

“WHISTLEBLOWER”

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

8 August 2021 – Edition No 16/21

EDITORIAL – Jon Faulconer

Please see the Chairman’s Statement below in the context of how the Club can operate within the current COVID Freedoms, whilst allowing Members to resume their use of the Club facilities.

The next Edition of Whistleblower will be Sunday 22nd August, grateful for your articles and photos on Saturday 21st August.

FDMRC OO9 GROUP OPEN DAY – SUNDAY 15th AUGUST

The OO9 Group Open Day is coming up next Sunday, 15th August, in the WCC. The show opens to the Public at 1000 hours and will run through to 1600 hours. Hopefully, there will be good turnout from both Club Members and the Public.

Anti-Covid Measures. Everyone will be encouraged to wear a mask. This includes the Public, Exhibitors and Club Members whether they are on duty or not. Likewise, sanitisers will be available and all windows throughout the WCC will be opened fully to ensure that all the rooms inside the building are ventilated. We will also be encouraging 1 metre Social Distancing to be observed and we will control numbers into the various rooms to allow distancing.

Volunteers. There has been a great response from Members to help with the stewarding of the event, I will push out more detail to the Group Leaders shortly.

Parking. Would all Club Members park on the road and avoid using the WCC car parking spaces, as you will appreciate the space available is very limited and we need to keep them free for the Public.

CHAIRMAN’S STATEMENT RE COVID – AUGUST ‘21

I am pleased to see that a significant number of Members have re-started Club activities since July 19th.

We all now know that any ‘freedoms’ handed out on that day came with a welter of transferred responsibilities for organisations and individuals in order to continue the battle against Covid19. The Government and health experts have made recommendations and issued guidelines; our landlord too has made their wishes known.

The General Purposes Committee has met and agreed how we as a Club should approach this responsibility with Members’, their Partners’ and Families’ health and safety as a primary

consideration. We have adopted the objective of returning to a situation where all Club Members can confidently resume attendance and enjoyment of their membership.

A Club such as ours relies to a great extent on social interaction. The virus also needs such interaction for its transmission. How to prevent that transmission has for the last 16 months been a matter of discussion and some controversy. This has resulted in many diverse individual opinions. Club interactions will be between any two or more of our 50+ Members and so the Club must take the lead and set the standards for all. These are set out in detail below and will be reviewed regularly in the light of ongoing developments.

Club events, such as our Exhibition, which involve the public as well as traders and exhibitors, will follow a similar prudent approach. Specific arrangements will be developed appropriate to each such event.

We are committed to safely minimising the impact Covid19 has on our Members and Club activities. This will be achieved by the whole Club working together and we trust every Member to do this. Thank you in advance for adhering to these arrangements for the benefit of yourself and all other Members.

Mike Le Marie

On behalf of the General Purposes Committee

F&DMC COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS – AUGUST 2021

The Club's Constitution [chap. 9.1], Handbook [chap. 6.1] and 'Health & Safety Policy' all refer to the safety and well-being of members.

In re-opening the Club's activities, remember that the Club reserves the right to refuse membership or otherwise restrict attendance where the safety of other members appears likely to be compromised through wilful or accidental neglect of these Covid19 arrangements or of Government Infectious Diseases guidelines, rules or regulations.

Health considerations

Members are reminded of the requirement to consider the health of others as well as themselves and to observe all guidelines regarding control and reporting of infection. In particular the Club expects Members attending to have fully taken advantage of all vaccinations offered that are appropriate given their age and any recognised medical exemptions. No 'passport' is required, just a Member's word.

Members should consider taking the free, use-at-home Covid19 Lateral Flow Test before attending Club meetings. There are Government and Health Service recommendations on this and it is particularly relevant, for example, for those who have significant social contact on other days of the week, or perhaps recently attended an event.

In the event of a Member testing Covid-19 'positive' at any time, the Club's Secretary [0777- 915-0008] and Chairman must immediately be informed by phone or e-mail: chairman@farnhammrc.org.uk and secretary@farnhammrc.org.uk. The Member

should not attend the Club until two consecutive tests have been negative and a further 2 weeks have passed.

The 'Attendance Log' must continue to be completed by all Members to record arrival and departure at any time they visit the Club. The 'Attendance Log' to remain in the Clubroom, but on Wednesdays at 14:00 to be put on a table in the Hall Entrance.

Transmission Prevention, Social Distancing and Masks

Close contact between individuals must be avoided. A 1m minimum distance should be observed.

