



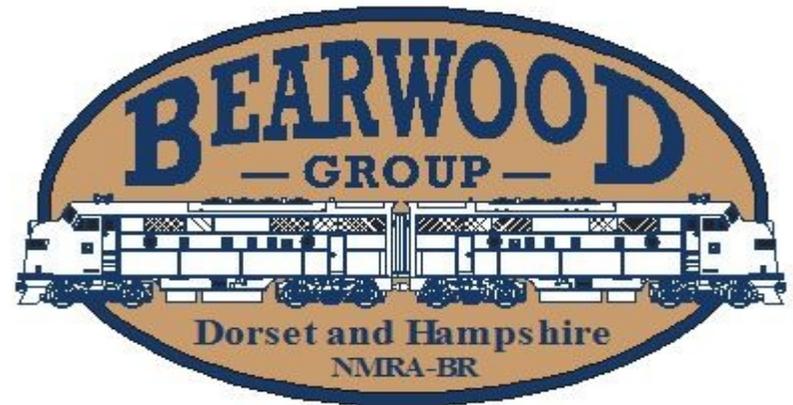
Bearwood Local #110.

The Bearwood Group.

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Editorial.

September? Hard to believe isn't it, the ninth month of the year is upon us, well started actually and so little achieved. I don't know about you but I seem to have been running hard to stand still and so many tasks on the "to do" list still need to be ticked off. I always have that feeling of helplessness with summer waning but hold on, time for another list – the things that have been achieved:

Garden in good order – tick

Decking replaced – tick

Allotment not only started from scratch but producing good crops – tick

Met up with family members, at last – tick

Two days a week volunteering – tick

Buildings for my HO cement plant completed – tick

Week's birding & walking in Somerset – tick

So, perhaps not such a bad tally after all. Yes, I've missed the monthly meets but that's something to look forward to. The world still seems a bit weird but I've learnt to cope with the new normal and I've probably been more in contact with friends via Zoom that I might have been, had it been a question of getting the car out and spending hours on our overcrowded roads.

How was your year, could you manage a letter to the editor, I'm sure that you've done something interesting?

Chairman's Musings

At last, we are coming back to Bearwood starting on the 11th September. If you went to the Benson at Oxford, please wear the blue badge you were given on arrival. Details of the arrangements have already been circulated, and are included with this Newsletter to be on the safe side.

From our second opening on 9th October, we have the services of a trader again, Mr. Keith Orchard, Anglo-American Model Railways has kindly agreed to attend (www.anglo-americanmodelrailways.com 01291 689536).

He advertises regularly in Roundhouse (p5 in the most recent edition) and is happy for anyone to inspect his stock on line: if you place an order, he will bring it with him which will be mutually beneficial. This could be the beginning of a useful relationship between our club and Keith.

I hope now that our group can pick up smoothly from where we left off, complete building the new modules, be running trains on them by the end of this year, and get the layout cosmetically complete before the second half of 2022. In conclusion I believe there might have been a few things left in the store in March 2020 besides the controller which was part owned by the club, part by Stewart, essentially a short-term situation caught out by CV19!

An offer by Tim Richards to dispose of decals at the club has given me an idea. I can probably use 2 of these individual decals, but that leaves a lot, so why not keep them and others like them at Bearwood for our mutual benefit and the detriment of the decal manufacturers and the USPS? This could apply to a host of parts, screws, wheels, windows etc. What do you think?

That's all for now delighted to say: SEE Y'ALL 11 September.

[Roger Luffman](#), Chairman Bearwood HO Group

Bearwood Returns

A reminder that we are reopening the group at 08.30 on Saturday 11th September.

The following will now apply:

There is a numbers restriction of 60 on the main hall, which is not likely to affect our group.

Masks are no longer required by law, but are actively encouraged both by the Centre, and in view of our age profile by ourselves.

Catering. The permitted number in the lounge is 22. This will be strictly adhered to, and with a good turnout we will need two shifts for lunch.

Our catering service is to be restricted to one person only, so please be tolerant as there are likely to be delays.

Fish and chips are not likely to be available as Robinson's is now only opening at lunchtime on Friday at present. I have spoken to Mrs Robinson and she has promised to update me before 4th September. In essence it seems to be a staffing issue. So there is hope.

Alternative catering suggestions are to purchase at the Bearwood Co-op or to bring your own food and drink.

It seems appropriate that all attendees sign in on arrival and provide contact details.

With your permission I will delay calling the AGM until numbers in the hall are less restricted.

