

THE GRAIL

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

November 2018



Fig. 1 Last of the Summer Wine ?

Members enjoying the sunshine during our last Garden Open Day of the summer hosted by Alan and Chris Millichamp.

Another full edition but slightly more formal time dealing with a number of reports, including Steve's report on the members meeting in the clubroom in Castle Caereinion, Roy's report on the Llanfair Railway Modellers Group and a report back from the Group Leaders Meeting attended by Mike and Steve. There are also appeals for help both from Mike and Roy. Therefore, some members' articles have had to be held back until next time. If you have something that you would like to write about more articles are always welcome, however small.

The Seasons move on

This first article covers our last garden Open Day of the summer hosted by Alan and Chris Millichamp, before moving on to our first indoor meeting of this Winter season in Castle Caereinion, with a glance towards the future as we consider the feasibility of more indoor running sessions during next Summer.



Fig 2 It's nice to see some variety, a nice scenic background and a train of a good length too.



Fig 3 Talking of variety, a rather nice USA freight train rattling it's way through the station area.



Fig 4 Also here to bask in the sunshine was a visitor from another gauge, a very nice G3 4MT tank.

We were very lucky with the weather on this mid-August Sunday as rain had been forecast and clouds had dogged visitors on their journey to Alan's. Once again Alan managed to arrange for the bad weather to keep it's distance and a good day was had by all who came to visit this layout built on the alignment of the old Plynlimon and Hafan Railway.

The Llanfair Caereinion show provided another opportunity for our members to socialise on our own patch, whilst searching for bargains, with the joint railway layout venture with the W & LI Rly and the 16mm Assoc. (see separate article) providing further interest for those of the 45mm persuasion.

Mid October had arrived bringing storm Callum with it and the indoor season got under way.

And yes, you've guessed it, there were more important discussions to be had while other members took the opportunity to use a very mixed range of locos, rolling stock and trams to warm up the Group's dual circuit layout.

This was a very well attended meeting with over twenty making their way through wind and rain to be there.

As well as the compulsory informal chat, a slightly more formal group meeting was also held. More detailed minutes and developments from this meeting are published immediately following this article.



Fig 5 Catching up



Fig 6 A rather nice British outline mixed goods train is joined by a Bachmann tram.



Fig 7 One of our members brought this portable layout on which can be seen his Roundhouse lookalike diesel and some very impressive scratch-built Pullman style coaches.

The next meeting in Castle Caereinion will be on Saturday 10th November.

Notes from the Club Meeting 13-10-2018

By Steve Thornhill

GSS National AREA GROUP LEADERS MEETING September 2018

Report by Steve Thornhill

The members of our “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	

Llanfair Railway Modellers Update

Our *ad hoc* group came together and ran a full programme at the W&LLR Gala on 31st August and 1st-2nd September in the first "Colinette" building, and the event went well in my opinion – it was very satisfying to see G Scalpers and 16mm's playing nicely together. There were problems of course, primarily concerning the track power being disrupted by steam oil on the tracks and on one occasion by somebody running stock with uninsulated wheels! This was the first time the Colinette buildings had hosted any part of the gala and it must be said that signposting was extremely poor, but a considerable number of visitors made their way to see us and the engineering display in the adjoining room. It must also be said that, as a Society, our lack of available publicity material was woeful whereas 16mm material was abundant: This has already been addressed for future events, but we still managed to attract some "new blood" to the Mid Wales group.

The building was originally scheduled for demolition and as such all services had been disconnected. Temporary lighting was in evidence and the décor left much to be desired, and the layout itself distinctly shabby in places, but we know the problems and will address them before the next gala, which is the realistic target for a next public running session as there is much refurbishment work to be undertaken in the building before it can open as a visitor centre/museum of the W&LLR. A W&LLR sub-committee has been formed to pull together all the threads of the proposed centre, including the allocation of space, and I shall be looking to maximise the available space as the layout is at present crammed into the corners of a room without natural light and, more importantly given that we want to run at least some live steam, ventilation.

