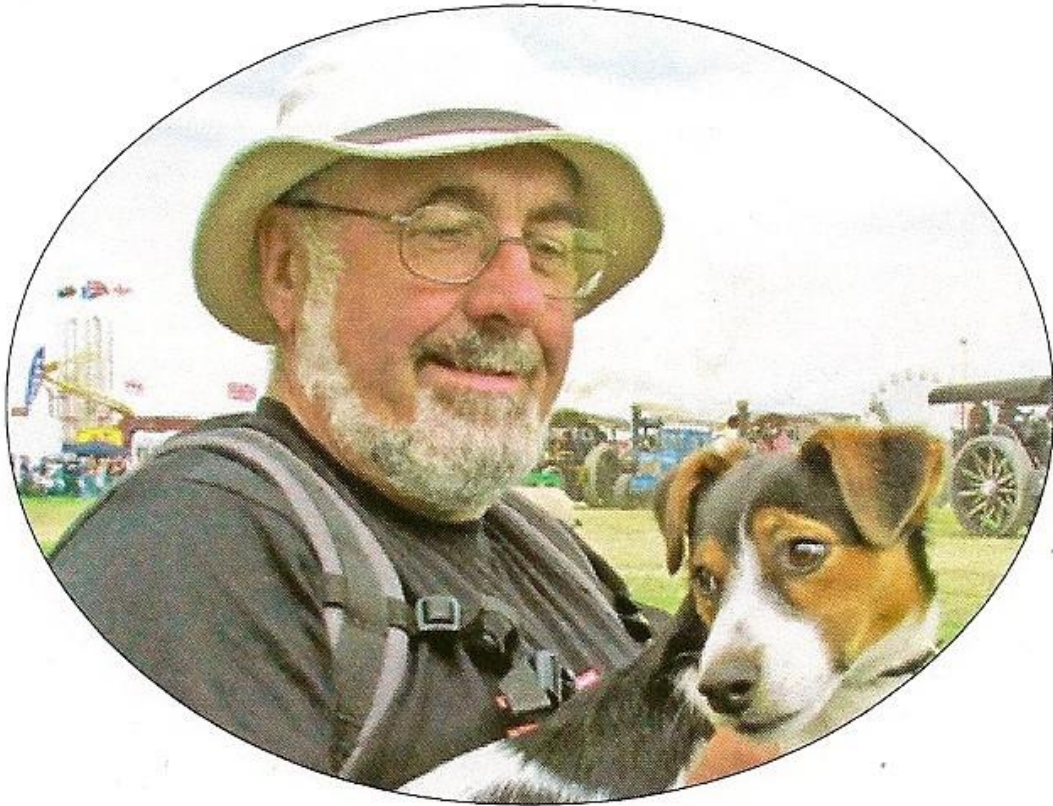


THE GRAIL

July 2018



DAVID DOWLING, 1947-2018

OUR man who made friends with the world ----

" Dave ", to us all , moved to Welshpool in 1987 , got bitten by the G Scale bugs in 2001 whilst attending the Llanfair show, allowed the infatuation to take hold so joined our Society making more friends at every garden he visited . His love of trains lead to many motor bike rides all over the map to narrow and standard gauge centres etc as the years went by.

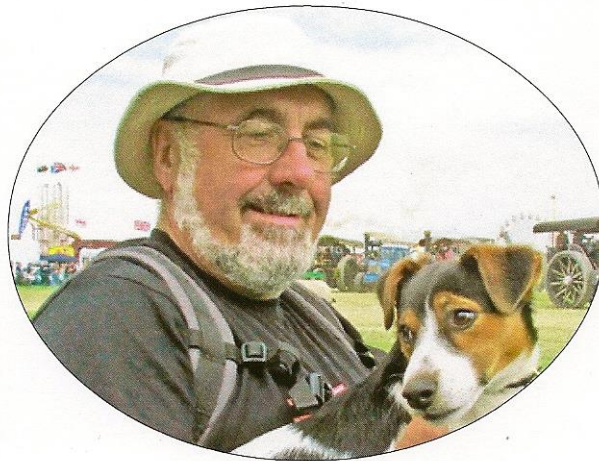
Let's go to XXXX he would say, You only had to say yes and it was all fixed,. Making you think it was his first visit there, yet when you arrived ---- HE KNEW EVERYBODY, and they knew him , and something special had been laid on. This man collected friends like you and I might collect Loco numbers.

