

Lancashire & District Section



No. 39 - March 2007

LADS Plea for Help: Keep the Group Going!

We've decided to have another stab at keeping the Lancashire And District Section (LADS) up and running. We refuse to let the group wither.

We aren't asking for people to take up a full time role as journalist or holding an event in their garden every month. All we need is for each and everyone with a 'runnable' railway, to have an open day sometime this year.

You don't need to book outside caterers, or have a degree in domestic science; a mug of tea is more enough. (and "no" - people won't think you're mean! If everyone feels obliged to provide a full spread, then we're bound to be excluding several members and therefore missing out on some great railways.)

Please see Page 3 for more information.

2nd Part of the appeal

If this newsletter is to continue, we need some articles.

A few lines on anything will do, any subject or opinion. We don't want you to provide extensive lengthy articles. Anything over 500 words will have to be spread over several issues, so we're not talking about a lot of work.

We could also do with letters for our famous postbag.

Simply email, post or hand to our Editor Chris MacKenzie.

(what are you waiting for - get writing!)

As we have one or two educated LADS in the group (we must have - law of averages), I am indebted to John Rogers for bringing to my attention an Alfred Lord Tennyson poem.

It appears that Tennyson was a garden railway fan (No! This is serious - honest, it's not a wind up!). Check out "The Princess: A Medley" written in 1847.

...round the lake

A little clockwork steamer paddling plied
And shook the lilies: perch'd about the knolls
A dozen angry models jettied steam:
A petty railway ran ; a fire balloon
Rose gem-like up before the dusky groves
And dropt a fairy parachute and past:
And there thro' twenty posts of telegraph
They flash'd a saucy message to and fro
Between the mimic stations; so that sport
Went hand in hand with Science;

It is with much regret that I report on the loss of one of our members, Ken Coe.

Perhaps not that well known to you all by name, Ken used to come from Macclesfield mainly to events at my house in Timperley. He would also come to the Timpdon layout at shows and have a talk and a quite cigar to watch the trains go by.

It's very difficult to write about someone in this way, especially when I realise that I never took the opportunity to get to know him better. Perhaps the best way to describe him is to say that he was always the perfect gentleman and, in a way, too nice and polite and decent to mix with us rabble!

I always took pleasure in discussing our latest projects and have missed seeing him whilst the group went a bit quieter.

I will miss him.

He passed away last September after a short illness.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Robin.

What's this?

A LADS member recently came across this railway related box. Any ideas what it was used for?

If you want to enter our competition, send your ideas in for a chance to win a years free subscription by email.

Alternatively, if you don't want to enter the competition and do it just for fun, the answer's at the bottom of the page.



It's known as a "Double Trip Box". It was used by engine drivers until after the war for carrying food and documents. When making an outward and return trip requiring an overnight stay at a railway hostel, food had to be taken with you as no canteens were available, only cooking facilities. The lid contained a separate compartment for the carrying of papers - drivers authority, journey instructions and union cards etc.

CHRONICLES IX

An occasional extract from the diary of Alex Milne

It seems like only yesterday that I last put pen to paper and told you I was busy making some coaches and a fort for one of my grandsons. The coaches are complete and the fort turned out to be a little Spanish semi-derelict finca (I had been reading some "Sharpe" novels) and was populated with Napoleonic characters - good fun!

So all that was in the February / March 2003 edition of the LADS newsletter and here we are in 2007 - so has anything been happening in the Ribble Valley in the meantime?

YES! (What do you mean, Mr Editor, 'Yes' isn't enough!)

The outbreak of World War III

Well, OK. The plans I drew were turned into something more concrete (and stone, mortar, and wood) but had to be modified due to the imminent threat of the outbreak of World War III. More about this shortly!

The garden slopes down from right to left so there was going to be a significant difference in the height of rail level above ground level. This is further complicated by the area of the garden furthest from the house being raised up behind a low retaining wall. In fact this area really dictates what the actual level of the line should be.

I had marked out the route the railway would take just by laying bricks down on the lawn and sticking pieces of wood into flower beds. I found this particularly useful to give an idea of how curves would look and generally see if everything was feasible.

On the level

The next task was to establish levels.

I looked briefly at the new angled laser levelling schemes but decided that the Romans and the Greeks had successfully used the "water in a tube" method and you couldn't knock 2,000 years experience. 'Screwfix' had in their catalogue a levelling kit. This comprises a tube, two graduated end pieces and instructions for use. Water

went into the tube and off I went. Result - failure! The tube is a good length and as it was winter and a bit dark, it was almost impossible to see the water level. However, two or three drops of cochineal dropped into the water gradually coloured all of it and the level could be easily seen - isn't technology wonderful. I established two points which were dead level with one another and from these was able to cover the rest of the line. I would set up two level points along the track route about four yards apart, mark them, then hammer a peg in half way and check to see if this agreed with the original level. It took quite a while to do this and I probably over engineered it by making too many observations, but the track proved to be reasonably level - even though I say so myself!

