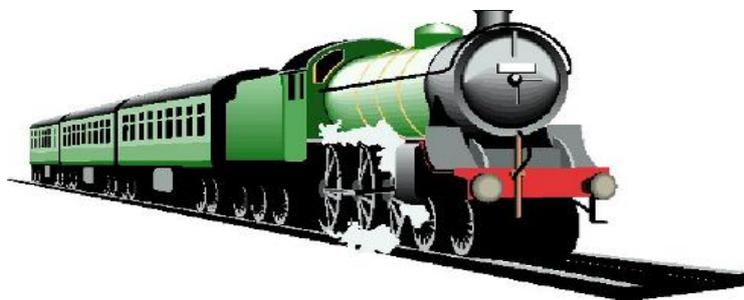
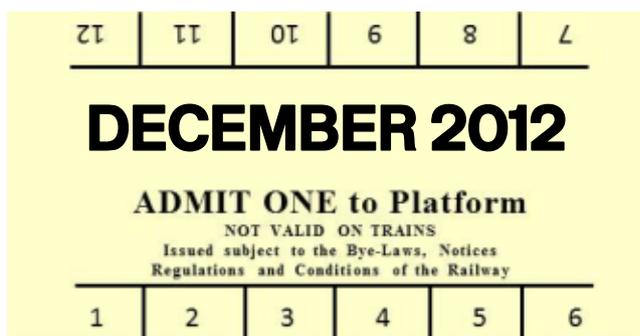


*Between the Lines*



# Newsletter



## **C O N T E N T S (of key articles)**

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### **Rules for Club Night Attendance**

- Please park your vehicle with consideration for the flat occupants when parking outside the Kingsthorpe Community Centre.
- If you make a drink, please wash your cup/spoon up afterwards. Please wipe up any spillages.
- Have you paid your subs? The money is mainly used to pay our Wednesday night hall rental, plus the cost of drinks and biscuits. £1 per person please.
- Please put away any tools, layouts, tables and chairs you've used at the end of the evening.
- A clear passage way **MUST** be maintained in the entrance lobby area as an emergency exit. Also please keep **ALL** other emergency exits accessible at **ALL** times.
- Please sign in at each attendance. This ensures we know who to account for in the event of an emergency evacuation.

**There will be Saturday working at Kingsthorpe Community Centre on Saturday 8th December.  
Time will be from 09:00 until 13:00**

Current membership :	6	Junior Members
(correct at time of going to press)	28	Senior Members

## From the Editors Coach Window . . . .

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas the Committee would like to wish all members a very happy Christmas and New Year. I trust Santa will bring you a nice surprise.

*Colin*



## Club News

### Date of next Committee Meeting

This will be on Monday 14th January 2013. If there are any items for the agenda, please let Richard have them ASAP.  
Email: [rjd156@btinternet.com](mailto:rjd156@btinternet.com)

### Club Night Test Track

This will be operational on the following dates:

19th Dec, 9th & 30th Jan, 20th Feb, 13th Mar,  
3rd & 24th Apr, 15th May, 5th & 26th Jun

17th July may be exhibition planning night

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



### Wednesday 12th December

**Just a reminder that this is the date of the Club's Christmas Dinner, so there will be NO meeting of the Club at the Kingsthorpe Community Centre on this evening.**

## A Trip to Steam

by Colin Tarry

"Steam", for those not in the know, is the name of the museum that occupies the old "R Shop" of the former GWR works at Swindon. I had a trip there last September to commiserate another birthday. I'm fed up with being 21 again!



We travelled by road to Banbury and got a train from there to Swindon via a change at Didcot. Whilst purchasing our tickets from the ticket office on Banbury station I was asked by the ticket clerk "How will you be travelling to Swindon?". Ask a stupid question I thought, I'll give a stupid answer -"by train" I replied. He responded with "Will you be going via Reading?". Lets see—when you get to Didcot, Swindon is to the west and Reading is to the east. Why would I want to go to Reading and then travel to Swindon, passing through Didcot that I had already passed?

After that bizarre start to the day we eventually boarded our train. At Didcot we had a short wait for a connecting service to Swindon. At the GWR Society over the way, they had a pannier tank in steam giving rides. It wasn't long before our HST arrived to take us to Swindon. However I did notice that as we passed through Oxford, preserved green Brush type 2 no 31190, was sitting in the Banbury bay with its engine ticking over and two bods in the cab. Wonder what that was about? Once at Swindon the first job was get a cup of coffee, after which it was about a 20 minute walk to Steam.



