

# “WHISTLEBLOWER”

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

13 June 2021 – Edition No 12/21

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Mike Le Marie**

It's a few weeks since I contributed to Whistleblower so here goes.

Trying to guess what Boris is going to say about Freedom Day tomorrow is anyone's guess. He probably doesn't even know himself but it would not surprise me if we will have to continue as we are for another month or so. We are at least getting together in small groups both at the club and in member's home. Noel and the team are pulling our Autumn exhibition together. There will be the usual number and quality of layouts but fewer traders as we are planning much wider aisles for this year. Work has started again on the N gauge charity layout which will be raffled at the exhibition and will hopefully raise a tidy sum.

Finally. If you are in possession of one of the Club's modelling competition trophies, could you please return it to the Club Room as soon as possible so that I can arrange to have the names of the 2020 winners engraved on them and a suitable presentation.

### **EDITORIAL – Jon Faulconer**

As Mike has stated above, we should find out tomorrow what is on the horizon for 21 Jun, although the press is widely predicting a 4 week delay of Freedom Day accompanied by continuance of the current restrictions. Thankfully, this will allow the Club's OO9 Open Day scheduled for Sunday 15 August to continue and David Harrington has reported that the latest (July) edition of Railway Modeller carries details of the Club's upcoming. Fingers crossed for the OO9 Group.

I am afraid that this issue of Whistleblower is rather short, although Robin has let me have a series of articles on items he built for Weydon Road, the first of which is below. Notwithstanding this, the flow of articles and pictures has slowed down of late and it may be an appropriate juncture to move to a monthly distribution, rather than continue with doing it every fortnight, as present. If you have any views on this proposal, I would be grateful to hear them.

Notwithstanding the above, the next issue of Whistleblower will be distributed on Sunday 27 June; grateful if I could have any contributions by Saturday 26 June.

## **A BUFFER STOP FOR WEYDON ROAD – Robin Baker**

We needed 2 buffer stops in the goods yard of Weydon Road, so I volunteered to build them. From our track building exercise, we had the odd packet or so of sleepers left over, the material was available so I started. I guessed that to produce a prototypical sleeper-built buffer stop, the vertical sleeper should be half buried in the ground, which would produce a difficult to move object (but not impossible as seen in many a photograph). The dimensions are easy – to be the width of the track and roughly square.

So out came the pack of sleepers and I glued together sufficient to be track width with a cross beam front and back, so that was the front. I realised that if I repeated the exercise for the back, I would be able to cut them in half to get 2 sets, one for each buffer stop. I then produced the sides, one set of sleepers glued together and then cut diagonally would give the 2 sides – I'm not tight, just careful. I cut the side sleepers in a step pattern, then glued the 4 sides together in a box form, one sleeper-built buffer stop!

Once the adhesive had hardened, the buffer stop was glued to the base board at the end of the track using PVA adhesive. Although this material is excellent, I wanted to make sure that the stop would act as a stop and not get moved by careless shunting. A large woodscrew was screwed into the baseboard inside the hollow box to be below the sides of the box. The box was then filled with a runny mix of filler. The woodscrew coupled with the internal cross beams, all embedded in filler, would require considerable effort to move the buffer stop with a train!

Once everything had dried out, the sleepers were painted "dirty black" with the buffer beam white. I have seen many colour schemes for such items, so you pay your money and make the choice. The inside of the box was topped up with ballast and fixed with the usual diluted PVA mix. Various pieces of scenic material may be added to suit your taste and lo, a sleeper-built buffer stop.

## **MORE FROM THE PHOTO ALBUM**

Amongst the pictures in the Club photo album, I came across these of the Club hosting a number of Civic dignitaries. Not being a member at the time to remember the occasion, I surmise that it was to mark the Club moving to the Wrecchlesham Community Centre.







# F&DMRC DIARY

**Recent changes.** See also: ['Daily Admission Rota' for Mon-Fri Clubroom usage]

Clubroom available from ~09:00 [use rear entrance].

Wednesday running starts at **14:00** in Wrecclesham Community Centre Hall.

