

WHISTLEBLOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

November 2017 Edition

EDITORIAL

This month's edition contains some important information about the AGM, subs, the Open Day and Christmas dinner. Please do participate wherever you can.

NOTICE OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Farnham & District Model Railway Club will be held in the Wrecclesham Community Centre at 8pm on Wednesday 6th of December 2017.

Members wishing to have an item placed on the Agenda should submit their request in writing to the Club Secretary to be received by him on or before Wednesday 22nd of November.

The Annual General Meeting will also elect the members of the Executive Committee and the General Purposes Committee to serve until the 2018 Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Chairman and Secretary have completed their 3 year term of office and are ineligible for re-election. The acting Treasurer only agreed to serve until this year's AGM. It is also necessary to re-elect the Exhibition Manager and the Gauge representatives.

Nominations for all the above positions should be submitted in writing to the Club Secretary to be received by him on or before Wednesday 22nd of November. All nominations must be in writing and require a proposer and seconder and must be accompanied by written confirmation from the candidate that they are willing to stand. A Nomination form for this purpose will be available in the Club Room.

Michael Le Marie

Secretary of Farnham & District Model Railway Club.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As agreed at last year's AGM the subscriptions for the membership year commencing November 2017 are now due. These are £75 for Full Members. There is a reduced rate for Associate Members, subject to application to the Committee. Please pay your subs to the Treasurer Les Inwood by cheque or cash. If you want to pay by bank transfer, please talk to Les to get details.

OPEN DAY – Julian Evison

The Club Open Day takes place this year on Sunday 19th November in the hall from 10 am to 4 pm. **Please make every effort to attend.**

This year the layouts on display will be:

- 00 Test Track
- Brixcombe
- Wickwar
- Aldermouth (Jim Edwards)
- Kinlochlaggen (Mike Le Marie)
- Whimsey (David Harrington)

This is an important event for the Club as it is often the entry point for those who are thinking of joining us. There are many things to be done such as stewarding the car park and the hall, manning the kitchen and operating the cash desk. **I will put up a list of jobs in the Club Room** and ask you to sign up for helping out. With the exception of those with personal layouts, please do sign up for jobs that need doing – you are not needed on your group layout all day! In particular if anyone is willing to co-ordinate the kitchen activities, or the stewarding activities, or the cash desk, please let me know.

If you would also like to give a demonstration for an hour or so of a particular skill, please volunteer.

Please also make sure that you TALK TO VISITORS. This is not a day for us to 'play trains', but for us to recruit new members!

CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER – Mike Le Marie

If you are planning to attend the Club Christmas Dinner at the Hen & Chicken, Froyle, then, if you have not done so, could you please complete the attached booking form and give it to Mike Le Marie along with the appropriate payment. (The booking form and menu are at the end of this edition of Whistleblower). If you are unable to print a copy then see Mike in the clubroom as he has copies available.

EXHIBITION RETROSPECTIVE – Julian Evison

As we heard from Noel Leaver, we had a very successful annual exhibition with more than 2000 visitors over the weekend for the first time since 2004 and many positive comments. We can be proud of what we achieved, but do look at the next article by David Harrington about all the hard work that goes in to making this happen – we all have a part to play.

Richard Harris was very busy at our exhibition taking many photos of the event. They can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ajue5h6ece7u1xg/AAAYanIQbMpUBPw5nvKoHyXQa?dl=0>

To whet your appetite, and on a purely personal basis, here are photos of each of the layouts that gave me the most pleasure:



Clockwise from the top we have Addison Road, Hospital Gates, Ynysybwll, Denton Brook, Arigna Town, Diana Marino and Lighterman's Yard.

We should also mark this year's very successful Charity Layout. The raffle for this raised £750 for the Parkside children's charity and gave lots of people a great deal of pleasure at

the show. Congratulations to all Club members who put so much time and effort into this and particularly to Charles Joliffe who was the driving force behind it all.



THE BURDEN OF PUTTING ON AN ANNUAL EXHIBITION – David Harrington

What starts a couple of weeks after our annual show ends? You've got it – it's the planning process for the next one.

And what's a never-ending task that runs throughout the year, every year? You might not have got that one – it's searching far and wide for top quality layouts for two and three years downstream and issuing invitations to them. That's the proactive bit. On top of that there's the reactive task of assessing requests from would-be exhibitors who are keen to bring their (sometimes not-quite-so-good) layouts to us.

Sounds easy? It's not. And the success of this year's show (which determines if the punters will return next year) and thus the long-term financial health of our club, depends on getting it right. Year-in, year out.

Just for the record (and to ensure that none of us takes our show for granted, or isn't aware of the blood, sweat and tears that makes it happen) here's a rough guide to the key responsibilities. You can probably put names to tasks – I deliberately haven't done so.

