

## **Northampton O Gauge Group (NOGGies)**

Greetings once again and to follow on from the last article, my guess that after inspecting the potential new premises, we'd decide it wasn't suitable was correct. However, what I hadn't foreseen (just when I'd typed up the club's members newsletter with the news that the former shop premises wasn't large enough and that with the council about to advertise for a new caretaker, it would be a good while before we'd have the chance to get back to the Kingsthorpe clubhouse) was that by the following week we'd have changed club night to accommodate our move back there almost a year to the day since we'd had to vacate it after just one meeting.

By the time I'd finished printing off enough copies that item made it look as though I'd been holidaying on Mars for a month; who'd be a Secretary in this age of fast moving communications?

Now we're back and settled with a permanent HQ, attention has turned to the new club O gauge scenic layout. I could claim green credentials for the club because we've decided to include three re-worked (recycled) sections of a former layout called Stanford Vale that haven't seen the light of day for over ten years.

After much discussion amongst the NOGGies we've decided to set the new layout (to be called 'Kingsthorpe') as a fictional location where there is an interchange between BR/National rail and a station on a preserved line. That gives us absolute manna to run anything and everything loco and stock-wise. It will be an end-to-end layout. We will be able to vary the period from 1960s up to today. So it would be possible to see an A4 pacific and big-four company coaches – even perhaps coaches from all the big four in one rake alongside a Virgin (or should that be CrossCountry) Voyager, or at least it would be if any of us had a Voyager set.

The front section will have the preserved railway featuring a shunting yard and goods demonstration line with the BR/National rail section behind. As may be expected, the stored sections have suffered a bit in storage and moving and will need some attention to restore the excellent level of detail they previously enjoyed. There will also be some subtle changes to the alignment of the track in some places, to achieve the intended new look.

Another club feature will be the resumption of master-classes in nearly all the modelling disciplines. The senior members of the club will be taking turns to provide tutorials.

As well as the work on Kingsthorpe, the test-track is benefiting from a wiring upgrade which will ensure continuity of supply – as well as being easier to fit as they will be positioned on the inside rather than underneath. The best of it is that these will be a completely new supply, with better quality wire. As it will be an additional supply it will not interfere with the movement of trains on running nights whilst work is carried out.

Reading through the last Guild News, we were delighted to see the mention for the club from Bob of the SOGGies about their trip to our exhibition last November. Bob, I'd have to agree that we couldn't ask for a better plug for less than a pint – THANKS!

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March the NOGGies to a man made the short trip over to the GOG Spring show at Kettering. It's lovely to have a good quality show (that we don't have to organise ourselves, but thanks to those that do!) on our doorstep. It was a very satisfying trip for all, but an expensive one for a NOGGY who shall remain nameless. Some of us have also been further afield with the March Nottingham show perhaps the biggest amongst those visited recently.

Anyone can visit our club website at [www.ndmrc.org](http://www.ndmrc.org) or call (01933) 413500 evenings except Wednesday which is club night meeting 7:30 to 10:30 at Kingsthorpe Community Centre, Mill Lane, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN4 9RR.

**STEPHEN LLOYD Secretary (20155)**