

THE GRAIL

The Newsletter of the Mid Wales
and Marches Group of
'G' Scale Society
October 2016

Stuart giving operating lessons on the Plynlimon and Hafan Tramway



Open Days

What a great year we have had with good weather favouring us most of the time. We ran trains on the Clwyd and Dee Light Railway near Wrexham (John Wenlock), the Dow Valley Light Railway Llanfair Caereinion (Dave Dowling) , the Pontnewydd Garden Railway Newbridge on Wye (Ivan Byng), the Kenwater Valley Railway Leominster (Mike Thornhill), the Salisbury Hill Railway Market Drayton (Tony Hayward) and the Plynlimon and Hafan Tramway near Aberystwyth (Alan Millichamp). We also got the layout out in August and ran trains as part of the Castle Caereinion village Fete.

Now that we have come to the end of the open garden season we will be concentrating our running in the Hall at Castle Caereinion.

If you intend to hold an open day in 2017 can you please let Dave Dowling know so that he can arrange for the dates to go in the G Scale Journal.

Group Running Sessions in Castle Caereinion Community Hall

We had our first running session on Saturday 8th October and 33 people attended which was a very good attendance and augurs well for the future. Both tracks worked well electrically and apart from a few bumpy sections (which we smoothed out as the day wore on) everything ran well. We ran live steam, Battery locos and Track powered electric locos.

We will now run on the second Saturday in every month up to and including April 2017 apart from in December when we will meet on the third Saturday as the WI have already booked the second Saturday. The dates which are all on Saturdays are:-

12th November

17th December

14th January

11th February

11th March

8th April

All are welcome to bring something to run and there is also space for 'For Sale' items to be displayed . Additionally if anyone wants to bring a layout or a display please do so as we have plenty of room in the Hall and Foyer. The entry charge is £1 for adults and no charge for children with free refreshments available throughout the day.

As you can see from the Accounts below we currently have in the Bank.

Who is teaching who here then?



Mid Wales and Marches Group Christmas Dinner

**The Dinner will be held at The Goat Hotel in Llanfair Caereinion
at 1pm on Saturday 3rd December.**

We can choose from either the ordinary Menu or the Party Menu. The Party Menu costs £12 for 2 courses or £15.50 for 3 courses. The ordinary menu has a separate price for each item. Both menus are quite long so they are included as separate attachments.

If you intend coming along to the dinner can you please let Dave Dowling know as soon as you are able. Can you also please let him know what you would like to eat.



A surprise visitor to the Plynlimon and Hafan Tramway

A useful tip from Colin Clinton Carter

Just recently I received a request for a small Box spanner or Nut Runner. Easy I thought – Squires, Chronos, Reeves and several others came to mind as potential suppliers. Well at 1.4mm across the flats I drew a blank. One or two offered 16BA as suitable. On obtaining one it was just a little too big.

The answer as always was – Make one !

To achieve this I searched and found an Allen Key at 1.37AF. It was an all black item which are usually hardened. Using a length of 6mm Dia drawn brass rod, I first drilled end on to a depth of 15mm with a drill at 1.35 Dia followed by a further 5mm deep drilling to match the across corners of the Allen Key. This second drilling is to support the Allen Key during the next operation. Some Keys have sharp corners and some are slightly rounded.

The long end of the Allen Key was ground sharp and square. This provides a sharp punch, which was then clamped into the vice. It took little effort to hammer the drilled brass into it, however it took much greater effort to remove it.

Using the lathe I then turned away the unwanted 5mm length of drilling, this exposed a perfect Hex Nut Runner with exactly 1.4mm AF. Should the exposed hexagon wear this can be turned or filed away to expose a fresh spanner.

Using the undersized Allen Key confirmed that Brass usually works slightly oversize when drilling.

On reflection a Lathe is not essential. A quality electric hand held drill followed by cutting back with a hacksaw would likely give the same result.

This method can be used up to say 5mm AF, beyond this a lathe and a three sided broach are needed.

If you have an article, some photos, a story, something to sell – in fact if you have anything which can go into future copies of `The Grail` please let Dave Dowling know

e-mail..

Tel...|

Snail mail....|

