



Risborough and District
Model Railway Club

February 2021

FOOTPLATE

Lockdown Special



The last Austerity ever built on it's first day back in action after restoration. Taken 1/5/2016 at Quanton Road, Mike Morley.

Who's who!

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Publicity and Social Manager	Vacant
Railex Manager	David Lane bigcheeseplant@googlemail.com
Risex Manager	Mark Bacon

WELCOME

I hope you are all keeping well during the lockdown period. The clubs Facebook group is now at 41 members. The group is open to all club members.

Work still continues on the Community Centre, the door frames and glass are in and work is now on the walls and woodwork. The Community Centre is now being used as a Covid-19 vaccination centre and as we are back in lockdown there will be no club meetings probably this side of Easter and maybe for longer.

We had our first Zoom meeting of the year at the end of January. Mick, Tim, Roy, Rob and myself presented. The next Zoom meeting is at the end of February and there will be a new group of presenters. Each presenter will talk for 5-10 minutes and then you can ask questions or comment and discuss the model. If anyone is having trouble connecting to Zoom let me know. The Zoom meeting for March has been moved forward by a week due to a clash with another event and is now on March 19th.

Virtual Railex: we are planning a virtual Railex, if you are interested in getting involved contact Tim. See page 4.

New Clubroom Project: The Dept for Education has suddenly changed the rules for schools disposing of land. This means that our project to relocate the clubroom to Princes Risborough School is at an end. This is obviously disappointing to all of us and also the School who would have got some benefit from us being there. We are now working on what to do next. We will start by clearing some junk from the existing store as that needs to be cleared by the end of August for further work at the CC. If you have any personal items in the clubroom, they need to be removed. The New Building Team are looking at possible buildings and land in the area and we are discussing options with the Town Council.

The articles in this edition of Footplate are taken from the Club's Facebook page and shared so you can all see them. Keep modelling and keep posting.

This month we have a diorama from Mike Morley, see page 10. It uses predominantly stone and grass with a touch of water as required. Again a very different scene compared to the others. How are the rest of you getting on? Lets see a few more.

Paul

NEW Model Railways Documentary on Amazon Prime TV for 2021

Model Railways - A comprehensive look into this wonderful hobby

The latest production from Studio Scotland on the back of their 3 part Building a Model Railway DVD series, was developed for television and is now available on Amazon Prime TV in full HD. Despite the challenges of 2020 - This latest television and digital download production (Not available on DVD) began airing over the Christmas season. The documentary has been carefully produced by taking many elements from the Build a Model Railway DVD series and includes additional interviews and footage.

A highly informative and entertaining 60 minute documentary that is jam packed with so much to see and experience, a visual treat for both model rail enthusiasts and just about anyone who loves to watch programmes of interest. A big thank you goes out to the many modellers who went the extra mile to help complete the production. For those who prefer a Digital Download this can be purchased from the Studio Scotland web shop.

Railex Online

You will all know by now that this year's Railex is cancelled, but we do intend to hold a one-day virtual show on Saturday 29th May. The main aim is to showcase club efforts and keep the Railex brand alive ready for 2022 when, all being well, we will return to a live show.

To that end, we need to keep the quality high as befits the reputation we already have. So, I'm looking for help.

The format being developed will include links to layouts that would have attended in either 2020 or 2021. Not all have suitable material, but we have recruited 12 so far and awaiting a response from a further 4.

We would also like to showcase club member's home layouts subject to film quality, so please let me know if you would like to be considered.

In addition, we intend to invite Traders to submit an entry and include any show offers and have some demonstrations of modelling techniques by club members. If you have something you would like to contribute – please let me know. This may take the form of a PowerPoint slide show similar to what we have been doing on a Friday evening, or a short video with a commentary. We may also include a slot to allow viewers to ask questions – this idea is still being worked on.

Virtual wheeltapper. We always display club member's work on the club stand, so this year we would like photographic entries and we'll approach last year's judge (Jerry Clifford) to see if he will agree to judge. Winners will be announced on the day of the exhibition.

So that's about it. Any other ideas for inclusion, that will make us stand out will be welcome.

The team so far is me, co-ordinating layouts and James who will lead on the technical side. We have offers of help from Mark Riddoch on the technical side and John Compton with video editing. David Powell has offered to help with commentary and announcing on the day and Paul Wright has expertise in putting together slideshows/videos.

