

# Lancashire & District Section



September 2000

## In The News... *Interesting snippets from around and about*

There have been several interesting stories in the news recently. With total disregard to copyright, we reproduce them for your info...

### Six injured as Thomas the Tank Engine crashes

Six passengers travelling on a Thomas the Tank Engine steam train were hurt when another train, Gordon the engine, crashed into the back of it on a private rail line.

The incident, involving 250 passengers, happened at 1.30pm on Monday on the Watercress Line in Hampshire during a Thomas the Tank Engine week.

Four passengers were treated at a nearby GP surgery and two others were taken to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester with cuts & bruises.

The accident happened as Gordon tried to hook up to one of Thomas's five carriages at Alresford station.

An investigation into the incident will now be carried out by the Railway Inspectorate. Bob Gordon, a director of the railway, said: "We have no idea what caused the accident. Gordon shunted into the carriages and moved them about one foot. It is of concern to us when something like this happens."

He said the driver and the signalman had been suspended pending the outcome of the inquiry.

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### New Invention brings end to 'leaves on the line' delays

Train operators today announced a £4 million overhaul to stop the 'leaves on the line' problem.

Railtrack, Connex and South West Trains plan to fit more than 200 trains with equipment that will allow drivers to **drop sand on slippery rails (!)**, which have in the past caused cancellations and delays.

The partnership, with Railtrack bearing most of the cost, will see 190 Connex Networker trains on the Metro south eastern services between Central London, south-east London and Kent fitted with the sophisticated system in time for the autumn.

A further 22 South West Trains diesel locos operating between Waterloo and Exeter, Reading and Brighton will feature the sanders.

# Culcheth Line Re-Opens

## Rumours Dispelled - Campaign Cancelled

**The initial closure reports about Culcheth's own narrow gauge railway, under Chief Engineer Cliff Robinson, have now been dispelled.**

The SCaNNeR Appeal (Save Culcheth's Nice Narrow Railway) soon to be launched by the 16mm LADS (Lancs And District Section) was cancelled in its entirety when the newly formed line was opened in July.

Cliff Robinson invited us all to the event on Sunday afternoon, 30 July, and all participants were greeted by sunshine and a very pleasing line which, although taking up less of Carol's precious garden, is still longer than most. Being slightly above ground level on a raised bed, the line is both scenic and easy to reach.



Smells from the very generous barbecue must have wafted far and wide, as members travelled from all over the North West. Bill Cook, Neil & Sheila Munro, Chris MacKenzie, Dave Wilding & Mark Smith all had a run.

### It's Not Just Leaves...

According to a report in the Yomiuri newspaper, an express train north of Tokyo was brought to a halt for 2½ hours last week when millipedes tried to cross the line. The train "squashed out their bodily fluids, which apparently acted as a lubricant, making the wheels slip".

Cliff was also able to welcome Ray Wilkinson from Atherton. Ray's no stranger to garden railways having helped out on other railways for many years. We hope he attends more of our events.

All in all, an excellent afternoons running on an improved line. Cliff may spend more time on his 3-wheeler kit car - but his railway is definitely a lot more fun!

## "Bring-an-Engine" Events:-

**Wed 6 Sept** 6pm - Derek & Philip Eaton's Garden -  
*see story this page*  
- 0151 428 2366 (Liverpool) (32mm)

**Sun 24 Sept** 1pm - Bill Cook's Garden  
- 01704 535170 (Southport) (32mm)

**Sun 29 Oct** 1pm - John Angell's Garden  
- *Yes! John Angell's Grand Opening!*  
- 01772 725308 (Preston) (32mm)

## Other Events of Interest:-

**Sat 2 Sept** (Sat only) 10-5pm Leyland  
*Large Model Railway Exhibition.*  
St Andrew Church Hall, Leyland Cross  
(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)  
**NB:- Chris MacKenzie's 16mm layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" will be exhibiting.**

**Sat 2 & Sun 3 Sept** 11-5pm Welshpool  
**Garden Rail Gala**  
Caereinion Leisure Centre, Llanfair.  
*Why not combine this with the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway Open Weekend?*

**Sat 9 Sept** (Sat only) 10-5pm Romiley, Stockport  
Romiley Methodist Church  
(Small show - All scales, not necessarily 16mm)

**Sat 9 & Sun 10 Sept** 10-6pm Huddersfield  
*Large Model Railway Exhibition (all scales)*  
Leisure Centre, Slaithwate, Huddersfield  
**NB:- The new York's Group's 16mm Layout will be making its debut at this show**

