

THE GRAIL

The newsletter of the Mid Wales
and Marches Group of the
G Scale Society

Up to end of 2019



A scene to bring back memories of Summer 2019 during an Open Day hosted by Alan and Chris Millichamp.

**All Group activities including meetings
in Castell Caereinion cancelled until
further notice due to Coronavirus**

Insurance

The GSS has comprehensive Public liability insurance for any event organised under the banner of the GSS provided it is advertised as part of the GSS and that at the event GSS information is clearly showing the event is held by the GSS even if the purpose is to raise money for a charity. If anyone is attending an event organised by others, then that event organiser is responsible not the GSS.

Included in the cover are possible instances such as a GSS member's locomotive coming off your display and affecting/injuring a visitor to that event.

It must be stressed that in order to minimise risk anyone asked to exhibit should check that public liability insurance is in place before taking part.

Please note this is **NOT** contents insurance.

Stewart Ritchie



Stewart Ritchie, who is possibly the farthest flung of our Group member, has been in touch and sent some pictures of his layout. which is wholly indoors in his mancave.

This building is fully insulated and double glazed and measures 21ft. X 14ft at one end and 20ft.X 10ft. at the other so is truly an all-weather all-year layout.

The inner circuit is analogue and the outer is Pico digitally controlled.

When Stewart is not running trains he can sometimes be found riding his 500c.c. BSA motorcycle around nearby fields.

Stewart would be pleased for Group members to get in touch or to visit. Subject to an improvement in the coronavirus situation visitors will be welcomed at any time even over wet weekends! Please phone him on 01834 831133 at any time, for a chat or just to let him know you'd like to come over and he'll give you directions. Stewart lives about 4 miles. from Narberth, Pembrokeshire so if you're visiting South West Wales (a lovely area by the way, for those who haven't been there) here's your chance for an additional G Scale fix and an opportunity to meet a fellow enthusiast.



Another picture of Stuart with his indoor layout.

A brief roundup of Group Open Days in 2019

Alan & Chris Millichamp's Open Day 30 June



These pictures and the one on the cover are from Alan and Chris's first Open Day of the year. A wonderful day with something continually going on, although the red kites were a little shy this time.



The Thornhill Family Open Day 28 July





Nice day to be socialising, a very important part of garden railway meetings. Yet more developments have been taking place in the SM32 department at Leominster.

Alan Burch's Open Day 18 Aug





This was Alan's first Open Day and we were blessed with good weather for an excellent day with an interesting layout in a beautiful setting with a small river running past.



Alan & Chris Millichamp 2nd Open Day 15 Sept

Unfortunately, I couldn't get to this Open Day, so many thanks to Steve Thornhill for the photos.



The interesting Garratt build above is actually a product of the motive power section of the Llandre outstation of the Lost'n Bodge Works which is situated on the trackbed of the former Plymlimon and Hafan Rly (C.M.E. Mr A Millichamp)

A selection of pictures from meetings in the clubroom

July 2019



This was a month for visitors, we were joined by Eric Upton our Chairman and his wife, Margaret, who were holidaying in the area. It was nice to meet them and see them enjoying themselves., Hopefully they will come back !

The stack of boxes and bits of railway behind Eric and Margaret were not what they had brought to run (although they were running trains) but were shop stock belonging to John Sutton who had come over to visit us. It appears that there were some good deals done both ways between John and our members.



A pair of Garratts from the C3 workshops of Colin Clinton Carter, the rearmost formerly being stationed on the Dysyni Valley Rly in Tywyn owned by the late Alf Bacon.

Aug 2019

Clubroom was well attended but due to holidays I'm sorry, we have no report



October 2019

A meeting was held of all members present. There was quite a lot of discussion regarding the new track support boards for our revamped layout. There is an article further on briefly discussing our options, or at least some of them.

There was news of a very generous offer, regarding track, that had been made to the Group, see the next article.

