



Autumn 2022

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the GRail. What a fabulous summer we have had this year. I hope all your summer events/holidays went to plan and you got to run trains in the sunshine. Sadly we had no planned open days this year in our group but at least we still get to meet up at our monthly train meets.

As always I would like to thank those members that sent in Articles and pictures and please be assured they will be included in either this or future Grail's.

If you have any train items for 'Sale' or 'wants'. I would like to point out that any Sales between members are a private matter between the seller and buyer, and the GRail is only here to let members know what is being sold etc. If you do send in details of items for Sale I would be more than happy to put both parties in touch with each other at your request, or if the seller is happy to supply contact details I will include that in the sale details.

Although we have had no planned open days so far this year, if anyone would still like to have one before the winter arrives, please let me know in plenty of time so I can let members know well in advance.

The next planned club meets for the remainder of the year are as follows:

Saturday 12 November

Saturday 10 December

With regard to December and the Christmas period meet. As you know an email was put out to all on the possibility of having a buffet or hot food during our December meet. Chris Millichamp kindly offered her catering expertise and services which the majority of members gladly agreed with. From the replies I have received to date, we are looking at a turn out of 25-30 people on the 10th December. It should be a fun day with lots of trains running, with the added bonus of Chris's cuisine to keep us going.

Information

New club Layout

Since the last newsletter back in June some New Wood has been purchased and Roy has kindly built the New corner Boards that would of joined up with Walters boards he kindly donated. Unfortunately some of Walters boards had warped during storage making it economically too expensive to rectify. Roy had kindly manufactured the new corner boards at home so we did not have to deal with the amount of saw dust that would have been caused at the community centre. The remaining work still to do on the new layout can now be done by members at the club as and when the new store room becomes available to us. We now have all the new wood required for the new layout and plenty of Aristocraft track, so it is hoped that the old layout will continue to be used while the new one is being constructed. Obviously the new layout will take time to complete but at least work has commenced.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for maybe not going about the construction of the new layout in the proper manner, in so much as although a few conversations were had at club level with some members I now know I should of put out the plans etc to a full members vote, especially for those members who may not of been present when discussions were had. A lack of club procedures and protocols was lacking on my behalf, and I will ensure this will not happen again (I gave myself a good talking too!!)

Please do remember that the present layout and new one is for all members, so everyone has the right get involved with ALL decisions. It is also hoped that all members wishing to get involved in the construction of the new layout will do so what ever their level of expertise.

Previous club meet pictures









Members Pictures & Projects

Sent in from Steve Thornhill:





At long last this little loco, finished earlier this year is fully working. Within the tiny bonnet are 4xAAA batteries, a small low voltage ESC from eBay, a switch, a red con twin aerial receiver and way, way to much wiring (something to be reviewed now it is all working). The magnets holding the bonnet cover on are straining somewhat..... but this tiny thing is now radio controlled! The batteries must be 6v all the testing with rechargeable ones & LiPo has failed. The large silver switch on the chassis for manual control can now be removed and the angled tension arm fitted instead.

The loco being 3D printed is very light with no space at all for weights. Despite being twin axle drive can manage about as much as the real thing i.e. 6 or so light tippers, 1 bogie wagon (WD D class) or 2-3 hoppers. But being twin drive means it WILL climb the spiral so that's good news too. Happy hurray the driver is customarily happy about the English climate and the open cab.....



Bole Laser kit Hunslet out on the line first time!!! The roundhouse chassis runs very smoothly and should pull a reasonable amount, time will tell. The lightweight body does not exactly match up to steel and brass roundhouse ones in weight terms. So far we have only tried a bit of track clearing and the long but low roofed van shown here.

It looks just the stocky general purpose loco I was after. It is finished in a military green so should be OK for dual use.

The brass headlight was got for another project but is so much better than the plastic one supplied I could not resist fitting it.

RHT train + a test not previously thought of.....

Rail Head Treatment train & ballasting (yet again)

After a short spell in the workshop for minor repairs, Criccieth Castle takes the service today. First up the brush wagon now fitted with some new brushes to replace the worn out ones. Then the paraffin dribbler to clear the sandy grit from the rain head followed by the brake / mess van. All worked well with the gravel being adequately distributed, although at times a large broom was deployed.

For the record after a charge with the smart delta peak charger, today overall she ran for 2 hours. Probably good for plenty more time but the weather closed in and the team retired to the pub.



