



North West Area Group

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

Firstly, two messages from Richard:

Please can you help with the catering?

We are very grateful to Laura for leading the catering team for the last two years, but circumstances are forcing her to give up after the November meet. We thank her for her hard work and those excellent pasties that have kept us all fed. Dorothy Chapman has kindly agreed to take over the leadership from December (don't forget the mince pies, Dorothy!) and we are grateful to her, but the catering team will be rather short handed and she asks if anyone would be happy to help from time to time. Not all the time, but a willingness to help cover breaks, or collect the mugs from the strange places they get left, or serve for a spell at the hatch, any and all of these would be very welcome assistance. Please get in touch with me, Richard Waller, on nwageditor@gmail.com.

New Committee Member

We are glad to welcome Arran White as a new member of the NW Area Group Committee. He has agreed to serve as a general committee member without particular responsibilities at present. Arran was featured for his award winning scratch built locomotive in the Autumn G-scale Journal. He also produces 3-D printed kits to adapt LGB model coaches by getting rid of the open verandas at each end to give a more modern appearance. We are sure Arran will be an asset to the group.

As for myself, I missed the September meeting with being involved with my local club exhibition where I ran my vintage clockwork Hornby. A great appeal to the folk of my generation who started out with the wonder of trains running round a track on the lounge floor. The display also appealed to the younger kids. Well, we do depend on them for the future of the hobby and its is good to have Sandra and her Playmobil to entertain them at the meetings. We are very grateful to her for her efforts.



Spotted by Peter Ainley at John Hulse's Open Day two potential recruits to our great hobby?

And it is a great hobby! Phil Vose has put it rather well:

In the heart of my green domain,
Where flowers bloom and grass does reign,
A tiny world of tracks and steam,
Fulfils a quiet childhood dream.

Through the garden, winding fast,
Trains of yore, a charming cast,
Chugging past the rose and vine,
In a rhythmic, joyful line.

Miniature towns and bridges stand,
Crafted with a loving hand,
Mountains made of moss and stone,
Where every turn's a journey home.

Whistles blow, a gentle cheer,
As engines puff, the way they steer,
Past the lilies, through the fern,
Each round a pleasure to discern.

Morning dew and evening glow,
Witness every car and loco,
Nature's symphony in play,
With each small railcar on display.

In this haven, peace prevails,
Where tiny trains and nature meld,
A garden railway, pure delight,
From dawn's embrace to starry night.

A TRIP ON THE LLANGOLLEN HERITAGE RAILWAY BY PETER AINLEY

While enjoying the annual garden rail show in May Derek Chapman and I took a half time break on the extended line to Corwen.

We had ex Great Western Railway heavy freight engine 3802 but liveried in British Railways black, not GWR green. Llangollen station has a picturesque location in the town centre by the river. The line connected with the main line to Chester at Ruabon to the east and to the west via Bala to the Welsh coast and Aberystwyth and Barmouth.

I can remember using it for a holiday in Towyn and a ride on the nascent Talylyn in 1952/3. As some may remember this was the start of the heritage narrow gauge renovation movement. The track had only just been made barely useable, bouncing over rail joints, so it was 5 mph to Aberglynollwyn. Then a walk up to the lake and a walk back to Towyn started, but fortunately a passing motorist gave us a lift. Basic times.

The ride home was a change at Dove Junction to use the Aberystwyth connection to Manchester Exchange. This was a summer Saturday packed with returners so we spent the entire journey stood in the side corridor or sat on suit cases. - and you think it's bad now? At least we had a holiday.



FROM RICHARD WALLER:

We had been at Norma's annual family reunion. 17 Bates' all at one time! Returning via Aberystwyth we did the new NG railway museum the VoR has just opened, to find this G-Scale train running round the ticket hall and shop



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Yet another one I have missed this year. However, I do have the excuse that I was occupied the whole weekend at our local club exhibition, running my Hornby clockwork. It's where it all began for me and I guess plenty of you. It definitely catches the interest of the youngsters. What is this thing called clockwork?

