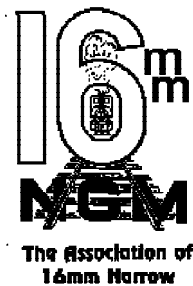


Lancashire & District Section



Green's House Effect over Lanc's

**Calvin Green's Open Day
warms some hearts**

by our Warrington Correspondent, Phil Sixsmith

It was an earlier start than usual for your intrepid explorer and navigator Wilding as we set out for deepest Yorkshire and our mission to find the fabled Calvin Green's dual gauge line near Wakefield.

The weather turned from torrential to monsoon like as we sailed into Huddersfield and beyond but we drove on into drier conditions and to our surprise we arrived in the dry.

Calvin's line, for those who have not seen it, is a well laid ground level twin circuit with the outer track dual 32 / 45mm gauge. There are three 32mm branches off to termini stations. Calvin's excellent cast concrete structures are skilfully set into the landscaping.

On the day Dave Wilding and I were sadly the only representatives from the LADS (Lancashire And District Section).

Other guests included Barry Milner and his son Chris running a selection from the Milner Workshops. There was also a nice chap called John Prescott, a member of the G Scale Society, who was running a fine scratch built 45mm battery steam outline railcar. The real surprise was John's ingenious on board sound system - but more of that later after a trial on my Russet Tor Railway!

Despite the odd shower, the tea and coffee flowed with the conversation as we spent a happy afternoon playing trains and tucking in to sandwiches and cakes provided by our host and his family.

Our thanks to Calvin for the kind invitation and his hospitality.

Lytham St Annes
October 12 & 13th

*Narrow Gauge & Garden Rail Show
at the Technology College. The
indoor layout will be there. Engines
required to give them a break (but no
rolling stock please)*

Bonny Barlick's Best

Beyond the end of the M65 lies yet another of the Lancashire And District Section (LADS) best kept secrets, Ian and Shirley's Klondyke Light Railway.

Such is the attraction of this little marvel (the railway, not Ian... though then again...) that when I almost literally ran into the back of the traffic queue 50 yards beyond the motorway, I suspected that this was the queue for the 16mm meeting in Salterforth. It was in fact the queue for the R and B festival in Colne, though such was the gathering at the aforementioned railway that it favoured the second gold rush! An excellent turn-out in support of Ian and Shirley - well done LADS!

The running was excellent and augmented with a refreshing brew and a comfortable seat one could have been in 16mm heaven. Gerald's loco trundled past with Dave Wilding's gunpowder truck in tow. It did fleetingly pass my mind that were this 12 inches to the foot, the truck would have exploded by now and we could well be in 16mm heaven or at least on a rapidly accelerating trajectory towards Colne.

Ever the careful host, Ian experienced a little of this when rescuing Gerald's loco from a momentary stall across the viaduct. Just as he leant over the motionless form of the somnambulant loco, a jet of hot steam emitted from the safety valve providing a mini sauna for our hero. Undaunted, he held on to the loco and, moderating his language admirably, stated that it hadn't done "a lot for his es-steam!!!". Unfortunately this gave way to a rash of puns about making "a splash" and "condensing the story" and almost predictably something a little innuendic about "pistons". Yes, the LADS were in form.

Alex and Carol Milne provided a 16mm equivalent of the royal train as the beautifully painted ensemble glided gracefully around the lake. (I refer here to the train, not to Alex and Carol dancing in a style reminiscent of a 1930s musical.)

Peter and Nick demonstrated the lost art of shunting with their "Craven Lime" trucks, hauled by their 0-4-0 diesel. That was until in one crucial reversal being undertaken rather hurriedly due to the imminent arrival on the same track of Neil Munro's Friog with full train, the little green

demon decided to go all political on us and opted for the "third way" on a two-way point.

Neil was as ever fully in charge of the grey and yellow 0-6-0 Friog diesel and with adept radio control, was able to maintain a smooth and gentle pace with a delightful range of goods stock for circuit after circuit. Talking of Neil and Sheila ... Terence Cuneo eat your heart out. Neil's print of "Linda" revealed to the majority of us for the first time what an accomplished artist Neil has proved to be. The story of his first print run is told in the last newsletter (No 27) and seeing the actual finished article bears out all that was said and more. A superb painting and one which will no doubt be rapidly sought after. Get yours now before it's too late!

