

Lancashire & District Section

No. 37



LADS membership list continues to grow

39 Not Out! Membership still Growing

The Lancashire And District Section's (LADS) list is continuing to grow from strength to strength!

Since our re-launch (last issue) in which we asked you all to complete a small form, we've had 39 back! If we knock off the three complimentary copies (we swap newsletters with other areas), this means that there are 36 people who want to be part of a group! [see, I can do sums]

This means that the group won't fail. We asked you to vote with your feet, and we now have something to build on.

We'll be publishing a full Membership List as soon as the latecomers have had chance to join our merry band - but this is their final reminder. If you received a membership form with this newsletter, then this will be your last copy unless you sign up!

The people who we've heard from so far, are listed on page 2.

Out of the 39 who've replied so far, the majority want to have the

newsletter by email (21 members), whilst the remainder have sent us some money to get it by traditional post.

But the story is even better than that!

Peter Harling, our new Events Co-ordinator, has had a great response from members wanting to open their garden railway to us all. If you skip to the back page you can see we've got quite a few planned.

There will be more events this year, so watch the back page to see what's on. Keep the interest up!

Hot-Pot Colling the Metal's Back

The Lancashire And District Section (LADS) were definitely 'Back On Track' at Steve and Ruth Colling's steam up.

Sunday 13 November 05 was the first "general invite" steam up at a member's garden for quite a long time - and

Steve and Ruth Colling did us all proud with their superb railway and generous hospitality.

Steve has rebuilt part of his railway to navigate round the much larger conservatory.

He also seems to have done something with the branch line that went down to the shed. I'm unsure what, but engines now perform much better coming back up the hill, and the whole area looks so much bigger!

The 'temporary bridge' (the one that has been a permanent feature for the last ten years) has now also disappeared.

Sam Sparkes seized the opportunity to sail a model boat on what must be the largest garden pond in our group (14 feet by 127 miles).

It was fantastic to enjoy everyone's company again and chat away in a garden surrounded by live steam engines. The constant stream of tea and coffee made me realise what I'd been missing all these months - especially when the hop-pot arrived! Pure bliss!

So it's a great big thank you to Steve & Ruth Colling.

[Ed: Joke's are never as funny when you have to explain them, but come on! The headline isn't that bad! Say it without the "hot".]

38 Not Out!

Membership still Growing

Continued from Page 1

The people who have replied so far are:-

John	Angell	David	Issacs
Andrew	Armstrong	Mel	Jones
Ernie	Barnes	Andy	Lether
Brian	Barrow	Geoff	London
Robert	Bilsborrow	Ian	Lowcock
Martin	Boyle	Chris	MacKenzie
John	Coe	Tony	Massey
Steve	Colling	Alex	Milne
Bill	Cook	Tom	Morris
Jooles	Dawes	Geoff	Munday
Derek & Phil	Eaton	Phil	Pacey
Roger	Fletcher	John	Sharpe
Steve	Foster	Edward	Simmons
Gerald	Grimshaw	Phil	Sixsmith
Rob	Guinness	Sam	Sparkes
Peter	Harling	Tony	Turner
Mark	Haydock	Ray	Wilkinson
Peter	Holland		

Associate Members:

Tag	Gorton (<i>Garden Rail</i>)
John	Hulse (<i>G Scale North West</i>)
Robin	Willis (<i>East Surrey 16mm Group</i>)

Let's hope the list continues to grow.

Garden Indoor Railways?

Is it just me, or does anyone else fancy building an indoor railway layout?

Of course we have access to Chris MacKenzie's portable layout "Timpdon Lake Railway" but it isn't really *that* portable, is it? (For the one's not in the know, it needs a long wheelbased transit van to move it, not to mention the several strong volunteers).

If we had a medium sized layout that was nothing more than track on bare boards, then it would be possible to fit it in a large car.

