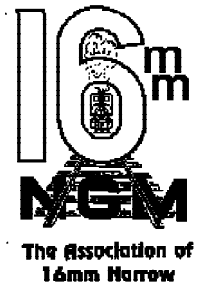


Lancashire & District Section



Cook's Special: Sunday Launch

**Bill's Open Day
proved to be a
Successful Recipe**

For some strange reason, perhaps down to fate and coincidence, Bill Cook's Open Day wasn't that well attended.

The day was dry, the tracked scenery fantastic, the company good, the food brilliant, the host's were falling over themselves to attend to our every need - in fact everything was superb.

Okay, there was a very small problem with one joint in the track, but who has a line that is faultless? This slight problem wasn't even experienced by every loco, and even then, simply taking an alternative route round the detailed world of miniature solved the problem.

Chris MacKenzie took ages to unpack his Harlech Castle permanent way train (well, Timpdon's version of it) and then found the batteries were that flat he could only manage two circuits.

Dave Wilding provided much of the rail service to the patient clay villagers. I once read that John Logi Beard made the first television from, amongst other things, sealing wax, string, cardboard and glue. Well, he must have been related to Dave! Using a few broken Black & Decker bits and bobs, some redundant gears, and a few miscellaneous rummages in the odd skip, he's managed to produce machinery that churns out exquisite coaches from nothing more than hardboard. I kid you not! If you think that this sounds

like a recipe for a pile of junk, then think again. The coaches are brilliant and undoubtedly the pride of any line. Mind you, forty odd years experience in engineering probably has a lot to do with it...

Phil & Dawn had a run, but to be honest I was that busy chatting away and admiring the model buildings I didn't really notice who did what. That's the problem with being a journalist... sometimes you're enjoying yourself that much, you forget to take notes!

When the first few loco's had run out of steam, the gong sounded. This was the call to diner. Bill and Eleven had provided a fantastic buffet spread. Of course, as we were in Sunny Southport, the weather was

that nice we were able to take our refreshments outside on the patio. This really was a treat - basking in the warm Autumn sunshine, with good food, good company, and steam trains meandering gently round your feet.

Many thanks to Bill and Eleven. And I hope this article doesn't make other members too sad they missed the event. After all, I couldn't think of a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

PS: If you were wondering from the headline what the "Launch" was... Well sorry, there wasn't really one. But it's a great headline, isn't it?

LADS-fair Carry-on in Welshpool



Apart from the 16mm Association's AGM, one of the country's top shows has to be the Garden Rail Show at Llanfair Caereinion, near Welshpool.

This years show over the weekend of the 31 Aug and 1 September was no exception.

Although criticised in the past for being predominantly G Scale, this years show gave a nice balance between all the scales.

The 16mm scale were represented by the LADS (Lancashire And District Section) with Chris MacKenzie's "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" layout, staffed by Mike Ousby, Cliff Robinson and of course Chris. One or two other supporters also came along for a run, which gave them a nice break to have a wander around the exhibition.

Continued on page 3

"CHRONICLES V"

An occasional extract from the diary of Alex Milne

The last episode of "Chronicles", about 'The Little Train of Pelion' was not really planned - it just seemed a good idea.

This episode is a little more on track, but it has to be said that I am sitting writing this looking out over the olive groves on the island of Paxos, just south of Corfu in the Ionian Sea. I am trying to get it written between 'Baclava time' and the first Gin and Tonic, but it's difficult in this heat.

If you haven't got your own layout to spend time running your trains on, a Greek Island in September is probably the next best thing.

However, back in the Ribbles Valley we are making progress with the house. Most of the building work we are having done is nearing completion. Even better, I persuaded the builder to over order on stone and blocks so I have quite a bit to play with when the time comes for building walls to put track on. Two rooms are now decorated, plaster has to dry in the Lounge and we are looking at replacing some bedroom windows - so no painting there. Nothing can be done in the kitchen until we decide whether it is worth having gas piped to the house. That just leaves the hall, stairs and landing for the immediate future.

On the garden railway front I am, I think the current jargon is, "working towards" a Plan. This basically means I have nothing concrete on paper as yet, but I haven't forgotten about it. The wastepaper basket has already been filled and emptied several times with fanciful designs and I look upon this latest holiday (and the last this year - sadly) as a pause to allow 'reflection'.

I do prefer to "reflect" rather than to "evaluate" - it's so much more relaxing.

Contributions?

You must have something to publish better all this rubbish? Or have you an idea for future articles? What do you want to see? Please send anything to:-

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

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

Winter is upon us so wipe all bare metal surfaces clean and apply a coat of silicon furniture polish.

Leaves a nice feel to the metal and is highly water repellent. May not stop condensation but it sure helps keep the rust at bay. *Colin Binnie*

Caption Competition

Sorry LADS! A foreigner has won again!



