

VIEW FROM THE END OF THE PLATFORM



Incorporating GARDEN RAILWAY
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KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE

One of the wonderful things about our hobby is the people taking part in it. Having a common interest helps to break down barriers, and so it's perfectly possible to find yourself sitting around a pub table talking trains with lawyers, bishops, professors and bus drivers.

In this issue, I catch up with someone I've known for pretty much all of my 'serious' railway modelling life. Many years ago, Keith Foster helped me get started with small-scale kit-building and let me join his operating team on the exhibition circuit. He's one of the people responsible for me doing the job I do now, and so it was a pleasure to find he's moved into the larger scales and tinkering with his Accucraft 'Dolgoch' to make it even more accurate - read more on page 16.



Sadly, our letters page includes a tribute to Steve Hammett, someone I met more recently and didn't have the chance to get to know as well as I should have. Generously hosting indoor steaming sessions on his farm, they were some of the first I attended. From this, we chatted at many exhibitions and I always wanted to enjoy 'playing trains' on his line, but never found the time.

Don't let anyone tell you that having a hobby isn't important. All the dark days we have experienced have shown that our connections with others are vital, so fire up your engines and enjoy them, and the people you meet along the tracks.



In preparation for the Garden Rail 'Layout in a day', my Mum's greenhouse is starting to fill up with scenery I'll need for the line when it appears at the NGRS in late June. Plants take longer to prepare than rolling stock!

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