Exhibition Manager – Has ultimate responsibility for all elements. Pulls together all parts of the team. Liaises with venue on issues that include Health and Safety and security; arranges First Aid cover. Allocates essential duties such as room stewards, door guardians, car park attendants.

Decides on layouts to be invited and liaises with other clubs on logistics. Ensures show is advertised in hobby media. Acquires layout descriptions for show guide. Liaises with Hart Lions on catering. Proposes entry price. Arranges “most appealing layout” voting. Books venue for next year. Arranges for “staff photographer”. Ensures enough barriers for layouts. Sets show budget and reports to Club Committee

Deputy Exhibition Manager - Supports Exhibition Manager and has special responsibility for securing trader support for and attendance at the show. Gets text for inclusion in show guide. Liaises with Treasurer on invoicing traders.

Hall Management - Gets details of tables/chairs/badges/lunches needed, and puts together packs for stands and informs Leisure Centre.

Power supplies - Ensures every trader and exhibitor has access to a power outlet according to the layout plan. Obtains and PAT tests enough extension cables, cable protectors on the floor, installs them before the day, responds to ad hoc requests during the show and recovers club property afterwards.

Layout Plan – Critical task. Takes information from Exhibition Manager. Converts that to a floor plan, with dimensions. Several iterations over many months.

Treasurer – Liaises with Exhibition Manager on layout expected expenses and arranges insurance cover. Provides floats, door tickets, cash boxes and night safe. Collects cash from admission points and other club income sources (such as Used Sales stand). Real-time control of accounting activities during show. Produces final analysis of show P&L. Reports to Club Committee.

Show Guide Manager – accepts exhibitors’ and traders’ text. Designs guide layout around text and ads. Monitors sales of advertising. Liaises with printer on costs and design. Produces artwork for flyer for next year and arranges print.

Arranging accommodation for visiting layout operators – a hassle-rich job

Local area publicity – provides pictures and text to local papers. Purchases ads as required.

Green Room management. Staffs and manages room throughout show. Orders beer and urns, coffee and tea. Liaises with Hart Lions for exhibitor food..

Club Stand. Ensures Stand is serviceable and pictures intact; stocks of leaflets on future events and membership forms. Produces list of potential members for post-show follow-up. Staffs Stand

at show. Manages display of members' models.

Used Items Stall Proposes selling criteria. Assembles and catalogues donated items throughout year. Crews stall. Liaises with Treasurer on distribution of proceeds to Club and original owners.

Van hire and drive - Depends on finding a willing and able driver among Club members.

Signage – AA and private venture. Critically important to “first impressions” by visitors. This aspect is by far the most frequently commented on after the show.

Car park stewards - Especially important during the first few confusing hours of Friday night and Saturday morning.

Web Update - Posts details of layouts and traders for the next exhibition, and puts up photos from the exhibition.

Finally – you might have noticed that there are 16 primary tasks listed above. That’s over a third of the Club’s active membership. If you then take into account that several of these tasks involve more than one member (e.g.: Used Sales Stand, door guardians), and that other members will be on a layout operating roster, it illustrates just how important it is that every one of us not directly tasked pitches in to help – not just on the day but throughout the year. We did exceptionally well in 2017. The challenge is to match that in 2018.

CAN YOU HELP?

Mike Le Marie says, “I have been approached by the Rural Life Centre to ask whether there are any members who would be willing to go and operate a LGB Christmas themed layout at the Centre in Tilford. The person who normally operates it is no longer able to do so. The dates are the weekends of December 9th/10th and 16th/17th. Please contact me if interested.”

WICKWAR AT FAREHAM

Wickwar attended the Fareham Club show the week before our own. The layout won the 'Best in Show' award. Well done to the N gauge group. Here a few photos to give an idea of the weekend.



CLASSIFIEDS

Club Member Liam Rasbid is Looking for a DCC Controller to replace his Hornby Select Controller. Anyone who has one to sell, please contact: liamsantini@hotmail.co.uk

CLUB DIARY TO END FEBRUARY

2017	Running Night	Event	Notes
Wed 1 Nov	0 gauge		
Sat 4 Nov		Club Layout at Wycrail, High Wycombe	Wickwar (N)
Wed 8 Nov	N Gauge		
Sat 11 Nov		Club member's layout present at Romford Club show	Aldermouth (Jim Edwards)
Wed 15 Nov	00/P4 gauges		
Sun 19 Nov		Club Open Day	N, 00, P4 and 0 scale layouts
Wed 22 Nov	00 gauge		
Wed 29 Nov	5th Wednesday		
Sat 2 Dec		Club member's layout present at Wessex Narrow Gauge Modellers Open Day (Colehill)	St. Mary's (Julian Evison)
Wed 6 Dec	0 gauge	Club AGM	
Wed 13 Dec	N Gauge	Club Christmas Dinner	Hen & Chicken, Froyle
Wed 20 Dec	00/P4 gauges		
Wed 27 Dec	00 gauge	Club Closed	
2018	Running Night	Event	Notes
Wed 3 Jan	0 gauge		
Wed 10 Jan	N Gauge		
Sat 13 Jan		Club member's layout present at Bognor Regis Club show	Garsdale Head (Mike Le Marie)
Sun 14 Jan		Club member's layout present at Bognor Regis Club show	Garsdale Head (Mike Le Marie)
Wed 17 Jan	00/P4 gauges		
Sat 20 Jan		Club member's layout present at Egham Club show	Garsdale Head (Mike Le Marie)
Wed 24 Jan	00 gauge		
Sat 27 Jan		Club Layout at Southampton MRS show, Eastleigh	Wickwar (N)
Sun 28 Jan		Club Layout at Southampton MRS show, Eastleigh	Wickwar (N)

