

Risborough and District Model  
Railway Club

**Jul-Sept 2014 Summer**

# **FOOTPLATE**



# Who's who!

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>President</b>                       | David Powell                                     |
| <b>Chairman &amp; Footplate Editor</b> | Paul Wright 01844 275748<br>rdmrc@btinternet.com |
| <b>Secretary</b>                       | Richard Neil<br>richard@mris.freeseve.co.uk      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                       | Neil Fairbairn<br>kieraneil@yahoo.co.uk          |
| <b>Members Reps.</b>                   | Anthony Mead<br>David Lane<br>Mick Moignard      |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>            | Robin Lane                                       |
| <b>Raillex Manager</b>                 | David Lane<br>bigcheeseplant@googlemail.com      |
| <b>Risex Manager</b>                   | Adrian Harford<br>adrian.harford@tiscali.co.uk   |
| <b>Webmaster</b>                       | Anthony Mead<br>antmead@googlemail.com           |

## WELCOME

Raillex is our biggest event of the year. This year's show lived up to expectations of quality and interest so a big thank you to all involved. Attendance was about 2600, which is not quite a record but is very good. It would be difficult to

get more people in on Saturday morning which is the busy time for most exhibitions. There are some videos on Youtube taken by Graham:

Dewsbury Midland

<http://youtu.be/gSL5WfisdRA>

Bath Green Park

<http://youtu.be/pljeaJ0NsXA>

Vale of Oxbury

<http://youtu.be/euCIpNEMhbM>

Wadebridge

<http://youtu.be/jfJ4uhg4og>

And another by Max:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sakn-gbuQUA>

No doubt there is much discussion on RMweb as well.

Hopefully we will have some new members as this edition is published, so welcome to the club. The club stand is an important part of Railex to let everyone know who we are and what we do. This is followed by the new members welcome evening. This year the subject was laser cutting with some very nice examples produced by Russ and Tim. I know a number of you are already producing artwork for cutting but if anyone does not know how to start or would like some tuition, just let us know and we will arrange training. I have drawn up a test piece for 2mm brickwork to see how visible different bonds are and will report how that turns out in the next issue.

Another piece of news is that Ian Roll has moved to the Bristol area. Ian has been with the club for many years, being: Railex chief steward, Risex Manager and Railex Manager. As one of the regulars both Friday and Saturday he will be missed, but he did promise to visit occasionally.

Paul

Front cover: The Cathedrals Express, headed by BR rebuilt light pacific 34046 Braunton passing through Princes Risborough on 13 April 2014. Photo by Pete Joels.

## 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.

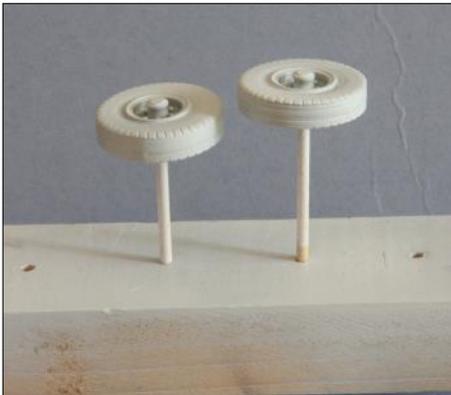
We would like to hear about your railway and modelling interests, places you have visited or models you have bought or made. Reviews of models, gadgets, books etc. are particularly welcome.

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.

# Painting

Here are a series of photos showing the stages in painting a wheel, in this case, a 7mm wheel for a mechanical horse trailer, manufactured by S&D Mouldings.

- 1 Clean up any flash and moulding defects on the wheel with files, knife etc. In this case an easy job as the casting is very good and the only mould line is around the circumference of the tyre and therefore vanishes in the tread pattern.
- 2 Clean with a cream cleaner (eg Cif) and an old tooth brush. This removes any casting residue and gives a slightly rougher matt surface for painting.



- 3 Attach the wheel to a cocktail stick to make it easy to hold. Use a very little superglue if required. For parts with a pegs at the back I use a piece of plastic tube as a holder.



- 4 Spray with a primer, e.g. Tamiya or Halfords. At this stage it is easy to see any defects which can now be fixed. For spray painting I use a strip of wood with holes to hold all the parts. If this is long enough you will not prime your hand!



5 I paint with acrylics starting with the wheel centre in red (Coat d'Arms 145). Don't worry how neat it is as the grey will cover the red, however, red (and worse still, yellow) will not cover grey. I also find it easier to get a neat edge this way. The cocktail stick holder can be slowly rotated as the paint is applied.