Outer circuit done through the trees, only the long straight left to do. Inner circuit in hand here. Now completed. Spiral has had some ballast laid but not as yet brushed into place.



Clyde testing the new ballast bed..... for comfort level..... It passed.



GRail from Yesteryear

The following is a copy of the GRail put out to members from Alan during the summer of 1999:

MY COPY

The Grail

The Newsletter of the Mid Wales and Marches Group of the 'G' Scale Society
Summer 1999

Once again I must express my apologies for being late with this newsletter, I intended to send it out in mid-July but what with one thing and another. The last straw being the computer crashing when I was in the final stages of preparation of the newsletter, and ended up with me losing the lot and having to start again, anyhow better late than never.

Since my last newsletter the warm dry weather has arrived, summer at last, so I expect all you keen garden railroaders have been working hard on your respective railways. Here on the P&H a large section of track has had to be removed to facilitate the erection of my new workshop, this replaces the smaller shed that has served its purpose over the last ten years. The new building being more than twice the floor area means that part of the track has had to be re-routed, and when completed will involve relaying about 40ft of track. At the present time my garden looks more like a building site, but all being well it will be back to normal for my open day on Saturday 18th September.

No doubt you will have noticed that the newsletter now has a title. There were several suggestions for a title, but this seemed the most suitable, someone suggested The 'G' Spot, but I think the less said about this the better. I feel a title gives the newsletter just that little bit of individuality. While on the subject of newsletters I would like to thank those who so generously donated towards the cost of postage, paper, envelopes etc. Until now I have borne the cost, but now I am retired every penny helps, so thanks again, I am extremely grateful.

I understand from Bryan Betts that he has submitted an article, that should be published in the Autumn edition of the Journal, the article is called 'Rocks', I look forward to reading it I am sure it will be full of interest as are previous articles by Bryan.

Colin Clinton-Carter tells me that his garden railway is all but finished, it now boasts a working cable car to add to the interest. Colin's Malima Kidogo Light Railway is full of ingenious electronic gadgetry and equipment designed by himself, hopefully Colin can be persuaded to tell us more about his railway in a future newsletter. Unfortunately due to very limited parking he is unable to host an open day, but I am sure anyone wishing to visit would be welcome provided they phoned in advance.

Earlier this year I visited Jim Morgan's railway at Willenhall. Although his garden is on the small side, Jim has managed to construct a very interesting railway in a very small space [his plan enclosed]. I understand that since my visit some refurbishment has taken place. Jim is prepared to write a brief description of his Lilac & Peony railway, so look out for this in a future issue of 'The Grail'.

Old Barn Hobbies in Aberaeron still has a few Bachmann G Kits for sale at very competitive prices' also some Colorado & Southern and East Broad Top Big Hauler train sets at £178 and 2-4-2 tender locos at £89-95. Phone 01545 571634. So far this year the G Scale layout has attracted over 6000 visitors which is very encouraging. Martin Howard's Open day and Auction will this year be held on Saturday 11th September at his shop in Kington. He hopes to have his railway up and running by then. Martin's line in colour light signals are proving very popular, they are very reasonably priced, and are at present only available from Martin's Models. The coal-fired version of the Aristocraft Consolidation is now in stock, the wood burner is expected any day, hopefully before his open day. Also in stock are a selection of live steam loco's from the Regner G scale range. Phone 01544-230777.

I would like to welcome on your behalf, new member Gerald Tilley. Gerald who lives at Llechryd near Cardigan has just taken up G scale modelling and we wish him many happy hours in this venture.

Y Marchnad.

John Smith has two loco's for sale, a green L.G.B. Spreewald, and a green L.G.B. Corpe Louve at £290 each. Phone 01686 621807.

Ted O' Brien wishes to sell a dual gauge live steam Merlin Hunslet 2-6-2T at £675 O.V.N.O. to view and test run please contact him on. Phone 01544 267786.

Please let me have any material that you think would be suitable for inclusion in future newsletters, such as a description of your railway, or an item of rolling stock, or any other model or gadget you think might be of interest. The enclosed poem is just one example of what can help to fill these pages.

Llanfair is now almost upon us, I look forward to seeing some if not all of you there. We are very fortunate to have this show in the heart of rural Wales, more or less on our doorstep. Other shows, including G Rail, tend to be dotted around the country in the more highly populated areas. This means for me, at least, a great deal of travelling, as a result I am unable to attend as many of these shows as I would like.

