



Risborough and District
Model Railway Club

Jul - Sept 2024 Summer

FOOTPLATE



Front cover: 1938 Stock at Acton LT Museum Open Day, photo by Gary.

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WELCOME

Our annual Wheeltapper competition was in March, organised by Rob and judged by Martin Goodall. Once again we had a great selection of models. This does show off the talent we have in the club as there were 11 categories and 7 different members won. Report on page 8.

In April we tried something new and had a Quiz Night with Fish and Chips. Thanks to Gary and his family for organising this and running the evening. It was a lot of fun, so maybe we will do this again. The trophy was won by a team from Chinnor.

May was Railex, a lot of work by Tim and the team but a very good show. We did have James Street drop out for medical reasons but we did get an extra layout. We lost 2 traders at the last minute but had ABS with us for the Saturday, so not too many obvious gaps. We were still in the bowls hall but

should be back in the sports hall next year. Saturday numbers were low while Sunday seemed quite good. Overall numbers were down a little but due to good planning the costs were lower so we made money on the door. Secondhand put in a great performance selling over £7k and making £2500 for club funds. Well done to everyone who helped before, during and after the show. We need to think about how to get more visitors to the show, especially if we are the larger hall.

Our new clubroom project has come up against another issue. The council's Heritage Dept are not happy with the look of the building but do not object to the size or location. There will be a delay while we resolve this.

I have booked a couple of Saturdays at the Church Hall. These are 3rd August and 19th October.

Paul

From the Internet

GCR Reunification update - April 2024 - new design revealed!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJ5LQfXUPoA>

Building a Windmill Diorama

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ed_0f3hxMQ

RAILEX 2024 - full show tour -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNj030tOLz8>

Stamford Model Railway Show 2024 - with Dawn Quest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6V6K6EX3Kv0>

Britain's Biggest Model Railway - Phase Two Is On Its Way!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43r0X3MKeZc>

Will it Move - First Attempt at Driving the Locomotive YOU Helped Save From Scrap!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AORiZzG5dbg>

Video # 87 - Gauge 1 Trains GTG Southeast England - Class 66 Diesel Locomotive Hauling 19 Coaches

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGLHXr2zD3A>

An Artificially Intelligent Backscene

When Mark Riddoch and I were planning our layout, Peter Hamble, we discussed at some length how to best use our artistic talents to produce a convincing backscene. After not very much debate we came to the conclusion that such artistic talents that we have were certainly not up to producing such an item.

Fortunately I had handy a graphic designer, called Ant, that I helped produce some 38 years ago. Clearly with artistic talents that came from the other side of the production team.

I explained what we were after and we spent a day producing a first pass of the backscene. The basic backscene was created using Artificial Intelligence, in particular a program called Midjourney. I found some paintings that were in the very general style we were looking for by an artist called Edwin Butler Bayliss. Some examples are shown.



Our layout is an industrial setting on a gloomy day towards the end of WWII. Midjourney was fed with the following text “1940s, distant skyline, black country industrial landscape, no people, no foreground, Edwin Butler Bayliss style, fog, red brick, moody”.

In a very much simplified explanation of the process, Midjourney produced four images. You select the two that are closest to what you want and it produces another four pictures of which you select two, and so on. This goes on a lot of times over several hours. At some point, which you choose based on

your experience, you start selecting areas of the pictures that you want, rather than whole images.

Further along still you give it an aspect ratio that suits what you want. Strangely Edwin Butler Bayliss painted very few pictures in the 8ft wide by 18” tall aspect ratio that our backscene needed so the AI did this for us. You can then further improve the resolution so that when blown up to full size it will not be pixelated.

This sounds very much more straightforward than it is. You do need some artistic expertise and some knowledge of how Midjourney is likely to react when you start making your selections. Even with all this Artificial Intelligence it still took a long day to produce some basic designs that we could consider.

I’ve included two of the six options we had. There is the basic backscene together with a view of superimposed digitally on a picture of the layout, complete with its mock up of buildings.



As you can see the AI produces a number of strange artefacts, smoke going different ways, smoke no longer actually coming out of a chimney and so on. In addition different backscenes worked better with our particular layout.

We chose the 2nd one shown as we felt it fitted our layout better but this still required more changes. These were made in the more “traditional” way - using photoshop! Ant added some trees and sorted out the artefacts and we had a final design we were happy with.

The final design is shown in its two halves. If you want to see the backscene on the layout then we will hopefully (for Roy’s benefit - definitely) have it ready for the Haddenham show.



We had been considering how best to get it printed, bearing in mind the main two panels were 4’ x 18”, plus some smaller ones at the ends. The initial idea was printing on Perspex, which seems a common enough technique. We could not have anything thicker than 2mm and this seemed a reasonable idea. In retrospect it could have worked for the main pieces but the ends have cut outs to access the fiddle yards, this would have been tricky in Perspex. In addition we use Tim Horn baseboards with the proscenium arch, so a cut out was needed at the top as well.

Courtesy of an offer from one of Ant’s contacts in the film industry ours were printed on vinyl and attached to a 2mm board. The vinyl was attached by the

printers. The advice is: Don't ever think you can do the vinyl yourself unless you really know what you are doing.

The cut outs were relatively straightforward with the board but it still needed some flexing to get in place given other fixed aspects of the ground level. All in all probably best we didn't go down the Perspex route.

