

# NARROW GAUGE

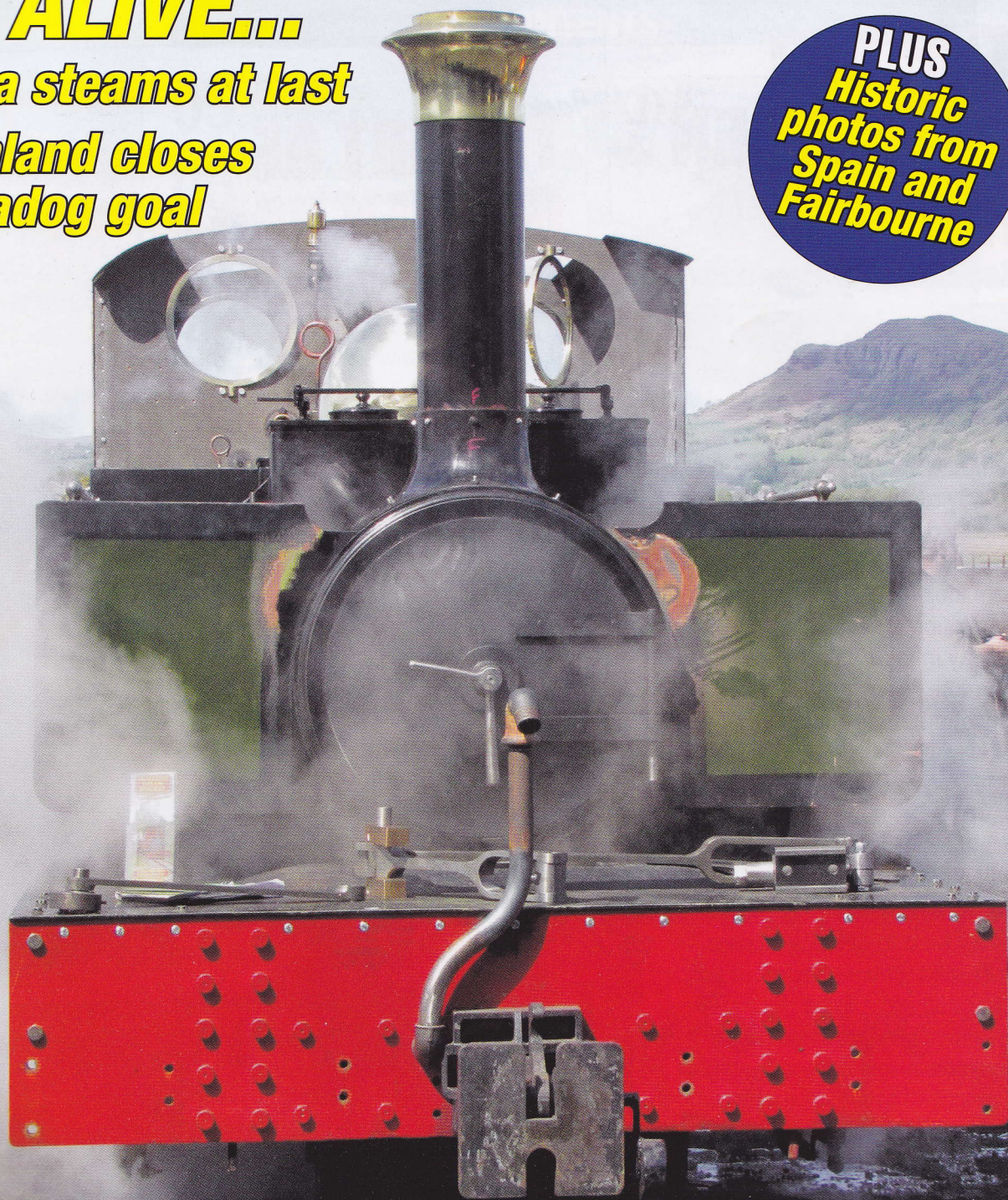
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# Wrens on the road



**Paul Jarman, Keeper of Transport at Beamish Museum, describes a novel recent theme display featuring the narrow gauge.**

Readers of *Narrow Gauge World* may not have been aware of narrow gauge developments at the Beamish Museum in recent months. Whilst it might be seen as a bit of a Trojan horse for a larger system, we recently laid a temporary line of Hudson Jubilee track in our colliery for our 2010 'Power from the Past – Corporations & Contractors' event held on 15th to 18th April. This followed an appearance of some narrow gauge at 2009's Great North Steam Fair, with David Potter's 0-4-0 vertical boiler loco 'Paddy'.

For this year's event we invited Graham Morris with his Kerr Stuart Wren 0-4-0 'Peter Pan' and the Vale of Rheidol Railway's similar Wren no 3114. It was particularly pleasing to secure the latter as it has been little seen in public since restoration.

Graham brought both locos up on his lorry and they were unloaded onto the temporary line, representing typical construction lines and the like of the period. The display showed how ex-military railway equipment rendered surplus to requirements following the First World War found new use with contractors working on the development of housing schemes, reservoirs and road improvements.

The event at the County Durham museum was a major success, attracting 10,000 visitors. More details can be found on <http://beamishtransport.blogspot.com> ●



**Top: The two Wrens pose outside the railway's equally temporary shed, with 'Peter Pan' to the fore.**

**Above: Typical narrow gauge building scene during the 1920s.**

**Far right and below right: The two locos worked in tandem with the museum's resident road locos to provide visitors with a convincing typical roadside scene between the wars. Photos: Paul Jarman/Beamish**

