

# Lancashire & District Section



December 2002 - No. 31



## Storm and a Tea Cup

**Guess whose event suffered from freak storms?**

**Sunday 27th October.** The North West is gripped in a band of low pressure, trees are being up rooted, the rain is being blown horizontally against the windows, the wipers are at warp speed and dogs and small children are all in doors. Yes this must be the Sunday of the Chris & Angela MacKenzie's Timpdon Railway open day!

If this had been any other venue then the sane amongst us (although few and far between) may not have considered this to be the ideal day for the pursuit of the wonderful world of garden railways.

The Timpdon outdoor line is undergoing expansion but due to the severe weather conditions the Management of the Railway had given the track gang a much-deserved day off.

Chris had obviously been working Angela and Callum hard and I was impressed with their bricklaying and paving skills. Of course Chris would have us believe this is all his own work - but we all know the truth!

I for one was very impressed with the 12'' to the foot signal box, not only the structure itself but also that he had managed to obtain planning permission! My garden shed has great potential for a similar conversion but my significant other half, for reasons I can understand, does not share my dream for a green and cream paint scheme let alone dummy levers!

Timpdon is however a unique place and housed within the facade of its own full size country station is the now famous and much admired Timpdon Lake exhibition layout. All nice and dry.

The idea of running trains and a chat despite the weather obviously had great appeal and



some 18 guests attended during the course of the afternoon.

Rob Guinness and his converted LGB loco followed by Mike Ousby and a wonderful meths fire Glynn Valley tram engine with matching coach hauled the inaugural trains.

The guests continued to arrive with boxes and carrying cases containing examples of their owner's handiwork.

John Fox had been working until the early hours to complete his latest masterpiece based around a 30's American Fire Dept pick up truck. This was a delightfully detailed model and John had been brave enough to remove the road wheels and replace them with the means to travel on rails. This had involved the skilful conversion of a budget toy loco chassis to which he had added radio control from a £10.00 rally car.

Another fine example of John's modelling excellence.

The Wilding / Sixsmith (still under construction) coach rake, albeit in truncated format, provided some of the passenger stock for the day. Hauled by a variety of motive power including Geoff's (matching still under construction) Roundhouse Billy.

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Visit the LADS on the web. For back issues - [www.narrow.gauge.btinternet.co.uk/lads.htm](http://www.narrow.gauge.btinternet.co.uk/lads.htm)

# CHRONICLES VII

An occasional extract from the diary of Alex Milne

## Caption Competition

**All planning decisions are definite** - er... provisionally.

Time spent looking through the file of sketches ('file' is rather grand - 'pile' would be better) showed that in all the schemes, grand and simple, there seemed common elements. This then will form the basis of the layout, which will allow for change in the light of experience with running. It will also allow the building of the layout 'phased' so that something will be running in the shortest period of time (NB See advice from absolutely everyone!)

It will be a simple continuous circuit with a loop for turning trains. There will be a small through station with limited facilities and a larger through station with a bay platform for a terminus. Close by the latter will be sidings and steam up area: To gain access to the central part of the garden there will be one movable bridge.

The general minimum radius will be 6 ft although the loop is likely to be down to 4ft 6ins (a pity about that)

The height above ground level will vary as the garden slopes down from right to left

This means the steaming bay, sidings and 'main' station will be around waist height while on the far side of the garden, the track will run about 12 - 14 inches above the ground.

Some parts of the track will have a solid, stone built foundation. Once built, this is not likely to alter (It was common to nearly all the plans I sketched). Other parts will be on a wooden base with either brick piers or plastic drain pipe.

The layout will be built in phases.

Phase one :- Stone work and other track bases on the main circuit to be constructed.

Phase two :- To get something running as quickly as possible (sorry, badly expressed (no pun there) - I don't mean speed trials - you know what I mean) the main circuit, including all points will be laid.

Phase three :- Laying of the steaming bay

Phase four :- Laying of all the sidings

Phase five :- (The longest) Everything else to change a track layout into a real garden railway

So there it is - from conception to planning and then forward out into the garden with bucket and spade, mortar and trowel - and spirit level!

Oh! - and it now has a name. Welcome to the...

### "Harwood & Oseland Junction Narrow Gauge Railway"

...or as it may be referred to when the garden is flooded, as it was in August (August for heavens sake!)

### The H20

More next month.

Last months picture provided two very good submissions.



From Mike Ousby was the proposed conversation:

*Howard Jones: "Mike, why are we putting our pints on our heads?"*

*Mike Ousby: "Simple, Howard, it means that diddy Chris MacKenzie can't reach them there!!"*

Another entry came from new member Martin Boyle. He commented:

*"How to get a good head on Welsh beer or vice-versa."*

It was a tough decision between the two. So, in the end, we decided that they could both be winners (well it is Christmas).

This month picture shows Sheila Harling (left) and Ruth Colling deep in thought at one of this years steam-ups. What are they thinking? The best entry, as always, receives a years free subscription to this newsletter.