In summary, I need a person/persons to:

- Co-ordinate and run the Wheeltapper event

- Manage trader attendance
- Run advertising
- Help with Demos
- And of course, any of you who have material to contribute.

Many thanks in advance – let's make our show stand out

Tim

Francis

One for Tim. Thames Valley Bristol K about to depart HW station 1950s.
Photo Gerald Croxford.



Tim: Very helpful - thanks. As always, it's what else is in the picture - in particular the large lamp standard at the bottom of the steps down from the bridge.



Above: WR 5008 Raglan Castle heading south from Saunderton tunnel, early 1950s. Will pass through Tim's layout in about 6 minutes! Photo Alfred Bush

Below: WR 1018 County of Leicester (somewhat appropriate on this route) on an up service in early 50s just south of Pictonville. Through Wycombe in 5 minutes. Looking like a stopper? Photo Alfred Bush



Mike Morley

Small Diorama Project

This was started many years ago as an unintended holiday project, when running out of Wills Coarse Stone sheets and finding no more were obtainable locally left me unable to continue the project I *had* intended. All I was left with was the off-cuts and left-overs of the sheets I'd brought with me, and from them this was cobbled together. It was very much a make-it-up-as-you-go-along undertaking which combined with the shortage of materials meant it left an awful lot to be desired, so when the holiday ended it got put to one side, only half built, and forgotten about until the run up to last Christmas prompted me to dig it out and look at it again.



The Wills sheets were made to look a bit like slate waste by laying the sheets flat on the workbench and using the coarsest file I'd got like a cross between a plane and a spoke-shave to scrape off most of the surface relief. Get the angle of the file right and you can even reproduce the bedding planes!
The roof is Slaters corrugated sheet, the rafters and the remnants of the door and window frames are Evergreen strip.

The crumbling dry stone wall is 90% tile grout with a scrap or two of real slate. The colours match better in reality than they do in the photos, the camera exaggerating the bluish tinge of the paint on the ex-Wills sheet.



The ground cover is a damage limitation exercise. I'd originally intended it to be close-cropped grass, except at the foot of the walls, with perhaps a few nettles and/or bracken in the corner and a grazing sheep or two. However, I



found the hard way that I'd lost the knack of applying static grass and should have practiced on some scrap first. What I ended up with looked more like a worn-out scouring pad than sheep-cropped grass so I've done my best to hide it beneath clumps of gorse (00 Scenics) and fuchsia bushes (Greenscene postiche sprayed with hair-spray, dunked in Woodland Scenics dark turf then sprinkled with grated artists pastel sketch-sticks. The sketch stick I had to use was neither as bright nor as red as I wanted, but turned out better than I'd expected.

I'm told that for this kind of job cheap, nasty hairsprays do a better job than good brands. I learned this the hard way, after 'borrowing' my daughters Silvikrin). Woodland Scenics 'Realistic Water' was dribbled into the long grass behind the tumble-down wall to make a boggy patch. That was the theory, anyway. I've used 'Realistic Water' a couple of times before without being in the least bit satisfied with the results and this attempt was no better.

I also found the hard way that thick, cheap cardboard like I used as a base for the diorama warps badly when a thick layer of PVA is spread over it for the static grass. Camera angles were carefully chosen to disguise both that problem and the fact that the roof doesn't fit too well.

Small Diorama Project Rules

Here are the rules for the diorama challenge:

- 1 maximum size of the base is A5 or any shape with the same area. (311cm²)
- 2 Must have plants: trees, grass, hedges, flowers, moss etc
- 3 Must have hardscape: stone, rock, brick, concrete etc
- 4 Must have water: river, stream, fountain, puddles etc

There is no minimum amount of any of the above features and you can add anything else you want. Other than that, it is up to your creativity, feel free to bend the rules as much as you like!

Mick

We're all ready for it over here....



I've been making some sheds. To be precise, the various buildings in the Ridgway, Colorado engine yard. These are based on the Banta laser cut kit, but with detail addition and changes to better match the drawings and the surprisingly few photos. The gas (petrol) house for filling the Galloping Geese was also included in the kit but I'd previously Scratchbuilt one so that's what's seen here. Additions include door hardware and the Scratchbuilt cupola on the blacksmith shop. Strangely enough and contrary to advice over here the oil storage shed - the aluminium metal sided one - was cut in styrene. I say cut, more like melted through and needing a lot of cleanup at the cuts. I've also used Campbell rolled aluminium for the corrugated iron sheeting rather than the embossed card in the kit. The prototype used a lot of barn red to paint these things, too.









