

Hello again from me, plus the usual greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. I'll start with news of our exhibition – or at least the planning of it. .

The wet late May bank holiday Monday helped me as the exhibition manager to sit down all day and spend time chasing layout owners for their booking forms, getting traders organised and doing those tasks that just have to be completed in order not to have too many things to react to on the day. Of course by the time you read this the exhibition will have been and gone though I won't be able to let you know via this medium how we did until November.

Our Kings Thorpe layout which is under construction has been put on hold for a month so that we can help the club juniors with their layout to get it to the stage of a running work in progress. It will then be run as Thomas layout with Annie and Clarabelle et al for the youngest of our exhibition visitors. At the time of writing, the booking of layouts, traders, demonstrators and the floor plan have just been completed and the programme has been finalised. We are in the process of getting quotes for printing.

In the last article I wrote that *"I think I can promise you a splendid show again at a fine venue. Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July is the date to note in your diaries. There will be some excellent O gauge layouts as well as a variety of other scales and gauges. We normally have around 25 layouts and have 22 signed up so far. We hope to put on a day where we can all forget the harsh economic realities of this year and enjoy a day out in the heart of England."* Well we've rather exceeded our own target. There are 31 layouts and 13 traders covering new and second-hand locos and rolling stock, including Skytrex with their huge range, DCC from Coastal DCC of Ipswich and Jacky Mogford making trees.

From the time I wrote the last article I've purchased another Heljan class 47 from ebay It has since been repainted into BR large logo as 47530 – the 530 are the last three digits of my fiancée's mobile phone. It's been fitted with DCC Sound, plus headlight, quite heavily weathered and looks as good as it sounds – in a word 'fantastic'.

We have started to operate the O gauge circuits at Lavendon too. First one on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April was blessed with reasonably good weather, though being Mother's Day there weren't that many people around. May 15<sup>th</sup> was more successful, but the weather was nasty for the next one on June 12<sup>th</sup>, though Roger did soldier on until about 2pm when the rain water started to enter the cabinet which housed the controllers.

Our next club trip out is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August to Didcot and Pendon Museum, but a few days before that on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> is our AGM.

In the next article I'll bring you up to date with the exhibition outcome and results of the AGM and an overview of the trip out to Oxfordshire.

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