Now before any of the more seasoned LADS point out that we already have one stored at the West Lancs Railway, I should point out that I'm reliably informed that it's well past its best. The track is beyond repair, the boards are warped and unstable - it's a goner. So why do we need another one? Well, just that some of us thought it'd be nice to have an indoor line which we could use in Winter. We could also do displays at West Lancs Railway events (I've not asked, but I'm sure they'd welcome it), not to mention taking it to garden railway exhibitions, shows, etc. You never know, we could end up hiring a hall every month, like our local G Scale counterparts do - all funded by traders.

If you have any thoughts, or want to help, contact Chris or Phil.

Dear LADS...

The safety valve where you can let off some steam

Dear Ed,

I endorse Chris's appeal for material for the newsletter. He has made a great effort to produce this and I'm sure that we don't want it to be written by Chris alone. So we are looking for a contribution from everybody, especially to host open days. I wish the newsletter well and am optimistic that it will succeed.

I would like to set the record straight about the article, "Take me to your leader", in issue one [Ed: Actually issue 36 - we retained the numbering system]. I read that I wasn't prepared to spend my evenings telephoning up everyone to advertise an event. This was never the case. As members will recall when I initially telephoned them all to explain that I was taking over as Area Coordinator, I set up the egroup because there was a general lack of enthusiasm for paying subscriptions and I was unable to fund all those telephone calls due to being unemployed. I probably spent more time setting up the egroup than I would have done telephoning around.

Best,

Mike Ousby

Dear Editor

I feel I must write and complain about the review you did on two Lynton & Barnstaple wagons published in issue 36.

The "review" described them fully and even published the price. Unfortunately one essential fact was missing - the manufacturer! I sincerely hope that this standard will be improved upon in subsequent issues. I have paid good money for this "news" and therefore expect value for money.

Please publish details.

Anne O' Rack

Dear Anne,

Yes sorry about that. The wagons are, of course, manufactured by Accucraft. They are available through normal suppliers.

Editor

Dear Head Hitter

I've spotted *another* mistake in Issue 36.

You state that the Morris 1000 is available from Steve Warrington of Back2Basics.

Well, how do I contact him? Please publish details.

Anne O' Rack

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your enthusiastic support. You can contact Steve Warrington at 28 Church Road, Dawley, Telford, TF4 2AS, although he usually attends most exhibitions.

Editor

You! Newspaper Chap!

Well done that man! And the other chaps!

Glad to have you back on board. Carry on the good work with this paper malarkey you write. Yes, good rag. Promote that man.

Damned good show.

It reminds me when I had a regiment in...

*Colonel Ponsby-Smythe
(Indian Army, Retired)*

Hi Chris,

Just read the revived LADS mag on t'internet thingy. Good to see you back.

It's not from choice that the West Lancs. is a well kept secret! Publicity can be expensive, the criteria for decent signage somewhat oppressive, and you seem to be one of the few visitors to tell the world that you have enjoyed your visit to us! We even get long-term residents of Hesketh Bank itself expressing surprise at finding we are there!

I can confirm that the Santa Specials will be going ahead as usual on the 11th, 17th and 18th of December and we firmly intend to maintain our reputation for value for money at this event.

If I forget to keep you informed of events you can keep up to date at www.westlancs.org

Regards,

Derek Preece

Dear Derek,

As this newsletter took so long to get out, we're unfortunately too late for Santa Specials (well I wasn't - it was a great day out! - Thanks!).

The LADS have always enjoyed a great liaison with the West Lancs - something that I'm sure everyone agrees on.

We'll try to keep all the members up to date with West Lancs events through this newsletter - as long as someone keeps me informed!

As far now, the readers may be interested to note that the West Lancashire Light Railway will be open, with steam-hauled passenger trains in operation, every Sunday from:

2 April 2006 to 29 October 2006

In addition, they're open:

Good Friday (14 April) and

Bank Holiday Mondays

(17 April; 1 May; 29 May; 28 August).

This railway is definitely one of the most charismatic and a good source of modelling reference right on our doorstep.

Get a lung full of sulphur here in Lancs - you can't beat it!

Editor



News & Rumours from around the region

Dave Wilding has returned from his second trip back to India this month (January) to see his beloved Dairejeeling Railway. He's leaving Margaret at home this time though, and introducing enthusiast son **Matthew** to the Jewel of the Crown.

