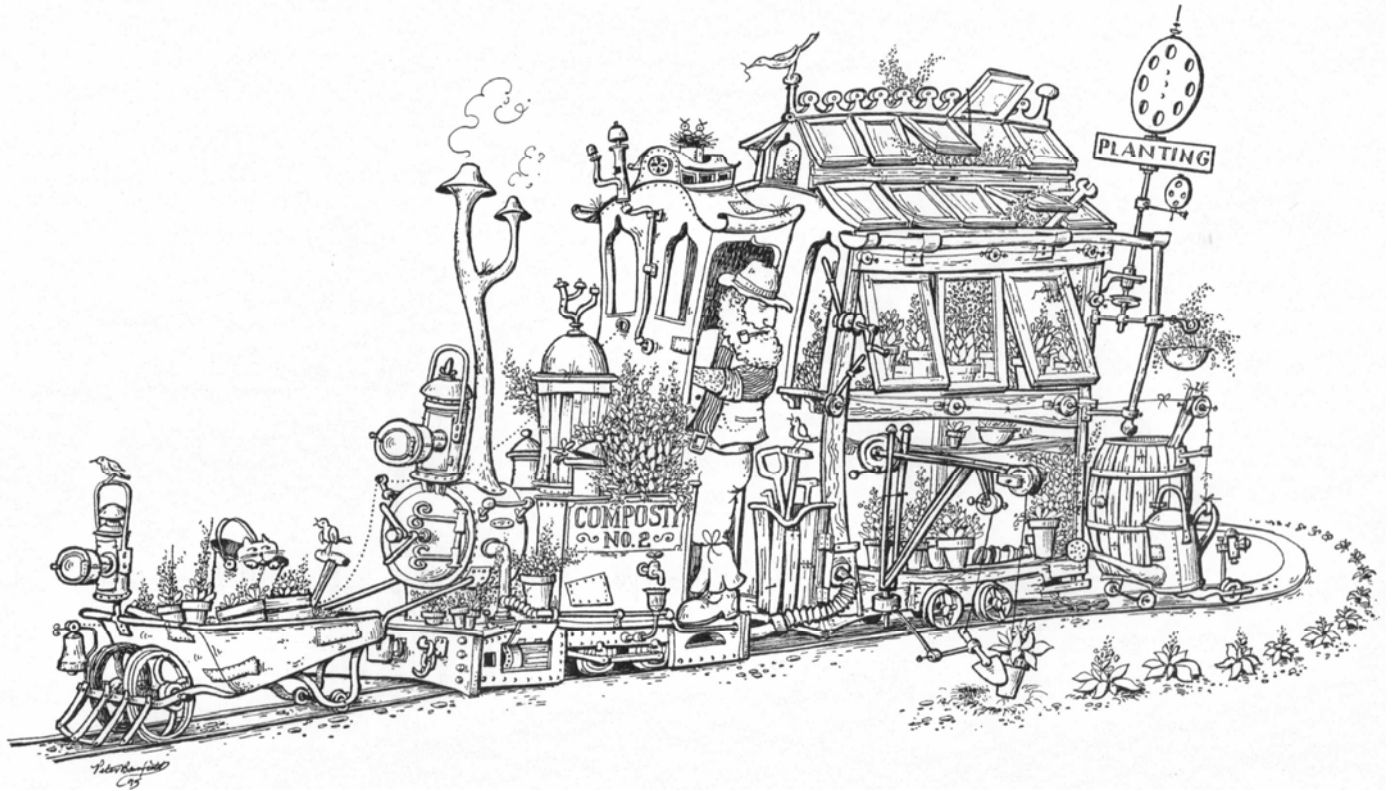


Smokebox March 2011



COMPOSTY No.2 Portersfoote Bunting Light Railway

Station gardens have always been tended with pride by staff of the PBLR. Extensive potting sheds adjoin the main engine sheds at Portersfoote Bunting and these are the home of *Composty Nos 1 and 2*. A number of mobile greenhouses are maintained here and during the year these little engines are to be seen on all parts of the system supplying hanging baskets to stations, watering, dead heading, putting out bedding plants etc. No.2, seen here, is equipped with an Adam's Patent Steam Planter which greatly assists the lengthy task of beautifying the lineside. During the winter months one of the locomotives is continually in steam in order to supply heating for the greenhouses and also the General Manager's residence nearby.

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March Smokebox

Following favourable feedback we will be reviving the BAGs modelling trophies this year, they will be awarded at SIB, they will be on display at our club meeting just to refresh your memories they are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| "The Tim Grisdale Shield" | Awarded for Best Freelance Model |
| "The BAG Committee Shield" | Awarded for Best Prototype Model |
| "The Roger Goodall Trophy" | Awarded for the Most Novel Narrow Gauge Model |

We have now booked the Hall for Steam in Beds 2011 which will be on the Saturday 3rd December; at the moment we have no plans to change the format from previous years. But if you do have any suggestion how you think it could be improved do please let me know.

The Southern Federation are holding their AGM on Saturday 12th March at The Museum of the Great Western Railway, Swindon. I have two tickets for the AGM which will also give you free entry to the museum, if anyone is interested in going along I will have the tickets with me on Sunday.

2011 Meeting Dates

The following are the club meeting dates for 2011:

6th March inc. P/G	3rd April inc. P/G
1st May inc. P/G	5th June
3rd July	August no meeting
4th September	2nd October inc. P/G
6th November inc. P/G	3 December SIB 2011

Prayle Grove will be attending those dates marked P/G

Association Decauville Project Victory

Those of you that have seen a copy of the January Smokebox will be aware of Fergus Morgan's proposal regarding the Association Project Loco. Any member interested in joining an informal group with a view to sharing ideas and helping other less experienced members should contact Fergus, I believe at present there are 4 or 5 members interested.

Exhibitions 2011

It's a bit quiet on the exhibition front at the moment. There have been a couple of enquires for Papplewick Green but no firm invites.

I have been approached by the Association to see if we would be interested in taking "Ridgmont" to the AGM in 2012, as you are aware it is being held at East of England Showground, Peterborough. I have indicated that we would be happy to go, providing we can put a team together. It's worth noting that the Showground is 59 miles from Eaton Bray and Stoneleigh is 65 miles so the journey time is much the same.

Other Exhibitions up and coming in the future

Abingdon Model Railway Exhibition, 5th March, White Horse Leisure Centre, OX14 3PJ.
Visit www.admrc.org.uk for more details.

Midland Garden Rail Show, 19th & 20th March, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, nr Leamington Spa.
Visit www.largescalemodelrail.co.uk for more details and advance ticket purchase.

London Festival of Railway Modelling, 26th & 27th March, Alexandra Palace, N22 7AY.
Visit www.model-railways-live.co.uk for more details and advance ticket purchase.

16mm Association National Garden Railway Show, Saturday 2nd April. Full details can be found in the 16mm Bulletin or on the Association Web Site, www.16mm.org.uk

31st Annual Model Railway Exhibition, 7th May, Queens School, Aldenham Road, Bushey, WD23 2TY, 10am – 4.30pm.

"The Great Coffee Pot Fest"

I have received details of a special event to be held on the 14/15 May at the Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway. The event has been organised by Alf Fisher to feature all types of Vertical Boiler locomotives including at least six 2ft. gauge coffee pot locos, in addition there will be a number of layouts of all scales including Andrew Neal's St Genny's. Contact Alf on 01923:770891 or email alfred@fisherglass.plus.com if you have a suitable Loco to exhibit.

Raillex, 28th & 29th May, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury, HP2 9PP. Visit www.railex.org.uk for more details.

Chris Pretty