Some of the old buildings from the former Swindon works still exist, being put to other uses such as retail outlets and offices, and retaining their links to the past with names such as "Isambard House" and "Churchward House".

Just before you reach the museum, you pass by the old traverser. This is now used to move rolling stock/locos about in the museum.

I last visited Steam in September 2008 (you've guessed it –that was also a birthday outing), so I was interested to see if there was anything new. The bulk of the exhibits hadn't changed.

There was one new area being created in The Great Western Hall called "The Harry Collection". In a nutshell a past railway enthusiast named Fred Harry, collected during his lifetime dozens of GWR locomotive number and nameplates and other associated railwayana— in fact anything to do with the GWR. In addition he had a collection of over 40,000 photographs. Fred died in 2005, but it wasn't until his wife's death in 2010 that the whole collection was bequeathed to Steam. In fact it's the largest collection ever to be left to Steam. Because the collection is so big, it has warranted the use of this room to accommodate it all. While I was there only a very small amount of Fred's items were on display, these being mainly locomotive number and name plates. Behind the scenes much cataloguing is going on. As this process is completed I expect more items will filter their way for display.

In addition to the Harry Collection, another change was the enhanced catering facilities. There is now a restaurant called Platform One. We had a superb steak and ale pie each with all the trimmings (that includes chips), and all home made.

After lunch we left Steam and looked around the retail outlets now utilising some of the former works, before venturing back home.

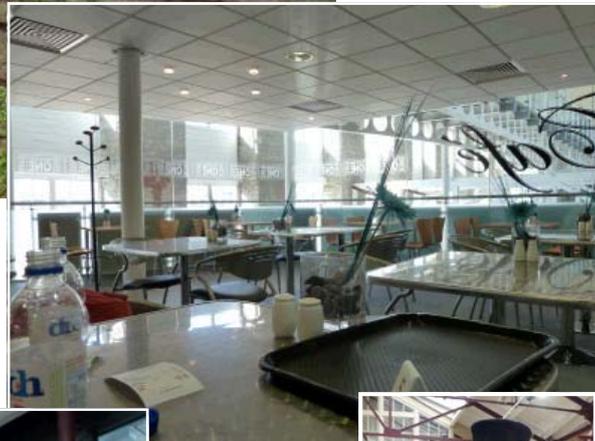


## Some pictures of my visit to Steam



[left] The traverser referred to in the text.

[right] The new Platform One restaurant. No sign of the steak & ale pie!



[above] How did those sheep get up there?

[left] Who is this bloke? He keeps popping up all over the place.



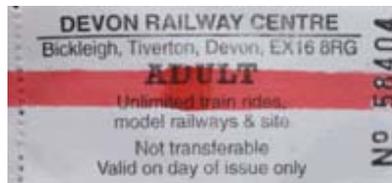
## The Devon Railway Centre and Model World

by Colin Tarry



On the way home from our Devon holiday this year we called in at the Devon Railway Centre. This is located just outside the village of Bickleigh. The line originally linked Exeter with Dulverton being built by the Devon & Somerset Railway. The Devon Railway Centre is based in the old station on the Exe Valley railway line at Bickleigh, the station

confusingly being called Cadeleigh although the village of that name is nearly 2 miles away.



It seems likely that the name Bickleigh was not used because another station of that name existed on the GWR in Devon, at another Bickleigh near Plymouth. The Exe Valley branch opened in 1885, and the station dates from then. It closed as part of the Beeching cuts in 1963. The Railway Centre has narrow gauge train rides, model railways, a museum, picnic area, shop and refreshments.

Not long after we arrived at the Centre the heavens opened so much of the outdoor activity was curtailed. However we did manage to get a ride on both of the narrow gauge railways there. In three standard gauge mainline coaches there were several model railway layouts.

[Right] A photo taken whilst riding the narrow gauge railway. These little coloured people were just loitering about in the bushes. That's because they were gnome-less.





[Above] The old goods shed now the work shops for the narrow gauge railways. Note the two differing track gauges.



[Above] A view of one of the GWR model railway layouts (taken through glass)



[Above] The narrow gauge railway. You can see against the green paint work of the loco, how the rain was lashing down.