Given that G Rail this year is short of layouts (the Event Manager has been replaced by Gerry Pedder who has come out of retirement to organise the event for 2019 only, in an attempt to resurrect the show from the dismal performance that was last year's offering) it was something of a no-brainer to offer to take the Llanfair layout (so far un-named) there. The W&LLR, owners of the layout, are all for it seeing an opportunity to publicise the railway and Alan Regan, the 16mm chairman, in confident that local (to Nottingham 16mm members can be enlisted to run during the show (which, may I remind you, is to be held on Sunday 19th May) but I do not want to see this become a 16mm live steam event, and invite all Mid Wales G Scale members to take part. To avoid incompatibilities I propose that live steam only run in the afternoon and track power in the morning, though battery locos will be able to run all day of course.

Dismantling the layout will of course help efforts to modify and decorate the room in Colinette: Power needs to be laid into the existing fluorescent lights and it is planned to block up the door at the left-hand end – which is in any even obstructed by the layout and is not required as there are two other entrances to the room, which will enable to depth of the layout to be increased. It would also present an opportunity to work on refurbishing the layout, easing the tight curves at the ends to accommodate longer rolling stock, and renew/extend the ballast plus give the fascia a much needed coat of paint. Personally, I would like to see a painted back-scene on the walls surrounding the layout but that is still to be negotiated.

Getting the layout to Nottingham should be the easy part: I have a large enclosed trailer more than big enough for the job and a suitable tow vehicle. What I will need are a couple of volunteers to help with dismantling, loading and re-assembling the layout at the other end on Saturday evening, plus dismantling and loading on Sunday once the show closes. Your reward for this would be your expenses paid for the trip to Nottingham with overnight hotel accommodation and meals paid by The Society, plus of course free admission to GRail as an exhibitor. If you are able to commit to this please let me know as soon as possible.

Roy Crofton-Mann

A CALL FOR HELP !! (short term)

Those of you who attend our gatherings at Castle Caereinion will have noticed we are occasionally visited by a member in a wheel chair with his Care Home helper. This is Laurie Weeks and Rita, Laurie has been a G Scale member for many years and is now resident at West Eaton House in Leominster.

West Eaton house has just had an extension built which means that they now have "spare" a small area of land which would be an ideal place to put a small G45 layout next to a new patio. They have "MET posts" and timber available and a willing caretaker who wants to get involved..... but they need guidance.

Laurence probably already has enough track and points (if not, he can get more). Steve and myself will sort all the admin, but we could do with some help on one or two afternoons, mid-week or w/ends, to get the assembly work done and then the track laid



There will be no track power, it will be all live steam or battery. West Eaton House have asked if this can be achieved soon, preferably before next Easter !



So... if anybody would care to get involved. Please contact Mike or Steve ASAP THANK YOU !!!

Winter Season 2018/2019

Dates of indoor meetings 2018/2019

Please note, these dates are subject to confirmation but are unlikely to be changed.

November 10th
December 8th
January 12th
February 9th
March 13th
April 13th

Webmaster's 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.

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 :

Treasurers Report

For Sale and Wanted

LGB Feldbahn parts Wanted. I am looking for LGB Feldbahn parts or complete items, to maintain my own items, and not for resale as spares.

If any members have unwanted items I would be interested in acquiring them.

Please contact : Tony LeGrys

Previous editions of GRAIL

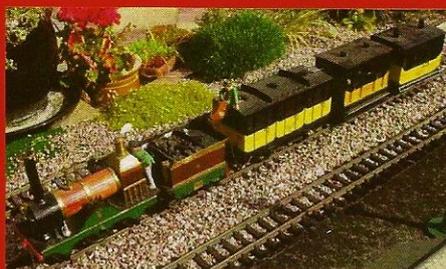
Please see the note in the Webmasters report (above) re back copies.

Paper copies of the GRAIL and other communications

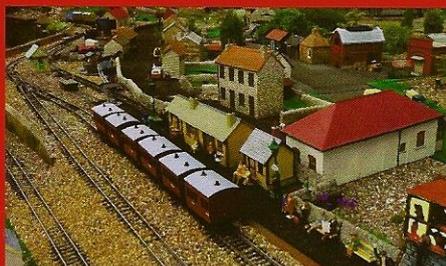
If you wish to receive the GRAIL and communications by surface mail please phone Mike Thornhill on to discuss. We do ask that those of you who wish to receive The Grail and other communications by surface mail please contribute to the costs of printing and postage. Please phone Mike Thornhill on to discuss.

The Sparesman

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Mobile: 07968 595754

Tel: 01773 605981

Email: tonylegrys@hotmail.co.uk