Real artistry was also depicted in the photographs brought along to the meeting by John Fox, one of which featured as the front cover of "16mmToday" along with a group of

Continued next page

*by our
Rishton
Correspondent,
Steve Colling*

Bonny Barlick's Best

- Continued from page 1

leprechauns. (It's amazing what you can do by hand carving Star Wars figures). John's railway has taken modelling to new heights of precision and his scale reproduction of Soller station on the Marjorcan railway system fooled me into thinking it was the real thing. Mind you it doesn't take a lot!

I sat back in my chair and took it all in... the smell of hot oil, the gentle murmur of voices talking matters technical; the unmistakable mutter of a "Lady Anne" rocking her way through the reverse curves and all was right with the world. Well at least in that little spot in far east Lancashire. (Yorkshire prior to 1974!)

Many thanks to Ian and Shirley for their magnanimous hospitality.



Things I'd wish I'd known years ago...

For track cleaning use a chalk board eraser screwed at a suitable angle to the end of a piece of 1' X 1" wood about broom handle length. Pour a little paraffin on the eraser then you clean the track beautifully without bending down.

Bob Walker

Caption Competition

And the entries flood in!

Last month's picture of a skeleton in a garden chair caused the creative juices to flow amongst the LADS.



We had several entries, all worthy of a titter.

However the winning prize of a month's free subscription to our newsletter must be shared amongst John Fox and Mike Ousby.

The runner up entries were:-

John Fox:

"LADS invent nuclear fuel tablet for Mamod - some slight operator side effects noticed." and also "Local editor goes on diet after winning contract as international model."

...and by Mike Ousby:

"John Sharpe still waiting for his John Prescott loco to be delivered."

So, now for the winning entries:

John Fox:

"Blackburn resident still waiting outside M2002 Stadium for sale of 45mm track."

Mike Ousby:

"I told you that cutting back to just tea and biscuits would have dire consequences."

This month's competition picture is at the top of this page. It shows Chris MacKenzie coming across a Llama whilst away with the layout at the South Tynesdale Railway, Alston.

The Toy Trunk Railroad comes to Lancs

If anyone has visited www.toytrunkrailroad.com they will have seen a collection of excellent cartoons drawn by Canadian Erik Sansom.

The strip cartoon features the exploits of Walt, who under sufferance of his wife Mona, runs the Toy Trunk Railroad (TTR).

In this human world, though, is a comparative miniature world taking place where the little toy people who live on the Toy Trunk Railroad go about their lives.

Although Walt is separated from the LADS area by the huge pond, many of his exploits could be taking place here in Lancashire.

All in all, it is undoubtedly the best comic strip that I ever seen.

Erik Sansom has given us permission to reproduce his cartoons here in our newsletter - and for free!!!

I would ask though, that if you share Chris's appreciation of his work and are considering a Christmas present of one of his books or his TTR T-Shirts, etc, then please order through Chris. By buying the goodies directly off the cartoonist then he gets the full benefit.

Read and enjoy our new feature!

Now meet the characters:-

Walt



Walter - the mastermind behind the model railroad (the TTR) has a terrible job - REALLY terrible. I'm not exactly sure what it is, but it's definitely high-pressure and soul-crushing. In fact, it's so bad that he's had to turn to the toy trains of his youth in a desperate attempt to find some relief in his life... Heart-wrenching stuff!

Mona



Mona is a self-confessed "Toy Train Widow." Her fondest wish in life is for Walter to forget about his toy trains for an hour and come watch "Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman" with her (now that is SAD!).

At the moment, she's a bit of a nagging harpy, but I suspect that her personality will mellow somewhat as the strip progresses.

Trevor



Trevor is Walt's son, and the occasional tormentor of Casey and Jeb (the loco crew).

Luckily for them, he's usually too wrapped up in his computer games to bother with something as dull as a model train...

If only he knew...

The Red Rocket



I know, I know... technically speaking, it's not really a character, but it IS sort of the star of the strip.

What interests me about it is that all of the main characters perceive it in a different way. To Casey and Jeb (the loco crew), it's their livelihood. To Mona, it's a potential homewrecker. To Trevor, it's merely an occasional distraction from school and cyberspace...

And to Walter's eyes, well, who knows? It could be an escape route into a kinder and gentler past, or a one-way ride to the funny farm. I guess only time will tell....

Meet the crew next month!

