

# Phoenix Photographic Group

## Newsletter from Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

### Introduction

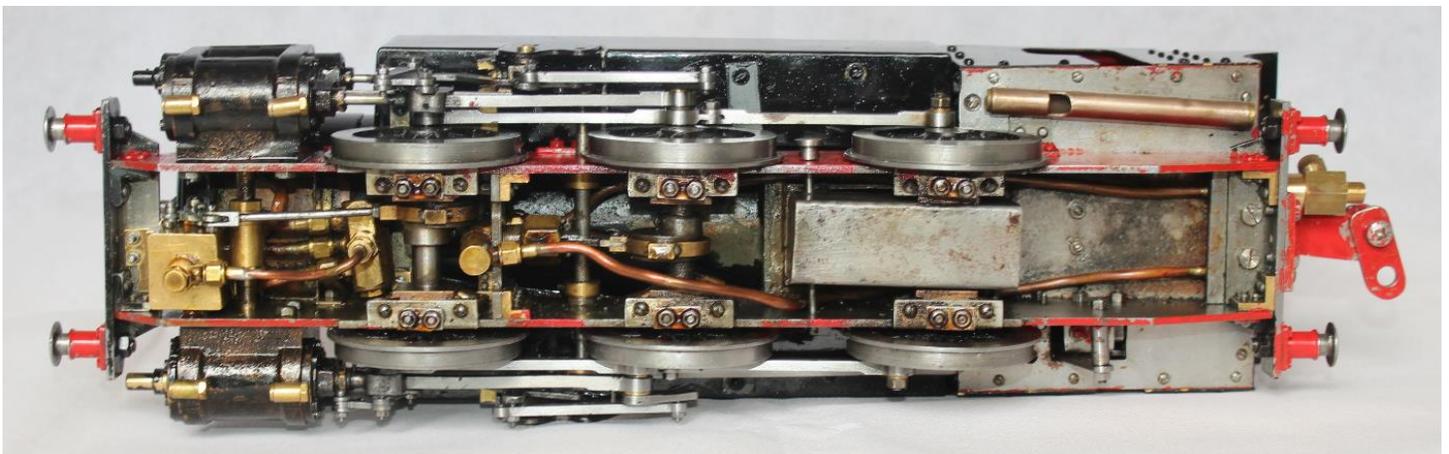
Eighteen people turned up for today's meeting. Ian started the meeting in his now customary manner, with the aid of a hooter. I expect, like me, you're hoping that when he eventually sells his TR4, the purchaser will demand that the hooter is bundled into the deal. We have serious doubts about it anyway because, whenever he does blow it, quite a lot of you fail to take the slightest bit of notice!

