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August 2011

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The News Sheet

This Month...

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Plus...

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FROM THE CHAIR

At the Council Meeting held on 11 July, the Council considered that it was essential that a Chairman be appointed to the TSC to provide the Council with an acceptable line of formal communication, and to manage the affairs of the TSC. Mike Chrisp had been approached to enquire whether he was willing to undertake this role as an interim Chairman. Mike agreed and was co-opted on to the Council to act in this role until such time that a more permanent arrangement could be made.

The Council also discussed the future structure of the TSC in order to make its operation more effective. The Council considered that the present published guidelines for the TSC were still appropriate. The representation on the TSC will be all Section Leaders with direct interest in the Colney Heath site activities, ie Ground Level Railway, Raised Track, Garden Railway, Marine, Stationary Steam, Fetes and Fairs, and the Junior Section. In addition, the project leaders for the Steaming Bays Project, Raised Track extension, Ground Level Railway extension, will also be represented.

Other functional members will be Mike Chrisp - Chairman, Alan Marshall - Secretary, Mike Foreman - Treasurer, David Harris - Site Manager, Nigel Griffiths - Grounds Maintenance Manager.

The new Chairman (Mike Chrisp) has already put into place new procedures which should greatly improve the operation of the TSC. He also offers a formal invitation to the appropriate Section Leaders, and the various Project Leaders to attend the meetings of the TSC and play their part in the management of the Site.

Finally, may I thank all those members who have supported the Fetes and Fairs activities throughout the year, especially those who have got quite wet in carrying out this role!!! My thanks too to those who helped at the St Luke's School day. This activity is one that gives great pleasure to the young people who join us on that day.

David Harris

Front cover: Steaming on the pond at the Toy Boat Regatta
Photo: Peter Stern

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the August 2010 issue I wrote the following:- "Well it is nice to know that somebody reads their News Sheet and my report in particular, which listed the postcodes of late payers." The same statement applies to this issue with one particular difference. For reasons unknown my July 2011 report, did not get through to our Editor, but a duplicate of my July 2010 report, renamed in my PC as July 2011 did. I would like to thank those members who took the trouble to phone or email me drawing my attention to the fact that they had already paid this year's subs. Please accept my apologies for this breakdown in communications.

This month I will start with a précis of July's notes. We approved one new member last month.

Roxanne Nickels, who is interested in Traction Engines.

As many of you will no doubt have already heard, our late good friend, Bert Mead, has remembered the Society in his Will and our Council will be looking to use the bequest for Projects, which Bert would have held close to his heart.

This month's Council meeting accepted two new members into the Society.

Peter Seymour-Howell, his interests being Locomotives, Garden Railway and Marine.

Ian MacCabe, whose interest is Locomotives and is rejoining the Society after a number of years.

Welcome to all of you.

The Fetes and Fairs Section are extremely busy raising funds for the Society and spreading the word about our existence. Well done all of you.

The Sunday afternoons open to the public at Colney Heath are also progressing well. The sale of Season Tickets to travel on the trains appears to be popular and in general the public are accepting that an afternoon of fun has to be paid for, those not wishing to contribute are going elsewhere. Numbers through the gate would appear to confirm this theory.

Finally, I must advise that as of the 25th July I still have twenty members who have yet to renew their subscriptions. Ten full, five senior, three country and two juniors members. I shall be writing to these members over the next few days, otherwise this issue maybe their last...

Mike Foreman



Above: Mike Foreman' V3 hauling a load of passengers at Graham Gardener's birthday party. Below: Jo Featherstone's Oliver Cromwell being driven by Wez Godin. Photos: Owen Chapman



GENERAL MEETINGS 2011 – FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise indicated, General Meetings are held 8-10pm at our Legion Way Headquarters in North Finchley. Peter Davies usually presides over our raffle - for which all donations of suitable prizes are always appreciated, while Dave Lawrence provides tea and biscuits at around 9pm. Dave has taken over from Ron Thorogood so this is a perfect opportunity to thank Ron for looking after us so well during recent years. Thanks too to Dave and Peter. Profits from meetings go directly to club funds. All members are welcome at any of our General Meetings and we are always happy to see members' friends and family, too. Hoping for a good attendance to support our speakers, we look forward to your company.

