

WHISTLEBLOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

October 2018 Edition

EDITORIAL

Perhaps the biggest event of our year, the Club Exhibition, is upon us. This can only be a success if members play their part and volunteer for roles. See the item by Noel immediately below this. There is something for every talent and ability!

Julian Evison (Editor)

CLUB EXHIBITION OCTOBER 13TH AND 14TH – Noel Leaver

Our exhibition is on 13-14 October, the briefing will be on the Wednesday before, 10 October, at 7.15. If you can't make the briefing but want to volunteer for some duties, I'll put a list up on the clubroom door a couple of weeks in advance. Julian will drive the van on Friday, but he is not available on Sunday, so we need someone who can pick it up on Sunday morning from Kendall's at Ash - must be between 8 and 9 in the morning - then drive it after the show on Sunday to return layouts and other items. Volunteers please!

The club layout this year is Greenfields; Mike will be there with his new layout Kinlochlaggen, and we have the N Gauge charity layout being raffled.

This year we are using the Drama Room (previously the exhibitors lounge) for layouts, and the exhibitors lounge will be in the Music Room, which is the room on the right just before the Leisure Centre entrance (the one that has housed the 2mm AGM in the past). I thought this would give us significantly more space, but the unexpected appearance of a boxing ring in the Gym has wiped out most of the gain.

If you need anything (stock, supplies, tools) try and buy it at the exhibition as that helps convince the traders to come again. And if you have any stuff you want to get rid of (including books) bring it in (by the Wednesday before the exhibition) for sale on the club second-hand stall (10% commission to club).

We hope to be able to take contactless payments using a device attached to a phone at one of the pay desks this year.

A full list of layouts and traders is on the web site.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

You may well have heard that our booking for Christmas dinner at the Bluebell in Dockenfield has not been honoured by those who run the place. The good news is that we

have found an alternative locally. The Sandrock is due to reopen in October and are keen to welcome us on Friday 14th December (the original date). As might be expected we don't yet have a menu or price, but please keep the date free.

CLUB MODELLING COMPETITION RESULTS – Richard Harris

Here are the winners and runners up in the club modelling competition.

Scenic/Trackside

Winner: Chris Roberts – Warwick East Signal Box



Runner Up: David Harrington – 5 Rustic Cottages



Other Scales

Winner: Wilf Pateman – Southern Parcels Van



Runner Up: Pete Tigg – G scale trolley car



2mm Scale

Winner: Mike Le Marie – Scotrail class 158 DMU



(No runner up in this category)

4mm Scale

Winner: Alan Riches – LSWR Coach Set



Runner Up: Pete Tigg – Freelance Garratt



7mm Scale

Winner: Pete Tigg – On30 Shay



Runner Up: Julian Evison – ex LNER 51ft Suburban Third



Younger Modeller

Winner: Peter Novis – Somewhere Near Padstow



Best in Show'

Chris Roberts with Warwick East Signal Box.



WICKWAR AT TINGS – David Harrington

We took a van and a car and more boxes than are in stock at Hobbycraft to the International N-Gauge Show at Leamington Spa. The venue is still showing signs of its original existence as a cow-shed, but Wickwar sparkled and shone among 30 or so rather unremarkable layouts (with one or two notable exceptions). At least, that's what the majority of our punters told us. But the (commercial) organisers of the show don't offer awards for "brightest and best" etc., so we maintained our current run of trophy-less outings.

Another thing that's not on offer at TINGS is free lunch or even coffee to exhibitors, so we took our own flasks, but forked out for some excellent steak-and-kidney pie around mid-day. The exhibitors next to us were clearly old hands at this because they brought their wives and enough cakes to stock a small supermarket.

We devoted Friday and Saturday evenings to research into the social habits of Leamington citizenry. All the pubs within reasonable walking distance were packed with children and

were playing “music”, sometimes enhanced by TV screens showing football. All the girl children were just about dressed while the boys favoured apparel last seen on walking wounded from the siege of Moscow. We did Wetherspoons and admired the way that the security guys went from table to table checking IDs. They passed us by, although Greg did offer to show them his bus pass. Another pub had ten or so rooms, each decorated in a tasteful shade of charcoal and each boasting a large TV screen with its volume on max, so it was necessary to bellow if you wished to converse with anyone else at your table. It was fun.

During the show we picked up invitations to Stuttgart and Lille, with one to Perth (no – not in Oz) and maybe another to Crawley. The layout more or less behaved itself, the punters liked us and we all spent more money than we probably should have done. Overall, an excellent weekend.



Punters galore!