About 2005 he took on the role of Co-ordinator to the MID WALES & MARCHES G scale group and also the job of treasurer to our Society. Roles he got immense pleasure out of because it gave him a chance to meet more people.

One of his ambitions was that the group should have a Winter meeting place with a possible "club" track . This he achieved in 2016, WELL DONE OUR FRIEND: what a legacy. We who knew you say THANK YOU!

Thanks go to Mike Thornhill for writing the eloquent and sincere obituary carried on the cover.

This and the next page feature the Order of Service for the benefit of those who unfortunately could not attend Dave's funeral.



A Celebration of the life

of

David Philip Dowling

who passed away peacefully on
May 5th, 2018

Aged 71 years

Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury
on Monday, May 21st, 2018

MUSIC ON ENTRY *True Love Ways*
Buddy Holly - David's favourite singer

Welcome and Opening Words

MEMORIES OF DAD
James and Tim

COLIN EDWARDS
Chairman of the Clive Motor Cycle Club

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION
Farewell to Stromness
Sir Peter Maxwell Davies
(Scotland was a favourite holiday destination of
David and Cynthia.)

MIKE THORNHILL
David and his passion for garden railways

SCOTT THEOBOLD
Chairman of Castle Caereinion Golf Society

MUSIC ON EXIT *Liberty Bell*
played on a fairground organ
(Monty Python - a favourite programme)

Cynthia, James, Tim and family thank everyone for the kindness and sympathy extended to them during this sad time, for your attendance at this service and for your kind donations given in memory for Caereinion District Nurses' Fund or Marie Curie Nursing Service.

The family invites you to join them for light refreshments at Shrewsbury Cricket Club following this service.

R.G. Peate
Funeral Director
Welshpool 559256

So many attended that the room was full to overflowing with many having to stand, an obvious sign of the respect in which Dave was held and his great popularity. This was a celebration of Dave's life and was led by Mr Geraint Peate of Welshpool. Speakers from many aspects of Dave's life told of his sense of humour, his friendliness and willingness to join in and help. In all it was a fitting way to say a final farewell to such a good man.

Remembering Dave

A suggestion has been made that we should in some way commemorate Dave's life. Initial thoughts were for a suitably inscribed memorial bench on one of the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway stations but after discussions with the powers-that-be on the railway it turns out that they have so many of these that they have to display them in rotation. The railway manager has however suggested that a round picnic table, the wooden type with seats attached, might be more suitable and would be most welcome.

If you have any further thoughts or perhaps would like to contribute to this or a similar memorial please contact Mike Thornhill.

Mike Thornhill M.B.E.

Congratulations to our Group Leader, Mike, on recently being awarded the MBE.

The award was presented by HRH The Duke of Gloucester in a ceremony held in The Grange Court, Leominster. Typical of Mike, rather than have his award presented by The Queen at Buckingham Palace, he chose to have his presentation locally in order to be able to share the occasion with many others who had also taken part in the many projects in which he had been involved.

One of the projects was bringing back into full use Grange Court, an ancient wool market building, once abandoned, but thanks to Mike's efforts brought back into use and the place Mike chose for the presentation. As Chair of Leominster Area Regeneration Company Mike organised a meeting between like-minded local and business people and the Town Council. On hearing that the Council's best plan was to erect scaffolding but to carry out no improvements Mike shocked those present by saying "We'll buy it". When asked how much they would pay Mike slapped a one pound coin on the table and the sale was agreed. Thereafter Mike was instrumental in the planning and renovation of this historical building.

Over the years Mike has been involved in innumerable projects in the town, often as Chairman. Leominster in Bloom was another particularly successful project but his involvement goes right back to establishing a model railway club in the town many years ago.

This is, of course, merely a brief insight into hundreds of hours of work and the many projects which led to Mike being put forward to receive his well-deserved MBE.



The article above is a very short summary of a longer article about the award itself, how it is awarded, the efforts that earned Mike that award, including an interesting history of Mike's work in the community and a look at the day of the award itself and the planning that went into it.

Thanks go to Steve Thornhill for his extensive efforts in preparing this article the full version of which will be available to view in full on the Group website within the next few days.