### News Items

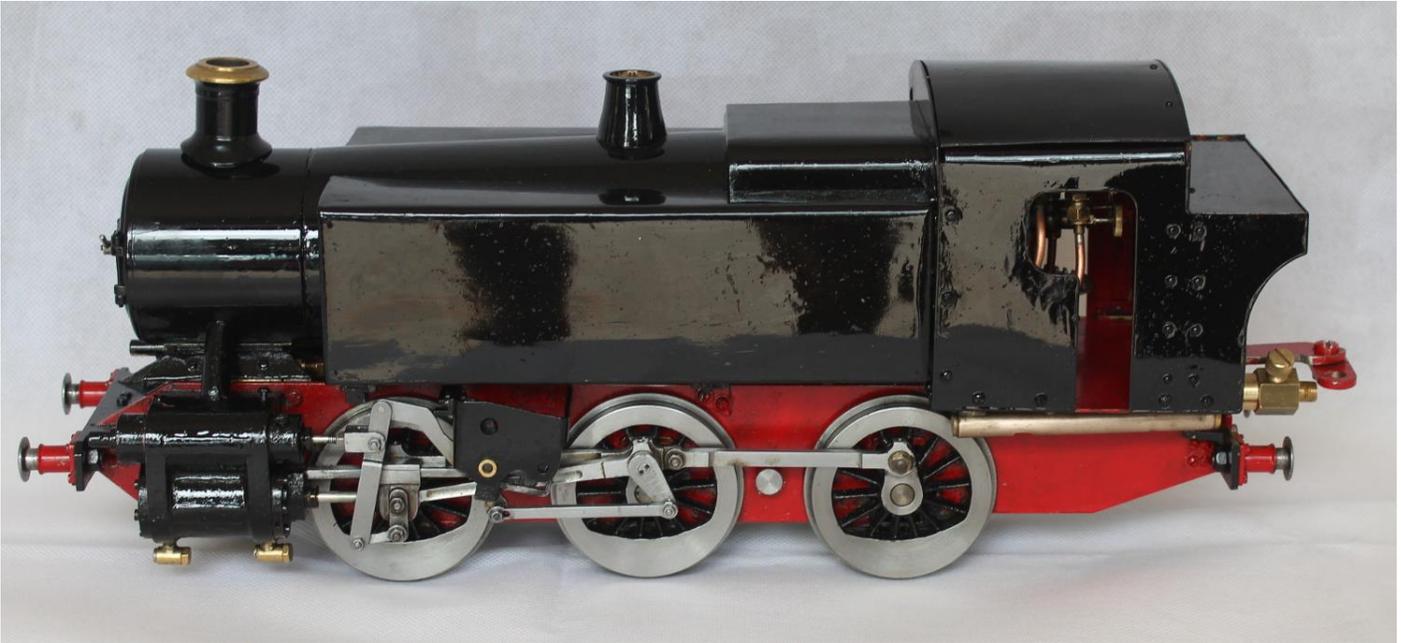
Only one item ... referencing the fact we've started to collect 50p per week for PPG reserve in addition to 50p for Phoenix. Our reserve is there and will be maintained for funding speaker, exhibitors etc to make our span of activities every week as interesting as possible.

### Activities

Two items on the agenda this week, the first being John Armshaw and his 2½ inch gauge model locomotive. I really had little idea of what to expect regarding its size - 2½ inch scale didn't mean a lot to me – but it turned out the loco was about 18 inches long. 2½ inches, it turned out, was the distance between the flanges of its wheels – in other words the width of the track it would – and surely will, some day – run upon.



John entertained us for half an hour with the story of how he became involved in the model loco scene. His model may be small, but it's pretty heavy and fully functional, using charcoal and coal to maintain heat in the firebox that produces the steam that makes it go.



Whilst John has had it 'in steam', he's yet to run it on a large track as there are some issues with moving the saddle carriage that it would pull to allow him to act as engine driver.

