

THE NEW PINWOOD EXPRESS

Pinewood (Wokingham) Miniature Railway



ISSUE 36 **March 2013**



CONTACT DETAILS

Post	Name	Telephone and email
Chairman*	Ray Grace	
Secretary	TBA	
Treasurer & Company Secretary*	Paul Konig	
Chief Engineer	David Simmonite	
Safety Officer	Peter Downes	
New Pinewood Express Editor	Andy Cross	
Webmaster	Colin Gross	
Committee #1	Derek Tulley	
Committee #2	Tim Caswell	
To contact the whole committee (above) use		

Chief Boiler Inspector	Keith Briault	
Junior Engineers Coordinator	Paul Archer	
Birthday Party Coordinator	TBA	
Refreshment Officer	Paul Konig	

Auditor #1	Ian Shanks	
Auditor #2	Tony Weeden	

*Also a Director of Pinewood Miniature Railway Society Limited.

Images For This Issue Courtesy Of:

Colin Gross, Ian Shanks, Paul Konig, Andy Walton, Martin Brockington

Registered Office

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UK Registration Number 4999442
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Cover Photo

Colin Gross with his Stafford 'Gentoo' ready for the Santa Specials 2012.

EDITORIAL - Andy Cross

“All Change Please!” This is my first edition of the New Pinewood Express as editor. I'm hoping that the club magazine will continue to be as entertaining and informative as it was under the previous editor, Colin Gross. Thanks to Colin's sterling efforts in the past, the New Pinewood Express is an award-winning publication. Let's hope I can live up to the high standards that Colin has set me?

The coming year will be an interesting one for PMRS, with our 'public face' very much at the forefront of our activities. Not just for our usual 'running days', but also for the 'Ride On Railways/ Station Road Steam' owners day in May, and the 'Pinewood Festival' in July.



Paul Konig's 'King' undergoing its first firing, it should be seen at Pinewood later this year

SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL

Contributions for the future issues of the Newsletter are warmly invited. Contributions can be in any man or machine-readable form. Original material should be marked for return, if required. All material, including text and photographs, must be the submitter's own work or the copyright holder must have given written permission for publication. Submission of material implies conformance to this. Submission also implies agreement that materials may be reproduced in other relevant Model Engineering and Railway publications. Please supply copy for the next issue before April 29th 2013.

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT - Ray Grace

Last year when I took up the Chairmanship of our Society I inherited an organisation that was in extremely good shape with satisfactory finances, reasonable membership numbers and an infrastructure in very good order.

Your committee and I have striven to maintain the momentum of previous years and I hope you will agree that there has been much improvement in the past year. Indeed 2012 has seen significant improvements and developments in our accommodation, our track and layout, our signalling and in our standing and involvement with the Pinewood site management and our neighbours. Our finances, too, have ended the year in a healthy position. Our junior Engineers have continued to support our endeavours in a very proactive way during the year, with supervised involvement in train operations, signalling and stock and infrastructure maintenance. They have also enjoyed many opportunities to handle locomotives and trains under supervision.

It is encouraging to see the continuing levels of support being given by our members on public running days and at birthday party events. I am particularly grateful for the support at these events provided by many of the ladies, we especially owe them a real vote of thanks! Besides the visually obvious support, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the significant amounts of work done by members off site at home covering the administration of the society, arranging birthday parties and Santa Specials, publicity, managing the website, developing procedures, managing our finances, etc. Without these levels of support your society will be unable to raise enough income for us to continue to enjoy our hobby in such a magical setting without requiring membership subscriptions to be very significantly higher than they currently are!

During the year we hosted the 'Ride on Railways' open day which proved to be an extremely successful and convivial event. Our railway received a great deal of praise and appreciation from the participants in addition to very useful publicity for PMRS and the site. We must particularly thank Colin, Richard, Andy and others for the organisation and running of the day. A similar but larger event is being planned for 2013.