Diary

Llanfair
Martin's Auction and Open Day
P&H Open Day (12.00-17.00)

Sept 4th and 5th
Sept 11th
Sept 18th

01970 820174

Regards
Alan

The Wives Lament. By 'Dai Ode'

Pity us poor wives
the lives we have to lead
When husbands love is garden rail
in thought and word and deed

Other men go playing golf
in sunshine or in rain
Not for us that blessed peace
he stays at home to run his train

To him the weekly shopping trip
is a cruel imposition
Wasting time far better spent
at a railway exhibition

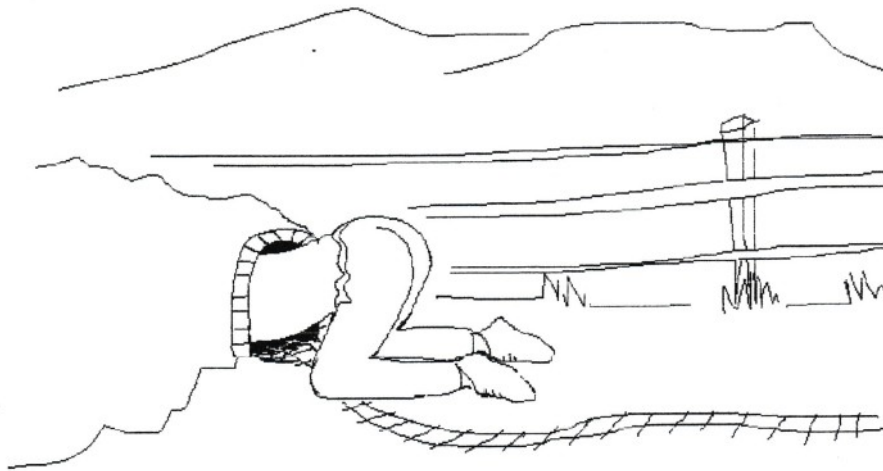
Unless of course that shopping trip
is near a model shop
We'll spend two hours or more in there
ten minutes in the Co-op

Then off we go to be home by four
to run the four-ten train
Ten minutes late it was last week
we can't have that again

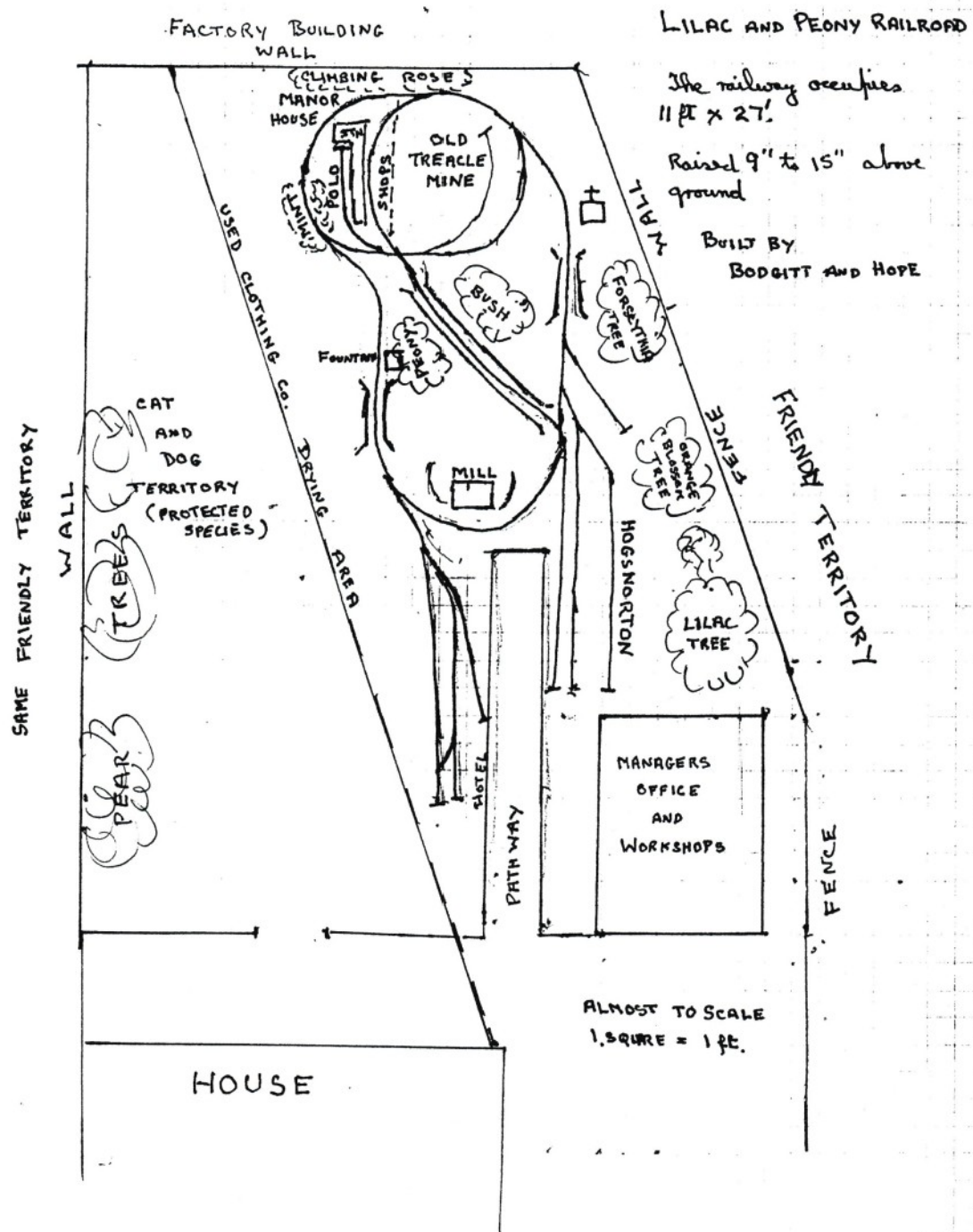
But lest you think from what you've read
our life is one long hell
It has its compensations
as the following verses tell