**'Run'g' = Priority use of Hall; ALSO Tidy/vacuum Club Room AND Lock up**

Runn'g Sequence: O, N, P4, 009 and OO

DIARY 2021 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
<i>The following are known about events / Shows – all subject to change</i>		
Wed 16 Jun	O	Rule-of-6 <b>Clubroom</b> then <b>Hall</b> at 14:00
Wed 23 Jun	N	Possible <b>all groups</b> use of <b>Clubroom</b> then <b>Hall</b> at 14:00; <b>Wickwar</b> & Running-track
<b>Wed 30 Jun</b>	<b>P4 &amp; OO9</b>	<b>Brixcombe</b> and <b>OO9 boards</b>
<b>Wed 07 Jul</b>	<b>OO9 &amp; P4</b>	<b>OO9 boards</b> and <b>Brixcombe</b>
<b>Fri 16 – Mon 19 Jul</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N-Gauge Forum:</b> Free virtual event of pre-recorded presentations of ~25 layouts. Q&A sessions with Steve Flint and Ben Arnold. Join any time at <a href="http://www.ngfshow21.weebly.com">www.ngfshow21.weebly.com</a>
		<more dates once Gov't restrictions definitely removed>
<b>Sat 14 Aug</b>		Evening preparation for <b>Farnham OO9 Show</b>
<b>Sun 15 Aug</b>		<b>Farnham OO9 Open Day</b> (OO9 Society & others): WCC Hall
<b>Sat 11 &amp; Sun 12 Sep</b>		<b>TINGS</b> (The International N Gauge Show), Warwickshire Event Centre, CV31 1XN [As at 26-Feb: Advance tickets not yet avail.]
<b>Wed 06 Oct</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Briefing for Show 18:30</b> in Clubroom/Hall
<b>Fri 08 Oct</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Set-up Club Show – from late afternoon</b>
<b>Sat 09 &amp; Sun 10 Oct</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>F&amp;DMRC Annual Club Show</b> , Aldershot [Most of the layouts that were invited for 2020 will be attending.]
<b>Sat 27 &amp; Sun 28 Nov</b>		<b>Model Railway Show: Warley</b>
<b>Wed 08 Dec</b>		<b>19:15 for 19:30 start - AGM</b> (details to follow) [within 2 months of Club's year-end; voting only for paid-up 'Full' members].
<b>Sat 11 &amp; 12 Dec</b>		<b>Wickwar (N):</b> Manchester MRC, Barnes Wallis building, Manchester, M1 7JA <b>Decision by MMRs mid-July earliest</b>
<b>Wed 15 Dec</b>		Dinner (optional) 18:30 for 19:00 @ The Mill House, Odiham
<b>Wed 22 Dec</b>		<b>Last Club Day of the year</b>
DIARY 2022 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
<b>Sun 16 Jan</b>		<b>Astolat show:</b> Julian's 16.5mm layout; poss'y OO9 members' layout 'Straight & Narrow'. Richard Meyjes Rd, Guildford, GU2 7AD
<b>Sat 05 &amp; Sun 06 Feb</b>	--	<b>Wickwar (N)</b> and <b>Brixcombe (P4):</b> FEBEX, Alton
<b>Sat 25 &amp; Sun 26 Jun</b>	--	<b>Wickwar (N):</b> Perth Show
<b>Sat 10 &amp; Sun 11 Sep</b>	--	<b>REC</b> (Railway Enthusiasts Club), Woking Leisure Centre
<b>Fri 07 Oct</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Set-up Show – from late afternoon</b>
<b>Sat 08 &amp; Sun 09 Oct</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>F&amp;DMRC Annual Club Show</b> , Aldershot [Wickwar and ??]

## F&DMRC CLUB ADMISSION ROTA

### Gov't STEP-3 : min 2, max. 6 members on the premises at any one time

The Club's Constitution [chap. 9.1], Handbook [chap. 6.1] and 'Health & Safety Policy' all refer to the safety and well-being of members. In re-opening the Club's activities, remember:

- the Club reserves the right to refuse membership or otherwise restrict attendance where the safety of other members appears likely to be compromised through wilful or accidental neglect of Government Infectious Diseases' guidelines, rules or regulations;
- **each Group Leader** will decide their own way of controlling numbers and ensuring fairness of occupancy;
- until further notice, an 'Attendance Log' **must** be completed by all attendees;
- in the event of a member testing Covid-19 'positive' at any time, the Club's Secretary and Chair **must** immediately be informed by phone or e-mail:  
[Chairman@farnhammrc.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@farnhammrc.org.uk) and [Secretary@farnhammrc.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@farnhammrc.org.uk) ;
- there is no pressure to attend, it is each member's choice as to when comfortable to come.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Day &amp; Date</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Club-room</i>	<i>Main Hall</i>	<i>Hall in use by other body</i>
07-Jun	Mon	O	Yes	Not available	??
	Tue	OO	Yes	Not available	??
	<b>Wed 02-Jun</b>	<b>OO9</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes after 2 pm</b>	??
	Thu	P4	Yes	Not available	??
	Fri	N	Yes	Not available	??
14-Jun	Mon	N	Yes	Not available	??
	Tue	O	Yes	Not available	??
	<b>Wed 09-Jun</b>	<b>OO</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes after 2 pm</b>	??
	Thu	OO9	Yes	Not available	??
	Fri	P4	Yes	Not available	??
<b>Mon-21-Jun is planned Gov't STEP-4 : We await Covid progress and new Gov't Rules.</b>					

Sat & Sun: To be booked via the Secretary on a first come, first served basis. NB. There was little use in 2020, so most requests should be OK.

If the Main Hall is occupied use only the Basement entrance and the Clubroom. The keyholder to place 'Notice of Railway Club presence' on alarm console.

Wipe: door handles, light switches, etc. when leaving the Clubroom.

If the Keyholder needs to access the Main Entrance, wipe the touched door handles, light switches and alarm system; also place the 'Railway Club are on-site' notice on alarm console.

Toilets must be Dettol sprayed after use.

**AND FINALLY**

