

Northampton O Gauge Group (NOGGies)

Hello and greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. I must start by righting my big wrong from the last newsletter article. I stated that our upcoming exhibition was due to be held on Saturday 21st November. I was a whole week too early. It is Saturday 28th November, having been moved several months ago and I forgot. What kind of a secretary am I? Not a very good one would be my answer. Luckily, it was correctly listed in the events of O gauge interest, but seeing two different dates could itself have caused confusion. I bet I have inconvenienced some people, so apologies for that gaffe.

Moving on, I should also state that our club website is not up and running at the moment. Though it may be working again by the time you read this, or soon after. We are in the process of changing hosting servers and the contract agreement we had finished at the end of August. We hope to have it back up as soon as we can, but I cannot give you a firm date at the moment.

As my diary says summer is officially over, (though the weather at the time of writing (late September) has been excellent, if cooler overnight), now seems to be a good time to reflect on the garden railway activities. We've been using outdoor model railways at Les's in Northampton, my own in Rushden has had some use, though a busted set of points causing a permanent short-circuit has curtailed my activities of late and Lavendon. The most used for the majority of us has been the simple twin loops of the Lavendon garden railway. I think all the NOGGies and even some of non - O gauge persuasion have visited at least once. And after the wiring upgrades and a few tweaks to the track levels earlier in the year, it has performed well. At the last running day on 13th September, I even took my digital controller and my Tower Brass class 24 which sounded excellent; working hard as it hauled a freight train around the outer loop whilst climbing the gradient back towards the station area. On that day too, Les and Chris brought along their Westbridge and Eastbridge end to end layouts with them to add to the visitor attractions there. The weather was dry and kind(ish), though we'd all been lulled into a false sense of security by the previous day's scorching sunshine.

Sadly, and perhaps surprisingly, none of the NOGGies were able to visit the Telford show this year. All of us had commitments which kept us away, but I'm sure we'll manage to go next year, and we also have Kettering next March to look forward to.

Another thing we have to look forward to is our Christmas do, when we'll be having a dining trip on the Great Central Railway on Saturday 12th December. And a week before that of course is the Reading trade show, which many of us enjoy and so make an effort to attend.

Our new 35ft O gauge layout, Kings Thorpe, has made slow progress with the distractions of summer, but a track plan has been decided and scale plans drawn up. We hope to have started track-laying by the time you read this, but it is extremely unlikely to feature at our November show. Instead, I'll stick my neck out and say look for it next year.

I may also have some news about our exhibition next year, but for now, I'll leave you on tenterhooks. I'll write it up for the next newsletter if our scheme comes about.

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