

Risborough and District Model
Railway Club

Jul-Sept 2013 Summer

FOOTPLATE



Who's who!

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WELCOME

Summer is here apparently, says so on the front of this mag, even if it is still raining outside!

Railex has passed without any problems and has attracted a lot of positive feedback. It takes a lot of work and the cost of putting it on is quite high, so it is always a relief when it is over and everything has gone to plan. We are still finalising some of the costs and expenses but the indication is that we made a good profit and visitor numbers were up on last year. It is also very impressive how all the planning works out. The exhibition requires a lot of time to mark out and to shift all the tables, chairs, barriers etc. Clearing away takes only a few hours and is a bit of a mad rush but it all gets done and we are out of the hall by about 20.00. The bus is also getting more popular and extra trips had to be organised on Saturday morning. This year we tried selling tickets on the bus for the first time. This seemed to work very

well and was popular so I expect we will do the same next year with more tickets available. I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend a big success, the only casualties were 2 bollards that are now much shorter, but the less said about that the better.

Following on from Railex, we had the new members welcome evening where prospective members can visit us in more relaxed surroundings and see what we are normally like. This year was the best attended event to date and shows that Tim and his team must have done a lot of talking at Railex. The club stand is there for many reasons but attracting new members is the most important. Hopefully a number will decide to join us.

Friday nights are still very busy which is a good thing, with plenty of modelling going on. We have been hiring the small meeting room for all test track nights to give more space and this arrangement seems to work very well. We will continue this for the rest of the year.

Club subscriptions are due from September the 1st. The cost of renewal will be £52. See Robin for your new membership card.

Articles for publication in Footplate

Articles can be on paper or in electronic form (preferred) with minimal formatting, preferably doc, txt or rtf. Digital photos should be at as high a resolution as possible to allow editing and good print quality.

We would like to hear about your railway and modelling interests, places you have visited or models you have bought or made. Reviews of models, gadgets, books etc. are particularly welcome.

Articles should be sent at least 1 month before publication dates, i.e. beginning of March, June, September and December for publication in January, April, July and October.