IMPORTANT : Additional contact details

Mike Thornhill has been having problems with his home phone line. This is expected to only last for a short while.

Please take note of these numbers and if you fail on one try one of the others

Mike Thornhill

Steve Thornhill

2018 Garden Visits

As the summer draws on only one Open Day is currently booked. If anyone is prepared to open their railway for area/club meetings then please advise Mike Thornhill at metkvlr@gmail.com or **01568 614152** asap with dates and contact details so that members can be informed.

Sunday 12th August, 11a.m. onwards, Plynlimon and Hafan Light Railway, Alan Millichamp, Llandre, Nr Aberystwyth,

Also, don't forget about the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway Gala Friday 30th August to Sunday 2nd September. which includes this :



2018 LLANFAIR GARDEN RAILWAY SHOW
AT LLANFAIR CAEREINION LEISURE CENTRE SY21 OHW

SATURDAY 1st SEPT
10:00am - 4:30pm
SUNDAY 2nd SEPT
10:00am - 4:00pm

ADMISSION
£7:00
UNDER 16 FREE

LAYOUTS -16mm & G scale
40+ TRADERS , REFRESHMENTS
FREE PARKING
FREE BUS FROM WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR RAILWAY GALA
MORE INFO CONTACT 07796 863249

New Opportunity

Roy Crofton-Mann

For those of you who may not know, in addition to my G-Scale activities I'm a member of both the Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers and the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway (the W&LLR). A couple of weeks ago I received a phone call from Alan Regan (16mm Association Chairman and also a W&LLR volunteer fireman) telling me that the W&LLR had been gifted an exhibition layout (in 45mm track, as used by Alan though not by the majority of 16mm members) previously featured at the W&LLR Gala. Knowing my involvement in G-Scale and that I lived locally to Llanfair Caereinion, would I be interested in helping to manage the layout on permanent exhibition at Llanfair station and did I think other G-Scalers might want to get involved? I replied in the affirmative to both: "Does a one-legged duck swim in circles?"

After a series of discussions with Alan and with Charles Spencer, General Manager of the W&LLR, the following emerged. The layout, approx. 40' x 10' when set up in its largest configuration and capable of taking track power without modification, was to become a major exhibit in a museum of the W&LLR to be established in one of three industrial units owned by the railway and situated adjacent to Llanfair Caereinion station. These units are referred to locally as "Colinette" after the name of the business that formally owned them. A group of volunteers would be required to operate the layout on set days (number to be determined but depending on the number of interested operators) throughout the W&LLR's operating season and perform minor maintenance to keep it running properly. In return the group would have access to the layout at other times for their own use – somewhere to play trains indoors in the winter. Light, power, water and toilets are or will be available within the building.

In the near term, once the W&LLR has cleared the area identified for the layout in Colinette, the group will need to erect and test the layout. Repairs may be needed but these are expected to be minor in nature. The layout will be used at the W&LLR Gala Friday 31st August through Sunday 2nd September, after which I'll work with the railway to establish group-only and, eventually, public operating/work days to be announced via The G Scale Journal and The Bulletin.

So who is going to form this group? Basically anybody who is prepared to commit time to the enterprise would be welcome. It is envisaged that primarily they would be members of the G Scale Society or the 16mm Association, but not exclusively so. All would be required to enrol as volunteers with the W&LLR in order to be covered by their insurance whilst "working" on W&LLR premises, though membership of the W&LLR itself is not necessary in order to be a volunteer. Members of either society would be covered by their respective group insurances for live steam models but others would be required to provide adequate proof of boiler safety. The W&LLR's public liability insurance would provide cover for all events where the public is in attendance.

So who's interested? It is intended that there be no subscriptions or any other process other than enrolment as a W&LLR volunteer and, of course, a preparedness to tell us who you are and how we can contact you (preferably via email). It is envisaged that the group will operate in much the same way as a G-Scale or 16mm Local Area Group with reports in the publications of both societies.

Personally, I see this as an excellent opportunity to bring the two major garden railway organisations together and publicise the activities of both to the general public who, by their presence, can be assumed to have at least some interest in narrow gauge railways and, perhaps more importantly, to their children. Oh, and to play trains indoors!

