

WHISTLEBLOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

January 2020 Edition

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first Whistleblower of 2020 and my last as Editor. Oddly, I have quite enjoyed bringing this to you as I think it is an important part of keeping the Club together. I've also had some really interesting articles to publish which have enriched my knowledge of railways and modelling.

I am delighted to welcome John Faulconer to the Editor's chair, but there are two requests which I want to make on leaving:

- Provide John with articles and other input. Out of a membership of about 70 members, there are about 6 or 7 who are regular contributors (thank you, Gents – you know who you are) which is a pretty meagre proportion. Have the rest of you not got anything to say?
- Provide John with feedback on the articles you have read, say what you liked or disliked, or even acknowledge the simple fact that you have received the newsletter. There have been times over the last three years when I wonder if my e-mail has been working!

Good luck to everyone in 2020 and may your modelling plans all come true.

Julian Evison (Editor)

AGM OUTCOME

All post holders were re-appointed.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES: AN OLD PROBLEM – Julian Evison

Probably many of us have been struck by the relative youth of most of the current crop of tech entrepreneurs, as they make billions from exploiting new opportunities which they see opening before them. Steve Jobs and Stephen Wozniak were 21 and 25 respectively when they founded Apple, Bill Gates was 20 when he founded Microsoft as was Mark Zuckerberg when he founded Facebook.

This isn't a new phenomenon; the average age of the people in Mission Control in Houston for the Apollo 11 moon landing was 26. Even the flight directors were 33, 36 and 38 years old at the time.

However, I was very struck recently that this phenomenon goes back much further in time.

In the 1830s and 1840s one of the great cutting edge technologies was railways and we can see exactly the same pattern of young people being appointed to positions of high technical responsibility. Here are a few examples, all taken from the companies which ultimately went on to be constituents of the LNER:

- Archibald Sturrock, Locomotive Engineer of the Great Northern Railway: 30 years old.
- Richard Peacock, Chief Locomotive Superintendent of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (later Great Central): 21 years old. (At the age of 31 he went off to found Beyer Peacock!)
- Charles Sacre, Chief Locomotive Superintendent, of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (after Peacock), 20 years old.
- Matthew Stirling, Locomotive Superintendent of the Hull and Barnsley Railway, 29 years old

I suppose none of this is surprising. Capable older people have already established their careers when a new technology comes along, full of risk. This leaves a gap for the young to make their mark as they see possibilities and gain experience no one else has. So when you next shake your head at news of the latest youthful tech entrepreneur, just remember they are only doing what other have done before them.

LOCO AND ROLLING STOCK EMBLEMS – Noel Leaver

You might find this link from Hatton's website helpful when sorting out the liveries of various railway companies from 1923 to the end of British Rail. It also includes information on the Passenger Transport Executives.

<https://www.hattons.co.uk/newsdetail.aspx?id=505>

PACHABEL'S CANON FOR LOCOMOTIVE HORN – Julian Evison

As my final contribution to this Newsletter, here is something that made me (and my non-railway family) smile. You will almost certainly recognise the piece of music!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD3QIR98--A>

CLUB DIARY – Andrew Wrobel

Recent changes in yellow. Running starts at 14:00 in the Hall. 'Run'g pm' = Priority for use of Hall AND tidy/vacuum Club Room + Lock-Up

DIARY 2020

Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Wed 08 Jan	O	1st Club Day of the New Year
Sun 12 Jan	--	Brixcombe (P4) and Kinlochlagen (N) [Mike Le Marie's layout]: Astolat Model Railway Circle, Surrey Sports Park, Richard Meyjes Road, Guildford, GU2 7AD
Wed 15 Jan	N	
Wed 22 Jan	P4/009	GPC meeting at 2pm
Sat 25 & Sun 26 Jan	--	Haydon Square (O): Southampton MRS, Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh
Wed 29 Jan	OO	
Sat 01 & Sun 02 Feb	--	Wickwar (N): Stafford Railway Circle – County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD
Wed 05 Feb	O	
Wed 12 Feb	N	
Sat 15 Feb	--	St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Tonbridge MRC at The Angel Centre, Tonbridge
Wed 19 Feb	P4/009	
Wed 26 Feb	OO	
Wed 04 Mar	O	
Wed 11 Mar	N	
Sat 14 & Sun 15 Mar	--	Kinlochlagen (N) [Mike Le Marie's layout]: Basingstoke & North Hants MRS, Aldworth School, Western Way
Wed 18 Mar	P4/009	
Sat 21 & Sun 22 Mar	--	For info'n: The London Festival of Railway Modelling, Alexandra Palace, London
Wed 25 Mar	OO	