Mind you, it was a close call.

The picture of Chris MacKenzie coming across a Llama whilst away with the layout at the South Tynesdale Railway provided some good entries.

Cliff Robinson was on form as usual:-

"It's got more hair than me!" (Ed: err... sorry - but that's not funny) or "Fancy a ride"

"These are better looking than the usual sheep"

"Imagine taking that for a walk!"

"Has it seen the 'No Spitting' signs?"

"This bloomin' sheep must be strong - look how it's stretched it's neck on the lead"

However this month's winner of a year's free newsletter subscriptions has to go to that Phantom Border-crosser, Martin Williamson. His submission? -

"This is a little beauty - Fur fabric body, Stomper chassis with drive to four articulated legs and optional spitting effects!"

His winning caption has to be, though:-

"Chris demonstrates the long llama the law in Tyneside..."

As this newsletter will be coming out with the November issue, this month's picture will be published next month which is the same month as this one, just a month later (follow that if you can!). Watch this space.

The Toy Trunk Railroad

We continue with our description of the Toy Trunk Railroad with the model characters. Quite often parallel plots occur on the model railway.

Trixie Sue

Jeb's nasal impaired ladylove. The only thing she fancies more than him is a good decongestant.



Mrs Withers

The stationmistress and thorn in Casey's side. It doesn't take much to put a bee in her batty bonnet and make her skipping rope-like arms flail wildly.



Casey

Casey is the quintessential old-time railroadman. You can practically see the soot flowing through his veins - kind of a disgusting image, isn't it?

Anyway, he's irritable, pigheaded, and generally impossible - all the qualities that make him so lovable!



Jeb

Jeb is Casey's brickheaded sidekick and all-round whipping boy. He's also one of the world's greatest sheep - meaning he's yet to see a dumb trend or insipid cultural fad that he didn't fall for hook, line and sinker. If you've got a bandwagon, fear not - Jeb will jump on board... and probably help pay for the gas.

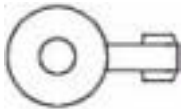
How to make Platform Lamps from Toothpaste Tubes

Take one empty toothpaste tube, remove the cap by unscrewing it, cut away the tube from the top rim and... Hey Presto! - the makings of a lampshade for your station or engine



File the thread off the top of the rim

Find a suitable piece of K&S brass tube to make a push fit over the rim.



Then raid your scrap box for a solder tag (you want the external diameter the same as the brass tube).

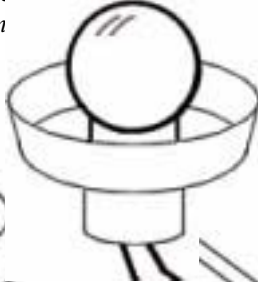
Place a 3" length diameter brass tube on the solder tag and gently



Now remove the tube from the lamp shade and file a "U" in the top edge to fit over the 1/8th" pipe.

Assemble the tube on top of the tag, hold it steady on the bench whilst you solder them together making sure no solder runs and blocks the pipe as the wires have to go through.

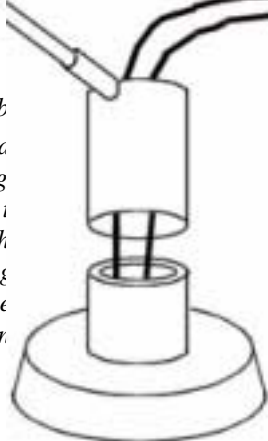
Next take a 3 or 6 volt MES torch bulb (0.3 amp rating) and two wires onto the coil using the smallest amount of solder (as the bulb



the lampshade any excess solder will have to be filed off).

When pushing the tube into the shade use a

duster to cover bulb in case it becomes hot. Now gently feed wires up through shade and into 1/8th" tube. The hole in the solder tag allow you to see what's going on as it slides together.



The next bit is more tricky!

Wait until the wife is not looking and nip into the bedroom or kitchen and look at any of the cupboards that have been assembled using screws. The screw heads sometimes have a neat little plastic cap to cover them up. Nick one quick!

Glue this on top of the solder tag to cover up the hole.

When dry you can paint it all green or black. And there you have it - a working light!

For the record, the toothpaste tube I used is a 75ml Sensodyne Total Whitening

Also, if you are planning on making a load of these lights, then I would use the 6v bulbs so you can simply connect them all to a 6v sealed lead acid battery. I tried this with 5.3v bulbs running on two U2 "D" size cells, but the bulbs don't run at full brightness, as the poor old cells cannot handle 1.5amps running off them (x5 bulbs at 300ma each = 1500ma or 1.5amps).



For Sale

Over 40 yards of 32mm brass 'Bullhead' rail with plastic sleepers, one left and one right hand point still in the box unused.

One 'Locomotion' radio controlled steam three-car 'Railbus', it ran fine the last time I used it but it was suffering from 'gliching' so there may be some dampness in the receiver.