Suggestions (and volunteers) for suitable General Meeting topics are always welcome.

5 AUGUST 2011 FORUM & DISCUSSION

An opportunity to discuss hints, tips and techniques related to our model engineering activities. Rather than a formal evening along the lines of 'all you ever wanted to know about crinolines and boiler cladding but were afraid to ask', this meeting is intended to be a relatively informal session when any relevant matter can be raised for discussion.

Please bring something along - hardware is particularly welcome!

2 SEPTEMBER – TONY DUNBAR REMINISCES

Widely travelled and with long experience of full size and miniature railways, Tony is certain to use this presentation to intrigue and entertain us.

7 OCTOBER – WORK IN PROGRESS

An informative, instructive and enjoyable evening when we can show our current project(s) to fellow members and discuss any technical matters giving us cause for thought.

4 NOVEMBER – REVIEW

Time to look back on a busy season and forward to a productive winter.

GARDEN RAIL

We are holding our first "G1MRA" Get-together on the new track on Wednesday, 10th August. at 10:30am. There will hopefully be many visiting G1MRA members bringing their locos to run, as well of course as our own section members. All club members will be made most welcome. We hope to lay on a decent B-B-Q at lunchtime and we are also having a raffle to help raise funds for our future developments; raffle prizes are going well and we already have donated several bottles of wine & whisky, plus books, G1 truck etc.

As you know, last month we all took the decision to run the section along egalitarian lines. However we did receive a letter from the council asking us nicely if we would reconsider our decision, and we felt that out of fairness to the council & the Tyttenhanger committee we should have a rethink.

With this request in mind, on the 20th July, at lunchtime we held a meeting and voted Nick Rudoie in as our new G1 section leader. Nick will take over the running of the section, its finances and the track as from now. Many of you may well remember Nick from his days as The News Sheet editor.

The finances of the new track have now been finalised, outstanding debt being cleared by most G1 members donating equal shares of monies to cover same.

Although the actual running track structure is virtually finished, experience in running on it showed that some changes needed to be made to the layout of the steaming bays either side of the turntable, and these are being implemented as I write this piece. In addition much work still needs to be carried out to the site, in particular to address issues such as safety and access to the track. A good start has been made already: Malcolm Read with Nick's help has virtually refurbished the old bridge over the track making it is far more stable, the new handrails are a great improvement - a lot of work carried out well here. Malcolm has also done much work making the new shelving to the underside of the tracks for box stowage etc.

Much work has been done to remove all the old tree stumps and roots from the central area, and the holes left have been filled with spoil from the underpass excavations. Malcolm has also started to alter the underpass at the top steaming bay end. The underpass was a bit of an experiment with wooden steps. Now we see that it will work we can start using slabs and brickwork to make it far more permanent. The path around the inside of the track is one of the most important jobs to be done next, so that if anyone has any old paving slabs or pavers they want to get rid of, we would be most appreciative. We can collect.

Also discussed at the meeting were the costing figures for the proposed

permanent fixed cover over the steaming bay area. A discussion followed where it was decided that the clear corrugated roof sheeting (slightly cheaper) was the preferred option.

We all had a good Sunday away at John Judson's track for his Charity day. John made us all very welcome, the food and wine were excellent and we all had a great time. There were many visitors and much money was raised. The only blight on the day was the length and strength of the rain showers, but that cannot be helped. Many thanks to John for his excellent hospitality.

Well that is it for this month, more next month, until then, happy steaming.

David Metcalf.



Diane Woolsey on Marie E
Photo: Owen Chapman

WANTED

Does anybody have the articles, or photocopies of them, for the 3" Atkinson steam wagon that appeared in Engineering in Miniature Vols 4 to 7? I have a plastic crate full of engine bits and need to know in what order to put them back together again. I will happily pay any postage or copying costs, thanks. Please contact the webmaster

Marine Mumbles (Rides Again)

Photos by Peter Stern

Apologies first of all. Last month I managed to substitute literary for literally in the text. I told you this column was the ramblings of a mad man. Memo to Pete: Must get next door's dog to do the proof reading in future!