Whilst other wives talk little else
but slimming food or clothes
We can talk of Diesel trains
and live steam 4-4-0's

And when their men are seventy plus
with love a long lost dream
We go home to our men
and find them still in steam



I've found the cat, dear, now if you could just give me a pulldear?darling?anybody !!!!!



Sales & Wants

Just a reminder that if anyone has any train items for sale, or are looking for a particular item, please do let me know so I can let all our members know, either here in our GRail or via one off emails etc within our group.

Wants

Wants I am personally looking for the outer case for the LGB Jumbo 10 amp transformer. Sadly mine was damaged while in the post a few years ago. If anyone can help please get in touch:

Webmasters Report

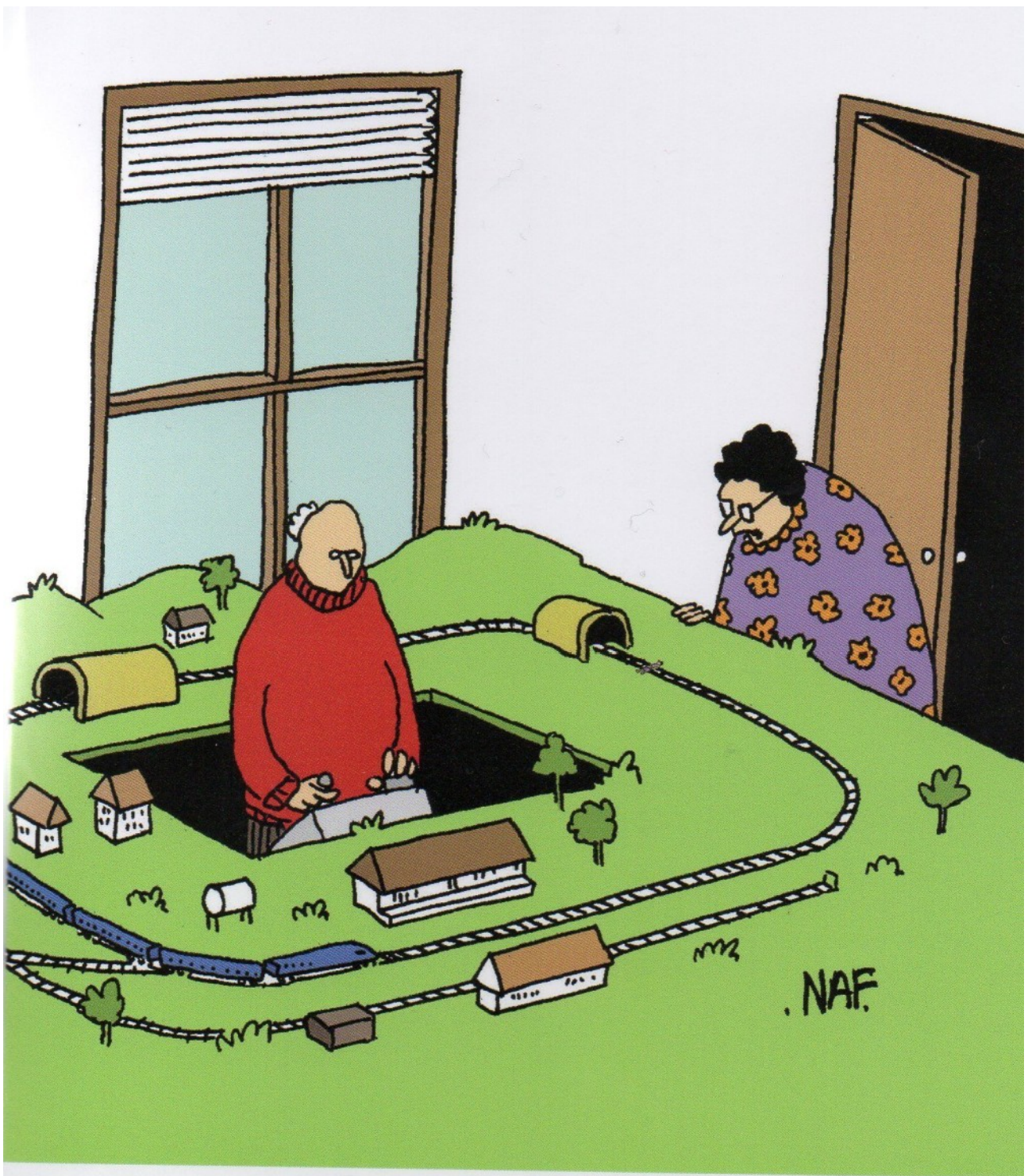
Our website is at : <http://gscalesociety-mwmgroup.co.uk/> Ian, our webmaster has added a new link to the Home page to make it easier to find back copies of the GRAIL. Quite a number of back copies have been added lately but we are still missing some. If you have any copies of the GRAIL, either in paper or electronic form, dating before October 2013 apart from December 2012, October 2012 and July 2012 , could you please contact Ian either at the email address below or possibly at the clubroom. As we have a number of new members can I suggest that they take the time to visit the site which is there for MW&M group members to use as they wish to promote the G Scale cause and our group. We need more content on the site. This can be anything on the subject such as photos (with descriptions), articles about railways, railway tours or construction, ideas for railways, stock modifications, advice or experiences on any related subject etc. The possibilities are limitless. In the past a "For Sale" page has been suggested - would any of you be interested in that? The site can be easily expanded to accommodate anything you would like to see