It was also proposed, in view of the upcoming expenditure this project will involve, to increase the door fee to £3 with additional donations for tea etc. A vote was taken and the increase accepted. Since this meeting the Northwest group have also raised their door fee to £3





A very generous offer

As reported in the October clubroom notes we were very fortunate and grateful to receive a very generous offer. Cynthia and James Dowling offered us all of Dave's remaining track. It was arranged that a working party of volunteers would go along on October 30th to lift and remove as much as we could.

On arrival we were welcomed by Cynthia, James and his children and also a little fellow that a lot of you will remember. It was however, a strange feeling to be standing in Dave's garden, seeing the buildings, the familiar runs of track, the lovely views and hearing the distant whistle of trains on the W&LI without Dave.



There was a large amount of track still in place and lifting this kept the group very busy. This was put into arbitrary piles to try and estimate what we had but in the end it was loaded into cars by the very satisfied volunteers to be taken for storage. This will be audited and radii and lengths etc. checked at a later date in order for planning of our new indoor layout to go ahead.



Clubroom Nov

Unfortunately unseasonably early snow prevented a number of members, including myself, from attending in November but a good number still managed to get through and have a good time.

Clubroom Dec was replaced by our well attended :

Christmas Dinner held in the Raven Inn in Welshpool and everybody appeared to have a good time, although one or two things didn't go exactly to plan.





Webmaster's Report

The website is doing well and still receives quite a number of views each day. Many of these are from the link on the main G Scale Society contact page. Hopefully this shows that there are people in our area that are looking at what is going on around them. Some of the visitors are more remote though. South Africa featured quite a bit in the last 3 months – 34 individuals visited the site at least once – wonder why that was?

There is still a need for submissions for inclusion in any part of the site. These could range from half a dozen lines about a fix that you use, pictures of your railway or stock through to complete articles or even your own website linked from our group site. Just ask me if you want to know more.

I do try to keep the site up to date mainly because I hate to go on a web site and see it is a couple of years out of date! To keep it up to date requires new items though.... One of the things that may well make a decent article is the design and construction of the new boards / running track – any volunteers? It just needs a few pictures and a short description of each picture. I can then construct an article or section on the project.

Contact me via the website or on email at contact@gscalesociety-mwmgroup.co.uk

Our website is at : <http://gscalesociety-mwmgroup.co.uk/>

Previous editions of GRAIL

Please see the note in the Webmasters report (above) re back copies.

Paper copies of the GRAIL and other communications

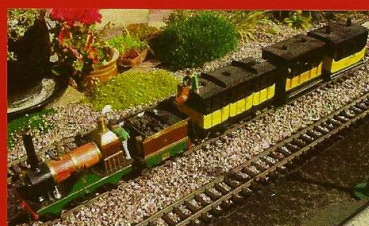
The GRAIL and other communications are available by surface mail on request. We do ask that those of you who wish to receive The Grail and other communications by surface mail please contribute to the costs of printing and postage. Please phone Mike Thornhill (details below) to discuss.

Details of our "Loose" Committee

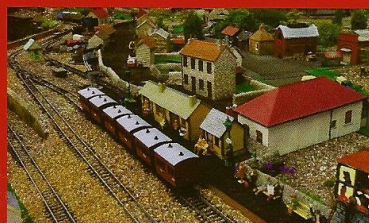
Name	Responsibilities	Contact Details
Mike Thornhill	Group Leader	metkvlr@gmail.com 01586 614336
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Steve Thornhill	G Scale Society Co-Ordinator & produces Area Report to the G Scale Society	mrtc20hp@gmail.com
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The Sparesman

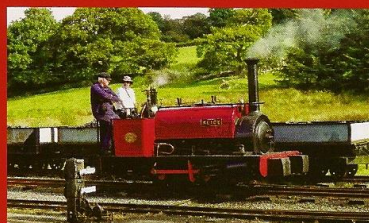
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and bolts



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