

# Lancashire & District Section

No. 36



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The Return of the Lancashire Literary Link

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# It's Back! Newsletter Back on Track

**Yes! The Lancashire And District Section's own publication is now back in circulation!**

After a of 2½ year rest [*Ed: Was it really that long?*] [*Reporter: Yes!*], this organ will be back sticking through your letterbox at least six times per year.

Phil Sixsmith has joined Chris MacKenzie so that it doesn't become too much work for one person - well, we'd all rather be playing trains, wouldn't we? (*continued on page 2*)

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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)

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# It's Back!

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"We're guaranteeing a minimum of six issues a year", said Phil. "There may be more if something particular important is happening, but we'll try for one every two months at the very least".

"I suppose" added Chris, "It all depends how much we have to print. If people supply articles, give us plenty of news and generally make the job easier, then we'll print more newsletters".

### *There's always a cost...*

To save all the previous messing of trying to get each copy photostatted for free [Ed: *Don't ask too many questions, but there are some advantages to not being retired from work...*], not to mention blagging money for stamps, finding envelopes, etc etc etc, we've decided to introduce a charge.

We've looked at all the costs, done our sums, counted on all our fingers, gone and got a calculator, worked it all out again, and in the end guessed the price of each issue.

The cost of each issue is therefore £1.00, when posted to your door.

This ridiculously low financial outlay pays for photostating by a local printer (44p), the cost of a stamp (21p) and the envelope (2p).

### *Send your subscription to Phil*

All you'll have to do is send a subscription for as many issues as you want, to Phil Sixsmith (address at the end of this article).

When we get to the last issue you've paid for, we'll put a slip of paper in with that last newsletter, reminding you to send more dosh - that's if you want to receive future issues.

"What happens if I collect the newsletter from an event?" I hear you ask. Sorry! That counts as one issue off your allowance you've paid for. Okay, Phil and Chris both understand that this means it should be made cheaper to you as there's been money savings on postage. However this money saved will be put to other uses.

**Send your subscription** for as many issues as you want, at £1.00 per issue to:-

**Phil Sixsmith  
21 Vine Crescent  
Great Sankey  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA5 3BD**

..or give it to him at an event.

*Please don't telephone about subscriptions. It would take far too much time to speak to nearly 100 people by phone!*

The bright ones amongst you will have already added up the newsletter costs (44p + 21p + 2p = 67p). The "profit" of 33p has to be spent on other things.

You see, in order to find something to write about, we swap newsletters with many other 16mm Association area groups and there's the cost of the photostating, stamps and envelopes to be found for these additional copies.

We also hope to have copies of old newsletters available at exhibitions to help promote the hobby. There'll be a donation tin, but experience tells us that there's always a shortfall (and neither Phil or Chris want to stand at the stall all day on the off chance a copy is taken without a donation!).

"We have other additional costs as well" said Chris, perhaps becoming too defensive. "We've produced a LADS Fact Sheet for giving out to new LADS Group members. The production of this also costs money"

"If we end up with too much extra money, then we can always give everyone a free issue at some time in the future" explained Phil.

"Hopefully people will understand and not moan" said Chris. "Mind you, if they don't like the arrangement they have a choice of course. They can simply not subscribe, or they can write the d\*mned thing themselves!"

There is a way, however, to get your newsletter for free. Every month, before we post copies out, the newsletter will be put on our web site for downloading. This service is without any cost.

### *Advertising?*

"Whether to allow advertising created a bit of head scratching" said Chris. "We want to be able to mention new products and would particularly welcome members voicing their opinions on new engines, wagons, or anything

else they'd bought. However we don't know how to answer companies who want to buy a section of a page or insert a flyer."

The Print Team considered charging a set rate. However this means keeping complicated accounts and, more importantly, spending precious modelling time administrating it all.

"In the end" said Chris, "We've decided to refuse all advertising or sponsorship requests for a while. We'll run with it for now, see how it goes, and review the decision soon."

So let's give it a trial. One way or another we need the newsletter and this seems to be the best way of administrating it.

# Take me to your Leader...

I suppose if I knew anything about politics, then I could compare our present situation to some remote dictatorship country, and then go on to explain that we have now become equal members in our co-operative government. It's a good job that I don't understand politics then (all I know is, no matter who you vote for, a Government always manages to get in).

You see there have been quite a few changes on the Area Co-ordinator front since we last went to print.

I seem to recall that Cliff Robinson was *loco parentis* at the time, with Dave Wilding just about to take over.

