



SWANSEA RAILWAY MODELLERS GROUP
Top Floor, 300 Carmarthen Road, Swansea SA5 8NJ
Website: www.srmg.org.uk

Opening times: Wednesdays 2.30pm to 6.30 pm and Thursdays 6.00pm to 9.30pm, both approx.

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MEMBERS' UPDATE NO 101 – AUGUST 2019



Much interest was shown in last month's photograph of a Blue Pullman at Cardiff General. This shot shows the South Wales Pullman at Neath General, *en route* to Swansea High Street, in June 1967. Photographed by Hugh Llewelyn and acknowledged with thanks [Wiki Commons].

Comment.....

The August newsletter is traditionally sparse and this one will be no different! There is still some important news however, particularly about the latest wagon commission, the show and a forthcoming stock sale. But, first.....

The auspicious occasion of last month's newsletter – No 100 – was celebrated with a draw in which one lucky member would receive a cheque for £20, the winner to be announced in the August edition. Well that lucky member's name, drawn out of the hat in the traditional way, is Alan Burton. Congratulations Alan! When you are next at the club, please see the Treasurer for your winnings!

The club has also had some astonishing and unexpected good luck recently. First of all, we have received an extremely generous bequest from the estate of the late John Rogers. John, an original member of the club, passed away some months back and a letter from his family solicitors, announcing a charitable gift of £5000, came as a wonderful surprise. We do not intend simply squirrelling this gift away for a rainy day and ways of using it will be found, ones which John would have approved of. It has been suggested that some of the money is used

on replacing the ageing and rather worn-out small lathe in the workshop, but more on this issue in due course. If you have any ideas that you'd like to share for its use, do remember that we have a suggestion box near the entrance.

A further bequest was also made by the late Gwyn Harwood [whose recent funeral service was extremely well supported by the club]. We have received a large, original water-colour painting which he commissioned for himself some years ago. It will be placed in the club room once a plaque acknowledging Gwyn's bequest has been obtained. A photo of Gwyn's picture appears below....



Tickets, please.....



This month, a mint Third Class GWR monthly return from Merthyr to Cardiff Queen Street. Although used, the ticket is not dated but is probably post-War. The demolition of the original TVR Queen Street station, with its huge overall roof, was an act of early-70s BR vandalism and a real gem was lost.

The next stock sale

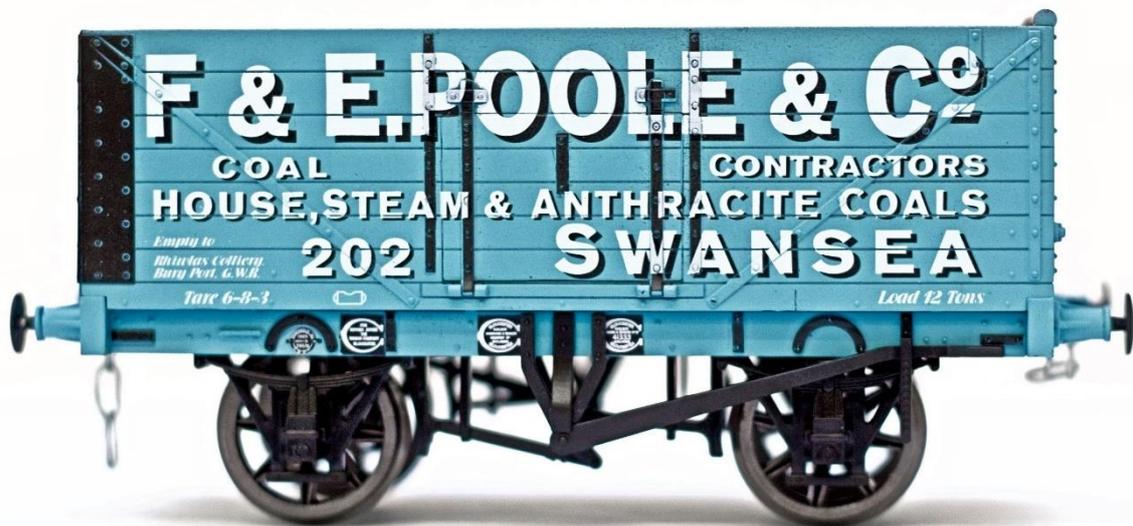
Whilst this will not take place until after our September show – there is just too much to do until then – I recently viewed a collection which we have been asked to sell as part of an estate clearance.

