

North West Area Group Newsletter

May 2018

www.northwestgscale.co.uk



**Coal Valley Mining at Pudsey
Show on 10th March 2018**

To Clean or Not to Clean?

I don't know about you but I finally got fed up of track cleaning and decided to go completely over to on board battery radio control. My track has always been analogue so I could not operate the sound units, lights and multi-train movements that digital systems offer.

I contacted Peter Spoerer (model engineers) and he asked what I wanted. I wanted the lot! Chuff sound, directional lights, bell and whistle sound, smoke generator and firebox glow.....no problem apparently.

I ordered a complete kit for my American 2-6-0 including transmitter, charger and separate remote for adjusting the various sounds. It arrived with complete instructions and the "binding" between the receiver and transmitter was already done. The receiver and other gubbins were all pre wired and fixed to a card, happy days!

After some advice from Peter the card was fitted in the tender and I had a couple of wires to solder and had to drill 2 holes for the charging socket and on/off switch (ready wired).

The advantage to me is I can run my locos on any 45mm track, including those with no track power at all and dirty track is no problem. I have had my 2 truck Shay and Climax fitted with the same system; a bit more complex so I had to have Steve Foster from Blackburn install them.

I don't know how much a full digital system costs, not cheap I suspect. The system I have opted for costs a few bob but I get the flexibility and it brings the locos to life. Money well spent.

Look on You Tube for "Peter Spoerer", he has numerous videos showing conversions to radio control and how the system works.

His website:

<http://www.peterspoerermodeleengineers.com/>



The Loco tender that contains the card to which the receiver, soundcard, speaker and batteries are fixed. The charging socket and on/off switch can be seen.



This is the view of the card to which all the components are fixed (the coal load has been removed). The tender body has to be removed to install the components. If you look closely in the centre the 'magic eye' can be seen (black item on end of red cable).



Left:

The left hand controller operates by sending a signal to the 'magic eye'.

The red button is on/off and the three buttons to its left are bell, whistle and 'all aboard'

The various sounds can be altered to suite the loco, e.g. volume and the sound. My loco has the bell, whistle and 'all aboard' announcement.

The small controller controls speed and forward/reverse by the knobs on the front.

NWAG 2017-18 Calendar of Events

Saturday 19 th May	St Alban's Church Hall Indoor Meet
Saturday 19 th May & Sunday 20 th May	Group Display Layout 'Coal Mining Valley' at Manchester Bus Museum 10.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 16 th June	St Alban's Church Hall Indoor Meet
Saturday 23 rd June	Garden Open Day in Poulton-le-Fylde
Saturday 30 th June	Garden Open Day in Worsley
Saturday 21 st July	Garden Open Day in Swinton
Sunday 22 nd July	Garden Open Day in Market Drayton
Saturday 4 th August	Garden Open Day in Blackpool
Saturday 15 th September	St Alban's Church Hall Indoor Meet
Sunday 14 th October	Storth MRC G-Scale Meet For more details see advert below
Saturday 20 th October	St Alban's Church Hall Indoor Meet
Saturday 17 th November	St Alban's Church Hall Indoor Meet
Saturday 15 th December	St Alban's Church Hall Indoor Meet

Notes:

Our NWAG meetings are normally held on the third Saturday of the month
All garden open days run from 2.00-5.00pm unless otherwise stated

Sunday 14th October 2018

G Scale at Storth Indoor Meeting
10.00 until 1500.

The Village Hall, Storth, Cumbria.
(Near Arnside.)

Postcode LA7 7PH.



2 photos from the last Storth Meet to encourage you to attend

A meeting of the Storth Model Railway Club to which members of the G Scale Society are invited to bring trains to run. We use set track assembled on the day, on analogue only, and with a maximum radius of LGB third radius. Coffee and tea will be available.



AGM 2018: Report

There is very little to say about the AGM, which didn't hit the record shortest of 7 mins, but was not a lot longer! In the absence of a Group Leader, the post being vacant, and of the Secretary (who for some unaccountable reason preferred holidaying in the Isle of Wight to our company...) the meeting was chaired by the Newsletter editor. Reports were given by the Treasurer (the Secretary and the Newsletter Editor . We are solvent and you'll find a summary of the accounts on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Secretary's report

There are a few topics that need to be brought to your attention but other than that this will be a mercifully short report.

The group currently has 234 people on our electronic mailing list and 41 on our traditional postal list. New data protection laws come into force in the next few weeks and if we were to follow the letter of the law you (***I Mean everybody***) would have to notify me in writing that they are prepared to have their name on our mailing list. *Without that formal agreement from an individual then they would never receive anything by post or e-mail ever again from the NW group.* Draconian but true!! I propose that ***UNLESS*** I am notified in writing by any member that they do not want to be on our mailing list then I will assume permission is forthcoming to keep them on.