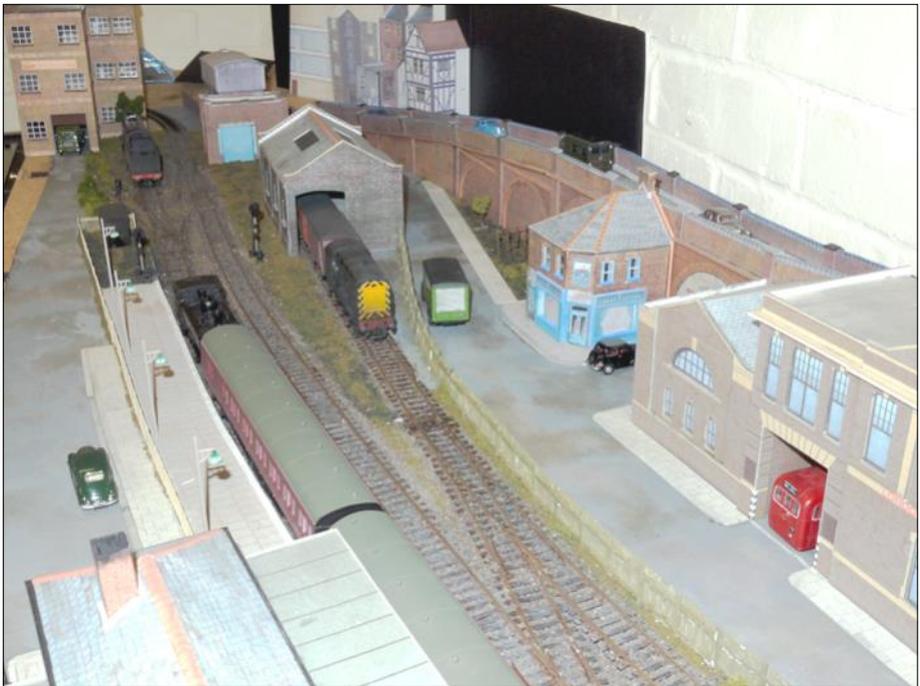
Paul

South Pole

Second Time Around

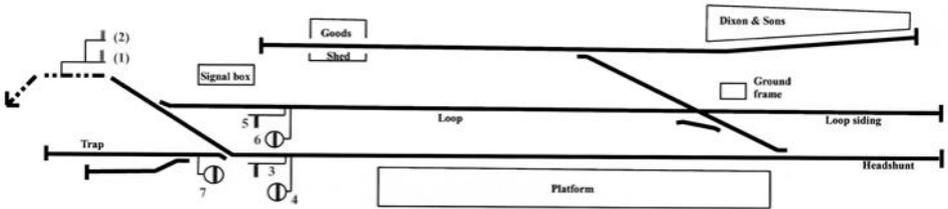
In its original form, South Pole was an 0 gauge layout 3.5m long by 0.5m deep with an inner urban setting. It was primarily a scenic shunting layout depicting a short branch off the southern end of the West London Extension Railway around the 1910 period. This location was chosen as it would have been perfectly feasible for locos and stock from all the major southern companies plus GWR, LNWR and maybe local London lines to legitimately run together. In the event, I restricted operations to LB&SCR and L&SWR with an occasional visit from the SE&CR.

It was not long-lived, being sold on prior to my move south from Cheshire to Buckinghamshire. I do not know if it survives; the method of dismantling involved the use of large saws and claw hammers by the buyer. Having been thrown into the back of his van, it was 'goodbye South Pole', never to be seen again. I can recall it, however, as it featured in the Spring 2006 edition of the Gauge 0 Guild Gazette. I think I may have bored most of you, by flashing the article around!





- South Pole -
West London Extension Railway
LM&SR, GWR, SR



Having moved south, I was extremely fortunate to make the acquaintance of R&DMRC and make many new friends. I was also fortunate to move into a house with a brick shed (albeit with only three walls) that I could use to continue my hobby.

With a new front wall, tidying up, carpets and electricity, a new South Pole was embarked upon.

My original intention was to continue with 0 gauge, but even with the encouragement and help of 'Okehampton' James, an eight foot long layout was never going to provide the operating interest that I needed. I have therefore gone down in scale to 4mm, but I find that I cannot model anywhere so well in the smaller scale as I could in 7mm. For that reason the layout comprises RTR stock running in a cardboard (mostly Scalescenes) urban setting.

The track plan is essentially the same as my original South Pole, it suiting my needs perfectly, and is based on a plan devised by Iain Rice. The operating sequence now has its emphasis on passenger working rather than the freight of the 0 gauge version and the period moved on to the 1950s. The location stays as a branch off the West London Extension from Kensington (Addison Road), thus enabling the workings of Southern, Western and Midland Regions of British Railways.

It's coming along nicely, to a standard that suits my limited skills and satisfaction, but not up to the superb modelling standards of the Club's layouts. For anyone who wants to come and have a look there is an open invitation and a nice cup of tea waiting. You would be most welcome, but operation is very restricted just now due to the lack of a fiddle yard and a severe shortage of stock. And, of course, it is very much a case of 'work in progress'!

John Casson

Contractors wagons

These wagons are a result of an idea I have had for twenty plus years of a project to build a small model of a contractors line based on the building of the Great Central London Extension and photographed by SWA Newton. Many years ago the project was kick-started by building a K's Kit of an 0-4-0 Hudswell Clark saddle tank and modified to a photograph of a loco building an embankment at Princes Risborough, the loco ended up in a box and nothing happened to idea till I found that RT Models had just released a kit for the contractors side tipper wagon. I obtained five and decided to see what I could do with them.

The prototype had a very short five foot wheelbase with internal bearings and no springing, dumb buffers and no brake gear; even coupling was primitive using a chain and hook hung between the buffers.

The kit is cast white metal with a fold up etch that sets the wheelbase, The total length of each wagon is just over an inch long.