6 This is followed by the tyre in dark grey (Cd'A 212) and then the tyre tread in a slightly lighter shade of slate grey (Cd'A 533). The effect is fairly subtle and you may choose a lighter grey to enhance the effect.





7 Use a brown wash (Games Workshop Earthshade) to paint the whole casting. I find the Earthshade works well over many colours while the black wash is too harsh. Sepia can be used for a lighter effect. This brings out the detail and dulls the bright colours as well as giving a more matt effect.



8 Additional washes can be added as required as well as some mud. In this case a mid brown weathering powder from Carrs has been worked into the tread with a small brush. Excess can be wiped off with a bit of kitchen towel.

Below: the completed trailer which will be located in Okehampton goods yard. A second trailer is under construction as well as a mechanical horse.



Paul

# Charge of the Light Brigade - Kirkmellington's lighting system

Kirkmellington has been designed to fit into a mid-sized family car – a Golf or similar. Part of the challenge with this has been to reduce the size and weight of the various components. The key space saving innovation lies within the lighting system.



First up are the lightweight lights. These were discovered by a fellow Rochdale MRG member in Maplin. They are a 5m long flexible strip of LEDs. They give off 16W per metre run which equates roughly to the output of the fluorescent tubes we have previously used but without the space and weight. There are various colours of light available to suit your taste. They are low heat and low

voltage, another fringe benefit over spotlights or tubes. A 5m coil is roughly £50. The strip can be cut every 50mm or so making it flexible in application and form!

Now that we have a light weight light, we can re-engineer the support system. No longer do we need steel conduit or bulky timber frames and fascia panels. These would not have fitted into my car with the rest of the layout where space is at a premium. So what could we use that is modular and light but rigid and durable?

Being in the construction trade, I had a vague idea that plastic drainage pipe could work so headed down to the nearest big builders merchant to investigate options. A 50mm waste pipe, solvent weld type proved to be rigid enough and had couplings

and junctions as part of the range that would allow me to build a cantilever up and 650mm out over the layout and then along the front. I have glued the 90deg bend onto the uprights, the main cantilever arm has the T junction solvent welded on but just push fits into the upright. The long front tubes simply push fit into the



cantilever arms.

The push fit is tight enough to not warrant any further fixings but should this change with use, a simple vertical hole cut through the junctions will allow a long bolt to be inserted, Newton and his magic gravity will take care of the rest. Once the pipe frame is set up, the LED tape is simply unrolled from its reel, cable tied in position and plugged in. The light is well distributed and enough to illuminate the layout for exhibition purposes. At the end of the show, the LEDs are returned to the reel for safe keeping.

The final piece of the design are fascia boards which frame the layout and hide the LEDs. Here we will be using corrugated



plastic from glabels4signs.co.uk, a professional sign maker in Manchester. Vinyl overlays have been added with layout name and other relevant information. The fascia panels are light enough that they are held in place on the tubular frame simply by



Velcro strips.

Kirkmellington will be appearing at Expo EM north, 13&14 September 2014.

The trials and tribulations of building Kirkmellington are captured in a blog at:

<http://kirkmellington.wordpress.com/>

There is also a video of the layout on youtube at:

[http://youtu.be/by4UU7pD\\_7A](http://youtu.be/by4UU7pD_7A)

Graham

# Wonderful World of Trains & Planes – Birmingham

## Sneak previews for Modellers from June 25th

You might have heard through the railway modelling press or online forums that we are opening an exciting new visitor attraction in the heart of Birmingham.

**Wonderful World of Trains & Planes** will be just that - model layouts from around the world but presented in a different format to other model railway shows. We are focusing on the history of railways in each country, showing you some of the background to the development of the railways as well as some of the classic trains from bygone times.

We also have a **four-lane motor racing circuit** where you can test your racing skills, very realistic **flight simulators** where you can learn to fly a Cessna, or try to land a Boeing 737 or 747 (not as easy as it looks! ). We have a cinema showing films of trains and planes, including in-cockpit landings and a **coffee-shop** and a **well-stocked model-shop** where you can pick up some of your modelling needs - or order those we don't have.

We are opening our doors to the modelling community for sneak previews from **Wednesday June 25th**.

We'll then be open every week, Wednesday to Saturday until our full seven-days-a-week opening on August 1st. Opening times for now are from 10 am to 4 pm (last suggested entry 3 pm).

This will enable you to come and see what we are building, and how we are building it. Look at modelling on a large canvas (many of our layouts are 30 feet long) and talk to our team about what we are doing and what we are planning. Check out the extensive wiring required for the computer control systems we are using.

