

Northampton O Gauge Group (NOGGies)

Hello all and greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGgers. This will be a short report because although the recent months have seen a flurry of activities they can all be typed up in a few sentences. We've been involved with master classes in plastic wagon kit building, brass soldering, plus re-wiring work on the test track. That has proved to be a highly effective project and by the time you read this the work should be complete.

We do have further master classes still to run including layout design, painting and weathering and wiring. Two members Les and Chris have been working on two complimentary end to end shunting layouts (Eastbridge and Westbridge) which can be used separately or joined together.

We've also attracted a few new members to our satisfaction and laid on a club trip to the Great Central's war weekend on 14th June; which featured a very intensive train service and was great fun apart from being questioned by a German sentry on Rothley station. "Papiren Bitte" was okay, we understood that and proffered our newly issued double sided Identity cards, but when further questions were asked in fluent German we were at a complete loss. There are more summer trips coming up which will give us something to look forward to each month. I also hope to have the garden railway up and running too.

There's also been a buying spree amongst some of the NOGGies with items acquired including a Bachmann Brassworks class 03 shunter from Tower Models, a class 207 'Oxted Thumper' three-car set and a class 37/4 loco which I bought after seeing it advertised in these pages last time around. I'm hoping this will shortly be a candidate for DCC and sound conversion. I also know someone is seriously considering the purchase of a Heljan Hymek too and Les has decided that his winter project will be a DJH kit of Evening Star. All this is in addition to a rake of Parkside Dundas wagon kits which we've started to build, and will no doubt keep us going through the darker months. Once the test track is finished we'll probably make a start on our scenic layout called Kingsthorpe that I mentioned last time around.

By the time you get to read this, the club AGM will have happened on 9th July, which will see my tenure as club secretary come to an end. When asked to do the job last year, I said I would do so for 12 months and that time is now up, though I will continue to write these reports for Guild News on behalf of the NOGGies.

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

STEPHEN LLOYD Secretary (20155)