

ASRM Newsletter 1

Hello and welcome to this first newsletter which aims to keep us all in touch during the ASRM period of 'hibernation'. We depend on you the members to send in stuff for subsequent newsletters. This may include photos of what you are making or what you have seen or bought, stories of successes and failures and what you intend doing but is still just a dream!

In this first issue, we start with what Trevor Hughes has been doing 'over the border' in Welsh Wales. He is building a large model of the Talyllyn Railway to 1/32nd scale, (27/32" or 21.4mm track gauge). It is set in 1908. The layout is 35 ft long and 100 square feet of baseboard, which Trevor says doesn't look much when you write it down! This turnout was one of the first :



The TR used a mixture of chairs and spikes with flat bottom rail. The second tiebar was added after opening the line, at the insistence of the Board of Trade inspector. The model version is Evergreen plastic rod - its the closest thing that Trevor has to plasticard ! The turnout is operated by a GPO relay underneath with a second tiebar in the style of the old Studiolph P4 system. Ballast is a mixture of Woodland Scenics and sieved soil.

The grab handles and buffer (see photo below) are a recent production, he makes great use of the lost wax process for repeat items. He would prefer to produce the masters by 3D printing but the handrail was just too delicate for that, hence a bit of filed wire will have to do. The bolts are from the Scale Hardware range, imported from the USA.



Scott Stephenson has sent in these pictures of the loco he brought in just after Christmas... only now in its finished condition. It is an LNER J38 0-6-0 loco in Gauge 1 and is live steam .





Here is what it looked like at the January 2020 meeting:



Gordon Woods has sent in this lovely photo he took of 'Kerrinhead'.



This is a study of a part of Gavin Clarke's P4 layout Kerrinhead. The setting is autumn, somewhere in the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway area in 1921 (i.e. just before Grouping) and depicts a typical terminus station with a small but busy goods yard and regular passenger trains. Control is DCC with the NCE system at the core. A very high proportion of the stock (locos and vehicles) is kit built by Gavin, and prototypical to the period and location. All of the buildings are scratch built with some built by Geoff Taylor from Newport (Powys). Working signals (installed since the photo was taken) add further 'real atmosphere'. Operation is by a sequence, developed by Tim Lewis, which takes most of a day, with three to four operators, to run through. Tim's favourite working is the branch goods which takes an inordinate amount of shunting on arrival and often includes a few surprises! At exhibitions, Bell Codes are used to communicate between the front of the layout (where the scenic operator(s) sit) and the fiddle yard behind.

The layout is on the exhibition circuit and won the coveted MRJ Chalice (for an outstanding piece of modelling) at Scaleforum 2018. (This picture had been chosen as the cover shot for the exhibition guide.) More recently Kerrinhead was at the Cardiff show in October 2019 and is booked to go to the Wigan show in October this year (CV permitting). Association members Tim Lewis, Stephen Duffell and myself have had the privilege to operate the railway and it is still under development.

Gordon Woods

Just to remind us of how life used to be and how it will be again once we are out of this difficult period, Sam Ryan took this photo which nicely illustrates the ASRM at its best.



The next Newsletter will have some information we would have included in the AGM. Please send in your photos and articles as well. We can only put in what you send us!

Many thanks to the members who have contributed at very short notice to this newsletter: Trevor Hughes, Sam Ryan, Scott Stephenson and Gordon Woods.

18th March 2020