I need to point out however, that much of what I have mentioned would not have been achieved had it not been for the dedication and hard work of a relatively small group of members. I would like to ask all members to consider what time and practical support you can provide to help spread the workload by attending, when possible, Wednesday or Sunday working sessions. One new initiative being organised by Colin Gross that may be helpful to some members, is a series of full-day Sunday working parties. This may help members who are unable to attend regularly on the other days. Similarly we currently rely on a small pool of locomotive owners and drivers to provide the motive power for public running. We are keen to welcome and encourage others to support these events with their locos and I will welcome any suggestions you may have as to how we can achieve this in a planned and orderly manner. Birthday parties are an excellent way to gain experience of the challenges of passenger hauling and it provides an opportunity for smaller locomotives to gain some passenger miles.

Most importantly and immediate is that we have to fill the position of Secretary for the coming year. We have taken steps to rationalise the workload involved so that it should not be a particularly onerous task. We do need a Secretary and I ask you all to consider volunteering.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of your committee for their support last year, and also all members who have attended work days on site in all weathers, they have ensured that our railway remains one of the best in the south of England. Under the editorship of Colin Gross our magazine has won yet another award in 2012 for excellence.

Finally, Richard will be standing down as Secretary and Colin as editor of NPE. I would like to express the thanks and appreciation of the Committee and all the membership for the brilliant job they have done in their respective roles.



Just a usual Sunday morning's work for our Chairman

SECRETARY'S AGM REPORT - Richard Smith

At the last AGM the membership stood at 43, it has remained relatively static, with a few new joiners and a couple of non-renewals. I am pleased to report that the end of 2012 sees the membership standing at 39. 2013 membership renewals to date is 38.

Last year saw the first full year of a junior membership section, with 9 members. All of whom have been very active throughout the year. The juniors have built a Titan locomotive, been instructed in basic use of the lathe through the construction of a pen, and received instruction in the operation of miniature railways in accordance with the 7¹/₄ inch Gauge Society proficiency scheme. This enabled them to achieve success in being awarded Bronze and Silver Certificates, by councillor Phil Metcalfe. I would like to thank, Paul Archer, Peter Downes, and Andy Cross for their work with the junior section.

During the year we proceeded to improve the workshop (many thanks to Tim) and increase storage capacity; the aim being to provide secure storage for carriages, whilst providing a workshop suitable for maintaining a railway. In addition we recognised the need to provide a safe environment for the training of the junior members.

We received £1,000 from SAGE via an initial application to the Berkshire Community Foundation to purchase machine tools and £500 to build an extension to the country carriage shed. Plans for the extension were eventually approved by Wokingham Borough Council, and the trees felled in September, allowing the work on the carriage shed to be undertaken.

2012 saw Pinewood embark upon two new initiatives, the first was the charity day, In aid of Matilda's Team, this replaced the normal Birthday party, and a substantial sum was raised for this worthy cause. With a full railway service and additional attractions in the yard and a very favourable amount of press coverage. The second was the Ride On Railway owners day which saw a range of 5 inch and 7¹/₄ inch electric locomotives visit us. Once again we received very favourable comments, particularly on the state of our track and our welcome. This is planned to be an expanded event in 2013 with Station Road Steam joining the event, for their locomotive owners.

This year the New Pinewood Express was again runner up in the Engineering In Miniature's annual competition of club magazines, winning £50. Congratulations to the editor Colin Gross for an excellent publication.

Finally I would like to thank the ladies for their continuing support which once again proved invaluable in providing refreshments and selling tickets on running days, considerably enhancing our reputation with the public.



Newly laid track leading from the Station

CHIEF ENGINEER'S AGM REPORT

David Simmonite

I am pleased to report that 2012 was another successful year with the railway remaining very popular. On the engineering side only minor maintenance problems had to be dealt with.

The project for the winter of 2012 was split into two phases. Phase one was to take up the steel rail between the station exit cross over and the bridge and to replace it with aluminium track. This phase included two points which would be linked together in phase two. Their early inclusion enabled trains to be run during phase two works. Phase one was completed before the running season, and many complimentary comments were received regarding riding qualities.

Phase two works connecting the up main at signal 3 to the bridge, allowing trains to by-pass the station, was carried out in parallel with phase one and was completed in May 2012.

Clearly the by-pass requires signalling and during the above works time was being spent designing and constructing three new signal posts and signals, a new direction indicator and the necessary relay boards to guard the new facing point installed in May and the trailing point to the bridge. These are all in place and working. The major new conduit and cable group from the signal box to beyond the bridge has been installed and it is anticipated that this will be sufficiently connected to give the signal box control of the loop signals by Easter. However, track circuiting will not be completed until after Easter.