Chris MacKenzie wasn't for reporting this bit of news, but Phil Sixsmith made him, pointing out that he was all too ready to report on other people's news.

Chris appeared in this New Years Honours list, having been awarded the MBE.

"It's a work related thing", said Chris "nothing to do with writing this rubbish every month".

He joins what seems to be an ever increasing list of civil dignitaries in the LADS group. If we carry on at this rate, we'll be able to display 'By Appointment' soon!

Well done.

It may be old news by now, but the Whistle Blower has heard that **Geoff London** has a new engine of some description.

But this is only half his news - he's become a Granddad on the birth of a bouncy baby granddaughter. Congratulations!

Have you seen the new LADS web site? No? Then have a look now. No computer? Then ask a child to show you how, and have a real good nose!

Some pictures of railways and LADS members have been posted to the site (I don't know how old some of them are, but it was definitely over 1 stone ago for most us!

Chris MacKenzie sends his apologies for too big a delay in this newsletter getting published. He offers lengthy mitigating circumstances for such a long absence, most of which are too boring to print here [and the bottom of the page is getting closer].

However (as the gap is now too small for another story) his computer's now fixed; the overtime's stopped; his studys are nearly at an end; and the exhibition commitments have dried up. So sorry for the delay.

Life with a Young Woman

John Sharpe tells us about the new love in his life, Carrie...

(That's living with the latest offering from Roundhouse,
not John's youngest daughter of the same name)

During the Summer, Carrie joined the Limesdale Railway fleet, which already includes two other manual controlled Roundhouse engines, Jack and Billy.

Both of these engines are now over ten years old, so how does this youngster compare?

Cylinders and boiler seem similar, but obviously the valve gear is very different being Hackworth rather than Walscherts.

This works just as well but it is less accessible and not as easy to lubricate when the engine is on the track. Don't get me wrong - this is more down to the body style than the valve gear.

The gas burner is more controllable and seems quieter than on my older engines.

A water gauge and fill system comes as standard and is very easy to use. I find this to be of particular use when the engine is blowing off steam whilst shunting, it's easy to lower the pressure by adding water. It's also nice when the gas runs out to refill and have another ten minutes run or so and not have to worry about how much water is left.

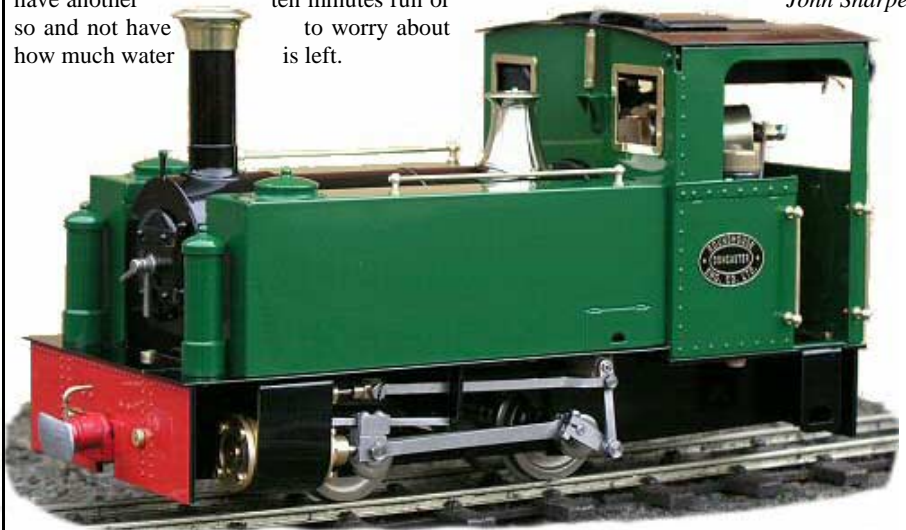
The lubricator is hidden away better, but is very close to the water gauge, making the top a bit too fiddly. Nice to have it draining below the footplate though.