[Right] The station building and the coaches that house the model railway layouts.



## Notes from the Committee Meeting held on Monday 19th November 2012

### Web Site

Discussion over value of the website. It was thought that Members don't look at it for info, but is relied on by others seeking info about the Club. To be of any value it needs regularly updating. A useful addition would be to have a counter of number of people visiting the web site.



### 2013 Exhibition

After the events just before the last Exhibition, the Committee has thought long and hard as to whether we should or could put on another. It is clear that putting on an exhibition is becoming more difficult through increased bureaucracy and cost. If we wished to return to Weston Favell School it would cost well in excess of £2000. After various enquiries at other schools- we need large halls and large car parks which only new secondary schools can provide, we have booked the 2013 Exhibition at Northampton High School, Newport Pagnell Road. It is not quite as big as WFS but all the space is useable and we have had a friendly reception so far, no hidden extras and all for much less than this year's cost. The date is Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July. We will need all your help on the day and beforehand so please clear your diaries for that date.

We have a number of interested parties to bring their layouts and traders which we will be following up and will draw plans up to fit them in. In the meantime if you see any layouts at our exhibitions, please ask if they like to come.

Bert Dewdney has volunteered to front up as Exhibition Manager so please direct any enquiries to him in the first instance. All Committee Members are mucking in as well.

**Richard Deacon      Club Secretary**

## Club Test Track Nights

When its test track night, there are a few dedicated members who erect and dismantle the test track each time. Then there are another group of members who always arrive after the test track has been erected, who then during the evening have a session of running their locomotive(s) / trains on the track, and then craftily disappear before dismantling takes place.

This practice is now starting to annoy the fore mentioned erectors and dismantlers. We appreciate that Junior Members may not be able to help with the erecting as some of the baseboards are heavy and they leave by 9 o'clock (because they have school the next day) so dismantling is not an option. In addition there are a few adult members who cannot assist due to physical limitations, but there are many who can.

It is unfair on the regular members who put up and take down the test track to be taken advantage of, in this way. Those who do not help, know who you are (as do those who do help, know who you are!). We are asking that in future you offer help to erect or dismantle the test track.

If you haven't made any New Year resolutions yet, this is your first! "I will help with the test track"



# NOTICE BOARD



## Colin Wood

As many of you will know, Colin has had his heart by-pass operation. Unfortunately Colin had an infection and went back into hospital. By the time you read this newsletter Colin will hopefully be back home. Colin is in good spirits and we look forward to seeing him back at the Club when he is fully recovered.

## Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railways

A new series of railway programmes entitled Extreme Railways hosted by Chris Tarrant starts on T.V. Channel 5 on Wednesday 5th December at 21:00. You will have to record this series because being on a Wednesday you will be at Club! I don not know the number of episodes in the series.



## D1015 Western

**Champion**—After being out of action for some considerable time with engine troubles, D1015 ran light engine from Tyseley to FGW Old Oak Common on 22nd November last. She is now on track for running on the mainline in 2013. (No puns intended.)



## **Club Information**

### **Committee Members**

Les Pace (Chair Person)  
Colin Tarry (Treasurer )  
Richard Deacon (Secretary)  
Bert Dewdney (Exhibition Manager)  
Stephen Lloyd (Publicity)  
Michael Castledine  
Roger Whiffin

Web site: [www.ndmrc.org](http://www.ndmrc.org)  
Email: [feedback@ndmrc.org](mailto:feedback@ndmrc.org)  
Club Night: Wednesday  
Meeting Time: 19:30—22:30  
Venue: Kingsthorpe  
Community Centre,  
Thornton Hall Close,



Kingsthorpe,  
Northampton, NN2 6PT

Secretary: tel: 01604 890275  
email: [rjd156@btinternet.com](mailto:rjd156@btinternet.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Colin Tarry email: [ndmrc@cjv.org.uk](mailto:ndmrc@cjv.org.uk)

### **Club Subscription Rates**

Club membership runs from the first Wednesday in August or part of the calendar year, and ALL expire on the last calendar day of July, becoming due for renewal on the first Wednesday in August. Membership £35 per year (with reduced rates on a pro rata basis if joining in or after November. Additionally there are reduced rates for junior and senior citizen members).

### **DISCLAIMER**

Any views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Northampton and District Model Railway Club, its Officials or Members unless so stated.