One 'Locomotion' r/c battery 'Railbus'.

One Friog 'Natalie Anne' loco with control.

One radio controlled Merlin 'Mini Mule' and four coaches.

The battery locos have not been used for quite some time, so may need new batteries.

I don't know what any of the above are worth, so will accept any offers.

My telephone number is - 01704 895168 and my e-mail address is - drotheram@aol.com

Dave Rotheram

LADS-fair Carry-on

Continued from page 1

Mike Ousby was grinning all over his face for most of the weekend as having been let down on his purchase of a Peter Angus Sentinel, he spied a Roundhouse Tram ('Stanley' Class) for sale at the back of Ron Grant's stall. After a few swift negotiations (I don't know what happened and how much was paid, but I know Mike Ousby - so I feel sorry for Ron Grant!) Mike was the proud owner of a long awaited Roundhouse to his National Steam Tram Museum fleet.

Of course he couldn't leave it alone. A new gas valve and a few tweaks here and there meant that it was soon purring around the layout as if battery controlled - as if with flat batteries as well, it ran that slowly. It just crawled round for hours.

Saturday evening, when the exhibition halls closed to the public, saw anyone that was anyone descend the hill to the real railway.

In addition to the traction engines, a fairground organ and a beer tent (how could I forget the beer tent? Well, quite easily actually after several pints...) the Earl and Countess got up steam to pose in front of our cameras. Although my pictures were impressive, unfortunately don't lend themselves to reproduction here with all the black background. But take my word for it. A warm late Summer night, real ale, steam from traction engines and full size narrow gauge engines which were floodlit in front of beautiful scenery, more real ale, fairground music, more real ale, many a shared joke (ask Howard Jones the one about...) more real ale, chatting up Jacqui Sharpe... I think you get the picture. Brilliant!

A great show that would be hard to beat in the years to come. Who's going next year?

Dear LADS...

Get on your soapbox

Dear LADS,

I read with interest your article on Mr Ousby's purchase of a Roundhouse Steam Tram and I thought to myself "Nigel! He's done it again! He's made another mistake!"

The Roundhouse Stanley class tram purchased by Mr Ousby is a 1998 model which bore the nameplates "Clan Grant". This has been renamed by the National Steam Tram Museum to "Amsterdam". Well, your picture quite clearly shows, as any railway enthusiast knows, a picture of a 1995 Stanley class tram!! In addition, "Amsterdam" has a year 2000 type gas flow adjuster, whereas the original 1995 version is quite clearly visible in the illustration! You have obviously photographed a different model!

Please ensure that you always submit the correct details. I will, however, endeavor to assist you in this task by pointing out any mistakes.

Yours faithfully,
N. O'Rack

PS: Can we have more articles on the numbering systems employed on British Narrow Gauge lines before 1938, and how this is reflected in 16mm scale models.

Dear Nigel
Get a life.
Editor

This newsletter has been sponsored by:-

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Richard Longley

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Phone: 01263 588755

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New catalogue out (no.12)
- it has everything in

A New Mamod for Christmas

Mamod
release a
new style loco



Mamod are at long last producing a new steam loco, due out mid November.

Although beauty is definitely in the eye of the beholder, first impressions from the distorted press photos are that "cute" isn't one of the words you'd associate with this loco! We'll just have to wait and see what a few thousand 16mm Association members do with this one.

Now then... is Dave Wilding still producing those gears inside Mamod wheels...

Technical bits:-

- 0-4-0 32mm gauge wheels;
- Double acting cylinders, 0.375" diameter x 0.55" stroke;
- Modifield Walschaerts valve gear;
- Copper boiler;
- Butane gas fired or table burner;
- Mean boiler pressure 15psig;
- Max design speed 19 feet/second;
- Starting effort 0.9lbs;
- Running time 15 to 20 minutes;
- Cost? About £300 to £350

O'er th'ill & Far Away

- or a trip to Elsecar

The end of September saw the annual trek to the white rose county to enjoy the delights of Elsecar.

This year it was much quieter than last as it was not a gala day on the standard gauge railway. Mike Ousby and I arrived just before lunch, meeting several other members of the LADS. Your editor was away enjoying the 1st prize of a weekend in Lytham (2nd prize - 2 weekends).

This year there were only two layouts, but one was the rather enormous and fabulous new Nant Mawr by the Huddersfield group. This is not yet finished but has the beauty of showing how it has been constructed.

There were many traders present and all seemed to be having a good day.

Lunchtime saw us trek up the road for one of Mike's genuine bargains - a meal in the local!

All too soon it was time to trek back over the M62 home, having had a great day out at the Autumn Convention. Well done (again) Barbara Ponting.

Culcheth Correspondent

(who's no longer one wheel short of a full set - the red dragon has been sold)



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