**Sat 16 & Sun 17 Sept** 10-6pm Fleetwood  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
The Marine Hall, Esplanade, Fleetwood  
(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)

**Sat 16 & Sun 17 Sept** 10-6pm Warrington  
*Model Railway Exhibition.*  
Community Centre, Station Road, Padgate  
(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)

**Sat 23 & Sun 24 Sept** 10-7pm Sat - 10-5pm Sun  
Southport - *Large Model Railway Exhibition.*  
Meols Cop High School, Southport  
*As this is very near to Bill Cooks house, why not visit both on Sunday?*

**Sun 24 Sept** (Sun only) 11-3.30pm Manchester  
George Carnall Leisure Centre, Urmston  
100 yards from Exit 9, M60  
(Large Swapmeet - cars, dolls, railways)

**Sat 30 Sept** (Sat only) 11-5pm Prescot  
*Model Railway Exhibition.*  
RC Church, Eccleston Park, Prescot, M'side  
(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)

**Sat 30 & Sun 1 Oct** Barnsley  
**The 16mm Association** Elsecar, Barnsley.  
*The one not to miss!*  
**NB:- As we go to press it is thought that Chris MacKenzie's 16mm layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" will be exhibiting.**

## UPDATE:- Advertising Pays!

The Roundhouse Argyle loco advertised here last month has now been sold - due to this ad!

# New Merseyside Line: Grand Opening Wed 6th September

## Stop Press on Derek & Philip Eaton's Event

Wednesday 6th September was a free evening on the LADS calendar. Not now as Derek & Philip Eaton are using this date to open their new garden line.

Their address is 6 Middlefield Road, Liverpool. Phone first if attending - 0151 428 2366.

Due to the last minute fixture, we've reproduced full directions below:-

### From the M62...

End of M62 left hand lane;  
Turn left down dual carriageway.  
1st roundabout...  
- take the **3rd exit**  
(still on dual carriageway);  
2nd roundabout...  
- turn **left** (Menlove Avenue)  
2nd set of traffic lights...  
- turn **right** (Yewtree Road).  
1st left (Dowsefield Lane),  
1st left Middlefield Road,  
Last house on left, No. 6

### From the M56

Junction for **Runcorn / Widnes.**  
Cross over bridge.  
**Follow A562** to Liverpool / Woolton.  
After approx 4½ miles...  
**Traffic lights** T junction  
(opposite McDonalds) turn **right**.  
100yards before 2nd set of  
traffic lights,  
- turn **left** into Middlefield Road,  
First house on right, No. 6.



## It's Brill in Barnoldswick!

The sun shined on everyone at Ian Lowcock's do, Sunday 20 August.

Despite not have the best of reputations for providing a rain-free environment, Ian's line, The Klondyke Light Railway, provided an excellent afternoon's running in sunny weather.

The railway weaves it's way amongst what can only be called beautiful dioramas. There's that platform and sidings, the sunken pond (sorry, harbour) the trickling stream and waterfall passing under the stone arch bridge. I only wish that we were able to produce better quality colour pictures in this newsletter (*and photo's!*).

It was a good turn out: John & Jacqui Sharpe (*please note correct wife's name - Jacqui thought he'd been taking someone else to these events!*); David Wilding with his 'William'; Peter & Sheila Harling with their Roundhouse Billy (*now sporting radio control*); Mike Ousby with his brazen brass tram; Mark Haydock (*modestly taking compliments over his new line*); Steve Colling (*who decided to keep his Lady Anne on the track this time*); Derek & Philip Eaton with their green Millie; and Chris MacKenzie with his electronics-expert friend, Geoff Garside.

It certainly doesn't matter what happens mid-week when you can do this at weekend!

## Andy & Gail's Wednesday

"Her Majesty's Press" were unable to attend Andy Lether's event on Wednesday evening.

However, we are reliably informed that Brendan McGuire attended with a new Bassett Lowe 2-6-0. The tight bends didn't help it to run, but it certainly attracted favour.

Mike Barwise, Derek & Philip Eaton, Alex Milne, Bill Cook, Andrew and Peter Armstrong, Dave Wilding, Peter & Doreen Davis, Keith Nichols -all made it a success.

Running carried on to 10pm with temporary 12v lights giving an extended sunset.

**Contributions?** - Send anything to Chris MacKenzie -  
0161 980 7804 or narrow.gauge@btinternet.com - or at events.