"CHRONICLES IV"

An occasional extract from the diary of Alex Milne

A GREEK INTERLUDE:- TO MIKRO TRAINO TOU PHLIOU

"The Little Train of Pelion" runs from Ano Lechonia to Mililies on the Pelion Peninsula in Greece.

Originally built from Volos (the starting point for Jason and the Argonauts), it ran along the coast adjacent to the beach for about 15km as far as Ano Lechonia before heading inland and up into the hills.

Built in 1903 to carry passengers, animals and farm produce to and from the hill villages, the coastal section closed in the 1970's although the track is still in place.

The inland section is an on-going restoration project with a completely renovated station building at Ano Lechonia and loco storage with limited maintenance facilities.

A walk into the shed showed a medium sized Bo-Bo diesel identical to the one attached to the train which would take us on our journey. (The reason for the Bo-Bo became apparent when we set off). Next came a brown painted goods wagon and then a small tank wagon clearly modelled on Barry's track cleaning vehicle, although a different livery - but complete with taps and pipes! Behind this was a workmans' coach, similar to the Festiniog Quarryman coaches but with an open doorway and large windows - OK in summer but the area has snow in the winter. At the end of the shed were the two original steam locos, one of which looked in quite good (working?) condition.

Our train for the journey consisted of four brown bogie coaches, 1903 vintage but nicely restored, with bench seating along the



remarkably like a steam loco. It had large 'side tanks', two domes and a chimney reminiscent of those seen in the cowboy films. And it had a 'straight from the box' look - it was spotless. Painted in black and lined out in red with no makers plates, there was no indication of where and when it was made.

Our journey began, on time, at a realistic pace and it was soon apparent why everything had bogies. Curves were of Mamod proportions and gradients very steep in places.

The trip took about one and a half hours with a stop at a station

sides for 24 passengers - so they were quite short. Access was by verandas at each end. Centre buffers were fitted with chains and hooks either side as couplings.

The diesel loco at first glance looked

for refreshments. We travelled inland and uphill through olive groves and densely wooded areas, passing a number of stations which may have been abandoned. As you would expect on a narrow gauge line, embankments were precipitous, cuttings deep and there were occasional short tunnels. The view over the coast as we climbed was magnificent.

Arriving at Mililies the loco uncoupled and ran on to a turntable - just - there was about two inches spare at either end. It was pushed round by hand ready for its return journey.

Both the stations only sold ice cream and drinks - no souvenirs etc. There was also no information about the line, which was a shame. What little I could find was in the local museum in Mililies and that was all in Greek!

A wonderful day out in a beautiful, unspoiled area and the chance to see countryside not easily accessible by other means.

Thanks to Nicoleta for the title, food in her father's taverna and her delightful company.

Alex Milne



Link & Pin Couplings

John Angell's Latest Product

It's a bit of a paradox in 16mm modelling that, while the management may lash out several hundreds on a loco from Poole or Doncaster, it's often the case that rolling stock and other essentials are produced in the company's own works. In a way, this may be because ours are not model railways - 'models of the real thing' - but are in fact real railways in their own right, although actually rather small. Just like the full-size real railways, economy is an important factor in our purchases. A recent discussion on the 16mm egroup highlighted the fact that many people find link and pin couplers particularly satisfactory in this scale, although expensive. Expensive probably because the manufacturers always seem to choose casting as the means of production.

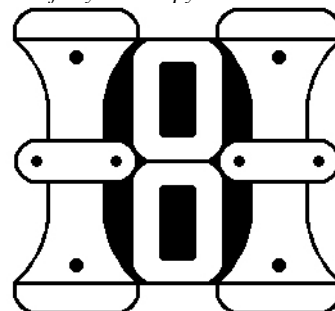
To be brief, I have produced a link & pin coupling in etched brass sheet. It is in two parts - the shank, which must be folded up, and the buffer face, to which the shank is glued or soldered. The link itself can be a loop of brass or a rigid bar, as you please. If your stock is always marshalled the same way round you can fix a link or bar permanently at one end, using a brass wire pin. If you then couple up using an ordinary steel nail for the other pin, you can simply uncouple with a magnet.

Here's a drawing of the basic unit - a pair of couplings. Cut them, fold and glue. Then make your own mind up! I'm selling them at four pairs for £7.50, or just £7.00 if we meet at a steam-up.

Things I'd wish I'd known years ago...

When taking photos of prototype loco's etc, carry a dressmakers cloth tape and a couple of small magnets to stick it on. Ron Knepp (e:group)

John's coupling template for you to copy and cut out



Dear LADS....