Due to the kit having to accommodate OO gauge, the through dumb buffers that form the chassis are set too narrow. I cut through the chassis length ways on the non tipper side and then glued the two parts back together again with a strip of 2mm thick Evergreen strip in-between the two parts to widen the chassis to the correct width.

The etch has fold down legs to set the wheelbase with 2mm wide slots which standard axles are designed to use as bearings!



As prototype photos show the wheels were split spoke and very fine, I decided to use Exactoscale wheels. The 1mm pinpoint axles are normally used with these wheels would be no use so I used a 1mm steel rod cut to length over the outside wheel faces, a 1mm internal and 2mm external brass tube was cut to form a internal bearing between the wheels, a better engineering solution than axles just running in etched slots. Even though the prototype was unsprung, I decided that a bit of give might be an idea on less than ideal contractors track. Therefore phosphor bronze wire 0.33mm thick was soldered to each end of the brass tubes connecting each axle tube and a 0.5mm thick strip of plasticard was glued to the midpoint of the wagon so that the phosphor bronze was cantilevered from this point to the axles.

The wagons were airbrushed in Phoenix unpainted wood then weathered using chalks and weathering powders to gain the finish shown in the photograph.



David

Club Talk

There will be a talk given by Geoff Plumb on Friday the 18th of October at 8.00pm, and it is titled “That was the Year that was – 1964”

This will include lots of photos that he took during that year.

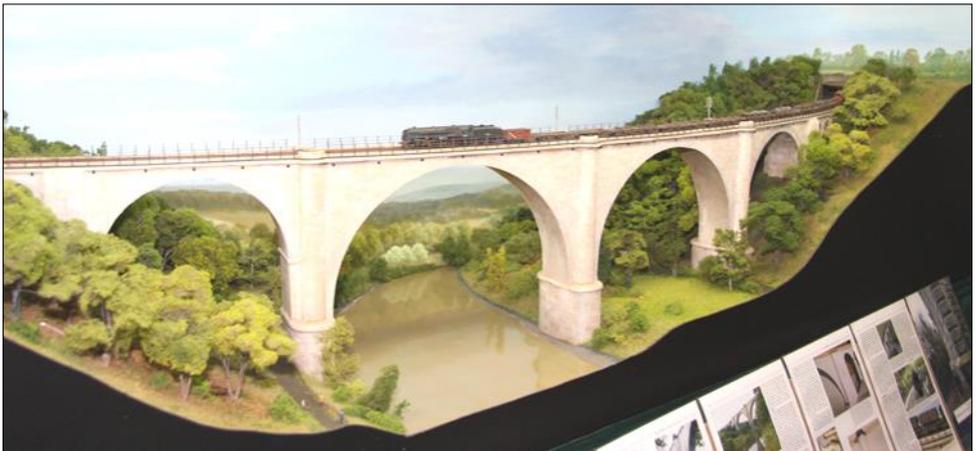
Please see his website: <http://plumbloco.smugmug.com> for what he been uploading.

Railex 2013 Photos

On the following pages are some of the impressive layouts that attended Railex 2013. More photos will be added to the website. If anyone has any good photos they took over the weekend then please send them to Ant.



Above: Paul Bambrook's diorama of Sydney Gardens in Bath.
Below: Fence Houses 2mm finescale.







This page: 2 views of Bucks Hill.
Left upper: Hemlock
Left lower: Crumley and Little Wickhill