Greg practises his German on our Stuttgart visitors

HAYDON SQUARE AT REC (WOKING) – Julian Evison

The REC's show at Woking is always one of the best local shows and this year's proved no exception. We have done a lot of work on Haydon Square since its last outing, improving the detailing of the upper level and completing the lower level, so this was the first show where the layout's full concept with the low level shuttle was realised. It has only taken 5 years!

We were as far away from the loading doors as possible, so carrying in the layout was a chore. Dismantling was easier as we picked up one of the new folding sack trucks that Greg had bought for the club. This has now been added to the packing list.

On Saturday pretty well everything worked smoothly, aided by the purchase by Richard of a very appropriate Little Loco Company Class 15 diesel from the stand opposite us. It was in service even before the money was taken by the trader. The layout got lots of interest and at least three new exhibition invitations.

Photo courtesy of Wilf:



Unfortunately we suffered severe point failure on Sunday morning from which we partially recovered in half an hour and were able to run a service which looked OK from the viewpoint of visitors. While we now know the cause of the problem, it has become clear that we have a major vulnerability with lack of troubleshooting knowledge for the CBUS system for point and signal control. We have therefore decided to strip this out and replace it with a conventional analogue point and signal control system. Happily we have 25 spare wires running the length of the layout, added in case of such an event. This will be the focus of work over the next few weeks as we run up to Warley in November.

A LIFETIME OF RAILWAYS (PART 2) – Mike Le Marie

At the age of 13 ½ my family moved from Durham to a little village called Dufton near Appleby. There were 2 stations at Appleby. Appleby East on the Eden Valley line from Penrith to Kirkby Stephen had closed a few months previously and Appleby West on the Settle and Carlisle (S&C) line which remains open to this day. Imagine my delight to discover that half the classrooms at Appleby Grammar School overlooked the S&C and I could watch a steady procession of steam hauled freights and local passenger trains plus the Peak hauled expresses. To this day I blame my inability to master French grammar and my total lack of interest in English Literature to the fact that a Jubilee or a Clan was far

more interesting. The father of one of my classmates was the local station manager and through him two of us managed to scrounge a brake van ride to Hartley Quarry which was on one of the last remaining bits of the Stainmore/Eden valley line and was served by a thrice weekly goods train. Inevitably, we ended up in the cab of the Ivatt 2-6-0 for the 13 mile return trip.

A group of us boys decided to pool our model railways and we built a layout in a barn adjacent to one of our homes. Maybe this was the start of realizing that groups and clubs had something to offer. By now I was allowed to travel on my own right through from Appleby to Redhill. I was supposed to stay on the Waverley right through from Appleby to St Pancras but I soon worked out that if I changed at Leeds I could get to London quicker and the bonus was a fast ride behind a Deltic.

In the late 60's the Waverley had one of the country's fastest point to point timing with an average speed of 72 mph between Appleby and Settle. A magnificent run given that included the climb over Ais Gill but you can't imagine crossing Ribbleshead viaduct at 90 mph today. On one such run we came to a sudden halt outside Hellifield when our Peak failed. A Standard Class 4 was in a nearby loop on a freight train and was commandeered to take the Waverley through to Leeds. I think the driver thought it really was his lucky day as he forced every last bit of speed out of his loco and gave long blasts of the whistle and every opportunity. I think he wanted to tell everyone in the Aire Valley what he was doing!

I left Appleby Grammar School in the summer of 1967 after finishing my A levels. My Dad got promoted to an appointment in York and we moved to Easingwold, At the same time I applied to join the RAF, was accepted, and in the November started my training at RAF Henlow. For the next 7 months I had little spare time but being near London enabled me to participate in a couple of RCTS Excursions. One was all around the south side of London visiting lines not regularly used by passenger trains. The other was a 'Farewell to Southern Steam' and ran from Waterloo to Southampton via the Portsmouth Direct and then on to Swanage. Here I managed to grab a cab ride from Swanage back to Wareham on a Standard 4 tank. The train then went on to Weymouth and then returned to Waterloo via Romsey and Salisbury. The run from Salisbury to Waterloo (Merchant Navy hauled) was one best steam runs that I can remember and a speed recorder in our coach reported that we passed through Woking at 102mph. Whether that was true or not I will never know.

My RAF training continued at RAF Upwood near Peterborough. My visits home were always up the East Coast mainline to York and I always ensured the train I was planning to catch from Peterborough would be Deltic hauled. A posting to Cyprus soon followed and the journey to RAF Lyneham via Swindon was my first chance to travel on the GW mainline and experience diesel hydraulic haulage. There were no railways on Cyprus apart from a couple of narrow gauge mineral lines in a part of the Turkish area that we rarely visited. However, my travels took me to many different countries and I was able to watch Garrets in East Africa and heavy steam hauled freights in Turkey and Iran. After Cyprus I was posted to RAF Valley in Anglesey and six months later married Clare

who had served with me in Cyprus. A year later our first daughter was born and I found myself settling down as a family man. There was a good model shop in Conway and it was there that I bought my first N gauge locomotive (a Minitrix Class 27) and a couple of carriages. This was the start of a serious involvement in N gauge which has lasted to this day.