Dave did a brilliant job - but, dare I say, too good a job. He left no time for his own thousand and one projects and, in short, did far too much for other people. From an outsiders point of view, this seemed to comprise of helping newcomers with all their problems - planning layouts, laying tracks to organising private events.

Because we have no public list of members, Dave found himself in the awkward position of having to choose people from his own contact list, and then ring them all up, organising directions etc!!! It's something I couldn't do for very long - let alone a whole year!

In an attempt to rescue some of his life for himself, Dave regrettably (but understandingly) gave up the role.

Despite everyone deciding that we needed an Area Co-ordinator to organise steam-up events, no one volunteered.

Rather than let the LADS die, Mike Ousby kindly took up the reins.

This was, again understandably, done on Mike's terms. He wasn't prepared to spend his evenings telephoning everyone up to advertise an event (and who is?). Instead he started a Yahoo Chat Group so that events could be posted on there and the Silver Surfers amongst us could pass on messages to the technophobes.

This didn't work for some reason or other - or at least not as well as anticipated. It seems people need encouragement to get them to have an open day. The only thing I didn't like about the process was the fact that the critics of the system weren't prepared to replace it with anything better!

Mike wants to stay on as Area Co-ordinator, but Peter and Sheila Harling have agreed to help.

*Continued on back page*

**Heard any Rumours? Something happening? Then the public have a right to know!**



## News & Rumours from around the region

The last we heard **Bill Cook** was in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

**Dave Wilding** is concentrating more on 12" to the foot scale engines. Gossip has it that he's a frequent visitor at Boston Lodge.

**Matthew Wilding** is getting well and truly bitten by the 16mm bug. He's really pleased with his brand new Locomotive Darjeeling.

**John Sharpe** is still continuing his quest for the perfect little contractors style loco. Meanwhile he's enjoying his new Roundhouse Carrie. What's it like John?

Have you seen the beautiful little diesel engines by **Smith & Harrison**, which people are raving about? Apparently the "Smith" is no other than Rob Smith who, together with his colleague "Harry Harrison", are both Roundhouse Engineering employees. No wonder they're good!

**Alex Milne** has now finished his garden railway (well in as much as a garden railway is ever finished). We need more info!

**Phil and Dawn Gower** are now the very proud official parents of **Chanise, Casey** and **Corey**. They appear to be really lovely kids and great to be with. Welcome to the group!

Is this the only *gossip* news since we last went to print? Come on! "The public have a right to know!" and "The truth is out there somewhere" [Ed: Not that we ever let truth get in the way of a good story...]

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

If your train keeps derailing, before getting out the track and back-to-back gauges, check that one of your 3-link couplings isn't twisted through 180 degrees.

*John Rogers*

# What's New?

Thought I'd have a trawl of the internet to find some new releases that may be of interest.

As a fan of the L&B, I had to have a few of the new 4 wheel vans they've just brought out. An absolute bargain at around £27.00 each, complete with a spare set of axles for a quick change of gauge.

It looks like they have been very popular, especially in plain grey or brown and may be difficult to find - but they're well worth the search.

### Lynton & Barnstaple 4 Wheel Van R19-2



This is a model of the 4 wheel van in its final form. It is available in the L&BR Grey livery or the Southern Brown livery. Four different running numbers are available in each livery. A Data Only version, which only carries the weight data, is available in each colour. The van comes with a 45mm insulated wheel set fitted but a 32mm wheel set is

provided for use on '0' gauge. Couplings are chopper type but have a hook fitted if you wish to remove the chopper hook and use 3 link chains.

### Lynton & Barnstaple Open Wagon R19-1

This is a model of the open wagon in its modified form. It is available in the L&BR Grey livery or the Southern Brown livery.

Eight different running numbers are available in each livery. A Data Only version, which only carries the weight data, is available in each colour.

The wagon comes with a 45mm insulated wheel set fitted but a 32mm wheel set is provided for use on '0' gauge.

Couplings are chopper type but have a hook fitted if you wish to remove the chopper hook and use 3 link chains.



*Phil Sixsmith*

# The New Station Moggie

Finding British outline cars at a reasonable price can be difficult, but at the recent Elsecar 16mm show Steve Warrington of Back2Basics had this brilliant Morris Minor for sale. They plan the 'half timbered' estate in the near future.

This diecast model Morris Minor (1959) is Green and features opening bonnet with engine, boot, doors and also working steering, suspension, and wheels.