included or offer for publication. 12 Sales & Wants Just a reminder that if anyone has any train items for sale, or are looking for a particular item, please do let me know so I can let all our members know, either here in our GRail or via one off emails etc within our group. Wants I am personally looking for the outer case for the LGB Jumbo 10 amp transformer. Sadly mine was damaged while in the post a few years ago. If anyone can help please get in touch: If there is anyone who wants to have a complete site dedicated to them and their railway that's possible within the site as well. Any submissions or ideas for expanding and improving the site will be gratefully accepted. Feel free to comment on what's there already as well – It's your site. Submissions in any format can be used. If you need any assistance getting material ready just ask. Please don't include personal details such as phone numbers or addresses. Use the site email address and any messages can be forwarded to you. Alternatively, a new email address can be easily created for your personal use. Ian Payne is the coordinator and can be contacted from the website or direct at :

The 'GRail' is for all of our members to hopefully enjoy and contribute towards, so if anyone has anything relating to our club, hobby or has articles of ongoing projects relating to Garden Railways please let me know. As long as we have items of interest I am more than willing to put out the GRail on a regular basis for us all to enjoy.

Kev Pullen....on behalf of the Mid Wales & Marches area group of the G Scale Society.

And Finally :



"Ted did you know there's a miniature woman tied to the train tracks who looks remarkably like me?"