Paul

Canalside development: the cardboard towers will become the towers at Nijmegen Bridge. Unfortunately I cannot get the whole bridge in as that would be about 4m long!



And this cardboard mock-up will become a model of Molen De Ster in Utrecht.



I am lucky enough to have a full set of plans for this mill which are available via the mills database: www.molendatabase.nl/ & www.allemolens.nl



Gary

Detail showing the lights in the station. The Hammers supporter next to newspaper seller is in a Bobby Moore shirt. Whilst it goes against the grain as a Spurs supporter, it is Romford after all!



Paul: it could be worse, imaging painting an Arsenal shirt!



Tim

Making progress. Construction virtually complete. Boiler band lining (Fox transfers) done now as easier with boiler off the frames. Next, assemble boiler/firebox and footplate after which steam pipes can be added.

Then all the fun and games of marrying the chassis to the footplate. Speaker already embedded in plasticine in the smokebox (note to self - do this before mating to the boiler). 😊

It has a micro plug for connection to the chip. Chassis already run in on DC. After that, it's mainly cosmetic stuff - lining, plates and some light weathering. The final item to top it out will be the safety valve bonnet.



My New Year's resolution done. It's been 8+ years in the making with a big push this last month to finish it. Not perfect, but pretty chuffed and the Youchoos Zimo chip with Castle sound file sounds great.