There are some members on both lists and it would be of great assistance if you currently receive postal and e-mail versions of the newsletter to let me know which list you would like to remain on. Every time I send out e-mails some bounce back as undeliverable. If you *think* you are on our list but nothing has landed in your inbox recently, please let me have your new address as I cannot second guess any changes!

The monthly meetings continue to be well attended with an average of 45 souls eager to consume one or more of Roy's pies. Whilst on the subject of catering I would like to propose a formal vote of thanks to Roy and Mavis for their sterling work in the kitchen.

Thanks too to the exhibition organiser for keeping the exhibition layout on the road. I know from experience this is hard work, so thanks too to the loyal helpers who keep our group in the public eye. I am sorry I cannot commit myself to helping out as I have enough to do both inside and outside our group.

Other individuals that deserve your thanks are the editor for producing the excellent NW newsletter and to the treasurer for assuring we have enough funds to produce it.

As I am sure you are aware our President had a very serious road accident last year and has been absent for some months. He founded this group so I think we all should wish him well for a total recovery and we are glad he has been able to make it back to the meetings.

The 'new' layout is now over 1 year old and seems to be popular and certainly a lot easier to put up and take down. Fears that it would be too low seem unfounded and everybody has got used to it now.

The summer is fast approaching and there is quite a good list of open days:

- Saturday June 23 in Poulton-le-Fylde
- Saturday June 30 in Worsley

- Saturday July 21 in Swinton

- Sunday July 22 in Market Drayton

- Saturday August 4 in Blackpool

I am planning one myself and so is the editor, but no dates are fixed yet, which makes 7.

The fact we have these open days arranged or promised is not a reason for anyone to leave it to everyone else! Some area groups have one every weekend throughout the summer and we are larger than many. Please, please consider opening your garden for visitors, we don't bite. If you need any guidance or assistance we can help.

The Website is now back up and running and I would like some more photos please. No details will be given regarding location or owners so if you can let me have some at some stage that would be very helpful. The site has a calendar listing all our events.



Photos from the April Meet

Left: Our President, back with us and surrounded by friends.

Right: Thomas with full sound installed. On the left is the designer and a fascinated on-looker, who wants one, I think!



Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year 1st April 2017 - 31st March 2018

The following report just covers Income and Outgoing for the NW G Scale for the 12 months stated. This is based on the date I received the money and not necessarily on the date the money was collect.

Compared to last year this year has been less active as we have the new layout established and only our magnificent Exhibition Layout requiring some maintenance with extra parts etc.

Our main income comes from Door Donations that amounted to	£905.00+
Hire of the Hall costs the group	£787.50 -

Income from Open Days over the 12 Months amount to	£87.50 +
Unspecified Donations raised a further	£142.73+

Newsletter, envelopes, stamps and general administration cost	£190.74 -
---	-----------

Specified Donations, Postage cost	£15.50+
-----------------------------------	---------

Exhibition Layout Materials (parts)	£145.00-
-------------------------------------	----------

Balances at the 31st March 2018

This is just a summary of the accounts for the year. If you require a fully detailed copy of the annual accounts please contact Don McGeachin who will provide one

Lloyds Bank	£1,750.63
Cash	00.00
Float	<u>£30.00</u>
	£1,780.63

All cash, other than the float, in the bank by 31st March 2018

INCOME EXCEEDED OUTGOING by £83.93

When making purchases or have work done for the group please where possible provide invoices as this keeps the Auditor happy and helps to cut the time they have all the documentation to a minimal..

All in all I find no need to change anything

A 50p FRED



Whilst I am still very fond of the traditional American style caboose and have a few in my collection, I do realise that they disappeared from use on main line railroads about 30 years ago.

They were replaced by a device fitted to the last wagon in a train which, depending on the railroad and the date, was either a dumb flashing red warning light, or a device with varying degrees of intelligence which could monitor the brake pressure and in later years notify the train crew if anything was amiss. They were initially called a FRED – flashing rear end device, but that seems now to have become an ETD – end of train device.

To keep up with the times, I was thinking of having this facility on my layout and I started looking around to see what was available. There are a few different types out there and they are either an LED holder which looks like a tail light connected to a flasher unit or a flasher unit only which you need to connect to your suitably placed LED. Either type is not very expensive but generally costs a few pounds .

I then started thinking about what is really needed here and how the cost could be reduced. The first obvious point to me was why spend money on a flasher unit to flash a standard LED when you can buy flashing LEDs for little extra cost. All that is then needed is a battery and its holder and a mounting for the LED.

A bit of a rummage in the box in the shed came up with a 3V button battery and holder, a 3mm flashing LED and its plastic push-in mount.