For now you will see layouts nearing completion from Canada and UK, and can watch us building USA, France, Germany and Switzerland. We also have a special feature on the Royal Train, a special feature on high-speed trains, and a test-track where visitors can bring their own trains and run them round a track that might be larger than the average home layout (in both HO and N gauge).

Your unique entry ticket - just £5.95 (£3.95 for under-16s) also gives you a second free return visit at any time until the end of December - plus the opportunity to buy an annual Modellers Club pass (valid until **30 September 2015** and with **unlimited access**) at a **very special price of just £29.50**.

Come and see us soon. You can even reserve a place on our guided tours by emailing me the date you want to come and the approximate time - choose from 10.30 am - 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm. We estimate you'll need about two hours to fully explore what we have in store. But you're welcome to stay longer.

We look forward to greeting you. Come soon.

[peter.trainsandplanes@gmail.com](mailto:peter.trainsandplanes@gmail.com)

Peter D Smith

Wonderful World Models Ltd - Regd in England 7908360

# Treasurer

After many years as our treasurer, Neil has decided to step down at the AGM. Therefore, we are in need of a new treasurer, if you are interested in standing, please contact the committee. Training will be provided as there will be a hand-over period.

## Rubbish and Recycling

Please remember to put a black plastic bag in the dustbin before use and empty it when full. There is a wheeled metal bin at the end of the community centre.

Recycling will be collected each club night, this includes card, plastic bottles and cans.

# Okehampton Update:

Thanks to Russ, we have the last point work installed. This is the entry point work into the rear three lines of the main sidings. We still have some plain track to install which links between these new points and the existing rear sidings but that is quite simple to do.

Jon and Roy continue their efforts on woodwork, recently moving onto the engine shed board to finish off the correct lie of the land in front of the shed. John is invaluable helping every Friday to wire up and do any odd jobs required. Pete is always on hand to say that the proposed line of the next cut is wrong, and needs to be moved a couple of millimetres! What would we do without him? The trouble is that he is normally right - damn! We do like an argument though. Michael, Paul and I help with odd jobs as well.

Once this board is done, the woodwork on the main visible side will be complete, with scenery installed and ready for final work. What next? This is the stage when we need to get it working as a layout. Electrical items need to be finished, made reliable, and tested thoroughly. Track at the board ends need to be adjusted so they line up properly. Track must be fettled, cleaned and checked for electrical continuity. Trains will be run in both directions everywhere to make sure we do not have any derailments in operation. This will take place in my shed in the summer / autumn.

My shed is pretty much complete. It needs the electric feed connected to my house, one more light inside, one line of guttering fitted, inside painted and there we are - finished and usable.

Once Russ can drive again after his recent hip op, we want to have a planning meeting to decide what we need to do, in what order, and who wants to do it to progress Okie to a finished state. I am keen to make use of the new shed to enable us to work on the layout when we can, but am also keen to get Okie out of my shed as quickly as possible so I can make my own layout. The new shed will be available for Okie work at any time during the week. I'll have to get some keys cut so members can visit even when I'm not there.

What have I learned from building Okie? Firstly, make sure the plan of the

layout includes the topology of the land. It was not clear when Okie was being designed that the land fell away quite as badly as it does. The boards were all made flat with the idea that the land could be cut into the sides and ends when needed. Wrong! Some boards have had extensive reconstruction because the edges ended up one inch high, instead of the standard 6 inches due to the fall of the land. I suppose I was just a bit too keen to start making and left the planning till later. I will not make that mistake again and will have contours mapped out for my new layout in the shed in advance. A scale model of the model is a good way of visualising the final layout and helps sort out those contours early. We did make one, but clearly it was not detailed enough.



The ply construction is fine. The 150 by 9mm edge boards give a lot of strength and are reasonably light. People say that the boards are heavy but they are about 30 square feet each and that is huge in model railway terms. Of course they'll be heavy - it still only takes two to lift them though. Am I pleased with the overall size and look of the layout? You bet! We might not be able to get at a derailment on the main line but boy - a train in that scene is going to look amazing.

Cheers, James.

# Railex 2014

This years Railex was another fantastic exhibition with a good range of layouts and trade. Everything went smoothly all weekend, so thanks to everyone who helped no matter how small the job. Having sufficient volunteers always makes things easier for us. On the next few pages I have printed a selection of layout photos but cannot cover all the layouts. If you have further photos, send them to Ant to put on the website or send the link to any videos you have seen.

Below: an overview of the Great Train Robbery





The Great Train Robbery, a diorama with sound and lights by Luton Model Railway Club.