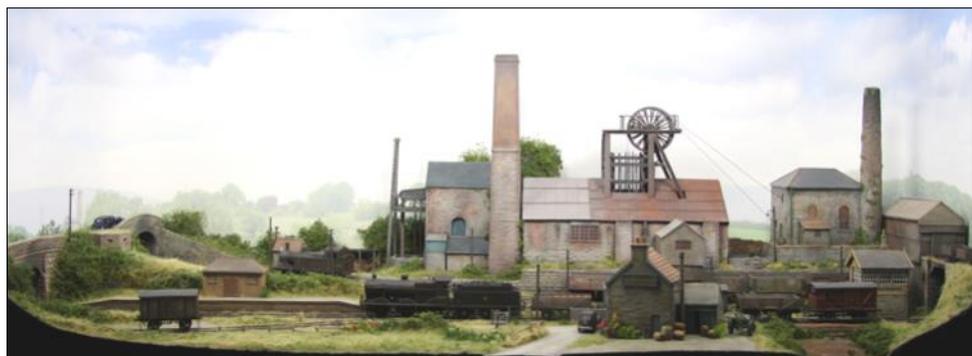




Above: Leicester South goods warehouse.

Below: The Mill (Mumby Lumber Co) brought over from the Netherlands.
Right from top: Polbrooke Gurney, Sandown and St Merryn





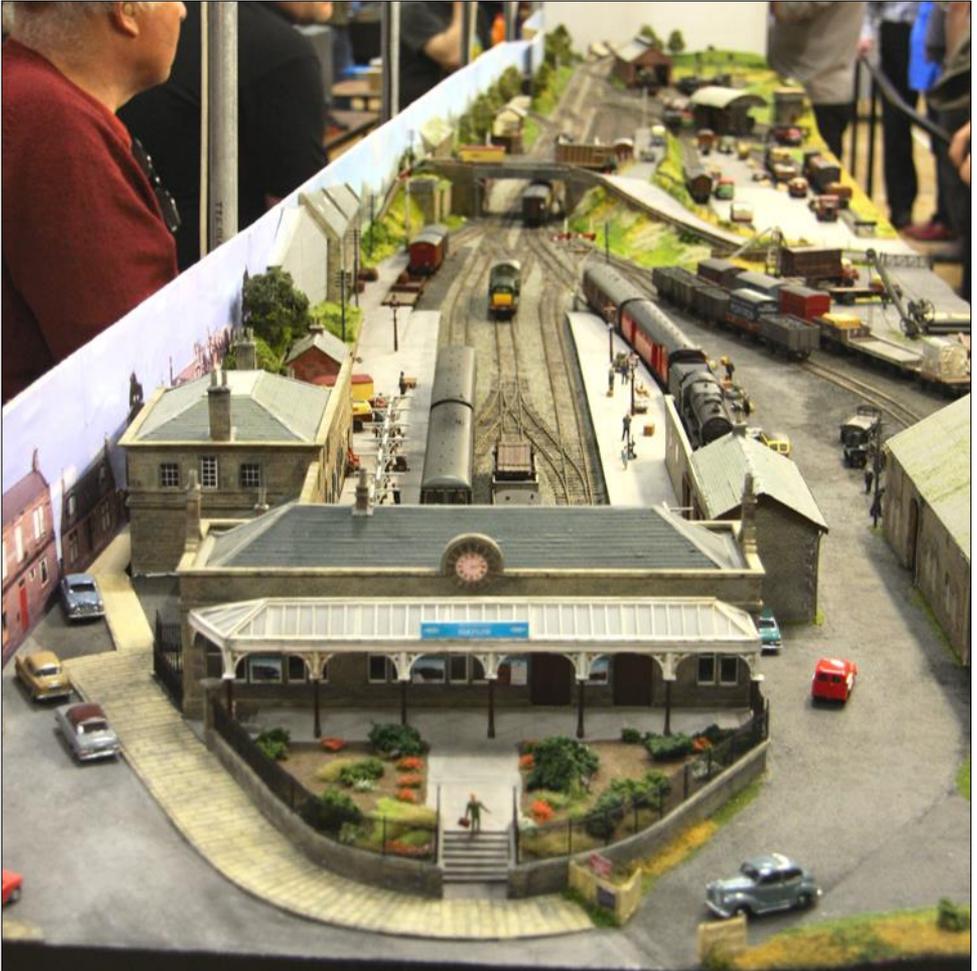


Presentation for best model (above: The Mill) and best layout (below: Bucks Hill) as judged by all the visiting layouts.