It's one of the new Minichamps range of classic British cars and is even right-hand drive.

They also do a lilac coloured convertible at the same price.

I bought mine from Back2Basics for £17.50. It's a brilliant model, but trust Chris MacKenzie to point out it's missing a tax disc!

*Phil Sixsmith*

# Dear Diary...

## LADS Steam-Up Events

*These events are held in a member's own garden. All 16mm Association members are welcome (including relatives) but please let your host know you're coming.*

### Sunday sometime, wherever

Erm... There doesn't seem to be any events planned. If someone is organising an event, could they tell Peter Harling or even Mike Ousby, Chris MacKenzie or Phil Sixsmith?

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

Do you want to temporarily disable the auto-centring on R/C transmitters, particularly in connection with photographing (or videoing) the trains?

Then unscrewed one of the self-tappers on the front panel by about 6 turns, and wrapped a rubber band around this and the control lever. It's easy to adjust the tension so the control will stay in neutral or full-forward gear - but will snap back to neutral after reversing.

*John Rogers*

## Contributions?

"Well, I love reading the newsletter... It's good that other people write things...

I would write something but:-

I might show myself up; or

I can't write; or

My English isn't good enough; or

I'm too busy; or

I'm going to... ..I'll do it soon"

Does this sound like you making excuses?

Well, they aren't very good reasons.

Ease your conscience & send your text to:-

Chris MacKenzie

2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,

Altrincham, Cheshire, WA157SY

or email

[narrow.gauge@btinternet.com](mailto:narrow.gauge@btinternet.com)

## Garden Railway Shows & Model Railway Exhibitions

**Sat 19th Nov** - Worsley Road, **WORSLEY**, Manchester, M27 0FF. OPENING TIMES: 10am to 5pm. Layouts from 2mm Finescale through to O gauge. Full trade support. Refreshments and free (on street) parking.

**Sat 19th - Sun 20th Nov** - Workington Transport Heritage Centre, Lakes College, Lillyhall, **WORKINGTON**, Cumbria, CA14 4JN. OPENING TIMES: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4pm. 12 layouts booked in OO, EM, On30 & N gauges. BBC bus there.

**Fri 25th - Sun 27th Nov** - 44th Wakefield Annual Model Railway Exhibition, Thornes Park Athletics Stadium, Horbury Road, **WAKEFIELD**, West Yorkshire, WF2 8TY. OPENING TIMES: Fri 5.30pm to 9pm, Sat 10am to 6pm, Sun 10am to 5pm. 21 layouts from 2mm to 7mm, full trade support, refreshments. Free parking.

**Sat 3rd - Sun 4th Dec** - Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, **BIRMINGHAM**, West Midlands, B40 1NT. OPENING TIMES: Sat 10am to 6pm, Sun 10am to 5pm. **Timpdon will be here**, at the UK's biggest model rail expo.

## Full Size Railway Events

### One weekend sometime - West Lancashire Railway

I know the West Lancs Railway thrives on being one of Lancashire's best kept secrets, but does anyone know of anything they've got planned? We'll advertise it! [Ed: especially the Santa Specials that my little lad thinks are brilliant!]

## Take me to your Leader... - Continued

Peter and Sheila, who I'm sure you all know and love, have agreed to act as 'Diary Secretaries' to co-ordinate the LADS steam up diary.

Enclosed with this inaugural newsletter is an empty Event Planner. If you have an outside layout and don't mind tons of praise (best not to mention the tea drinking and size 9's at this stage) please put your name down for an event.

Peter and Sheila will then make sure the dates don't clash and negotiate with all concerned. And then the group is well and truly back with a vengeance!

So... Let's make it work! It's down to all of us. Mike Ousby is the Co-ordinator with the 16mm Association; Peter & Sheila Harling are Event Planners; Phil Sixsmith is counting the pennies and helping Chris MacKenzie write this rubbish!

"Ask not what you Group is doing for you, but what you can do for it" (or something).

## "Don't tell them your name, Pike!"

Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire asking, well lots of questions really. We want to know your name, address, telephone, email, etc, to make sure no ones moved or lost interest in the hobby.

Most important, though, are the tick boxes alongside your details asking permission to circulate them in this newsletter or just amongst LADS group members.

No problems if you don't want anyone to know, but we can't invite you to any special events if you don't let us give out your details!

Return this questionnaire to either Chris MacKenzie or Phil Sixsmith with your subscription, or even hand it to them at an event. Just do it though!

If a questionnaires is not returned will be simply think you're not interested.



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