Our Friday night Sailing went very well when you consider the weather was "rubbish" that week. A first for the Marine Section was the Kidnapping and brain washing (1 part Fairy Liquid + 6 parts of tepid pond water) of Ron Price, see pretty picture, into sailing. Once he got used to the fact that he didn't have to sit astride his boat all was plain sailing (dreadful pun). Now for the ransom demand. We will pay whatever you want for his almost safe return! It was really good to see you there Ron. Hope this is the start of a beautiful relationship.



Dave did his usual delinquent bit by sailing (a loose term) his tiny speed boat. Very fast, spot the boat! Ian Johnston even turned up just as we were finishing. Now that's commitment for you. Must also thank Peter Badger for being the Tea Lady (the dress didn't suit you) on the night.

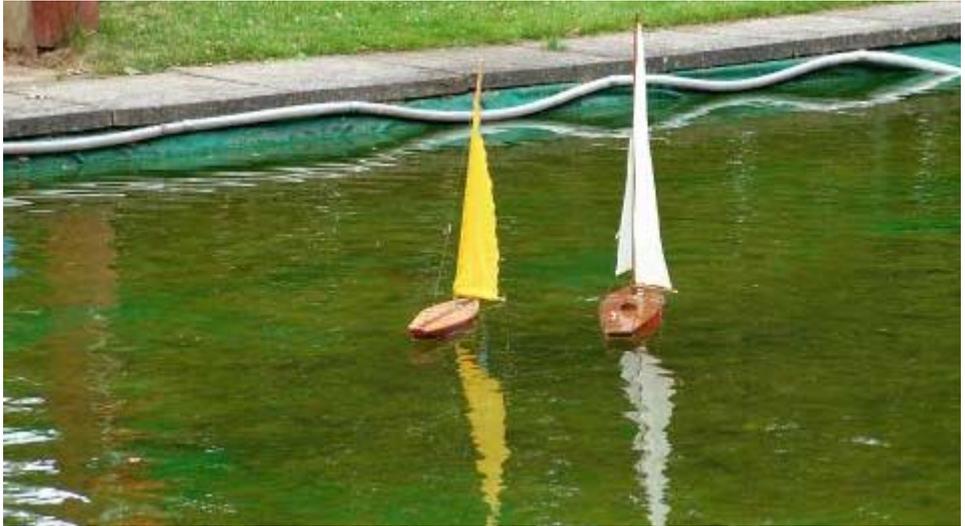
The main event of the month was The Toy Boat Regatta organised by Trevor Smith. Considering the weather, the morning part went very well. Once again there was plenty of wind for the yachts, and there were plenty of them "to the pound". Trevor brought along a beautiful reproduction liner (see accompanying photo), which sailed rather well. After much discussion it was agreed that



although the model of a pre-dreadnought battleship had a large clockwork winding key, behind the funnel, the real one didn't!

It was interesting to see how Jetex motors have evolved over the years. The new concept is a propellant charge the shape and size of a 0.410 shotgun cartridge. Certainly made these small boats motor, once the cloud of smoke lifted. There was quite a diversity of boats at this meet as shown in the photos. Thanks Trevor for all your hard work this year.





Alan Marshall very kindly donated a Clyde Puffer boat kit to the section. I think this will be a good winter project for us, as well as always having a boat for everybody to sail. Thanks Alan.

I think I've written enough, so all there is to say is don't forget Friday 12th August 6.30pm for another fun packed sailing night WEATHER PERMITTING.

Peter Stern



Tyttenhanger Site Committee

Summary of meeting 12th July

The recent Tyttenhanger Site Committee met under its new Chairmanship of Mike Chrisp. This new arrangement has been established by Council to establish a Committee with a designated interim Chairman until such time as a Loco Section leader is appointed (traditionally the TSC Chairman) or such other arrangement is concluded and has been prompted by the wish of Jim Macdonald to step back from performing the task.

The Committee has the following membership:

Chairman: M Chrisp

Secretary: A Marshall

Treasurer: M Foreman

Section leaders having assets or use of the Colney heath site, or their nominated representative.

Four Society members of which three are also project managers:

G Gardner – raised track extension

P Brewster – GLR new land layout

C Vousden – steaming bays

P Macdonald.

Site Manager: D Harris responsible for the general fabric of the site and its maintenance

The Committee continues to work based on the guide lines for Committees issued by Council and appended to the Constitution.