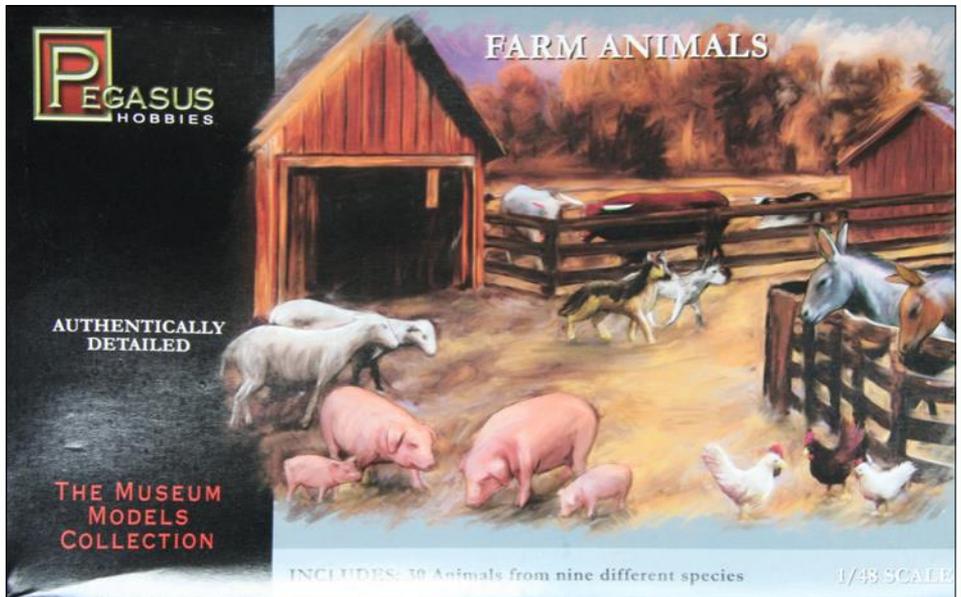


Two views of Eskmuir.



Animals for Okehampton

I have been looking for animals for Okehampton and have found the Pegasus Hobbies 1:48 set. These are moulded in what looks like polyethylene rather than polystyrene. There is very little flash but I did get 1 misformed part, the horns for one of the cattle. This would be easy to fix with a couple of track pins and some filler.

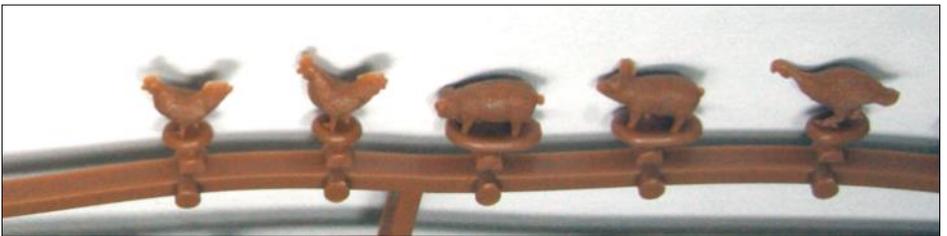


There are 30 animals of 9 different species in the box as follows:

Cattle, 3 cows, 3 bulls.
Sheep 2
Goats 2 + 1 kid
Pigs 2 + 2 piglets
Chickens 4 + cocks 2
Pigeons 3
Dogs 2
Donkeys 2
Turkeys 2

Being 1:48 instead of 1:43 they are a little small but this is not a problem as animals come in all sizes and being small is far better than being oversized. In

the case of cattle they are simply young animals being shipped to market. The set is available for £6 to £7 and at this price is worth the money for the cattle alone. They would be excellent to fill cattle wagons at a reasonable cost and weight. Some of the other animals will find a good use in various locations