The quality of ride on steel rail from the bridge to the gantry has posed problems for some time and improvement now forms the major project for this winter. Currently this track is being lifted and replaced by aluminium track. As there are no funds allowed in our 2013 finances, other solutions were sort. It was decided to use stored spare new rail and taking existing aluminium rail from the station replacing this with stored steel rail. This work is currently ongoing.

Finally, now that the trees have been felled, the extension to Carriage Shed 'C' is forging ahead although the weather is not helping. The track for the shed has been built and is ready for installing.



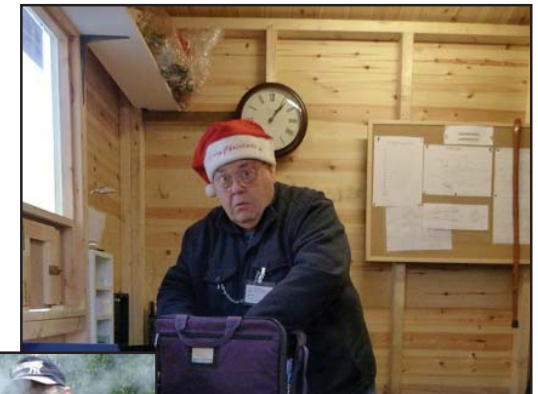
Ongoing works for Carriage Shed 'C'

JUNIOR ENGINEERS - Paul Archer

This winter has seen our Junior Engineers take an active role in track maintenance, learning all stages of track bed and panel construction. From scraping out old ballast and removing steel track panels, setting levels and alignments, to the rolling, laying and final fit of new aluminium rail – it all helps the understanding of what goes into making our railway so smooth riding. It won't be long now until they get to enjoy the fruits of their labours and take their Titan 7 round the new loop trackwork.

The next training module is also in final stages of development. The task is to build an oscillating engine and will require our Junior Engineers to learn skills in areas including turning, soldering and use of hand tools. This will be led by Peter Downes and Paul Archer, if you would like to help run training activities, or have ideas for future idea, please get in touch.

SMILE - YOU'RE ON CAMERA!





SAFETY OFFICER’S AGM REPORT - Peter Downes

I am glad to report that we have had no incidents over the past year. I have checked the first aid kits and have topped up the plasters but I feel that we should get new first aid kits for the start of the new running season. *(this has now been dealt with - Ed)*

I have arranged with the site management for the space across the road from our main gate to be used as our disabled bay.

I have all the Safe Operating Practices and risk assessments for the infrastructure finished. When it came to the train movements I found that because of my limited knowledge of railways I needed help with this.

John Keane came to my aid and has sorted out all the running procedures. I would like to thank him for the help he has given me in sorting this problem out.

Now that we have all the paper work in place we are going to put it on our web site. If you feel that we have missed anything please let me know so that we can update the records.

PROCEDURES - John Keane

Member’s attention is drawn to the procedures documents filed in the PROCEDURES file in the chalet (and available in the members’ section of the PMR web site).

These have been updated since last season and drivers, guards and anyone supporting sessions in which we run for the public is expected to have read them. One change, to conform to a recommendation of the HSE, is that whoever ‘walks the track’ is required to sign to that effect, after advising the OIC that he has done so. This record of track-walkers’ signatures is at the back of the members’ signing in book in the chalet.