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

I've just been reading, for the first time in a very long time, the 16mm Associations' booklet "Beginners Guide to 16mm Narrow Gauge Modelling". We forget how much useful advice is in this booklet - even for the experienced modeller. Yes, I know you've been modelling trains since the year dot and you can carve eccentric straps out of brass bar with your bare teeth, but I guarantee you'll learn something if you re-read it.

John Rogers

# Merry Christmas *and a* Happy New Year *to all our readers*

Us LADS are never ones to shy away from a bit of culture.

If we weren't steaming engines on a Sunday afternoon I'm sure that many of us would be found lying in a field of daffodils composing poetry.

It's for these reasons (also because I'm short of articles) that we've reproduced a favourite seasonal poem for you all. Enjoy!

## The Toy Trunk Railroad's Night Before Christmas by Ken Lauderback

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

"Twas the night before Christmas

In the ol' railroad shop  
The machines were all silent  
Work had come to a stop  
Jeb was cleaning up  
And preparing to leave,  
For a night with his pup  
And a great Christmas eve,  
When from the front of  
The shop came the huge sound  
Of an overloaded sleigh  
Impacting the ground.  
Jeb ran out the door,  
And old St. Nick laid there,  
And he looked up at Jeb  
With a withering glare.  
"Santa!" Jeb cried  
"What a mess! Are you hurt?"  
Then Santa stood up  
And he brushed off the dirt  
And he said with a growl  
I've just had enough  
Of you guys who like working  
On this antique stuff!  
Your Christmas list put  
quite a strain on my elves;  
Do you think we keep these old parts  
on our shelves??  
A Westinghouse air pump?  
A new engine cab?  
Where do I get this stuff?  
Buy it pre-fab?  
A shiny old bell?  
A steam engine whistle?  
This stuff ain't light  
like the down off a thistle!  
These reindeer can pull  
Only so much, you know!  
They couldn't quite handle  
That whole 4-4-0!  
When the load gets this heavy  
They make quite a fuss!  
Blitzen is listin'!  
Rudolph's wearing a truss!  
And speaking of reindeer,  
They ain't very keen  
On carrying these side rods  
For the ol' "17!"  
And what about me?  
What am I s'posed to do?



Does the word HERN-I-A  
Mean nothing to you?

There once was a time,  
I recall it quite well,  
When asking for train stuff  
Meant LI-O-NEL!

Now when you ask for  
Things for your train,  
Well, I can't really say  
Where it gives me a pain!  
In the future when sending  
Your Christmas desires,

Don't ask for a set  
Of steam engine tires!  
Now just don't ask again!

There's no sense even talking!  
All the steam stuff I have  
Is some coal for your stocking!

From now on if you want  
Your Christmas made Merry,  
Ask for TOY Choo-Choos!

Now THOSE I can carry!  
As for train stuff-- if you're  
Wanting something specific;  
Don't call on me—  
Call Union Pacific!"

Now Jeb stood there - totally dazed,  
As Santa climbed up on to his sleigh,

He called to his reindeer  
And they flew up and away.  
But Jeb heard him exclaim,  
Ere he drove out of sight:

"Next Christmas, please ask  
For something light!"

## Contributions?

Heard a whisper? Then give us a shout!  
No rumour too small,  
no exaggeration too big.

"We never let facts spoil a good story"

Simply send your text to:-

Chris MacKenzie  
2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,  
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA157SY  
0161 980 7804

or email

narrow.gauge@btinternet.com

## Storm & a Tea Cup

Continued from page 1

Alex and Carole, remarkably not away on holiday, entertained with their Lady Anne. The Barry Milner fitted venting drain cocks adding much to the atmospheric performance of this much-detailed loco.

It was nice to see Phil and Dawn, Jenny and Margaret Cliff, John and Lorna Angel and Neil Munro who had also braved the weather to share Chris and Angela's hospitality, not to mention the excellent pies, pasties and mountain of chocco biscuits and hot drinks.

As ever another excellent afternoon at the Timpdon Lake Railway. What better way is there to spend a wet Sunday!

Thanks again Chris!

## Dear Diary...

### 16mm Association LADS Events

- Bring an engine & have a run

We need Garden Steam-ups! Please book your event  
with our Area Co-ordinator, Cliff Robinson.

Sun 12 Jan - 11am - Culcheth

Cliff Robinson's volunteered to start off the new year -  
note earlier time. Give him a ring on 01925 762 455

### 16mm Exhibitions:-

Sat 22 & Sun 23 Feb 03 - Lincoln

Garden Railway Exhibition, Lawns Visitor Centre

### Other Exhibitions:-

Sat 4 & Sun 5 Jan (10am) - Preston

Foster Building, University, Fylde Road  
Large exhibition - probably not any 16mm

Sat 11 & Sun 12 Jan (10am) - Fleetwood

Community Centre, Blakiston Street.  
Mini exhibition - probably not any 16mm

This issue has been sponsored by

## Timpdon Electronics

Speed Controllers... Inertia Switches...  
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See enclosed catalogue

Chris MacKenzie - 0161 980 7804

www.narrow.gauge.btinternet.co.uk/home.htm

# Dear LADS...

Letters wot you rit

Dear Ed,

Can I, through your worthy publication, express my delight at being selected as winner of the recent 'llama' Caption Competition.