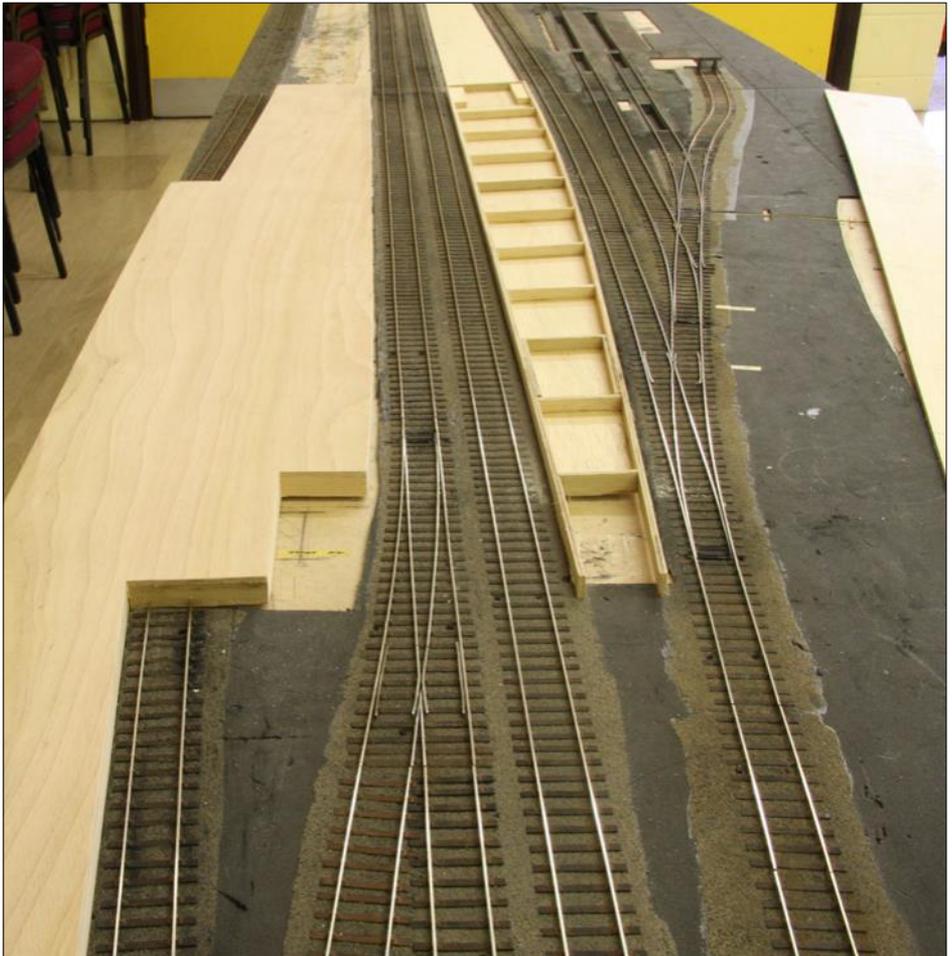
around the layout. There are a number of fields at the back of the layout that could have animals or maybe someone could make some crates to transport the chickens or pigeons which can then be stacked on the platform? One of the dogs could easily pass for a fox with the right painting.

The animals from Duncan Models are certainly better quality and are probably a good choice for a prominent location on the layout but these animals from Pegasus are perfectly suitable for wagon loads and background scenes. They are also a fraction of the price, as a Duncan Models cow is £4 and also made of whitmetal.

Paul

Aylesbury Update

Aylesbury continues to progress, with Tim's water tower (below right) nearing completion. The track around the back of the water tower needed to be adjusted to get a better curve and more space in this area. The platforms are being rebuilt as the plastic sheet used for the surface was warping and the join between boards was not flat. The new platforms are being constructed from thin ply in the same manner as those for Okehampton. This gives a much sturdier construction. The photo above right shows the sequence, from top right clockwise: Clear area for platform, ply base is cut, ply platform edges and cross bracing added and finally the ply top. Jon has been doing the machining at home





and brings in the completed structures. This technique does give a very strong and stable platform but does require careful cutting of parts. The final edging will be from embossed plastic card and strip for the brickwork and stone edging. I understand the top surface is tarmac so will report on how that is done in the next issue.