I am indebted to Peter Ainley for the photographs.





ARTHUR AND LAURA'S OPEN DAY

I did set out to go but got horribly lost, not having satnav, and gave up. But where I couldn't tell you. So I am indebted to John Hulse for the following account:

Arthur bravely decided to believe the weather forecast and go ahead with his tram themed open day on the last Saturday of September. The event was a joint venture with a tramway society. Westhoughton seemed to be the epicentre of passing localised monsoons and outdoor running on his newly constructed layout became a challenge to say the least. 16mm trams were in action on the covered patio but most visitors took refuge in Arthur's shed. Well, I say "shed" but it is bigger than the ground floor of a lot of modern houses! It contains, amongst other things, an art gallery, a fully equipped workshop and a Swiss theme 45mm layout. Unfortunately this was out of action due to power issues. Excellent catering arrangements kept visitors spirits up. Better luck next time, I think is all I can say.





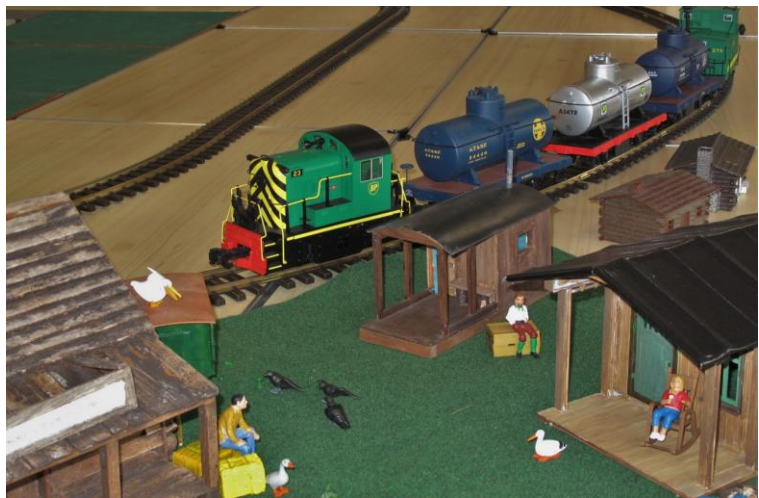
JOHN BOARDMAN

Sadly, John Hulse writes: It is with great regret that we have to announce that N.W. member, John Boardman passed away in early October. John had not been involved in the group for some time but supplied a great deal of the track that was used in constructing the current group layout.

G SCALE AT STORTH

Another excellent day's running at this most pleasant of locations, with a wide variety of stock running. Including one of the longest trains I've seen in Gscale, courtesy of Alan. So long it overloaded the power supply. Also on show was Andrew's rake of rare Colorado freight wagons.





FROM PHIL VOSE:

Here is a diorama I made for the National 16mm show a few years back. I got a highly commended. It shows a Welsh demolition guy called Effyn Bang and his dog called Cemtex blowing up an old railway tunnel. You will notice that both he and Cemtex are wearing ear protectors....Health and Safety.



NWAG Diary 2024/25

16th November Altrincham The regular monthly meeting. 10.00 onwards.

21st December Altrincham The regular monthly meeting. 10.00 onwards.

18th January Altrincham The regular monthly meeting. 10.00 onwards.

15th February Altrincham The regular monthly meeting. 10.00 onwards.

15th March Altrincham The regular monthly meeting. 10.00 onwards.

Contributions

Many thanks to Peter Ainley and Richard Waller for their contributions of material for this edition.

Please send your article or photographs for the Newsletter to me via: anthony.waring55@btinternet.com. It helps greatly if photographs are sent separately as attachments as jpg files; and for text to be in Word attachments or alternatively in the body of the email.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is 28th December. Please keep it coming, all of you!

G-Scale Society North West Area Group Committee Members

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