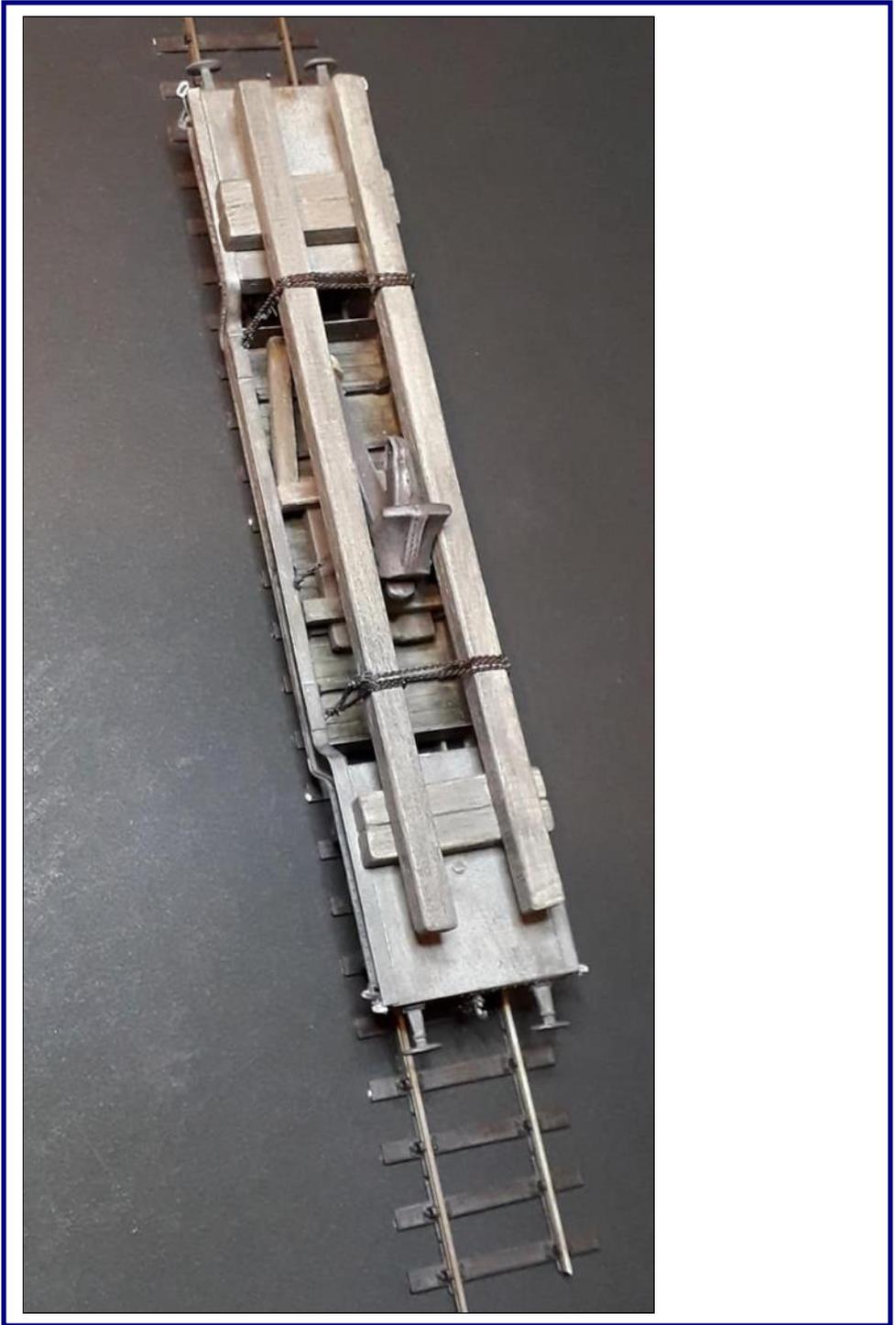


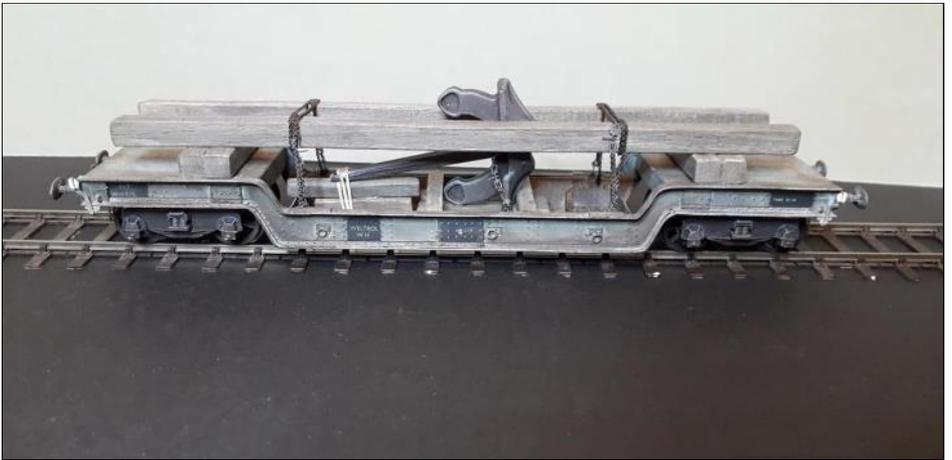
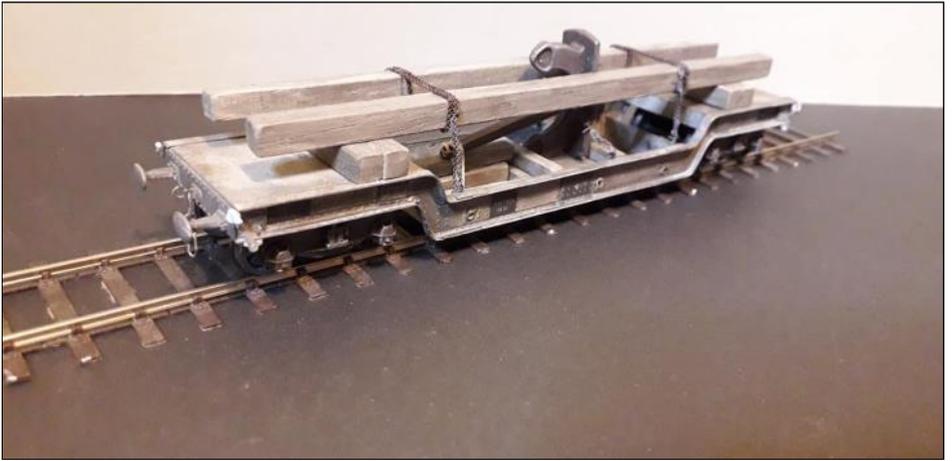


This the finished Connoisseur Crocodile H started 3 weeks ago. Codenamed Weltrol WH in BR days. The load is an attempt to copy the picture in the GW Freight Loads book. The fine chain and Ambis etched turnbuckles are fiendishly fiddly . 🤖

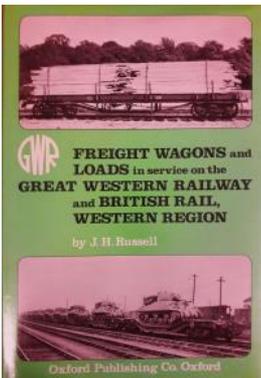
I'm going to have a lie down in a darkened room.



