

Autumn Review

Since the summer evening daylight has disappeared and the club meetings have been held at Varsity Perkins social Club, the winter program has got off to a good start with a variety of activities. September saw the club members displaying with photos and videos how they passed their time during the summer, train chasing. In October Robin Mathams gave us pt. 2 of Percy Mosley's collection of late 1940's early 1950's railway photographs which have been restored and catalogued. We look forward to pt.3 in the forthcoming winter program.

November was an insight into making small parts for models to enhance its appearance; this included a demo on the manufacture of small hinges.

The Christmas Quiz was not meant to be a "Brain of Britain" it was obvious that either the questions were a little on the obscure side or brains were not in gear. However the team of Chris Dobbs, Pete Mason, Roy Marshall and Dave Burrage just about managed to sink the opposition of three other teams to win themselves some bottles of "TITANIC" real ale.

The Auction is a fun auction with both serious items and other unwanted unmentionables being donated. Some items have been known to reappear annually. Outdoor activities have seen the completion of the 32mm NG track with some excellent character buffer stops and signal cabin made by John Molloy.

With the grant from the local councillor, we have been able to establish a more suitable tarmac access for less able people to gain access to the clubroom. The annual post Christmas run saw all three tracks in operation "hoorah" along with the chairman testing the strength of the new tarmac with his traction engine.

Even Sunday mornings have seen steam ups along with work on the carriage shed, with doors now fitted. Well done Chris! With all three carriages in the shed the driving trolley when sat on the track prevents the doors from closing. A piece of wood with two stops to prevent it from rolling now sits on the seat of a trolley to allow it to be placed inside and stop oil and dirt from getting on the seat.

LOTTERY GRANT

The word has probably escalated that through the excellent efforts of Edward Hodson our secretary we have been awarded over £9,000 for the construction of a coach and loco for the ground level track to enable less able person to a) have rides and b) to give youngsters the ability to learn to drive. The loco will be Internal Combustion, so there will be no steam raising or mucking out.

Quite a number of parts have already been obtained in the way of frames, plate work sprockets, pulleys, wheels and axles. De burring of parts, boring out sprockets and pulleys needs to be done. Frank Beech has made a start on profiling the wheel blanks.

This is only a start! We have 12 months to complete this project under the terms of the grant. So now is your chance to help out, we as a club are supplying the labour. Any one wishing to help out please contact Roger Greatrex who is coordinating the project

Happy New Year from "Patriot".

Does size matter?

Now that the garden railway is in operation those members with a preference for standard gauge railways may be surprised at the varied dimensions of locomotives and rolling stock used on the new railway. However as the table below illustrates the well known narrow gauge railways operated with many different dimensions and this individualism is illustrated by the models running.

Name	Gauge	Typical loco	Working weight	Max height of stock
Festiniog	1ft 11"	0-4-0ST+T 0-4-4-0T	12 tons 24 tons	7ft 6" Now 8ft 3"
Corris Railway	2ft 3"	0-4-2ST	9 tons	7ft 9"
Glyn Valley Tramway	2ft 4"	0-4-2T	14 tons 11 cwts	9ft 6"
Vale of Rheidol	1ft 11"	2-6-2T	25 tons	8ft 6"
Welshpool & Llanfair	2ft 6"	0-6-0T	19 tons 18 cwts	10ft
NWNGR	1ft 11"	0-6-4T (Fairlie)	14 tons	8ft 11" (locos)
Welsh Highland	1ft 11"	2-6-2T	20 tons	7ft 6" (cut down by FR)
Lynton & Barnstaple	1ft 11 1/2"	2-6-2T	27 tons 5 cwts	8ft 6" (stock)
Penrhyn	1ft 10"	0-4-0ST	12 tons 6 cwts	--
Ashover Light	600mm	4-6-0T	13 tons 15 cwts	9ft 6"
Southwold	3ft	2-4-0T	8 tons (est)	9ft
Darjeeling & Himalayan	2ft	0-4-0ST	15 tons 15 cwts	8ft 4" (bogie stock)
Avontuur Branch SA	2ft	2-6-2-2-6-2 (Garratt)	59 tons 2 cwts	10ft 4" (loco) 9ft 8" (stock)
Sandy River USA	2ft	0-4-4T (Forney)	25 tons	10ft
Isle of Man	3ft	2-4-0T	21 tons	

Statfold Barn Railway

Although the Statfold Barn Railway is a private railway it holds a number of Enthusiasts Days each year. 2008's events will be held on Saturdays 29th March, 7th June and 20th September. For the safety and comfort of all visitors, attendance is by invitation only and unfortunately it is not possible to accommodate guests under 14 years of age. To apply for an invitation please write to Statfold Barn Railway, Statfold Barn Farm, Ashby Road, Tamworth B79 0BU stating which date you would prefer to visit and giving your name and address. In order to cover costs guests are asked to make a contribution of £8 at the time of requesting an invitation. Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Statfold Barn Steam Railway".