Glad to be back, hope to see you all on the 11th.

Roger Luffman

Chairman Bearwood HO Group

An invitation to: Romsey & District Model Railway Exhibition

The Romsey club recently held their long overdue AGM, after a night of the long knives we have a change of management. As a result the new exhibition organiser asked me if anyone from the Bearwood group would be willing to offer a layout for next year's show. The show is planned for two days, 5th & 6th March 2022.

The hall is open Friday night from about 7pm if you wish to setup, it reopens from about 8am on Saturday, with the show opening to the public at around 10:30. Sunday hours are 10-4:30.

Should anyone be interested and wish to send me details I can pass it to the new Exhibition Organiser.

Gerald

Another From Alastair Lee to 'Our' Roger.

“Roger,

I'm constantly amazed at the tips and tricks that get sent.

How some of you think of them, I'll never know.

Have a look here and you'll see what I mean.

Best

Al”

Realistic Rockfaces

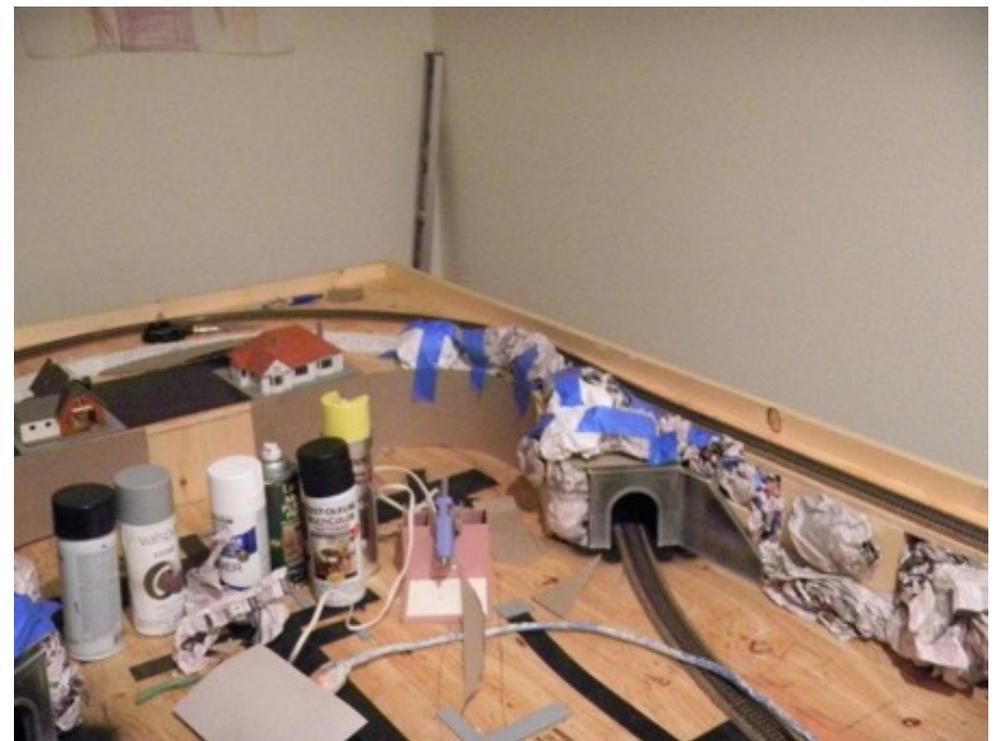
Here's another dip into the omnibus world of Al's Model Railroad Layouts Plans with an email from Barry. Probably teaching "granny to suck eggs" but it's nice to see how someone else does it.

"Al,
I've been trying to get this tutorial done so I can send it to you to hopefully explain how I do my rock formations that apparently look quite real.

- 1) Build the supporting structure that will eventually be covered.



2) Stuff with crumpled up newspaper to achieve the formation desired.





3) Cover with plaster-cloth or plaster soaked cheese cloth.



4) As the they are drying use your fingers to shape the effect desired.

5) Create rocks from rubber plaster moulds and apply suitable castings to the face of the plaster formation with a hot melt glue gun and then fill in around it with plaster-of-paris.



6) Then paint with acrylic latex paints from a crafts store. I prefer the lighter colours to make the layout look brighter. I use a tan for the entire base coat, then a burnt umber for the highlights with an occasional darker brown for a deep crevice or crack. It takes some practice but it's not difficult to get a good realistic result.



7) I sprinkle my various colours of grass(comes in plastic containers from the hobby store).

8) Finally glue clump foliage on for shrubs, drill appropriate holes for telephone poles and trees you can see the final results.

