

Winter in Moors End

Reinier Hendrikson has been busy on his layout, ready for 'Narrow Gauge South'

My project this winter has been the reconstruction of a small module (30cm x 35cm) belonging to my 'Moors End' layout. I took the accompanying pictures during a sunny day in February to give you an idea of what I am building at the moment.

Men an Tol footbridge and waiting shelter

No! This simple footbridge is certainly not an Isambard Kingdom Brunel design! Because my local model shop was closed over Christmas, I had to construct the bridge with the materials which I had to hand at that time. The footbridge was built from 0.4mm and 0.6mm plywood. The big supports are layered, the smaller ones come from a box of matches! The two supports under the balcony are shorter - they stand on the platform of this rural halt. The steps are made of cardboard. When you cross the bridge you can walk to the Men an Tol - the remains of a former burial chamber - on the Ding Dong Moor.

The waiting shelter is a simple wooden building, loosely based on a sea shelter somewhere near Dublin. The sides and rear are made from Kappler wood, the front and roof from cardboard. The roof has been detailed to give the impression of repairs.

The steam engine

The steam engine under the footbridge is a Bagnall, or more correctly, a 'freelance' Bagnall, for I found the prototype in a book and I wanted to build a similar engine. The whole engine has been built from 0.254mm brass (from K&S, an American manufacturer just like Kappler). The most important reason for building this engine was as an exercise in improving my soldering techniques.

The chassis is a Minitrix 0-6-0 with the middle wheels removed. The resulting wheelbase is far too long for such an engine, but it was so much fun to build. This Bagnall has in fact been the start of some other scratchbuilt chassis and engines for the Ding Dong Moor Light Railway.

I hope to write further on the small Men an Tol module and the scratchbuilt engines in the future.

The photographs, taken by Reinier, show the intricate model of the footbridge, the accompanying waiting shelter and Reinier's first soldered locomotive.

