



Risborough and District
Model Railway Club

Apr-Jun 2023 Spring

FOOTPLATE



Front cover: Mellin Parva at Risex 2023.

Who's who!

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WELCOME

We had our first Risex since 2020. It was very well attended which is good. It seems the public are coming back to exhibitions and Mark found us a good range of layouts. We made an excellent surplus which will bolster our funds for a new clubroom. Secondhand and catering made a very strong contribution bringing in about half the money. It shows these are a very important part of the exhibition especially the cakes which were very popular. The new kitchen and bar proved to be a bit on the small side but we made it all work by using 3 kitchens for the prep and cooking. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the show.

Wheeltapper provided the usual excellent range of models. This year it was judged by Tony Sheffield. Tony is well known on the modelling circuit and is one of the directors/owners of Brassmasters, manufacturers of high quality 4mm model railway kits and accessories. Tony is also involved with Pendon Museum as the lead for development and maintenance of the locos. Tony gave

an interesting talk on the history of Brassmasters, We had entries in all categories apart from dioramas. The winners were...

turn to page 4 to find out. Photos will be added to the website soon.

Sadly we recently lost 2 members: Harry Tame (80) and John Casson (81). James has written a few words about them for this edition of Footplate. I am sure they will both be missed by many of our members.

Paul

From the Internet

The Picnic Saloon Trust, LNWR No 182 can be found at QRS.

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

Paper Kits Have Never Looked So Good – Realistic Scenery Vol.35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KL4U_rv0Cf0

Carving An Old French House From A Block Of Styrofoam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7y0QMzAp5w>

Painting A Miniature French House Made From Styrofoam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IeqOjZ9UB8>

Still one of the most realistic British model railway layouts: Knaresborough - The Worlds End

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xx3wEi_dA_Q

Severn Valley Railway reopening for 2023 season 4th March 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwRblgaV_9Y

Great Central Railway - 'Winter Steam Gala' 28/01/2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1pTYBShgTI>

GWR Four Castles Day at Didcot Railway Centre! 04/03/23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-0hV0cWNq4>

Tidying up the ballast at Chelmsford Station.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eu2Sp7O5RMI>

Wheeltapper 2023

The winner of steam locos and the Wheeltapper was Mick with a D&RGW K-27 #453. Mike Jordan was highly commended for his GCR Atlantic “Jersey Lily”.



The Robbie Robinson Trophy went to Gary for his Bedford TK Coal Lorry



and the Jack Kine Trophy to Tim, for his GW Weighbridge Hut.



The Derek Turner Trophy was awarded to Rob for a BR 24.5ton Mineral wagon



and the Robin Lane Trophy to Ian. For a weathered Bachmann Anchor Tank – ‘Benzene’.



And finally the Chairman's cup was awarded to Roy for his weed killing train.



Other category winners were:

Category 2 (Diesel/Electric Locomotives)

Gary Day – BR Class 307 EMU

Category 3 (Passenger/Non-Passenger Coaching Stock)

Mike Jordan – GC Parker Corridor 1st

Category 4 (Freight and Engineers Stock)

Roy Norton – SR Weed Killing Train

Category 7 (Dioramas and Figurines)

No entries

Category 10 Aylesbury LNWR Model

James Aitken – LNWR Cattle Van

Highly Commended

Category 1 Mike Jordan – GCR Atlantic ‘ Jersey Lily’