I decided to fit them to an AristoCraft Piggyback trailer wagon and the pictures show how it was done. The battery holder was a neat superglued fit into the chassis of the wagon and the LED fitted in the rear outer frame. A little bit of wiring to connect them and there we have the finished article. This arrangement could easily be used for any bogie wagon.



If you buy more than just one of each item, I estimate the cost of one FRED to be:

Battery holder	25p
3V Battery	10p
3mm flashing LED	10p
Holder	5p
<u>Total</u>	<u>50p</u>

You could add a switch in the circuit but it is very easy to remove the battery when not needed and even if you leave it in circuit, they do last several days continuously running.

Christmas Meet



A well-attended Christmas Meet produced some fine models, some on a Christmas theme and some not. The Treasurer was definitely in Christmas mode, as can be seen on the right! Big power was out on the track (above) and a smaller Christmas train also put in an appearance. (top picture) There was quite a lot of other interesting stuff too, but space forbids the inclusion of everything. Thanks to all the traders who were out in force.

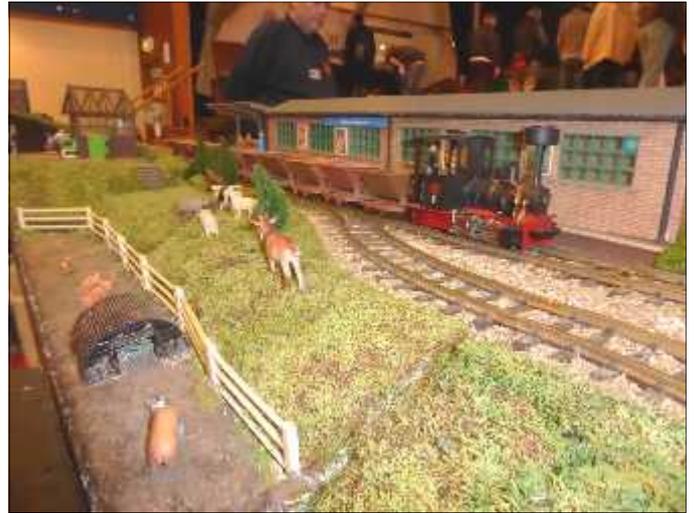


G-Wizz Cancels G-Wizz It's Christmas!

I was told at the April Meet that the friends at G-Wizz have regretfully decided to cancel the 2018 G-Wizz It's Christmas, although they will continue to visit other events during the year. This decision has come about through an inability to find satisfactory accommodation for the exhibition.

I am sure that all of us who have enjoyed this show will be sorry that this has happened. It was a great show and a great fund raiser for various good causes.

Cover story: Coal Valley Mining at the Pudsey Model Railway Show



Some good views of our layout at the show. Many thanks to all who puts the CMV on the road, all of whom are volunteers.



January and April Meets Photos by Richard Waller

The January meet was distinguished by an unusually high turn-out for the quietest meet of the year and for the F7 (right) equipped with (if I understood correctly) a mobile phone circuit board with a diesel engine sound recording and connecting via Bluetooth to a boom box. I hope to bring you a further article on this promising idea (where is it then?) but in all fairness a few kinks needed ironing out first.



The April Meet was an unusually fine day (remember that heatwave?); as we arrived folk were audibly wondering whether we would get many people as it was good enough to be out running the real thing in our gardens, and there was the AGM as well, an excellent crowd clearer! But we did very well and a cheerful time was had by all.



David and Dave

I am sorry to have to share the news that we have lost two faithful supporters of the group in recent months. Many of you will already have heard but some will not have done so.

First David died on the 12th April. He was a producer of eccentric but intriguing models who was always good to talk to. Some of his models have been donated to the group by his family and will be on display for sale at our meet on the 19th May.

Secondly we have just heard of the death of Dave from Llanfair. He was a member of the mid-Wales group rather than our NW group but would often visit us. Quite a few of us will have visited his 'Railway in the Hills'.

I am sure you will all join me in expressing our sympathy and condolences to the families of both our friends.

**Find our new web site at:
www.northwestgscale.co.uk**

The web site is up and running again but has little content as yet. Like this newsletter, it needs ***you*** to fill in the blanks with pictures and other items. Just remember not to include information that might identify you or other members to anyone looking at the site, none of us need a nocturnal visit from Bill Sykes!

The secretary will be glad to put up any material you send to him, and, if anyone asks to contact you, will make sure that it is OK with you before he passes on your contact information.

The more photos the better to make our hobby attractive to others and to inform each other of what we are doing. My part is to provide online copies of the NW Newsletter with all personal information removed. A job that is proceeding slowly but will get done!

G-Scale Society North West Area Group

**Secretary &
Membership Secretary**
gsnw@hotmail.co.uk

All details of other officers
of the G-Scale NWAG
have been deleted for
data protection reasons



Keep your email address up to date!
If you want the email colour version of the Newsletter
then let the secretary know of changes