The meeting agreed that any work minor or major proposed to be conducted at the site should in the first instance be discussed with the Section leader appropriate to the work who will, if minor works are involved, together with a consensus of the section decide on whether or not to proceed. If major works are involved the Section leader will make appropriate proposals to the TSC for approval and financing. The meeting also concluded that work carried out would be expected to adopt “best practice” with “common sense”.

The Committee approved the following:

- Procurement of sleepers for the extension to the raised track.
- Procurement of 5" rail for the Ground level railway
- Proceeding with the temporary hatchway in the container to allow access of 5" locos to the current steaming bay.
- Proceeding with the relocation of the workshop to a position parallel with the fence approximately covering a portion of the base previously used by the garage.
- Proceeding with arrangements to prevent soil behind the containers from

falling back into the container area.

- Proceeding with a secure fenced area by the entrance gate to store ground machinery and the like.

The treasurer has identified a sum available to fund agreed projects and section leaders are invited to prepare and submit a case for funding for consideration by the TSC.

The late Bert Mead has bequeathed a sum to the Society and this will be used to fund projects that Bert would have been fond of and a memorial plaque.

A loco section meeting, probably in September, will be a forum for discussion on the GLR track layout proposals in the new land prior to final agreement being reached at the TLC.

The car park station of the GLR requires a suitable name and suggestions are canvassed.

The newly purchased club loco designated to be the “work horse” for works trains etc is to undergo a refurbishment to make it fully suitable for its duties.

A Marshall (Secretary)

SITUATION VACANT

A vacancy has arisen for someone – anyone(!) - to arrange Locomotive Section Meetings at the Society’s Finchley Headquarters and/or Tyttenhanger Track Site as appropriate.

This position will suit someone – anyone(!) - with drive, imagination and contacts. Preference will be given to applicants prepared also to present the meetings.

Anyone interested in this challenging and fulfilling role is invited to contact Mike Chrisp: Interim Chairman - Tyttenhanger Site Committee.



Above: The Fetes and Fairs section at the Redbourn rally.
Below: The new ground level steaming bay, traverser and storage containers
Photos: Owen Chapman



July General Meeting

By OMAH, Photos by Mike Chrisp

Mike Chrisp opened the meeting with an apology from David Harris who was busy bell ringing at a church in the wilds of Yorkshire. Covering some recent events Mike included; Dave Metcalfe's talk on white metal castings which was very interesting and much appreciated by those present, the Fetes & Fairs group had been very busy at numerous venues, rolling in the shekels, likewise the birthday parties keep rolling in. Several members had been to visit the Chelmsford club track and had been made most welcome. Mike had paid another visit to Preston Services in Kent, (at Wingham near Canterbury). This is a museum of all sorts of steam, farm machinery etc. It is open at all times but has Rallies twice a year when the exhibits are swelled by visiting traction engines and many other items making for a good day out. They also have items for sale, (don't tell Peter Badger). Peter Davies has acquired a large quantity of 12V/7A rechargeable batteries, in size, 2 of these equals one of the golf caddy batteries with which many of us are familiar. Contact Peter if interested, small donations to the Society would be appreciated.

After many years labouring at the tea urn Ron Thorogood is taking a well earned retirement and the spoon will be taken up by Dave Lawrence. Thank you Ron for all those cuppa's.

And now, for your delectation we have Edward the Compressor accompanied by his trainer Mike Hodgson. Edward is chafing at the bit to breathe life into any member's model normally activated by steam. Mike H kicked off by showing us some air tools that he had bought at Aldi. Aldi are probably best known for food products but they also have quite a good selection of tools. Mike had bought a nibbler and a cutter which he demonstrated on a sheet of aluminium which it went through with ease with Mike holding the sheet with one hand, he also demonstrated the nibbler.

Peter Precious had brought a Cheddar twin cylinder oscillating engine, sadly no longer available. It is an ideal engine for an RC boat being self starting and having one actuator for steering and engine control. It started at 10psi and ran beautifully in forward and reverse.

