ahead of us.” - Geoff Burton. Jack at the controls of his 3.5” gauge loco.

**Dates for your Diary**

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>2016</b>
Tues 2nd Feb.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Fri 5th Feb.	General Meeting at HQ. 'Boiler testing and storage at Colney Heath' - Discussion. 8pm.
Sun 7th Feb.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 14th Feb.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 16th Feb.	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 19th Feb.</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for March News Sheet.</i></b>
Sun 21st Feb.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 28th Feb.	BSCRA Area 6 2016 1:32 National Championships Qualifying Round at HQ, slot car event all day.
Sun 28th Feb.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>2016</b>
Tues 1st Mar.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Fri 4th Mar.	General Meeting at HQ. 'Work in Progress'.
Sun 6th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 13th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 15th Mar.	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 18th March</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for April News Sheet.</i></b>
Sun 20th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 27th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2016</b>
Fri 1st Apr.	General Meeting at HQ. 'David Render – Wartime Tanks'
Sun 3rd Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 5th Apr.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Sun 10th Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 17th Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 19th Apr.	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 22nd April</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for May News Sheet.</i></b>
Sun 24th Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30

NB. Please notify Alan Marshall (Secretary) of all meetings and other Society events for inclusion in the Society Calendar. Approval for special events still rests with Council and/or the Tyttenhanger Site Committee.



**NORTH LONDON SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS**  
**Officers, Council Members & Section Leaders**