Outstanding Natural Beauty

Part of the garden which I had identified as 'wasteland' and was ideal in size and shape for a station complex, turned out to be an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, guarded by watch towers, attack dogs, machine guns etc. - you get the picture. So I gracefully withdrew to consider the meaning of life, the universe, and had all faith in human nature restored when Carol said, "Why don't you run it into the garage instead".

So before there was a change of mind I had a builder round to knock a hole in the wall - timber was bought - plans drawn and a 'station complex' (not really very complex) storage sidings and a steam up area started.

The only stipulation was that Carol could get her car in the garage - but this is jumping ahead a bit.

More next issue

Understanding Engineers

The graduate with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with a sociology degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Contact Details

Events Co-ordinator:

Peter Harling
01200 445818
peterpimlico@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:

Chris MacKenzie
0161 980 7804
narrow.gauge@btinternet.com

Money Matters & Reporter:

Phil Sixsmith
01925 724268
phil.sixsmith@googlemail.com

Dear LADS...

The safety valve where you can let off some steam

The last issue was dated 1 April [was it really that long ago?]. The occasion couldn't pass without at least one article written with a smirk, hence the front page story "Water water everywhere...". If you recall it was all about the use of water in your boiler. A special type of water was recommended.

One LADS member sprung into action:

Dear Editor,

The LADS might like to know that here at Daresbury Laboratory I have access to an infinite quantity of dehydrated water. If anyone cares to email me here at work I'll send the water in an attachment by return.

Robert Bilsborrow

Senior Station Scientist

Dilute X-Ray Spectroscopy

You'd be amazed at how many people fell for it! I'd really like to know about the ones who went into their local chemists to ask for "dehydrated water". Somehow, though, I don't think they'll be coming forward...



News & Rumours

The Whistle Blower is ashamed to say he's heard no juicy LADS gossip despite bugging gardens, workshops and bedrooms. Is Lancashire life really this boring?

Send an email now - the public have a right to know!

ACME Engineering (our own Mike Ousby) have produce a rather nice all in one conversion package for the Accucraft green diesel (as sold, it's for 2 rail pickup only). It's eve got sound!
Anyone tried it? Any reports?

Accucraft may have a new diesel coming out. Rumours say it's at the AGM.

There's a rumour that there's a new Lady Anne coming out for the Roundhouse 25th anniversary. Again, wait for the AGM.

Roundhouse are also, we believe, about to launch a battery powered Criccieth Castle diesel outline.

Heard any Rumours? Something happening? Let us know! (look on it as free counselling)

2007 Open Day Planner

**If you have a garden railway and are prepared to have an open day in 2007,
please let us know which dates you would prefer.**

We hope to publish the events as soon as we can. As this takes a lot of planning, replies are required ASAP.

**Peter Harling, Pimlico House, Gisburn, Nr Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 4ES
01200 445818 peterpimlico@aol.com**

Simply write down the appropriate days and send by post, telephone him, see him at a show, or send an email - just do it!

Remember that you don't have to provide a full buffet meal! A mug of tea is more than people expect or require.

We've listed all the Sundays left in 2007 to help you

(just because there's something shown as happening that day doesn't mean you can't have an event - it's just to help you plan)

25-Mar-07	<i>Clocks go forward</i>	2-Sep-07	Garden Railway Gala, Llanfair*
1-Apr-07	Day after Stoneleigh*	9-Sep-07	
8-Apr-07	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	16-Sep-07	
15-Apr-07		23-Sep-07	
22-Apr-07		30-Sep-07	Elsecar Garden Rail Exhibition
29-Apr-07		7-Oct-07	
6-May-07	<i>May Bank Holiday</i>	14-Oct-07	
13-May-07	Roundhouse Open Day*	21-Oct-07	
20-May-07		28-Oct-07	<i>Clocks go back</i>
27-May-07	<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>	4-Nov-07	
3-June-07		11-Nov-07	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
10-June-07		18-Nov-07	
17-June-07		25-Nov-07	
24-June-07		2-Dec-07	
1-July-07		9-Dec-07	
8-July-07		16-Dec-07	
15-July-07	Telford Narrow Gauge Show*	23-Dec-07	
22-July-07		30-Dec-07	
29-July-07		6-Jan-08	
5-Aug-07		13-Jan-08	
12-Aug-07		20-Jan-08	
19-Aug-07		27-Jan-08	
26-Aug-07	<i>Summer Bank Holiday</i>	3-Feb-08	

* See Diary Dates on back cover for more info

Dear Diary...