To achieve such distancing some of the Clubroom workstation positions will be marked as 'out of use', leaving 7 available. Maintaining distancing imposes an upper limit on occupancy of the Clubroom or other parts of the Community Centre. If such a situation arises Members will be asked to move or leave the 'crowded' area(s).

Masks should be worn in some Club situations, and some judgement is required here. Close huddles round a document, or the kettle, probably qualify; whilst well-spaced working on a layout may not.

If you feel uncertain, lead by example and wear a mask. If the person you are talking to is wearing a mask, then they probably would prefer that you were too.

Members should attend the Club prepared to wear a mask in those situations where it is necessary or requested. For those who forget to bring their own, a supply of surgical masks, 3-layer designated IIR or 2R (the very commonly seen blue variety) will be available in the Club room, each at a 20p contribution.

Environment

Maximum ventilation must be maintained at all times in the Clubroom, Hall and any other room used. All windows must be fully open and any fans or other air circulation devices switched on. The Club has provided a fan in the Clubroom. Please come prepared for the obvious effect this may have on room temperature!

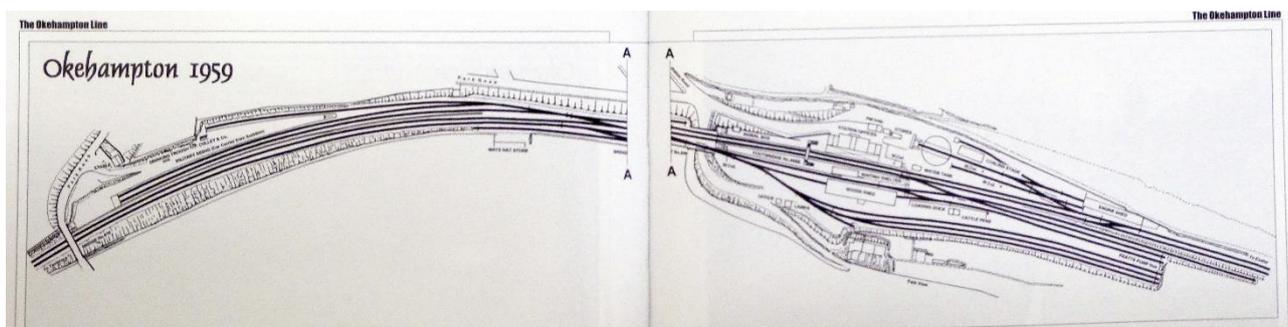
The existing regime of sanitisation, door-handle cleaning etc, in the Clubroom and elsewhere will continue. Members should look to contribute to this activity, not just assume somebody else will do it!

No Member should be handling or washing-up items used by others. The Club will provide a supply of disposable cups and stirrers. All Club mugs, crockery and cutlery will be withdrawn from use. Members may bring their own but are responsible for either taking it home or storing it, cleaned and clearly identifiable, in the Club. Unwashed and/or unidentified items will be disposed of as rubbish by the duty cleaning team.

Members should observe Community Centre Covid guidelines which are displayed throughout the Centre. They contain nothing unexpected but perhaps the most relevant to us is the limit of 2 persons in the kitchen.

OKEHAMPTON IN N GAUGE – Noel Leaver

The N Gauge group have decided their next layout will be Okehampton - though as anyone who has been a member of the club for any time will know, we have a history of changing our minds! Our outline plan is to build the station first, it will be about 20 foot plus fiddle yards. Then when it is ready to be exhibited, to retire Wickwar and build another 20 foot section with Meldon Quarry and Meldon viaduct, the two being linked by a non-scenic section into a U shape. It is likely to be set in summer 1960 or 1961.



As part of this we are copying any photos we can find of Okehampton or the quarry, and of trains from that era that would have passed through. Someone who has done a lot of research on Okehampton has given us a list of books he knows have photos, we have some of these but if anyone in the Club has others, we would appreciate it if either you could bring them into the Club or scan/photograph relevant photos for us. The books we don't have, nor have so far found in libraries, are:

- *The Atlantic Coast Express – Bude Branch D Wroe.*
- *Steam on West of England Main lines P Gray*
- *LSWR – A tribute Cooper and Antell*
- *More Southern Steam in the West Country Bradford Barton*
- *The Ace from the footplate S. Austin*
- *Portrait of the Ace S. Austin*
- *Book of the W.C. and BoB Pacifics R Derry*
- *Southern Holiday Lines in North Cornwall and West Devon A Bennett*
- *Southern's South Western Memories R Antell*
- *Southern West of Salisbury T Gough*
- *Last Days of Steam in Devon M Dart*
- *B.R. Operating History Part 2 Salisbury to West of England T Bradshaw*
- *Branch Line to Padstow Mitchell and Smith*
- *Historical Survey of Southern Sheds Hawkins and Reeves*
- *Southern Sheds in camera R Griffiths*
- *West Country Engine Sheds M Dart*
- *Southern Steam on Shed Bradford Barton*
- *The Western since 1948 Freeman Allen*
- *The District Controller's view no 16 North Cornwall Xpress publishing*

We are also particularly interested in information on Meldon Quarry. We have found two articles, one in British Railways Illustrated and one in The Southern Way Issue 26 - I suspect these may be all there is.

F&DMRC DIARY

Wrecclesham Community Centre (WCC) Hall

'Daily Admission Rota' for Clubroom Covid usage is now '*Defunct*'

Clubroom available from ~09:00. Wednesday running (Hall usage) starts at **14:00**.

If someone else is using the Hall, members **MUST NOT** enter Hall or Kitchen before 14:00.

'Run'g' = Priority use of Hall; ALSO tidy/vacuum Clubroom AND lock-up

'4 Run'ng Sequence' per Month will resume Wed-01-Sep: O, N, P4 & OO9 and OO

DIARY 2021 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
<i>The following are known about events / Shows – all subject to change</i>		
Wed 11 Aug	OO9 & P4	OO9 set-up & practice. P4 offered use of extra Hall space. 'N Next Layout' Planning in side-room.
Sat 14 Aug	-	Evening preparation for Farnham OO9 Show
Sun 15 Aug	-	Farnham OO9 Open Day (OO9 Society & others): WCC Hall
Wed 18 Aug	OO	<detail of activity awaited>. 'N Next Layout' Planning in side-room.
Wed 25 Aug	spare	'N Next Layout' Planning in Hall if space avail., else side-room.
Wed 01 Sep	O	Restart of the '4 Run'ng Sequence' each Month. 'N Next Layout' Planning in side-room.
Wed 08 Sep	N	'N Next Layout' Planning in Hall.
Sat 11 & Sun 12 Sep	-	TINGS (The International N Gauge Show), Warwickshire Event Centre, CV31 1XN [Advance tickets required and now available] Please advise Secretary re. numbers for Car(s) Transport & Day.
Wed 15 Sep	P4 & OO9	<detail of activity awaited>.
Wed 22 Sep	OO	<detail of activity awaited>.
Wed 29 Sep	spare	
Wed 06 Oct	O ALL	<detail of activity awaited>. Briefing for Show 18:30 in Clubroom/Hall
Fri 08 Oct	ALL	Set-up Club Show – from late afternoon
Sat 09 & Sun 10 Oct	ALL	F&DMRC Annual Club Show , Aldershot [Most of the layouts that were invited for 2020 will be attending.]
Sat 27 & Sun 28 Nov		Model Railway Show: Warley
Wed 08 Dec		19:15 for 19:30 start - AGM (details to follow) [must be within 2 months of Club's year-end; voting only paid-up 'Full' members].
Sat 11 & 12 Dec		Wickwar (N): Manchester MRC, Sugden Centre, M1 7HL. Cancelled
Wed 15 Dec		Dinner (optional) 18:30 for 19:00 @ TBA [possibly The Mill House, Odiham]
Wed 22 Dec		Last Club Day of the year

DIARY 2022 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Sun 16 Jan		Astolat show: Julian's 16.5mm layout; poss'y OO9 members' layout 'Straight & Narrow'. Richard Meyjes Rd, Guildford, GU2 7AD
Sat 05 & Sun 06 Feb	--	Wickwar (N) and Brixcombe (P4): FEBEX, Alton
Sat 16 to Mon 18 Apr		Wickwar (N): York MRS, York Racecourse, YO23 1EX
Sat 25 & Sun 26 Jun	--	Wickwar (N): Perth Show
Sat 10 & Sun 11 Sep	--	REC (Railway Enthusiasts Club), Woking Leisure Centre
Fri 07 Oct	ALL	Set-up Show – from late afternoon
Sat 08 & Sun 09 Oct	ALL	F&DMRC Annual Club Show, Aldershot [Wickwar and ??]

And Finally – A Gentlemen's Day Out