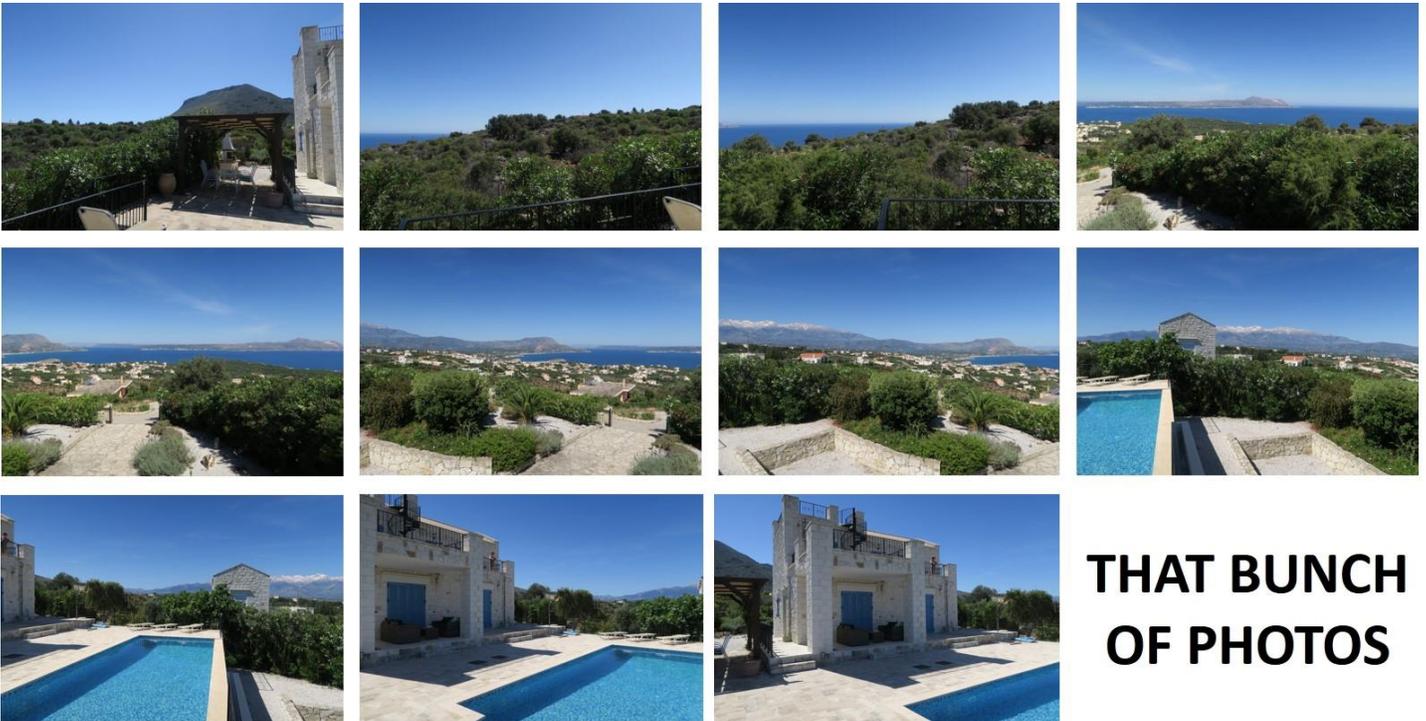


As the photos show, John's model is a tank engine. But the tanks don't hold water. John found it impossible to achieve that level of realism ... the tanks contain ballast to give the wheels traction.

After John's fascinating presentation we moved his loco into an area with good light and everybody got a chance to take photos.

I'm sure we all want to thank John for bringing his loco along and for regaling us with the confessions of a model railway enthusiast!

Second item on the agenda was Bob Bell giving us a recorded demo of a free Microsoft application named ICE (Image Composite Editor) ... that was being utilized to make a panoramic image of his (water-free!) holiday villa and the scenic position it commands. The process turns out to be frighteningly simple – take a bunch of photos where the subjects overlap – put them in a bag and shake it a bit – say abracadabra and voila – a panorama. Requiring only a choice of aspect and a bit of cropping.



**THAT BUNCH  
OF PHOTOS**

You too can get this application from:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/product/computational-photography-applications/image-composite-editor/>

And here's what Bob did with them:



This is simply a stitched version of the available parts of each image that can be auto-joined to others. Of course there are a lot of 'holes' (black areas) because that camera wasn't always viewing a comparable vista at the same level etc. But this ICE app will also 'auto complete' for you – i.e. do its best job to fill-in those holes and here is the result:



It hasn't done a 100% match to reality, but then it can't be psychic. But at least a 97% job I'd say and easily good enough for one of us to tidy it up without too much effort.

You know I'm very flippant, so there are some technical ways of describing the 'abracadabra' but I promise it's just a few mouse clicks .... and here are some additional notes from Bob:

- The sequence is not important. ICE works out how to stitch and align and adjust the exposure to join them up.
- After you have stitched you can decide on the viewpoint. If the images make a full 360 you can swing around to decide what elements are central. I chose to put the villa in the centre (even though it was the final shot).

- You can choose the crop and then select to autocomplete or not. Autocomplete fills in any gaps with sensible information. This takes hours in Adobe, but ICE does it very fast and automatically.

## **Next Meeting**

Etching Hill Village Hall @ 1.45pm

Bob will be talking about some advanced photography techniques, no doubt with demos and a chance for you to practice. Bring your stuff!!

## **Members Pics**

### **Topics**

Objects, places, in fact any thing which has been photographed from an unusual angles or position.

The idea is to show your pics and see if the other members can identify the object or place

Please send your images to:-

[ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk)

Because the images that Ian's amassing for the next Member's Pics are photos for which we'd like you to speculate on the subject, it makes no sense to pop them into this Newsletter in advance – it would spoil the fun! So, no Member's Pics here for a couple of weeks; back to normal soon!