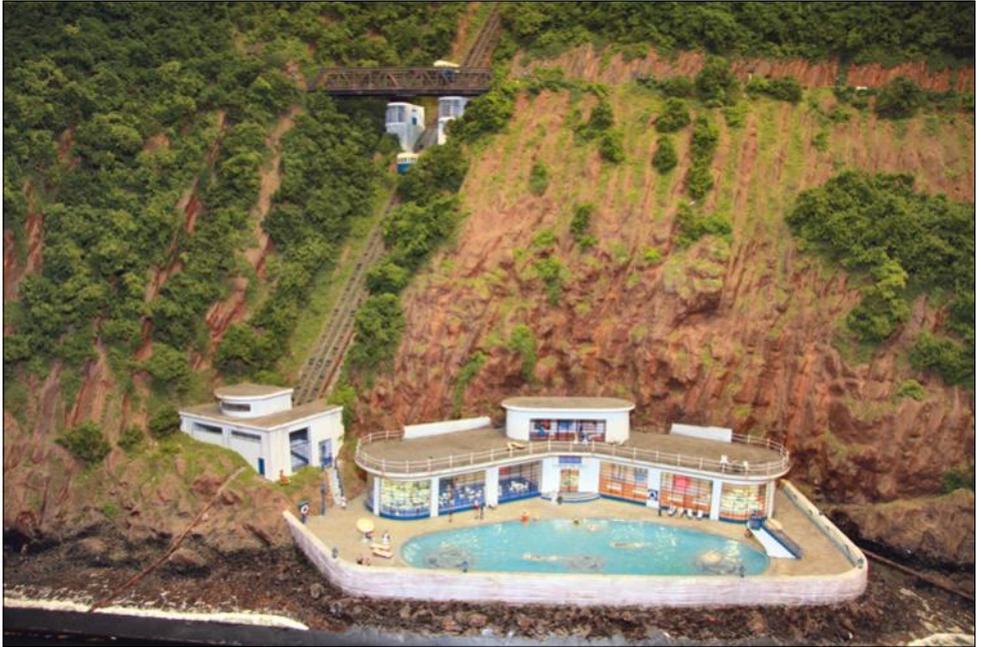


Left: The best model, as judged by Barry Norman was the remote control lorry on “End of the Line”. David Powell presents the plaque to Giles Favell.

Right: The best layout award, as judged by the exhibitors was Dewsbury Midland built by Manchester Model Railway Club which won by just by 1 point from Alloa. David Powell presents the award to Dave Douglas.







Above and below: 2 views of Cliffhanger, one of the few layouts with more height than depth.





Above: A diorama by Lee Marsh Model Co, Paul Bambrick.

Below: Maggie Gravett was demonstrating static grass techniques.



# Stock boxes by JB's Modelworld

JB's Modelworld produce stock boxes for N gauge in 4 designs. All have a blue plastic box 315 x 225 x 60mm with a foam insert. The cut-outs are 25mm wide and deep with the following lengths: 270, 195, 92 and 55mm. The foam cutouts simply pull out and can be trimmed to hold stock as required. They can be obtained from JB's Modelworld at exhibitions or via their eBay shop:

[http://stores.ebay.co.uk/JBs-Model-World?\\_rdc=1](http://stores.ebay.co.uk/JBs-Model-World?_rdc=1)

Below: 2 of the box variations showing a British N gauge tank wagon on the left and a European N gauge coach on the right.