Category 4 Mick Moignard – UTLX tank 88152

Category 10 John Ashby – LNWR D12 timber bolster

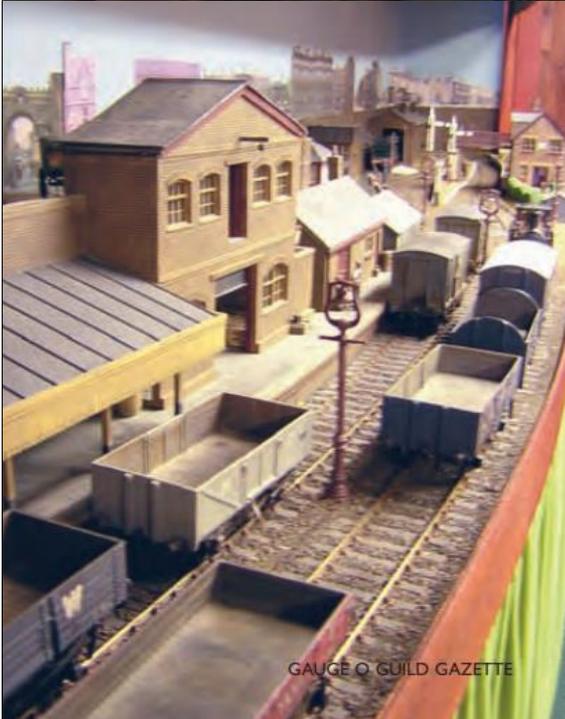
Paul Wright – LNWR D62 Ballast Wagon

John Casson

12 November 1941 to 3 Feb 2023

We lost a great modeller and all round good fella when John passed away in Feb this year. He had been a member of the club for many years and known for always winning the photographic competition whenever we had one.





He was an O gauge modeller and became one of the regular “Shed fellas”, a small subgroup of the club who met at my house to work on my layout and who were also instrumental in advancing Tim Peacock’s layout over the past few years. Shed fellas met on a Thursday and laid track and performed scenic miracles on 3 layouts, mine, Tim’s and John Hipwell’s. We all have a small part of our layout which will for ever be remembered as being done by JC. The two Johns and Michael also used to meet up at the Hearing Dogs café on a Tuesday morning, and here he will also be sadly missed.

GAUGE O GUILD GAZETTE

John's own interest was small scenic layouts, mainly because he only had limited space at home. A shunting puzzle type layout but carefully presented so that you felt it was bigger. He used clever half relief buildings, often cut from photos and mounted just off the back scene to give a feeling of depth. He has an artist's eye for colour, and could turn a bridge or culvert, as exists on my layout, into a realistic item just with the deft application of a brush and a bit of paint.

The Gauge O Guild gazette published an article by him in May 2006 about his layout at the time called "South Pole". I've taken a few pictures from the article to show you what his layout building was like.

His interest was for the eastern side of the Southern, the South Eastern Railway in particular, as he was born in Chatham. He was very much a Southern man, but preferred the smaller engines – tankies, six coupled perhaps, usually scratch built but sometimes from kits. He was a fine builder of etched brass kits. He will be very much remembered for our shed fellas build of Pete Joels' D class loco. Pete had started the kit, getting pretty much a complete tender before having a stroke which rendered him unable to finish the loco. We decided to split the task between us. I built the loco chassis, JC the loco body, John Hipwell completed the tender, fixing many issues Pete had left us. Finally Tim painted and weathered it. The delight on Pete's face as he watched the D



running round my garden layout, made us all feel proud and that we'd done a good job. After doing that I mentioned to him that Pete also had 3 birdcage coach kits not yet started, and John said "I'll do them" as he really fancy building a coach and never got the chance for his layout as it just wasn't big enough for coaches. Even better from John's point of view, was that these 3 represented a complete set and were very common on pre grouping SR lines, which appealed to him. They are also now all complete.

His funeral took place on the 14th March. Some of his closest railway friends were unable to attend due to having caught Covid just before. It was clear that JC had more than just the abilities of a railway modeller. He was an active Morris dancer when he lived in Cheshire, playing the accordion as well. He was an excellent photographer, again showing the artist in him. He had a wicked sense of humour as evidenced by the picture here of himself in front of the La France loco. You'll see John looking out at you in the middle of the picture. Look carefully, however at all the people's faces! Wonderful tool, photoshop! Just imagine the time that must have taken.

We'll miss him a lot.

James, John, Tim, Michael, Bob and Pete.

Club refreshments

Tea and coffee are free. The cups at the church hall are a bit small so bring your own if you like large mugs of tea. We have a good selection of biscuits and sometimes chocolate biscuits all at 30p each.