The regulator and the reversing lever are on the opposite way around, regulator on the left side closing towards the cab roof. This does take some getting use to but does actually work better, with most movement of the lever taking place within the widest part of the cabside. This, together with a more accessible reversing lever make Carrie a very enjoyable engine to drive.

Performance is as expected, up to the usual high Roundhouse standards.

All in all, the younger generation are just as good as the more mature ones!

John Sharpe



LADS Contacts

Useful addresses

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Good stories always welcome - in fact we're that desperate, even bad ones will do!

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 a few days before.

Sun 9 April - Bill Cook
Southport Tel: 01524 65110

CANCELLED

Sun 30 April (Bank Hol) - Sam Sparks
Ulverston, Cumbria Tel: 01229 583074
samprakes2004@yahoo.co.uk

Sat 20 May (not Sunday) - John Sharp
Lancaster Tel: 01524 65804
No radio controlled loco's

Sun 4 June - Phil Pacey
Fulwood, Preston Tel: 01772 729 203
philandgill.pacey@virgin.net

If are intending to open your railway in 2006, could you please let Peter Harling have your list of dates (3 choices), by the end of **FEBRUARY**. This is important to catch the deadline for the Exchange.

STOP PRESS

Bill Cook's event on the 9 April has been cancelled due to ill health. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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

For painting those important little parts, it would be hard to beat the Dupli-colour range of car touch-up paints.

They cover well, dry quickly and come with their own brush. They even include GWR under the pseudonym of Austin / Morris Brooklands Green.

Have a look in Halfords.

John Rogers



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Garden Railway Shows & Model Railway Exhibitions

Sat 4 - Sun 5 March - Rainhill Model Railway Exhibition, The Village Hall, Weaver Avenue, RAINHILL, Merseyside, L35 0NR. Sat: 10-6pm; Sun: 10-5pm.
Rainhill Village Hall is found behind the shopping precinct off Warrington Road, Rainhill, and is signposted from the main road and the M62

Sat 11 - Sun 12 March - Narrow Gauge North 2006, Benton Park School, Harrogate Road, Rawdon, LEEDS, LS19 6LX. Sat 10.30-5pm; Sun 10.30-4.30pm
16+ narrow gauge layouts from 009 to G plus 25+ traders and miniature railway

Sat 11 - Sun 12 March - Heywood Model Railway Exhibition, Champness Hall, Drake Street, ROCHDALE. 10-5pm

Sat 18 March - Scout Rail Model Railway Exhibition, Victoria Hall, , SETTLE

Sat 18 - Sun 19 March - Stockport Model Railway Exhibition, Stockport Guild Hall, Wellington Street South, STOCKPORT

Sat 25 - Sun 26 March - Macclesfield Model Railway Show, Tytherington High School, Manchester Road, MACCLESFIELD, SK10 2EE. 10 - 5pm

Sat 1 April - Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers, Nat. Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, STONELEIGH, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ. 10.30 to 5pm This is the major 16mm scale narrow gauge modelling event of the year. 60+ traders selling all the latest 16mm models and accessories. Six layouts. Coal firing.

Sat 8 April - Leyland Model Railway Exhibition, St Andrews Church Hall, Worden Lane, LEYLAND, PR25 3EL. 10-5pm All the clubs layouts and invited layouts + trade

Sat 8 - Sun 9 April - Meridienne Exhibitions Ltd - Large Scale Model Railway Exhibit'n, Fosse Way, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV31 1XN. 10-5pm

Local Railway Events : West Lanc's

Station Road, Hesketh Bank, Near Preston, Lancashire PR4 6SS

Sun 2 April - Friendly Engines Day

Sun 14 May - Teddy Bears' Day Don't forget to bring your teddy for a few surprises!

Sat 12 - Sub 13 August - Annual Gala Weekend All available engines in steam.

Sun 8 Oct - Autumn Steam Gala

All available engines in steam; demonstration freight trains, hauled by steam and diesel locomotives, lineside photography and night photography opportunities.

Can you supply us with events on other local railways?

You can see that brief details are all we need.

Please tell Chris MacKenzie or Phi Sixsmith as soon as possible.