Would you buy a used loco from these guys? Nope, me neither! - Ed

WEBMASTER REPORT - Colin Gross

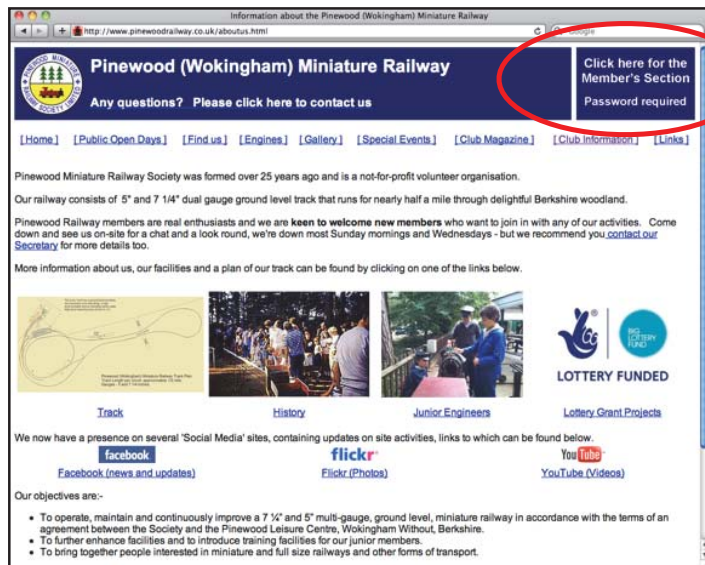
For the last three years I have included information about the Pinewood Website in either my editorial or other newsletter sections as appropriate, but as Andy has now taken over as editor I have written a separate report.

The Pinewood website's current design was created by Paul Konig and myself in early 2010. As 'Webmaster' I maintain the website using a free software package which works in much the same way as the word processors you probably use on your home computer, and just like them the program is often very frustrating to use. What appears on the Internet is often very different to what I see on my computer screen, which then involves quite a lot of work (often deciphering computer code) to resolve the problem and make sure that the website looks correct regardless of what Internet Browser people are using (Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari are all examples of "browsers").

New for 2013 is a secure Member's Section of the website. This is accessed from the 'Club Information' page of our website www.pinewoodrailway.co.uk by clicking on the new link (ringed in red on the screenshot). The Secretary will be sending the Username and Password to all current members together with information on how you can log in.

Our entire website is kept on a secure server which also handles the society's emails. You may have noticed that the inside cover of your newsletter contains various email addresses for all the committee members and officers of the society. Emails to these specific "position titled" addresses are all received and handled by software on the secure server which then sends the emails on to the correct officers "private" email address.

As you may thus realise, there is quite a lot going on with our Website. If you have any comments or would like to see your loco appear in the Loco Pages of the website then please contact me at webmaster@pinewoodrailway.co.uk



MEMBERS WEBSITE AREA Colin Gross & Paul Konig

A member's area of our website has now been developed, in which pertinent information regarding the society and its activities can be found. Information available to members online currently includes:

- Duty Roster for Officer in Charge (OIC) and Assistant.
- Procedures for Officer in Charge & Assistant, Drivers, and Guards.
- Reference information for vacuum braking and signalling systems.
- Junior Engineer's Duty Roster and training records.
- Loco boiler test register.
- Santa Specials.

You should have received a step by step guide on 'How to log in' from the Secretary together with your log in information, a summary of which is shown below.

Logging on to the Member's Area

1. Go to the main Pinewood website - www.pinewoodrailway.co.uk
2. Click on " [Club Information] ". This can be found just below the blue banner at the top of the page, towards the right hand side.
3. Click on "Click here for the Member's Section" This can be found on the right hand side of the blue banner at the top of the screen.
4. A box will then appear asking you to "Enter your User Name and Password". Please type these into the respective boxes exactly as they are found in the information sent to you by the Secretary.

That's it! You are now viewing the main page of the member's section of the website.

Please have a look round and let us know if you would like to see anything added or amended. I can be contacted by emailing webmaster@pinewoodrailway.co.uk You will also find clickable contact links on the various pages to enable you to send emails to the relevant club officers.

Members are reminded that the information available through the member's section of the website is provided for the use of the society members and is not intended to be available to the general public or other third parties. Please do not provide information about your User Name and Password to any other person or organisation.

The Society retains the right to change the password at any time if it believes that the security of the Members Section of the website has been compromised, and to only issue the revised password to current full members.

RIDE ON RAILWAYS & STATION ROAD STEAM 'OWNERS RALLY 2013' - Colin Gross



Ride On Railways 'Captain Howey' at Pinewood 2012

You may remember the very successful Ride on Railways Owners Rally that we held at Pinewood in September 2012. A number of letters of thanks were received from the visitors, thanking the society and its members for their hospitality, and asking if a repeat event could be held in 2013.

With the consent of the committee, we are arranging another 'Ride on Railways' (RoR) Owners Rally on Saturday May the 25th 2013.