Please make sure you wash up any mugs and spoons used and return them to the correct cupboard or drawer.

Building a T-Trak Module

T-Trak is a modular system with Kato Uni-track. A module is 308mm long with the track extending 1mm over each end giving a total length of 310mm. Connection of the modules is by the Uni-Track joiners so the small gap allows for slight errors in the board construction. Modules can also be built as multiples of 310mm.

The module I am building is for the WorldWide Group of the N Gauge Society annual convention in June. It is, of course, a Dutch scene, with windmills & tulips. The photo below shows the build so far, the tulips are still to sprout from the soil. The wind turbine is a Faller kit and powered by a small dc motor/gearbox unit which replaces the Faller AC motor. A battery box plugs into the back of the module.

Making the backscene for my T-Trak module.

I started off painting the backscene board a mid-blue and it stayed that way for some months. I decided to improve it and make a more detailed scene. I started by mixing a light blue and applying that to the board to get a graduated blue, lighter at the bottom of the sky. This was lightly sprayed with the remains of a can of satin varnish. Gloss may be better, but I did not have any.



I then set about finding suitable images from my own photos and those available online of windmills, trees, hedges, etc.

These images were then cropped, and the size adjusted to get what I wanted. I ended up with three windmills and a range of trees, hedges, and grass. These were then printed onto laser decal film. I use Sunnyscopa branded film that I bought from Amazon. I usually cut this down to A6 as I don't often need a full sheet, and this is the smallest size my printer will use. The decal film is also available for inkjet printers. The images were then printed onto the film to create water slide decals. These decals were soaked in water and applied to the backscene just like any waterslide decal you can buy commercially. When dry they were sprayed with matt varnish which makes the film disappear. The decal film is quite strong and allows you to position the decal with tweezers, brushes or fingers. The film is clear so works best when applied to a light background.

One of the advantages of using decal film is that cutting out is very simple. A paper tree would take quite some time to cut around all the branches.



Above: I am still waiting for the tulips to start growing. The textured soil is dried tea leaves.

Two of the buildings are slightly three dimensional, the largest of the windmills and the small wooden building. These were printed on normal white paper. For the windmill, I added a strip of 2mm card behind the centre of the printout. The left and right parts of the mill were then bent backwards. The sails are a

decal, and the paper mill is stuck in front of that.



The small wooden building behind the wind turbine (see photo to the right), is a little more complicated in the shape but is a paper printout stuck to card that has been shaped. The corner of the building where the two walls meet is the furthest forward and the two walls slope backwards. The roof also slopes back but at a different angle. The whole thing is about 2mm thick.



To finish off the backscene I have used some static grass strips and tufts to hide gaps, or any discontinuities in the lining up of the decals. I then painted the lower part of the board green just in case any of it can be seen although this is not really necessary. This backscene then fixes to the back of the module with two bolts.



Above: The area around the turbine. I made the decals for the pickup and painted the Preiser figures. The mill on the left is a decal, the one on the right is the 3D mill. The 3D wooden building is the one to the left of the turbine. You can also see the etched nickel silver reeds made by N-Detail. I painted these on the fret and then cut short lengths which are bent to give a more random effect. The other small trees and bushes are Woodland Scenics fine leaf foliage.

Paul

Aylesbury LNWR Update

We are continuing with our stock for Aylesbury LNWR. We now have a D16 10t brake van built by Mike Morley and D12 single bolster with dumb buffers built by John Ashby. Dumb buffered stock was being phased out in this period but a few wagons did still operate.





Above: D21 medium cattle wagon built from a donated kit by James.
Below: The second D16 brake van, again built from a donated kit by James.
Finished in a slightly lighter grey to give some variation in the colours of the stock.





Above: D13 timber wagon conversion from the Ratio D48. The wagon body and wheelbase have been shortened. The logs are hazel branches. Built by myself.