Peter Badger, that great exponent of hot air engines using tin cans for cylinder, displacement and power pistons, ran through a list of his favourite product containers. These include baked bean tins, not the ring pull variety but the good old fashioned can opener type, 'John West' tuna which has a useful ridge for a good seal, Tesco beer tins. Peter says, don't use tin snips as they make an uneven edge and misshape the cylindrical section, far better to use a slitting saw, also, if you use Bakers fluid to flux the surface make sure you rinse it off thoroughly after soft soldering or little holes will appear in the tin. Resin cored



Peter Precious ran his twin-cylinder reversing oscillating engine.

solder is preferable as it has a lower melting point. He made a spirit lamp out of a boot polish tin which was not successful since it didn't burn long and left quite a lot of unused spirit in the bottom so he moved on to model B which was made from an aerosol can sliced in two and the top half persuaded into the bottom which, having a convex base got rid of almost all the spirit, the bonus being that aerosol cans have a lot of useful bits inside; two ball valves, 3 'O' rings, a useful piece of plastic tube and a valve spring. Peter then produced his Stuart 10V mounted on a base with a vertical boiler and a generator. This was duly connected to the air source and ran very smoothly.

Steve Jones was next up with something not requiring compressed air but a loco sound box that he is developing and hopes to market. As a demo he



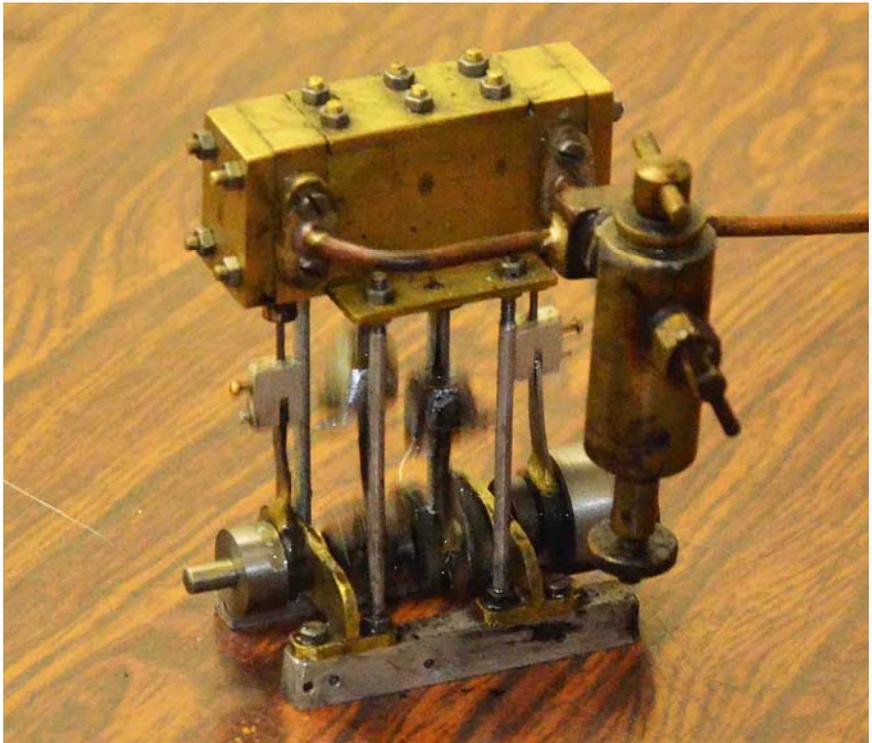
Above Peter Badger describes the construction of his Stuart 10V power plant.

Top right Dave Lawrence's diminutive high-speed twin-cylinder marine engine.

Bottom right Made by BAe apprentices, this fine beam engine was rescued when the company's Hatfield plant was closed.

produced a series of sounds from a class 37, starting, tickover, accelerating, brake application, etc. The finished box will include a 25W amplifier and run on 9-30V. A most impressive piece of equipment which Steve hopes to sell at a much lower price than those currently available.

We then had the traditional grand finale, running the beam engine in the glass case just inside the door. Edward must be getting used to it since it ran as well as ever but without any complaints from his direction. Mike C thanked all those who had collaborated and particularly Mike Hodgson for providing puff and assorted connectors.