This is an interesting and saleable lot and includes a couple of short rakes of coaches [including crimson and cream Centenaries, earlier Hornby Collett GWR and LMS stock and some earlier Pullmans], a largish amount of Wrenn [and other] box vans and open trucks,

various steam locomotives, various plastic railway buildings, OO gauge road vehicles [including buses], Corgi O gauge buses and many other items. All of this stock appears to be in good condition but is dusty [and will be cleaned lightly prior to the sale]. The locos are as yet untested [but will probably require oiling]. There really does seem to be something for everybody here and, as usual, the stock will be priced to sell, so save your pennies!

The 2019 private owner wagon commission

Noel Blows has asked me to let you know that the club's 2019 Dapol commission has now arrived and is in store. The unusual livery is truly striking, as the photo below of the O gauge model shows.



Noel has asked me to advise you all that payment for the wagons can now be made [asap please] **with all wagons available at the club to club members on Thursday 19 September**. Ideally, he would prefer cash or a cheque since the card machine costs have to be borne by the club [affecting profit].

A reminder about the costs: OO and N gauge wagons are £13 each with postage for up to two wagons an additional £5. O gauge wagons are £45 each, with packing and insurance an additional £7.50 for one wagon. If you have ordered multiple O gauge or more than two OO and N gauge wagons for posting, please contact Noel Blows for p&p details via the 'Contact Us' section of our website [srmg.org.uk].

Please note that over half of the OO and N gauge wagons have already been reserved and no further O gauge wagons will now be sold until the show itself.

The Christmas Do

To accommodate those who wished to attend the Warley show, this has now been rearranged for Friday 1 November, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Norton House Hotel, 17 Norton Road, Mumbles Swansea. SA3 5TQ. 32 members and friends signed up so far, but there is plenty of room for more. The meal remains an astonishingly good value £14.00 for members' partners and **free**

for members. Please would those members who have booked to attend with partners pay for their other halves by Thursday 24 October, as well as giving Noel Blows their individual choices of starter, main and dessert, as these have to be with the hotel by 25 October [a week in advance].

We have tried this year to organise a Christmas do that is *really* special: a 'no cost' option for members is just that and the venue is excellent – no greasy spoon! For those who wish to stay on for a while after the meal, DJ and club member Rob Pendry will be providing a disco, too. Join us and make the night a do to remember.

It has been pointed out that November 1st is perhaps early for a Christmas social, but having rearranged the later date originally booked [to allow Warley people to attend], this was the *only* Friday that Norton House had left un-booked. And anyway, does it matter? Of course not, it'll be a great night!

Use of the Test Tracks

These are as busy as ever but queues do develop with some members having to wait for up to 40 minutes to be able to run their stock. To avoid this from happening – and ensure that no resentment builds up – if you are occupying more than one track at a time when the other lines are all busy, please ensure that you are not preventing others from running stock. If there's no-one around you can run whatever you want: at busy times however, please be sensitive to other members' needs.



GWR Saint Class 2999 'Lady of Legend', photographed recently at Didcot by Richard Grigg.

No ordinary engine this. 2999 was constructed between 2009 and 2019, based on the frames and boiler of GWR Hall class 4-6-0 No 4942 *Maindy Hall*. It is the second completed 'new-build' project, based at Didcot Railway Centre in Didcot, Oxfordshire. Described as 'building the 78th Saint', the project started in the 1970s to look at building a new 'Saint', since none of the original class-members were preserved. Heroic stuff.

The 2019 show

Volunteers are still urgently needed to assist in running this show over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd September. No-one would need to be available for the entire 48 hours of the weekend, but time given on Friday for setting-up and at the weekend for marshalling, enquiries, covering the club table, etc., is desperately needed. Please speak to Scott Rhodes this Thursday at the club, or put your name on the sheet adjacent to the signing-in book if you can help. Shows, being what they are, can only be really successful if there are sufficient hands to assist over the period. Thanks.

The Great Model Railway Challenge – Channel Five

Season two of this popular TV show sees a club member, once again, competing with others over several episodes. If they are successful, Gwion Davies and his team could feature in up to eight episodes, but will they? Gwion remains tight-lipped! All will be revealed soon but, unfortunately, the scheduling for transmission has been delayed and the start date is still unknown. At present it looks as though mid-September will see the programme aired. Watch this space!

Finally, the locking-up arrangements to the end of September

Aug 29 N Kerslake

Sept 5 J Mages Sept 12 R Pendry Sept 19 S Rhodes
Sept 26 T Richards

I hope this this finds you well, enjoy what's left of the summer and best wishes all.

Tony.