Still under construction we have 3 passenger coaches and the passenger full brake, an OCT, and a 6 wheeled goods brake van.

I am now making a list for the next batch of wagons we are going to build. This will include: horse boxes, LNWR vans, foreign company wagons and some additional coaching stock.

I now have the following white metal kits from 51L Models:

North Staffs D14 open goods wagon.

Furness Railway D12 open goods wagon.

NER G1 8T outside framed van. Decals required.

MR D351 open goods wagon.

The following are on order from Mousa Models:

LNWR D32 van.

LNWR D33 van.

LNWR D84 goods open wagon.

LNWR D90 coal wagon.

These are resin and etched kits. The 2 opens are 18' while the wagon already made are 15' or 15'6". I intend to get some more etched kits from London Road Models during April/May. If you are interested in making a model for Aylesbury LNWR let me know.

Paul



In Loving Memory
of



Harold William Tame

16th December 1942 - 30th December 2022

Harry joined us quite a few years ago now after retiring from a life on the railways. He was new to modelling but was always keen to have a go and made many wagon kits as well as a laser cut station. It was always interesting to hear his stories of his time as a fireman and then a driver.

Paul

Harry Tame

Harry passed away in December 2022. He had been a member for many years and learnt to make model kits for the first time at our club.

He was an active member of the Chinnor and Princes Risborough railway, being part of the Tuesday gang there. The latest edition of their magazine, the Watlington Flyer, carried a two-page spread all about his background in the “big railway”, driving steam and diesel engines until he retired in 2005. It was a lovely article mentioning, as we know, his flowery language and interesting stories. A real character.

His wish was that his models and associated items go to the club. I have taken pictures of his 4 locos, coaches and 30 wagons, which can be found in the members area under of the website “Club Models”, rdmrc.org.uk. Please have a look at these. He bequeathed the buildings which he built for his own layout, and lots of track. Much of the track is not suitable for us to keep, being either Peco Setrack points which have too tight a radius, or are Marcway points which do not have chairs. We have plenty of standard radius Peco points already so do not need these extra ones. I have been selling these via the Gauge O Guild sales channels and will continue to reduce our model stock.

The most recent Guild show netted us just under £700 for club funds.

James

Laser Cutting Materials

In stock we have:

0.5, 0.75, 1, 1.5 & 3.2mm white plastic (Rowmark) with some 1.5 & 3.2mm in black. Sheets are 1220 by 610mm.

