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Editorial – This pre-Christmas issue includes the following topics:

Geoff Hill Remembered - This is a rather 'special edition' of our Newsletter, dedicated to the memory of Geoff Hill BEM who poignantly left us on my birthday in 2007 and has been much missed – Christine has kindly agreed to this issue and remains a regular member. Geoff skilfully crafted many fine locomotives during his long membership of FyldeSME, but sadly did not see his final ambitious project a 5" gauge 6233 Duchess of Sutherland completed. However, your editor continued its construction for 7 years until John Richardson of the Brighthouse Society completed it and ultimately had it painted and lined out in beautiful LMS livery by Peter Whitaker this year. I was kept closely informed by John and invited to visit, view and photograph the finely finished loco and am grateful for his permission to reproduce them below. I can confirm that the interim standard of engineering, finish and running performance (see video link on our website) would have met Geoff's approval, even though 6233 became 6231 Duchess of Atholl, purely in deference to the Hornby Dublo version – to which the latter builders never aspired!

Exhibitions - There will be no G Wizz Christmas exhibition for FyldeSME to display at in St Annes this year as Allan Judd and his team have opted for a solo charity event at the Ribble Steam Railway. An explanatory letter from Allan and my reply to him are reproduced below. However,

FyldeSME is planning its own charity exhibition of its activities in the Marsh Mill next year. Despite no exhibition, 2018 has happily proved one of our most successful for many years. Despite a declining membership we experienced considerably increased passenger numbers and donations. This largely due to good weather, well attended events in the Mill Square and the return of the Gala fair to the sports field for 2 days in June. Again, our special thanks to Linda Adams at La Shack for promoting us on Facebook and giving us publicity in the Square.

Seasonal Greetings - I hope members and their partners enjoy our festive lunch at the Marsh Mill Tavern on 12th December next, have a Happy Christmas followed by every good health and success in 2019!!

Diary of Events - FyldeSME members are urged to support running days at Thornton throughout the year when weather permits (if in doubt phone our Secretary on the number above between 1230 and 1300 on the day)

- Sunday afternoons & Bank Holidays between 1330 and 1600 hrs
- Wednesday afternoons maintenance work 1330 onwards.
- Marsh Mill Xmas Lights – Sun 25 Nov 2018 (1500 until dark)
- FyldeSME lunch in the Tavern – 1230hrs on Wed 12 Dec 2018
- G Wizz its Xmas – Sat/Sun 8/9 & 15/16 Dec 2018 (1000hrs on)

(The G Wizz garden exhibition layout will be at Ribble Steam Railway Museum in aid of the Manchester Children's Hospital charity - FyldeSME are not exhibiting – but please visit in support the charitable event.

Please refer to website (fyldesme.co.uk) for latest events and timings.

G Wizz Charity Display 2018

(A letter from Allan Judd the G Wizz Chairman)

Hello Brian,

I am sorry to say that the many problems with the venue last year have made us believe that we must rethink our Christmas Show plans.

Although we broke our record for our donation to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, the best ever amount, the venue did not work for us, the agreed hire cost was changed from a flat rate to an hourly rate with separate fees for each part of the building, effectively doubling the price. This was just two weeks before the show. An additional cost was imposed to use the kitchen. The hall heating did not work, the kitchen was dirty

from the previous hirer and had to be thoroughly cleaned by our team prior to use. The hot water boiler had failed resulting in boiling water having to be carried across the kitchen to wash up. And there were numerous electrical issues. Access to the car park and hall was difficult to say the least with outside lighting not working and one disabled ramp being removed completely.

The problems were compounded by trains not running on the South Fylde and Blackpool North Lines due to electrification work and the rail replacement busses diverted away from the venue because of bridge closures, not to mention bad weather surrounding the area. In all this venue was by far the worst ever and the most expensive. There are less of us in the G-Wizz Team now to stage the event, we had lost David three years ago, Roy and Norma had retired, and Lesley and I are failing fast! Our volunteer members are also getting older, David ISAACS and Edith travelled from Wales in very bad weather to reach us as did Walter and Marion Turner. To complete the story Andy Wright, who has manned our pay desk for many years had his second leg removed just two weeks before.

Enough of this gloom, so many people follow the G-Wizz Christmas Layout that it would be a pity not to have it out this year, we offered to display it at Ribble Steam Museum in Preston to Support the Manchester Children's Hospital again, the museum have provided us with a fantastic room with all modern facilities, and we are able to build the display at our leisure and not in the very early morning! This and the security will allow us to now display for two weekends on December 8th & 9th and December 15th & 16th. Visitors will pay a small museum entry charge and we are able to accept donations to the hospital.

We have enjoyed very strong support from all the members at Fylde Society of Model Engineers for well over 30 years at our G-Wizz events and thank you all very much indeed, I never had any concerns about your displays which were always far above first class and a credit to your hobby. Thanks for everything, we hope to see you at Ribble Steam.

Regards to you all

Allan & Lesley Judd and all the G-Wizz Team

Eds. reply:

Many thanks Allan for keeping us in the picture and I fully understand your decisions given the many prevailing adverse circumstances. FyldeSME have always enjoyed exhibiting with G Wizz and especially your hospitality and the many friendships built up over the years.

I will record the details of your Ribble Steam Railway venue and dates in our diary and website, I would like to come, and I am sure many of our members will want to visit if they can. I hope the event is a big success and I hope to meet you there in December.

In the meantime, we are planning to hold our own small exhibition in the Marsh Mill next spring and I will keep you informed for interest.

My best regards and thanks again.

Brian McCord

Gallery

The photographs of this magnificent miniature engineering achievement speak for themselves!! Started by Geoff Hill in 2000 and completed over the next 18 years by Brian, John and Peter a 5" gauge Duchess of Atholl – 6231 – was built using original LMS works drawings.









FyldeSME Website (fyldesme.co.uk) - Our website has now recorded over 14000 viewings since publication in 2012, members are encouraged to visit the pages regularly for latest information, pictures and diary events. Since closing our Facebook account our diary events and activities have been teamed up with the Marsh Mill Shopping Village Facebook account at: <https://www.facebook.com/MarshMillThorntonFY54JZ>

In the Editors absence pictures and details of local interest can be passed to Linda Adams at La Shack in Marsh Mill Square for publication.

Our grateful thanks to Mark Davis when as junior member and young steam driver, designed and published our website in 2012 (aged 12 years) also followed by a Facebook account (now closed due to Marks studies), but I am sure members will wish him well in his career as he started airline pilots training on 5 November 2018 based in Coventry.

Boiler & Steam Tests - Members are reminded to book boiler hydraulic and loco steam tests with Ron - arranging a date well in advance!

Next Newsletter - Please ensure that your articles, adverts. pictures or other items of interest are forwarded to the Editor in good time before publication of the next Newsletter in mid-2019.