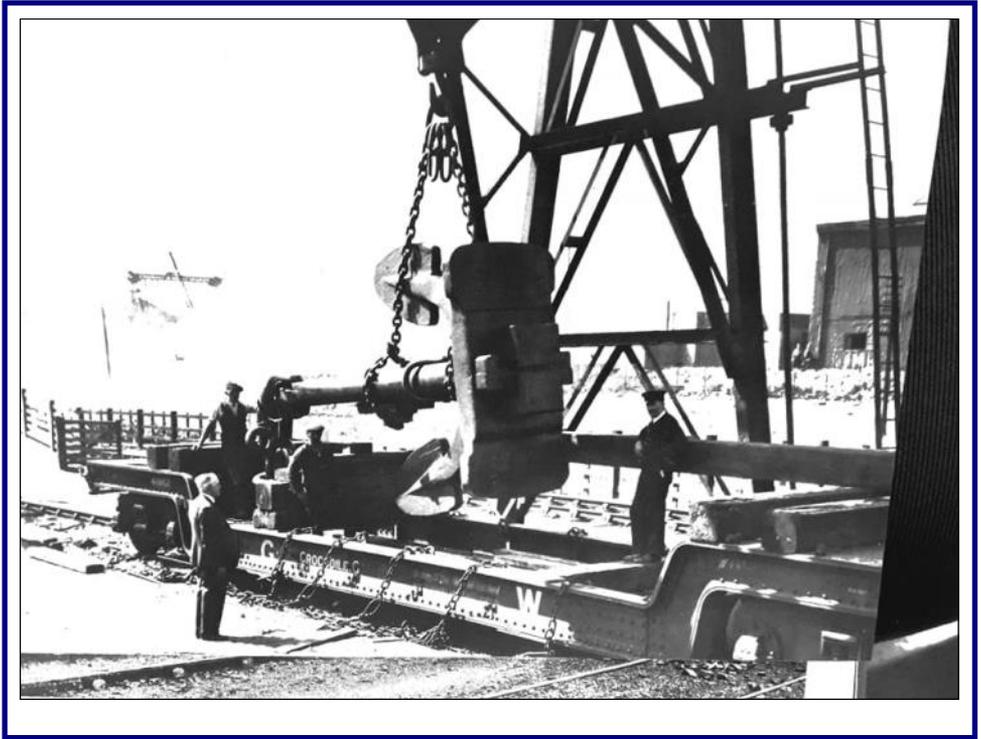




The anchor is by Amati from Cornwall Model Boats - much better than anything I could have scratchbuilt.



Right: The prototype in a photo from Freight Wagons & Loads in service on the Great Western Railway and British Rail, Western Region by J H Russell, OPC.



Spring Missenden Virtual Weekend

This is on the 6th & 7th of March:

<https://www.missendenrailwaymodellers.org.uk/index.php/spring-2021-virtual-event-plans/>

There are 4 live Zoom sessions using the weekend that need pre-registering and a number of pre-recorded video and written contributions from a number of the Missenden tutors, including 3 Risborough club members. I'm currently putting together the content for the weekend.

Club Diary

2021

Many exhibitions are being cancelled and I suspect those still listed will be cancelled as well, at least for the first half of the year.

March	5	Trustees meeting via Zoom
	6	Gauge O Guild Virtual Spring Show 09.30-17.00
	6-7	Missenden Virtual Weekend
	19	R&DMRC Zoom meeting
April	16	R&DMRC Zoom meeting
May	8	Association of Larger Scale Railway Modellers. Rivermead Leisure Centre, Richfield Avenue, Reading RG1 8EQ. Cancelled
	15-16	EM Gauge Society, Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 9SE. Probably Cancelled but waiting for confirmation.
	29	Virtual Railex
June		
July	3	Beaconsfield & District Model Railway Club, Beaconsfield School, Wattleton Road, Beaconsfield HP9 1SJ
	31	Annual Convention of The World Wide Group of the NGS, Wyllyotts Theatre, Wyllyotts Place, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 2HN. If this goes ahead, I will be there with a Dutch N gauge display.