## Video DVD Library

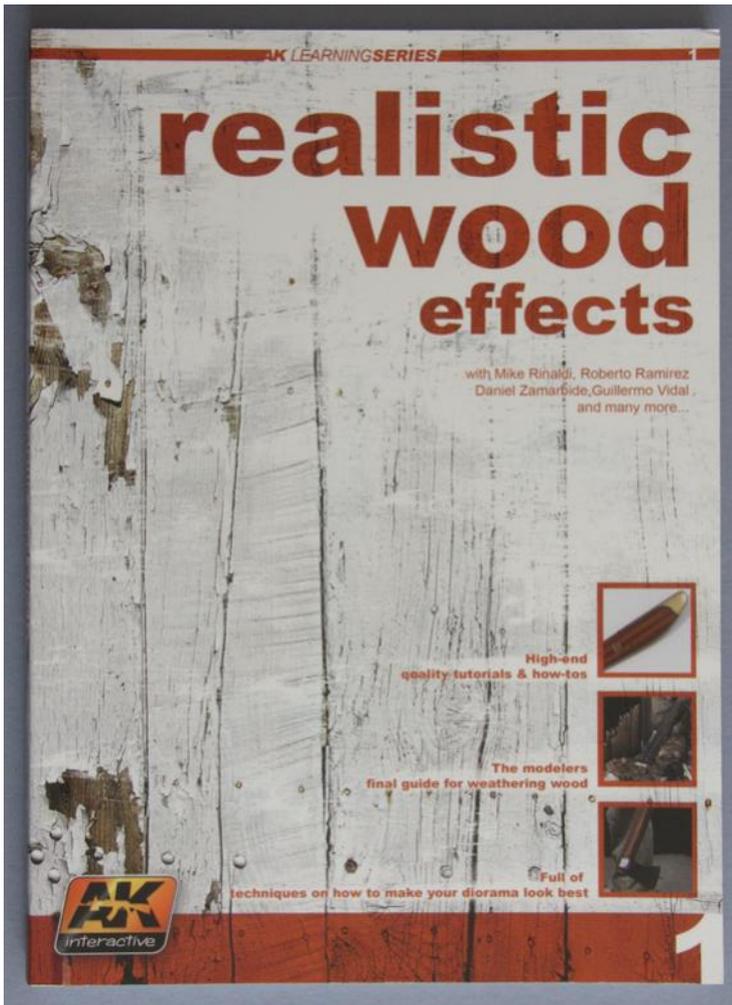
We have a good selection of railway videos and DVDs which can be borrowed from the club. They are kept in the cupboard under the TV. To borrow any item just add the details to the loan book which should be on the book shelf.

# Book review: Realistic Wood Effects by AK Interactive

This 83 page book is produced by Spanish military modelling company AK Interactive and covers a variety of techniques for painting and weathering wood in acrylics. It has step by step examples covering: buildings, fences, boats, wagons, tools etc. and seems simple to follow. The results are quite impressive so I will be having a go at their techniques. The book is available via Amazon

for £12.59 or other military modelling sites and can also be found on eBay. AK also produce a range of paints and weathering materials. I will bring the book to the club for you to have a look at.

Paul



# Modelling Saturdays

The following dates have been booked 09.00 to 17.00

July 19, Aug 9, Sept 13, Oct 4 (Open day), Nov 8, Dec 13

I try to arrange modelling Saturdays not to clash with other events but this is not always possible. If you are involved in or know of events that are likely to be of interest to our members then let me or Ant know so we can put them in the diary.

Paul

## From the Internet

Class 40 40345 to visit Mid-Hants railway in September

<http://www.cfps.co.uk/>

London Transport Museum

[www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/events-calendar/heritage-vehicles-outings](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/events-calendar/heritage-vehicles-outings)

Aln Valley Railway

[www.alnvalleyrailway.co.uk](http://www.alnvalleyrailway.co.uk)

DRS class 68

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ed4Ot2Fvccw>

175 years of railway construction in Derby

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TscxKP7FhU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TscxKP7FhU)

AK Interactive's website:

[www.ak-interactive.com](http://www.ak-interactive.com)

Phil in Normandy:

try this one but don't blink

<http://youtu.be/qy11DsL-keU>

Also this one

<http://youtu.be/x6A1uf9Wllyo>

# Club Diary

|           |       |   |
|-----------|-------|---|
| July      | 12    | CMRA Modellers Day  |
|           | 19    | Modelling Saturday  |
|           | 25    | Test Track  |
|           | 26    | Model Train Day, Black Horse Pub, Great Missenden   |
| August    | 9     | Modelling Saturday  |
|           | 22    | Test Track  |
| September | 1     | Start of R&DMRC Financial Year Subscriptions Due  |
|           | 6     | Club Display at St Dunstan's Church Fun Day, Monks Risborough                                       |
|           | 13    | Modelling Saturday  |
|           | 19    | Test Track  |
|           | 27-28 | Scaleforum 2014: Test Track, Aylesbury Town and Club Display at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury |
| October   | 4     | Club Annual Open Day, Community Centre, Princes Risborough  |
|           | 4     | Beaconsfield MRC Exhibition, High School for Girls, Beaconsfield                                    |
|           | 11    | Tad-Rail 2014, Cottesloe School, Wing   |
|           | 17    | Railway Talk by Geoff Plumb "That was the Year that was - 1963"                                     |
|           | 24    | Test Track  |
| November  | 1     | Wyrail, Cressex Community School, High Wycombe  |
|           | 7     | <b>AGM (Annual General Meeting)</b>   |
|           | 8     | Modelling Saturday  |
|           | 21    | Test Track  |
|           | 22-23 | Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, Hall 5, NEC, Birmingham                                   |

## 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 25, Aug 22, Sept 19, Oct 24, Nov 21 Dec 12

Back page: Rocket replica at York, Easter 2014.