G.L.R News

Thursday 28th had a most wonderful day at the track but I fear I may have shot myself in the foot for evermore? I will explain! Having borrowed the money for my new loco from the wife I thought it only right and proper to let her have a go (bad move) and as the kids are now on summer break it would make an afternoon out for them as well. (good move) I got to the track mid day and fired up, made a few circuits then let the boys have a drive and was thinking to myself it don't get much better than this. Then at the arranged hour my dear lady arrived with the kids in tow. It was at this point I thought she's calling my bluff as earlier in the week I had dared her to wear a pink boiler suit to drive the engine. (not in a million years thought I) Sure enough out came the suit and on it went, and in front of all my mates she climbed the footplate and off we chuffed. A near perfect circuit was achieved with lots of oos and squeals (from the wife not the loco) and as we arrived backing into Orchard Junction all the boys clapped her (I was thinking don't encourage her she might come back for more) coming to a halt exactly where I asked her to stop she got off saying that was fun I think I might be your relief driver from now on that's if you don't mind me coming up every Thursday (now look boys because you clapped her she thinks she can drive a loco how do I get out of this one?) yes dear! Said I head hanging down no dear!

Coming, AUGUST 28th late night run as mentioned in last months newsletter. Gerry Moor's disco has been booked at great expense.

Bring something to cook on the barbie all are welcome. For those staying overnight bring breakfast and I will cook and serve it up for you. I hope to have some of my friends over with their kids to stay the night so will the junior section please make them feel at home, as I know you will.

As ever in the muck P.A.K. Funk G.L.R. Section Leader

LOCO SECTION

Due to there being no Loco section leader there will no longer be the Mike's Musings section. The steward's roster will also not be being updated, and thus members should refer to the May issue for the latest roster.

Forthcoming Loco Section Meetings.

Friday August 19th:- BBQ at the Track

Friday September 16th:- BBQ at the Track

📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Friday 5 August | 8.00pm General Meeting; Forum & Discussion, HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley |
| Wed 10 August | G1MRA open day; Colney Heath |
| Friday 12 August | Marine section meeting; Colney Heath |
| Saturday 13 August | Brian Apthorpe's Invitation Day; Colney Heath |
| Wed 17 August | Visit by Peterborough MES; Colney Heath |
| Friday 19 August | 8.00pm Loco Section BBQ at Colney Heath |
| Fri-Sun 19-21 Aug | Fetes & Fair section at Flamstead, Contact J McDonald |
| Monday 22 August | Deadline for copy to Editor for September News Sheet |
| Saturday 27 August | Geek's Day at the Track; Colney Heath |
| Sunday 28 August | Birthday Party, Nancy Segall; Colney Heath |
| Sunday 28 August | Late night run at the track; Colney Heath |
| Friday 2 Sept | 8.00pm General Meeting; Tony Dunbar Reminisces; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley |
| Sunday 4 Sept | Fetes & Fair section at Capel Manor, Contact J McDonald |
| Saturday 10 Sept | Birthday Party, Vicky Lambert; Colney Heath |
| Friday 16 Sept | 8.00pm Loco Section BBQ at Colney Heath |
| Saturday 17 Sept | Mencap visit to the track; Colney Heath |
| Saturday 24 Sept | Birthday Party, Owen Chapman; Colney Heath |
| Sunday 25 Sept | Visit by Colchester SMEE; Colney Heath |
| Monday 26 Sept | Deadline for copy to Editor for October News Sheet |
| Saturday 1 Oct | Birthday Party, Angie Hart; Colney Heath |
| Friday 7 Oct | 8.00pm General Meeting; On the Table : Work in Progress; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley |

WANTED

Does any member have a copy of the book "The Red Devil and Other Tales..." by David Wardale that they would be willing to loan or sell to me?
Please contact the webmaster

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Every Wednesday | Garden Railway Section at Colney Heath (11am - 4pm); OO and HO Model Railway Groups and Video Group at HQ (evening) |
| Every Thursday | Slot Cars Section at HQ (evening) |
| Every Saturday | Morning working party on GLR including junior section. |
| Every Sunday | Morning working parties at Colney Heath (start 9.00am). |

NB: Please remember to notify all meetings, events & exhibitions, in advance, to Owen and Rachael Chapman, who act as Keepers of the Society Calendar and Tyttenhanger Site Events Co-ordinators.