Wed 31 Jan	5th Wednes- day		
Sat 3 Feb		Club Layout at Stafford Railway Circle show, Stafford	Brixcombe (P4)
Sun 4 Feb		Club Layout at Stafford Railway Circle show, Stafford	Brixcombe (P4)
Wed 7 Feb	0 gauge		
Sat 10 Feb		Club Layout at Bournemouth Model Railway Exhibition, Hamworthy	Haydon Square E.1 (0)
Sun 11 Feb		Club Layout at Bournemouth Model Railway Exhibition, Hamworthy	Haydon Square E.1 (0)
Wed 14 Feb	N Gauge		
Sat 17 Feb		Club member's layout present at Kenavon Model Railway show, Reading	St. Mary's (Julian Evison)
Wed 21 Feb	00/P4 gauges		
Wed 28 Feb	00 gauge		

Would club sections please keep me (Julian) informed of exhibition invitations. Likewise for club members who are attending exhibitions with their own layouts.

Julian Evison (Editor)

**Farnham & District Model Railway Club
Christmas Dinner 2017**

The Club's Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Hen & Chicken Pub, Upper Froyle GU34 4JH (on the A31 between Farnham & Alton) on Wednesday 13th December gathering at 7 for 7.30pm.

I have been able to book a Private Room with a maximum seating capacity of 38. Starters and sweets will be served at the table but the main course will be in the form of a carvery unless you order one of the alternatives. The menu is set out overleaf.

The cost this year will be £16.95 for 2 courses or £20.95 for 3 courses.

There will also be a quiz.

If you would like to attend (partners welcome) then please complete the booking form below and return to me by the 8th of November at the latest as I have to confirm final numbers one month in advance.

Please include full payment with your order form. Cheques will not be presented until after the 1st of November so as not to cause confusion with the 2016/17 accounts.

Mike Le Marie
Club Secretary

Members Name:
Choice of Starter:.....
Choice of Main Course:.....
Choice of Dessert:.....

Partners Name:.....
Choice of Starter:.....
Choice of Main Course:.....
Choice of Dessert:.....

Cheque for £..... Enclosed. Cheques payable to 'Farnham & District Model Railway Club'

STARTERS

ROASTED PEPPER AND TOMATO SOUP SERVED WITH CRUSTY BREAD AND BUTTER
(V)

SMOKED CHICKEN, HAM AND PISTACHIO TERRINE WITH A PLUM AND APPLE
CHUTNEY

GRILLED HALLOUMI SKEWERS WITH CHILLI, LIME AND CORIANDER DRESSING
(V/GF)

SCOTTISH SMOKED SALMON AND TIGER PRAWNS, HORSERADISH CREAM AND A
CITRUS VINEGARETTE

MAIN COURSES

HEN AND CHICKEN CARVERY WITH PIGS IN BLANKET, SAGE AND ONION SAUSAGE
MEAT STUFFING, ROAST POTATOES AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES

BRAISED LAMB SHANK WITH PARSLEY MASH, SPICED RED CABBAGE AND A
REDCURRENT AND ROSEMARY JUS

SMOKED HADDOCK AND SALMON FISHCAKE WITH TARTAR SAUCE, TURNED
CARROTS AND COURGETTES

SPINACH AND RICOTTA RAVIOLI, WILTED SPINACH, ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH
AND TOASTED PINE NUTS SERVED IN A TOMATO SAUCE (V)

DESSERTS

CHRISTMAS PUDDING WITH HOMEMADE BRANDY SAUCE

WINTER BERRY CRUMBLE WITH HOMEMADE CUSTARD

MULLED SPICED PEAR AND PECAN PAVOLOVA SERVED WITH TOFFEE SAUCE

SELECTION OF CHEESE AND BISCUITS SERVED WITH CHUTNEY, GRAPES, AND
CELERY

TRIPLE CHOCOLATE MOUSSE SERVED WITH CHANTILLY CREAM AND FRUIT COULIS

COMPLIMENTARY TEA OR COFFEE