Get your crayons out

Dear LADS,

"She who must be obeyed" has sanctioned an open day at the Muddledale Railway.

Looking at the LADS diary, we have chosen Sunday Oct 13th. This does coincide with the 2 day Lytham exhibition, and Timpdon sheds will be there, but other LADS are welcome.

18 Oakwood Road, Halewood, Merseyside, L26 1XH, - 0151 486 1626

From M57 / M62 - take A5300 Knowsley expressway to end and turn right onto A562

The A5300 joins the A562 via a flyover / roundabout and its entry sliproad to the A562 continues as the exit sliproad for the A562 / A561 mentioned below

From Widnes / Runcorn - take A562 toward Liverpool & Airport

On edge of Liverpool take left A562 to Woolton & Halewood (A561 to Speke is straight ahead & flyover)

Continue alongside railway line, then past small roundabout and entrance to Ford / Jaguar factory.

Coming into built-up area turn right at Leather's Lane - passing Police Stn.

Cross the speed humps (2) and take 2nd left into Beechwood Ave.

Turn left again into Oakwood Rd to No 18.

Rob Guinness

Contributions?

You can see that Chris isn't the sole contributor of the artistic creativity that we lovingly call "news". Many other LADS members are taking out their old typewriter, computer, biro or crayon and sending some random jottings. Why not join them and send something in? It couldn't be worse.

Please send anything to:-

Chris MacKenzie
2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA157SY
0161 980 7804
or e:mail narrow.gauge
@btinternet.com

This newsletter has been sponsored by:-

Brandbright Ltd

Everything for the
Garden Railway

Richard Longley

The Old School House,
Cromer Road, Bodham, Holt,
Norfolk, NR25 6QG

Phone: 01263 588755

steam@brandbright.co.uk

New catalogue out (no.12)

- it has everything in

Dear Diary...

16mm Association LADS Events - Bring an engine & have a run

Any Wednesday evening - Wakefield
Ring Calvin Green on 01924 281169

Sun 15 Sept - 1pm - Bill Cook
Southport - 01704 535170 (32mm)
*** Please note new date ***

Sun 13 Oct - 1pm - Rob Guinness
Merseyside - 0151 486 1626 (32mm)
see letter, this page

Sun 27 Oct - 1pm - Chris MacKenzie
Altrincham - 0161 980 7804 (32mm)
The outside line should be fully working -
Indoor 16mm layout also running

16mm Exhibitions:-

Sat 28 & Sun 29 Sept 02 - Elsecar
The Association's Autumn Convention
Elsecar Heritage Centre, Barnsley

Sat 12 & Sun 13 Oct (10am) - Lytham
High Technology College, Lytham St A's
Narrow Gauge & Garden Rail Show
Chris, Mike & Cliff will be taking the
layout - want a run? Engines required!
(but no rolling stock please)

Other Exhibitions:-

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept (10am) - Fleetwood
Marine Hall, Esplanade
Large exhibition - probably not any 16mm

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept (10am) - Warrington
Community Centre, Station Rd., Padgate
Small exhibition - probably not any 16mm

Sat 28 & Sun 29 Sept (10am) - Lowton
Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane
Small exhibition - probably not any 16mm

Sat 28 & Sun 29 Sept (10am) - Southport
Meols Cop High School, Meols Cop Road
Large exhibition - probably not any 16mm

Sat 5 & Sun 6 Oct (10am) - Manchester
New Century Hall, Corporation St, City.
Large exhibition - probably not any 16mm

Anyone got the Farmers?

You won't suffer with this Farmer Gile

ood news! The Farmer is back in at the Earlyarning Centre. Better news is that he now has an tended family. I still can't find any possible use s wife with the bucket, but they have produced o children, a boy and girl. The girl is posed eding chickens (I assume). I'm not sure what e boy is doing, but he has outstretched arms a ver ange expression on his face.

The farmer is 3.75" tall = just under 6 ft in 16mm his wife is 3.55" = 5 ft 7½ in.

There are ducks, geese, and all sorts of farmyard animals app 16mm scale. There's also a series of medieval knights, kings jesters in 16mm.

And don't forget the "Dino Car". This is a little battery operated car which is just crying out to be the chassis of a 45mm gauge loco.



Reproduced by kind permission of Erik Sansom
www.toytrunkrailroad.com