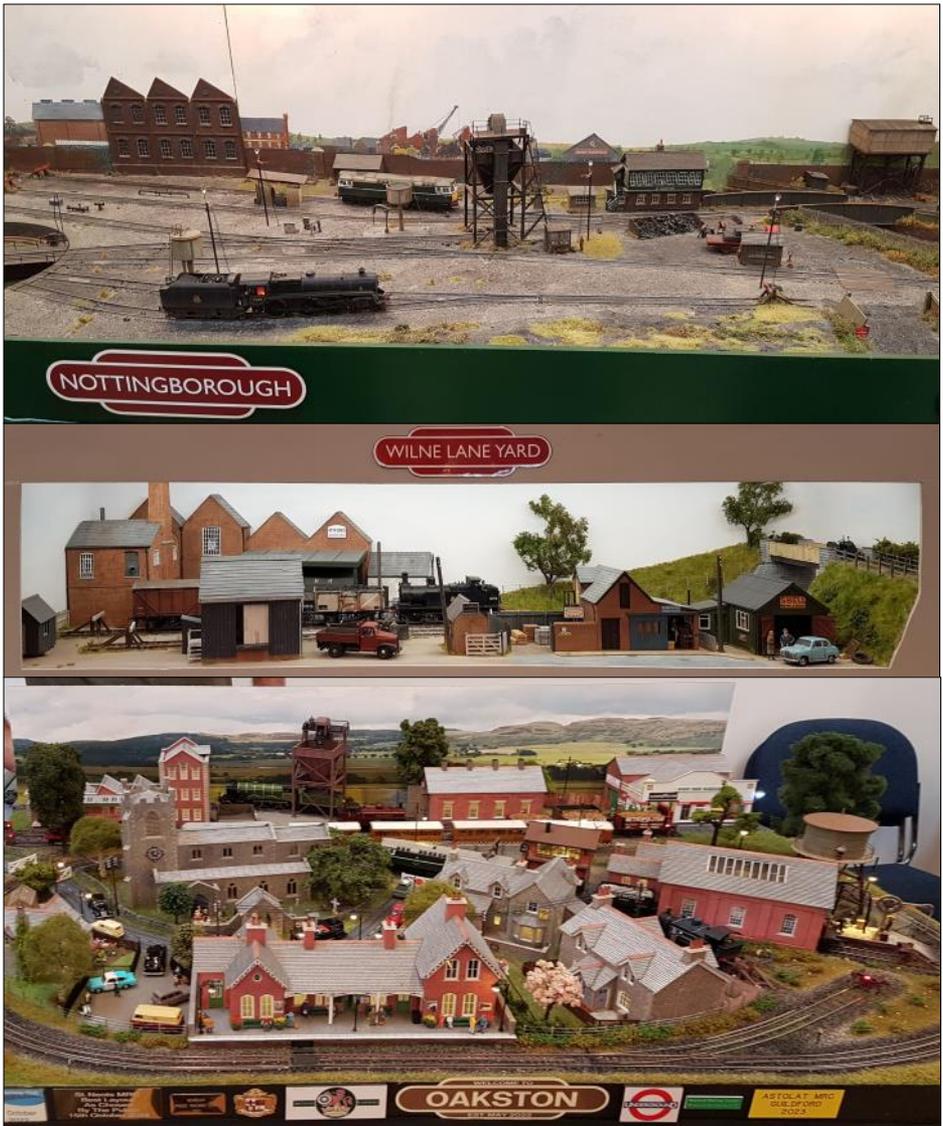
Clear acrylic in 0.5 & 1mm. Sheet sizes vary but some are 1000 by 1000mm.

MDF in: 1.5, 2, 3.2, 4 & 6mm, sheet sizes are 1220 by 600mm

The max. size the cutter takes is about 300 by 500mm. The larger sheets will be cut down to approx. A3 or A4 and we will calculate the prices.