24 - 25 March 2007 - Model Railway Exhibition
Manchester Road, **Macclesfield**, Cheshire, SK10 2EE
Sat & Sun 10am - 5pm; www.macclesfieldmrg.org.uk
The Timpdon Lake Railway will be there

31 March 2007 - **The 16mm Assoc Nat Garden Railway Show**
Nat Ag Centre, **Stoneleigh** Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ
10.30am to 5.30pm www.16mm.org.uk
This is the major 16mm scale narrow gauge railway modelling event of the year. Most of the major 16mm scale suppliers will have a stand, around 60 in total.

7 - 9 April 2007 - Model Railway Show
The Knavesmire Stand, **York** Racecourse
10am - 5pm Sat & Sun, 10am - 4.15pm Mon
www.yorkshow.freeserve.co.uk/layouts.htm
No 16mm layouts attending, but this is a very large model railway show with a good reputation.

9 April 2007 - Annual Stokesley Model Engineers Exhibition
Town Hall, **Stokesley**, North Yorkshire, TS9 5DG
10am - 3pm 16mm layout: "Ingleby Light Railway"

14 - 15 April 2007 - Large Scale Model Rail Show
Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, near Leamington Spa, **Warwickshire** CV31 1XN 10am - 5pm
16mm layouts:
"Indian Hill Railway", "Rowlands Lodge", "Ttarrag Shed"

28 April 2007 - G-Rail 2007
Marriott Leisure Centre, Bruce Williams Way, **Rugby**, CV22 5LJ 10.30am - 5pm
www.g-scale-society.co.uk/g-rail.htm
Details: G Scale Layouts, Manufacturer Displays, Full Trade Support, Society Information and Sales, Members' Sales, Modelling Competition, Area Group Displays

5 - 6 May 2007 - Model Railway Exhibition
Glaslyn Sports Centre, Church Street, Porthmadog, LL49 9HW
10.30am - 5pm Sat, 10.30am - 4pm Sun
16mm layout: "Penrhyn Quarry" (2 rail electric pick-up)
NG and industrial standard gauge models, with over 20 layouts plus demonstrations, displays and trade support (including Locobox, Industrial and Narrow Gauge, I&G Steam and IMP Models). At the same time the **Ffestiniog Railway** will be holding one of its interactive weekends and the **Welsh Highland (Porthmadog)** will be holding their Gala.

11 -13 May 2007 - Nat Model Engineering & Modelling Ex.
The Great Yorkshire Showground, **Harrogate**, HG2 8PW
Fri & Sat 10am - 6pm; Sun 10am - 4.30pm
www.theeventsoffice.co.uk "Mount Dowd 2" will be there

13 May 2007 - Roundhouse Open Day
Roundhouse Engineering Co. Ltd., Units 6-7 Churchill Business Park, Churchill Road, Wheatley, **Doncaster**, DN1 2TF
10am - 2pm www.roundhouse-eng.com

23 - 24 June 2007 - North 'n' South Garden Railway Show
Stratford Park Leisure Centre, **Stroud**, Glouc, GL5 4AF
10am - 5pm Sat, 10am - 4pm Sun www.north-n-south.co.uk
"Rowlands Lodge", "Ttarrag Shed", plus others tbc

7 - 8 July 2007 - Talylyn Railway 16mm Group Open Weekend
Talylyn Railway, Wharf Station, **Tywyn**, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY
The Llechfan Garden Railway is a 16mm scale garden railway located on the Talylyn Railway in Tywyn, built by a group of TR volunteers in their spare(!) time. This will be the first ever open weekend, which coincides with the Talylyn Railway

15 July 2007 - Telford Narrow Gauge Show
The Park Inn Hotel, (ex Moat House Hotel), **Telford**, TF7 4NA (Jtn 5, M54) 10.30am - 4pm www.ngtrains.com/telfordng.htm

21 - 22 July 2007 - The Welsh Nat Model Railway Exhibition
The North Wales Conference Centre, The Promenade, **Llandudno**, Gwynedd LL30 1BB
The Timpdon Lake Railway will be there

1 -2 September 2007 - Garden Railway Gala
Leisure Centre, **Llanfair Caereinion**, SY21 0HW 10am - 5pm
16mm layouts: "Rowlands Lodge", "Rhydypenderyn", "Timpdon Lake Railway", plus other layouts tbc

15 - 16 September 2007 - Model Railway Exhibition
The Marine Hall, The Esplanade, **Fleetwood**, Lancs FY7 6HF
10am - 5pm *The Timpdon Lake Railway will be there*

29 -30 September 2007 - Elsecar Garden Railway Show
Elsecar Heritage Centre, near Barnsley, S74 8HJ
10.30am - 4.30pm Sat, 10.30am - 4pm Sun

Know of an event? Want it publicised?

Send to Chris MacKenzie



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