Barry”

"Not Benson, somewhere near Oxford".

A special report on the recent but very delayed meeting.

An early start, Saturday 31st July, at least its light, so my long-suffering wife is not too concerned about my early rising (05.30, like being back at work!). Porridge for breakfast, and rather a lot of coffee, especially for an 81-year-old, gentlemen either know why or will find out sooner than they think! 06.50 steady walk 15 minutes to the bus stop via the paper shop, to catch 07.14 to Bournemouth station. Plenty of time and no crowds, join train and find my reserved seat, masks not compulsory but advised, so on with the gear. Train departs on time at 07.47, and maintains its right time status to Reading, where there is the usual 10-minute turn round to accommodate the change in direction. Arrive Oxford at 09.38 where I am greeted by Mike Arnold who had kindly offered me a lift out to the hotel. A little traffic congestion due to roadworks but nothing serious and we arrive at the hotel shortly after 10am, 4* Hilton, so its best behaviours for a peasant boy like me!

The meet is in a large room down a corridor from reception, and clearly signposted, so difficult to get lost. Once inside the first impression is that there are a lot of people there, even quite early as it was then. Several traders, including Anglo American who has some stuff I have bought waiting for me, and a variety of people who I have either met at previous shows, or got to know on the Saturday morning fortnightly "Brew and Natter" Zoom meetings which I thoroughly recommend.

The room is like a giant Bazaar with several traders, and bring and buy stalls, but, rather strangely no layouts, only a few demonstrations (see photos at end of #109) and of course the famous NMRA raffle which I thoroughly recommend.

During a short break for air I introduce myself to the new National (International) President Gordon Robinson who came down for the day from his home in the Orkney Islands, 1200 miles round trip at a guess, a big commitment, I have my head down on the stalls for what seems a few minutes, but when I look at the time it is 12.30pm, time for a snack, so I go to the reception area for a snack, smoked salmon sandwich, good value for a hotel of this standing. After lunch a last look round to see if I have missed anything, and then try to leave. Major problem, all motorways but one had been closed for roadworks, but there is now a major accident on the one remaining road into Oxford, so gridlock. Thanks to Ian James for digging me out and getting me to Oxford in time to catch my (booked) late running train.

Summary: Excellent day, Strengths, excellent venue, but our organizers should remember that as our members age many will stop driving, and be unable to attend meets at places which are deficient and/or expensive in public transport. I understand the hotel has hinted they would be interested in hosting our national convention, sometime in the next few years, it would be brilliant if the deficiencies regarding transport can be addressed."

Roger Luffman

ANOTHER MINI-BEARWOOD

On 22nd and 24th July, Vic and his wife Linda hosted another 'Mini-Bearwood' at their home in Barton-on-Sea. As usual Vic's impressive triple deck N scale layout was in operation, as was the HO modular layout consisting of Telegraph Road, a yard and the rebuilt Rockfish, linked together with wye and corner boards. Vic has put in a great deal of work rebuilding Rockfish to a revised design on new baseboards, and making use of most of the original buildings. He has also transformed my wye and corner boards with his scenic treatment, and added a very effective sky backdrop around the whole layout.

Visitors included Bob, Campbell, Harry and Melvin, with various neighbours popping in. Lunches were fish and chips and burgers, with plentiful supplies of tea, coffee and delicious home-made chocolate cake, all provided by catering manager Linda.

David











Competition Time

Sadly a very poor turn-out, come on chaps surely you could show a bit of enthusiasm?

Four photos of my N&W goods station building based on that at Abingdon which serviced the Carnation dairy products. All features are fully shown, and to scale, except for the length and numbers of windows in the goods shed, which is severely truncated. I believe the one at Abingdon had around 20 windows. Just didn't have the space.

Roger Luffman







There seems to be a bit of a theme here – why do we love freight sheds?

Anyway, the winner must be Roger as my effort is not based on a prototype. (Ed)

FRED



Well that's it for another issue, we've managed to pull one out of the bag despite the other pressures. Now, and this is serious, unless a few more members start to contribute the picture above could become a reality, the rails pulled and the sleepers used to create more raised beds in the garden. Gerald and I are eternally grateful to our small band of contributors, who have ensured that we have enough copy to create an issue but, it is neither fair nor reasonable to expect someone else to do all of the heavy lifting. At present there is one short item in the file for October and at the current rate of progress that could be it! **Over to you.**

Bearwood Local #110.

Are we about to see the return of a typical British Summer as well as Bearwood meets?