Because of the close working relationship between 'Ride on Railways' and 'Station Road Steam' we are also extending the invitation to owners of the 'Stafford' class steam loco.

Both manufacturers have been invited to attend, and will be bringing along examples of their locos to demonstrate (and as happened last year, let Pinewood members drive).

All Pinewood members are invited to attend the rally. Members are welcome to bring 'Ride on Railways' or 'Stafford' locos to run, or very welcome simply to come along to enjoy the rally and talk to our visitors. Of course, if you wish to help with running the event your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Colin Gross for more information.

If you have any suggestions for future rallies, or are interested in their organisation, please see a member of the committee.

WORK IN PROGRESS - Ian Shanks

BR Class 58 and rake of Tippler wagons in 7¹/₄

I was going to only build a class 58 but due to some difficulties with the supplier of motors and other things the original planned date for start was delayed. I had been pulling freight over recent months, so three of us decided to build a batch of 20 Tippler wagons, BR built about 10000. We started in March 2012 and my part of the deal was to get the castings and laser cut frames ordered and do most of the machining I underestimated the amount that I agreed to do. To date I have now built 3 wagons up to the almost completed state apart from the dummy brake gear and the painting. All the machining is complete except for 36 buffers to be turned.



Class 58 primed for painting

As for the locomotive I ordered the bits in June and picked up them early August, my priority was to get all the steel primed before the winter as you can see from the picture the bogies and chassis are complete and painted black the sides are all assembled and primed. This locomotive was the last heavy freight to be built by BR in the 80s and they built 50 at Doncaster. The model will be 58003 in BR trainload coal colours this loco was named 'Markham Colliery' which was within the boundary of Chesterfield, very fitting I think. I have not done any work on this since early December; but hopefully by the end of February I will be working on this. This is a big locomotive some 8 Foot long and is 2 hp, as yet I have not fully worked out how to transport this but it will go length wise in the car so by the end of the season you will probably see it.

EXTERNAL EVENTS & INVITATIONS - 2013

Please check dates and requirements before travelling with the host organisation. Contact details available from the PMRS secretary.

DATE	EVENT
May 5th	Andover & District MES Open Steam Day (contact Colin Gross)
May 12th	Guildford Model Engineering Society. Bagnall and Narrow Gauge Loco Rally.
July 7th	Andover & District Open Steam Day (contact Colin Gross)
July 13th	Hady (Chesterfield) Diesel / Electric Day
July 20th/21st	Guildford Model Engineering Society. Model Steam Rally and Exhibition.
September 1st	Andover & District MES Open Steam Day (contact Colin Gross)

PUBLIC RUNNING DUTY ROSTER - 2013

DATE	OFFICER IN CHARGE	ASSISTANT
March 31st	Keith Briault	Peter Downes
April 21st	Ray Grace	Trevor Hill
May 19th	Brian Barrow	Nigel Jaques
June 16th	Tim Caswell	Martin Barratt
July 21st	David Simmonite	Tim Taylor
August 18th	Andy Cross	Derek Tulley
September 15th	John Keane	Roger Marney
October 20th	James Jarvis	Richard Smith
Santa Specials	TBA	TBA

Please note: if you are unable to attend on the date shown in the roster, or would like to volunteer for a role, please let Ray Grace know as early as possible.

PINEWOOD DIARY DATES - 2013

DATE	EVENT	
March 31st	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
April 7th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
April 21st	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
May 5th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
May 19th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
May 25th	ROR/SRS Day	10.00 - 16.00
June 2nd	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
June 16th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
July 7th	Pinewood Festival	12.00 - 16.00
July 21st	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
August 4th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
August 18th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
September 1st	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
September 15th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
October 6th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
October 20th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
December 1st	Santa Specials	08.30 - 17.00
December 8th	Santa Specials	08.30 - 17.00

You will have read in this newsletter that the bulk of the work needed to maintain and improve our railway is done on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings by a small group of members. To take some of the strain away from these stalwarts, and to give those of you who are not retired more time to help, we shall in future be holding "all day" working parties (9 am to 4 pm) on the second Sunday of the month. All members, including our Junior Engineers, are welcome to attend these working days.