How do you get involved? In the first instance contact either myself
or Alan Regan

tel.



Open Day on the Salisbury Hill Light Railway

Sunday 22nd July was a warm sunny day in Market Drayton, just right for an Open Day on Tony Hayward's railway. Here are some of the pictures taken on the day

Pics from top

1. Ian Payne's rather nice American train.
2. Dennis Norman enjoying the shade.
3. The fish were just sunbathing.

There is also a video on our website.



Open Day on the Kenwater Valley Light Railway

Sunday 29th July



The day started with heavy rain in many places which deterred some people from travelling. This was a great pity as the weather stayed kind throughout the afternoon and they missed a very pleasant Open Day.

The layout of the main quite lengthy railway in its beautiful setting has been changed and the 32mm loop has also been completely revamped with plans for more work yet so we look forward to seeing what time will bring.

There was a good mix of trains running including a speedometer wagon on the 32mm line, a log train hauled by a Heisler with sound and a Woodhead tunnel works train.





Seen almost running (above) was one of Mikes Meccano-ical Marvels which is part of a Meccano train (above right), this meths fired loco appeared to be suffering power loss in the drive mechanism which is sure to be sorted soon.

This railbus ran well and had a nice sounding petrol engine sound system.



For Sale and Wanted

Members can advertise items For Sale or Wanted here or on the Group website, or both, free of charge.
Please contact Ian Payne or Mike Thornhill on

For Sale

Cyril's Garden Railway with bungalow attached

Group members Cyril and Mary Aspley are selling their house in Tywyn, complete with their garden railway, as they wish to downsize due to ill health.



The railway at approx. 900ft has four loops and is capable of running four trains at once, with 32 sets of points and also has a waterfall and a suspension bridge. The 10 engines and approx. 50 pieces of rolling stock are kept in a workshop from where they can travel directly to the garden.



The spacious 3 bed detached bungalow is located in a quiet cul-de-sac within minutes of the Tal y llyn Railway, the beach and the town centre and also has a conservatory and a 52ft garage /workshop. For more details phone Cyril and Mary on

The new “Loose” Committee

| Name | Responsibilities | Contact Details |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| Mike Thornhill | Group Leader | |
| Tony Sydenham | Treasurer Village Hall Co-Ordinator Supply milk for refreshment | |
| Marion Turner | Catering Supplies etc. | |
| Ian Payne | Webmaster | |
| Steve Thornhill | G Scale Society Co-Ordinator | |
| Roy Crofton-Mann | Publish the Grail & Area Report to the G Scale Society | |
| Hugh Brightwell | Publish the Grail & Area Report to the G Scale Society | |

Treasurers Report

Webmaster's Report

Since the creation of the original website work has been going on with additions and general tidying up. I think it is about there now but, as ever, please let me know if you spot any issues that I have missed.

Latest additions are the video of the recent Sunday meeting at Tony Hayward's Salisbury Hill Railway. The sun shone all day and a good time was had by all that attended. And the revised meeting date for Alan Millichamp's Plynlimon and Hafan Light Railway of 12th August.

More back issues have been loaded onto the site, by the time you read this this latest edition will also be there. If you have any copies, either electronic or paper, of editions that don't appear on the list on the website please let me know.

As usual there is a need for new content to be included on the site. It's only as good as the items that are published on it and that's where you can be a big help. Please send articles, pictures **and particularly videos**, etc., for inclusion. Any format is acceptable as I can modify it to fit. Suggestions as to changes and additions are always welcome.

I can be contacted at :

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

Paper copies of the GRAIL

If you wish to receive The Grail by surface mail we ask that you please contribute to the costs of printing and postage. Please phone Mike Thornhill to discuss.

Previous editions of GRAIL

There are previous editions of The GRAIL available on the website. There are a number more that are to be placed on the website shortly.

<http://gscalesociety-mwmgroup.co.uk/about-us/newsletters/>

If you have any paper or electronic copies of the GRAIL that are not on the list on the website please contact Ian Payne our Webmaster or Mike Thornhill.

The Sparesman

**G Scale
Garden railways
bought and sold**



**Modelling nuts
and bolts**



**Mail order or
see us at all the
major garden
railway shows**



**Mobile: 07968 595754
Tel: 01773 605981
Email: tonylegrys@hotmail.co.uk**