I must confess that my offerings were very much 'tongue-in-cheek', especially as I am not even officially a LAD! Indeed it is all down to those other pseudo-Lancastrians, Peter and Sheila Harling, for introducing me properly to the delights of 16mm in the garden, and giving me the opportunity to meet like-minded people.

Congratulations on an excellent newsletter & I look forward to receiving future copies.

Martin Williamson

(The Phantom Border-Crosser & Pseudo-Lancastrian), T'other side o't Pennines

Martin

Thanks for that. It doesn't matter you're not really in our area. We look on it as missionary work.

Editor

Dear Ed,

Please find attached the Nov 2002 edition of the quarterly newsletter for the 16mm Garratt Owners & Operators Association [Copy will be available at our Steam-Up events - Ed].

Anyone having an interest in Garratt type locomotives is invited to join this free Association.

If they would like to receive the newsletter by post, 4 stamped self-addressed envelopes need to be sent to Chris Moody, South Arbury, Long Drove, Waterbeach, CAMBRIDGE, CB5 9LP or they can receive it by email. Please send email address headed 'Subscribe to 16mm GO&OA' to southarbury@lineone.net

I'd be most grateful if you could give this a mention in your excellent magazine.

Please let me know if there's anything you'd like to mention in the Garratt newsletter.

Many thanks,

Chris Moody

Dear Mr MacFisheries

I had hoped that I would not have to write to you again on the subject of craving and seeking publicity for yourself.

A source has told me that you have been at it again, I refer to the November issue of the LADS magazine, "G Wizz 1st Prize".

The fact that you have been caught with a portable photostat machine and extra voting slips merely confirms your willingness to bend the rules.

All I can say is that your behaviour is more akin to those of Westminster types and I would ask you to desist. If you do not I will have no alternative but to send John Prescott around to deal with the matter.

T and C Blair,  
Westminster

Dear ~~Mr Ousby~~ T and C

I feel most upset at this inference. I will not comment further as the matter is now in the watter hands of my solicitor.

Editor

Dear T & C Blair

I have been paid asked to write and correct the libellous accusation made by yourselves in the LADS Newsletter [Letters Page, issue 31] in which you imply that my client, a person of impeccable references and good character, has incorrecly and dishonestly received due recognition in being awarded the "Best in Show" trophy.

To add insult to injury, you have further compared him to a "Westminster Type".

I note that this is not the first occasion in which you have publicly insulted my client. Is this some sort of "Witch Hunt" project? Perhaps it's a "Blair Witch Project"?

I await your letter of apology or I will have no alternative but to sue you rotten.

Up yours sincerely,

Friskham, Fleeceham & Scarper

"Making a fortune out of misfortune"

Dear Ed

Must you fill these limited pages with such trivial waffle and drivel?

A LAD

Dear LAD

Yes - until more articles are sent in. The are the depths in which we've had to fall.

Editor

Dear Ed

Many thanks for the copies of the LADS Mags (not the top-shelf variety!).

I'm the guy who you mention as asking "technical" questions regarding bridges at the G-WIZZ show. Let me state right now that I don't do technical! I'm more your "bodgit & fixit" type! In fact after talking to Dave Wilding, I'm more like kindergarten. I think that's the level I come in at, but I'm willing to learn. Dave asked me to come to Chris MacKenzie's open day but I had to refuse due to my Granddaughter's confirmation, but I much appreciated the offer.

If you would send me details of membership, and how much I owe you for the copies, I would be much obliged (perhaps when you send out mags to non-members it would be an idea to enclose the same).

Finally, many congratulations on winning "Best in Show" at Lytham St Annes. Much deserved I'd say!

Best wishes,  
Martin Boyle

Martin,

You're like the rest of us then - still learning. Thanks for your suggestion - see the new leaflet with this issue. And thanks for your kind words about the prize. It's nice to have evidence that the vote was genuine!

Editor

Dear Editor

I really enjoyed the article by John Fox, published in the LADS magazine on making platform lamps from empty toothpaste tubes.

However neither my wife nor myself have our own teeth, so we are unable to use empty toothpaste tubes.

Would Mr Fox be so kind as to write a sequel using empty tubes of false teeth fixative and Steradent tubes?

'Owd Cocker

PS: Would it be possible for milk and pobs to be on the menu as a choice at steam-ups?

## For Sale

Toyo mini lathe ML-210 & milling machine. 3 jaw chuck, tailstock drill chuck, fixed steady, set of toolbits. The milling head is complete with 6, 8 & 10mm collet set plus drill chuck. Ex-con & mounted on a small wooden baseboard. Cost £1,200 when new, but accept £450ono or will exchange for a Roundhouse Lady Anne kit.

Give John Fox a ring on 0161 725 9808.



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