



INSIDE MOTION

News and Views from the
TYNESIDE SOCIETY of MODEL and EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERS
No. 52 April 2025

Preamble

I think it's fair to say that winter is over. The trees and hedges are greening nicely and the birds (feathered variety, of course) are getting frisky. Here's hoping for better months ahead.

Club matters

Public Running

Sunday April 6th saw the resumption of Public Running. Bright sunshine brought a steady number of visitors throughout the day, enough to keep two trains busy. Four locomotives and several drivers were available to handle the traffic. It also saw the inaugural run of the refurbished coach set, repainted and lined by Jim Mountjoy.



Lindsay Oliver and Mick Jordison with a brace of Wrens



Adrian Morley and Brian Nicholls with Wren and Koppel

Birthday Girl

Our Secretary Linda Nicholls recently celebrated her second 35th birthday. A surprise party was thrown for her in the Clubhouse on Sunday, March 16th, partly as a birthday treat and partly in recognition of and thanks for all the many tasks she undertakes on our behalf. A lunch of chicken casserole with rice followed by trifle was provided by Peter Newby and Ian Spencer. Afternoon tea saw the cutting of the cake, specially baked for the occasion by Kate Taylor.



Absent Friends

On a more sombre note, it is with sadness that we record the passing of two long-standing TSMEE members, Michael Tomlinson and David Buglass, who both died earlier this year. Both had been active contributors to the Club's wider activities.

Michael had served on the Committee for many years and was a member of the New Clubhouse Steering Group. He also encouraged junior members to learn how to fire and drive his locomotive on the raised track. Mary Tomlinson sent the following note - *"Mary, Penny and Andrew would like to thank you all for the happy times Michael enjoyed at the track in your company. Wednesdays and Sundays were highlights of the week !! Also your support at his service last week was much appreciated. Keep steaming !!"*

David was, amongst much else, instrumental in the design, building and installation of the Ground Level Track signals. His inventive and playful nature also gave us the Ghost Train Witch riding the raised track, the Inflatable Ghost and the zipwire Raven. His Land Rover and trailer did sterling service moving stuff around, the trailer finally being donated to the Club.

They are both greatly missed.

Wren

Adrian Morley has very generously donated his 7¼" "Wren" locomotive to the Club. This means we now have our own steamer to supplement the electric and petrol locos.

Inspection

Following the return of responsibility for the Park from Urban Green to the City Council, we were paid a visit by a Council Official "to see what we do".

Junior Engineers

Ethan Morrison continues to develop his skills, under the watchful eye of John Duncan, with an introductory session on the Myford lathe. The job was to tidy up the ends of several pieces of rough-sawn stainless steel tube following an appeal to TSMEE for some help.



(photos – Linda Nicholls)

Dates for your Diaries

Saturday 19th April – Toon Underground Parade – no vehicular access 13:00 to 15:00

Wednesday 4th June - no vehicular access between 12:00 & 00:00

Sunday 8th June – Come Together Festival 10:00 to 00:00

Saturday 21st June – Wylam Brewery 25th Birthday event. Could be problems in Brewery yard on the Sunday

Sunday 29th June - TSMEE AGM

Sunday 6th July - 10K Great North Run & Wylam Brewery charity food event

Friday 11th July to Sunday 13th July – Lost Minds in the Park Music Festival. No access

Saturday 19th July or Sunday 20th July - TSMEE Open Day – further details to follow

Sunday 24th August – Mela. No access

Member's musings

A Collaboration with GL5MLA and TSMEE

Eddie & Joe Gibbons



A view across "Shildon Yard" with turntable in foreground, sidings behind, display table in background and running line to the right

Towards the end of March the Ground Level 5 inch Gauge Main Line Association (GL5MLA) returned to demonstrate railway operation and shunting at the NRM Shildon Museum after an absence of 5 years. Their first visit was in 2013, when a collection of track owned by individual members was brought together to make a single line between a shunting yard at the Museum entrance and a run-round loop half way along the building. Each year that followed, new track panels were built which were to a standardised design, and by 2019 the layout had expanded to three shunting yards and an oval running line. The whole layout could be assembled and operational in about six hours, and dismantled and loaded into vans and trailers in less than two.



Mike Lock of GL5 with his "Sir Nigel Gresley" at the head of a semi fitted goods train

During this time a group of members built signals and a signalling panel from which they could be operated and individuals built a turntable for the engine shed, a ramped line where engines could be prepared and disposed of at a comfortable height, watering towers and items of lineside equipment to help with the scene. Included in the trackwork were a double slip and two three way turnouts.

Sadly the Covid outbreak stopped the 2020 display and work at the Museum, including the construction of the new storage building, prevented a return until this year.

In addition to the display this year the Museum asked if GL5 could put on a display of model locomotives representative of the locomotives present at the cavalcades of 1925 and 1975 commemorating the opening of the Stockton and Darlington railway in 1825, this year being the 200th anniversary.



A general view across the display tables

The models displayed represent a small portion of the classes of locomotive which featured in either the 1925 or 1975 cavalcades. A total of 53 unique classes of locomotive appeared in the 1925 cavalcade, not including those which were on display at the Faverdale exhibition in the days leading up to the event. In 1975, to mark the 150th anniversary, 35 locomotives took part including one or two that had also taken part in 1925. This event was bookended by a replica of Locomotion (1825) to begin, and the latest in high speed rail travel to finish, the prototype HST. Both of these are currently on show in the Shildon Museum.

The model locomotives displayed and their classes are listed below:

LNER Class A4 No. 4498 "Sir Nigel Gresley"
GNR Stirling Single No. 774
GNR Class C2 Atlantic No. 1418
NER Electric 2-Co-2 Class EE1 No.13
LNER Class V2 BR No. 60843
GNR Class H4 (K3) No. 1009
LMS Princess Class BR No. 46205 "Princess Victoria"



NER No 13 a Main Line electric loco by John Bolter (loaned by Norman Blackburn)



Dave Nesbitt's LMS Pacific "Princess Victoria"



Ian Spencer's LNER V2 No 60843



Eddie Gibbons' GNR Stirling Single No 774

These models were kindly loaned by members of both the Tyneside Society of Model and Experimental Engineers and GL5. Our thanks go to Norman Blackburn, Ian Spencer and Dave Nesbitt who provided their models at very short notice.

Postamble

Thanks to Eddie and Joe for their article. If I'd known in advance that the event was taking place, I would have gone down, but for whatever reason it didn't hit my radar.

I have a couple of small pieces in reserve and, with the weather improving and activities resuming, there should be another issue in May.

Of which, Sunday May 4th is the next Public Running Day, this time in association with the Jesmond Festival. A reminder - if you are bringing engines in, please remember that the access gates close at 10:30 to allow ground-level track operations to commence.

Contact information

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Adrian Morley's Wren with the repainted coaches.



The lining is particularly attractive