Okehampton Update:

The Okehampton project is concentrating on getting some scenery in place while we can't make progress on track and track testing. Jon has made a superb first platform at the military end which has also seen the hills formed around the bridge and the platform area. With the cunning use of the green paper towels the hills look not only the right shape but a reasonable colour too! The platform faces are covered with 4mm scale random stone which matches the actual stone used pretty well. Much of the scenic work was carried out by club members who are not 0 gaugers and I especially appreciate the effort and enthusiasm being shown by all.

Michael continues to make excellent telegraph poles with insulators and cross bars exactly matching the prototype. We are hoping to wire these up once in situ with stretchy plastic that Russ got from the USA, but as yet this has not been trialled.

Stock continues to be built by all interested parties. Its great to see so much activity at the club on a Friday.



Having got his first platform built, Jon is now getting the main platforms done, starting with the island one. Phil and John are helping. I think Phil has a vested interest in seeing how it all goes together as it looks as if the Aylesbury



platforms will be re-built to the same format.

In the meantime, I have started my big shed build in the back garden. In our brief spell of good weather I have stripped 30 square metres of lawn where the shed will be built and will tackle the foundations when the weather and my time allows. The wood for the shed has been delivered and is stacked in the garden waiting for me to prepare all the timbers to length. Then it'll be all hands on deck for a weekend of erecting the shed. Once the shed is built, half the layout will be put up in it and track tested until we are happy with its performance and all wiring checked. Only then will the track be painted and ballasted. While the shed is being prepared, boards are being changed to reflect the lie of the land and blue foam inserted to form the banks and hills. None of this scenic work impacts on the track alignment.

Cheers, James.

Test Track Nights

Here is the list of proposed test track nights. If you want to make use of the test track then you need to get it out and set it up. Don't wait for someone else to do it. We will also have the small meeting room booked to provide more space.

July 26, Aug30, Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 29 and Dec 20.

Modelling Saturdays

The following dates have been booked 09.00 to 17.00

July 13, Aug 3, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 23, Dec 14

From the Internet

The Great Central Railway is ready to bridge the gap! £1m is needed and Network Rail has been contracted to do the job.

<http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify/>

Goucester Warwicks Railway: Cotswold Steam Celebration 25th May

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbHer1FHXUw>

Birds nesting in waste bin at Warwick Parkway

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-22833008>

London Underground maps in Lego

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-22882678>

Stamps

There is a stamp collecting bag on the notice board, proceeds from the sales of stamps goes to a MS charity via John Franklin.

Club Diary

July	6-7 13 26	DEMU Showcase, Town Hall, Burton-upon-Trent Modelling Saturday Test track
August	3 28-31 30	Modelling Saturday 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention, Pasadena, California. Mick Moignard is presenting a clinic "How to get the best from the Soundtraxx Tsunami" Test track
September	1 21 21-22 27 27-29	Start of R&DMRC Financial Year Subscriptions Due Modelling Saturday Camp 93 at the Redditch Exhibition, supported by club members. Test track 009 Society Convention at Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth. Mick Moignard is presenting two clinics: "Scratchbuilt Rolling Stock in Styrene" and "An introduction to DCC"
October	5-6 5 18 - 19 25 25-27	Camp 93 at the Ilford Show, supported by Club Members Beaconsfield MRC Exhibition, High School for Girls, Beaconsfield Railway Talk by Geoff Plumb "That was the Year that was 1964" Modelling Saturday Test track NMRA British Region Convention, Best Western, Meriden. Mick Moignard is presenting "How to get the best from the Soundtraxx Tsunami"
November	2 8 9-10. 23 23-24 29	Wycrail, Cressex Community School, High Wycombe AGM (Annual General Meeting) Camp 93's last ever exhibition, at Spalding. Supported by Club Members Modelling Saturday Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, Hall 5, NEC, Birmingham Test track
December	14 20	Modelling Saturday Test track

Back page: Class 55 - No. 55019 'Royal Highland Fusilier' (Barrow Hill), Didcot Diesel Gala May 2013, Kevin Wood.