CLUB DIARY – Andrew Wrobel

Recent changes in **yellow**.

DIARY 2018		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Run'g Night</i>	<i>Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show</i>
Wed 03 Oct	0	
Sat 6 Oct	--	Greenfield Sidings (00) Horsham MRC 10 th Anniversary
Sat 6 & Sun 7 Oct	--	Brixcombe (P4) Fareham 'Railex'
Wed 10 Oct 7pm	N	Annual Show BRIEFING [Noel]
Fri 12 Oct even'g	ALL	Prepare the Show
Sat 13 & Sun 14 Oct	ALL	F&DMRC Annual Show , Aldershot; Greenfield Sidings (00); Kinlochlagen (N) [M.LeMarie's layout]:
Wed 17 Oct	P4/009	
Sun 20 Oct	--	St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Central Southern 0 Group, Wimborne
Wed 24 Oct	00	
Wed 31 Oct	Any	
Wed 07 Nov	0	
Sat 10 & Sun 11 Nov	--	St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Hampton Court Club exhib'n, Tolworth
Wed 14 Nov	N	
Sat 17 3pm (set-up) & Sun 18 Nov	ALL	Club Open Day [Sun 10:00 to 16:00, then put away. Organiser: Mike LeMarie]
Wed 21 Nov	P4/009	
Sat 24 & Sun 25 Nov	--	Wickwar (N) and Haydon Square E.1(0): Warley, Birmingham
Wed 28 Nov	00	
Wed 05 Dec 8pm	0 & ALL	AGM
Wed 12 Dec	N & P4/009	
Fri 14 Dec	Payees	Club Christmas Dinner @ 'The Sandrock'; Menu TBA.
Wed 19 Dec	00	
Wed 26 Dec	--	CLOSED
DIARY 2019		

Date	Run'g Night	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Wed 02 Jan	0	Possibly open
Wed 09 Jan	N	
Wed 16 Jan	P4/009	
Wed 23 Jan	00	
Sat 26 & Sun 27 Jan	--	Brixcombe (P4) Southampton MRS, Barton Peveril College, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5ZA
Wed 30 Jan	Any	
Wed 06 Feb	0	
Sat 09 & Sun 10 Feb	--	St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Bournemouth MR Exhib'n, Hamworthy
Wed 13 Feb	N	
Sat 16 Feb	--	Greenfield Sidings (00) Tonbridge MRC, The Angel Centre, Tonbridge
Sat 16 & Sun 17 Feb	--	Wickwar (N): Milton Keynes (MKMRS) 50th, Stantonbury Leisure Centre, MK
Wed 20 Feb	P4/009	
Sat 23 & Sun 24 Feb	--	St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Eurotrack, Southampton.
Wed 27 Feb	00	
Wed 06 Mar	0	
Sat 09 & Sun 10 Mar	--	Haydon Sq. E.1(0): Basingstoke Club Exhib'n, Basingstoke
Wed 13 Mar	N	
Wed 20 Mar	P4/009	
Sat 23 & Sun 24 Mar	--	Wickwar (N): The London Festival of Railway Modelling, Alexandra Palace
Wed 27 Mar	00	
<more Wednesdays to be added>		
Sat 13 & 14 Apr	--	Aldermouth (0) [J.Edwards's layout]: Crawley MRS, Tanbridge House School, Horsham
Fri 03 open 1pm, Sat 04 & Sun 05	--	Haydon Sq. E.1(0): Bristol Club Exhib'n, Thornbury. [Travel Fri early]
May		
Mon 06 May (Bank Holiday)	--	00 Gauge Open Day, Club rooms
Mon 27 May (Bank Holiday)	--	0 Gauge Open Day, Club rooms
Sat 08 Jun	--	St.Mary's [J.Evison's layout]: 7mm NGA 40 th Anniv'y Exhib'n, Burton-on-Trent.
Sat 06 & Sun 07 Jul	--	Aldermouth (0) [J.Edwards's layout]: Basildon MRC, 40 th Exhib'n, Laidon
Sat 10 Aug	--	Haydon Sq. E.1(0): Bexhill MRC, Bexhill
Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sep	--	Kinlochlaggen (N) [Mike Le Marie's layout]: TINGS, Warwickshire Event Centre, nr. Leamington Spa

Please let Andrew know of any updates.