Risex 2023

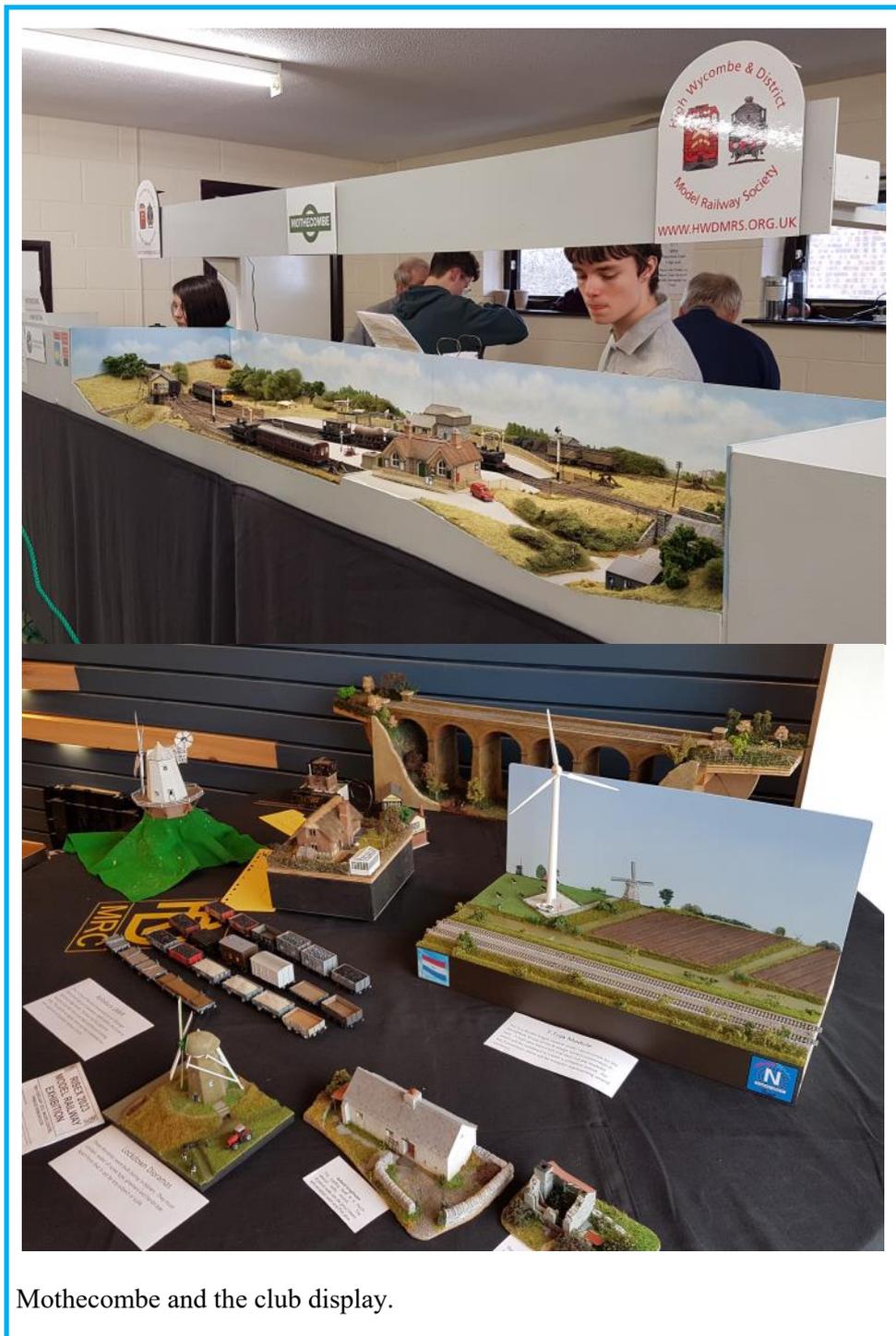
In case you missed the show, here are some photos:



Top to bottom: Nottingborough, Wilne Lane Yard and Oakston.



Inchyra Mill and the demo stand.



Mothecombe and the club display.



Above: Mellin Parva, Tamcester, Catesby Sidings
Opposite: Marlow and David's Dementia display.

Articles for Publication in Footplate

Articles can be on any subject including, model reviews or construction, places you have visited, your own layout etc, and should be sent at least 1 month before publication dates, i.e. beginning of March, June, September and December for publication in April, July, October and January. Plain text, no formatting, photos as high a resolution as possible.



Club Diary 2023

April	8-10	York, Knavesmire Stand York Racecourse YO23 1EX
	22	High Wycombe & Dist. MRS, Cressex Community Centre, 203 Cressex Road, High Wycombe HP12 4PZ
	28	Club Talk: "The Railways of British Malaya", presented by Patrick Smith
May	13-14	EM Gauge Society, Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 9SE
	13-14	N Gauge Society, National Railway Museum, Leeman Road, York YO26 4XJ
	27-28	Railex , Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Harvey Road, Aylesbury HP21 9PP
June	10	Marlow, Maidenhead & District M.R.C. Knowl Hill Village Hall, The Terrace, Knowl Hill, Reading RG10 9XB
	17	WorldWide Group of the NGS Convention, St Johns Church Hall, Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1JY
	24	Risborough Festival Club Openday
Sept	23	European Railways Association, The Austin Sports & Social Club, 30 Tessall Lane, Birmingham B31 2SE
	23	Tring & District Model Railway Club, Pitstone Memorial Hall, Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard LU7 9EY
	23-24	Scalefour Society, Cressex Community School, Holmer Lane, High Wycombe, HP12 4QA
	30	Haddenham Model Railway Show