A few words on the technology and costs. Obviously we had this very cheap but it was the best part of two days of a graphic designer's time. Ant is at the top end of that and with a level of experience that puts him out of reach for most jobs like this. But there are websites out there where you can put up your project and independent graphic designers will give you a quote. Maybe something between £250-£1000 but this is very much a finger in the air estimate and significantly affected by the complexity of what you are doing. Some fields and a few trees is likely to be at the cheap end, something very specific, or even an actual location, more expensive. A very rough estimate for the printing is in the region of £200-£300. Midjourney is a subscription application and plans start at £10/month but you would expect the graphic designer to have access to Midjourney or similar..

This isn't a technique for all, or even for many but it might be worth considering if you have a particular requirement and are looking for a particular atmosphere.

Finally my grateful thanks to Ant who did all the hard work.

Roger

Rubbish and Recycling

Recycling will be collected each club night, this includes card, plastic bottles and cans. Please leave it in the kitchen or the box/bag provided.

Please remember to put a black plastic bag in the dustbin before use and empty it when full. There is a black wheelie bin in the carpark. Please put bags in there when they are full. Spare bin bags are in the cleaning cupboard.

Wheeltapper Competition

This years Wheeltapper Competition saw a large number of excellent entries from many of the members. This years winner was Tim for his twin coach set and Tim also won the Jack Kine Trophy for his model of High Wycombe goods shed.



The full list of winners is:

Wheeltapper Trophy (categories 1 – 4 & 8 – 10):
Tim Peacock – Ex LNER Twinset D210

Category 1 (Steam Locomotives)
Mick Moignard – Quarry Hunslet ‘Alice’

Category 2 (Diesel/Electric Locomotives)
Mick Moignard – Rio Grande Southern ‘Goose’

Category 3 (Passenger/Non-Passenger Coaching Stock)
Tim Peacock – 4mm Ex LNER Twinset D210

Category 4 (Freight and Engineers Stock)
Roy Norton – 4mm ex SECR SR Departmental Tool / Mess Van

Category 5 The Robbie Robinson Award (Road vehicles, Boats etc.)
Steve Walker – Horse and Dray waiting to leave

Category 6 The Jack Kine Trophy (Scenic Models etc.)
Tim Peacock – High Wycombe Goods Shed (4mm)

Category 7 (Dioramas and Figurines)
Paul Wright – Windmills & Tulips

Category 8 The Derek Turner Trophy (Okehampton / Okement Quarry 7mm
Wagon Project)
No entries

Category 9 The Robin Lane Trophy (Aylesbury 4mm Model)
Gary Day – 4mm BR 16ton Mineral Wagon

Category 10 Aylesbury LNWR Wagons
Steve Walker – 4mm LNWR D90 Coal Wagon

Category 11 The Chairman’s Cup
John Compton – 4mm LNWR Coaches



The Robin Lane Memorial Trophy was won by Gary for his BR 16t mineral wagon. More details of this wagon are on page 19.



Steve won the Aylesbury LNWR wagon section with a Mousa Models 3D printed D90 coal wagon. Below is Steve's horse and cart which won the road vehicles category and the Robbie Robinson award.





Above: Tim's impressively large High Wycombe goods shed. Left: Tim is presented with the trophy.

Below: Paul's T-Trax (N scale) module, "Windmills & Tulips". This was built for the WorldWide Group of the NGS convention in 2023. The module kits are laser cut by Train Trax, the wind turbine is from Faller but with an N20 motor/gearbox instead of the Faller AC motor.





John (left) won the Chairman's Cup for his three LNWR coaches. These are London Road Models kits and form the main passenger train running between Aylesbury and Cheddington. John has some more coaching stock in progress.



Above: Mick's Quarry Hunslet "Alice" which is a Bachmann 009 model. It has been weathered and had a crew added. It is also fitted with DCC sound with the speaker in the left side coal bunker so that the footplate is left clear.

Below: Mick's Rio Grande Southern 'Goose' #6. The model is mostly scratchbuilt in brass with the cab, snow plough and trucks being donated from other brass models.





Above, Roy's 4mm ex SECR SR Departmental Tool / Mess Van. The model is made from an etched brass Branchlines kit. The prototype was converted by the SR from SECR (ex LCDR) passenger "Birdcage" vans and used as stores, tool and mess vans for departmental use. The original vehicles were built in the 1880s and converted by the SR in the late 1920s/1930s.

Paul

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.

Aylesbury LNWR Update

Wagon construction continues. Here are the completed wagons.



Above: LNWR D466 OCT by Roy. A PC models kit donated by Bob Williams from his bits box.



Above: PO wagon converted from a Dapol wagon. This was an easy conversion by swapping the wheels as the brakes are in the correct position. The fake coal load was reduced in height and a more realistic coal added over the top. The sole bar was repainted from black and a light wash applied to dirty it a little.

The engineers brake van is a modified London Road Models kit. The body is cast resin and is very well produced. The underframe detail is etched and sprung. The roof is plastic card and side lights are cast brass and were a little fiddly to assemble. To convert it into the engineers brake the end of the wagon

needs to be cut away. This seems to have been done on most of the engineers vans but I do have a photo of a 4 wheel D16 which still has a full end. The ends are red on engineers brakes to make them more visible when working on the line.



The only thing left to do is add the centre tail lamp (which is not in the kit) just behind the small hole in the end of the van. A suitable lamp is available from ModelU. This was a very nice kit to build and easy to convert being a resin body.

In progress we have 3 horse boxes and a couple of picnic saloons, 2 LNWR opens and some PO wagons.

I have some wagon kits in etched brass, plastic and white metal if anyone would like to build a wagon for Aylesbury LNWR.

Paul

Club refreshments

Tea, coffee & squash are free. Canned drinks will be in the fridge. The cups at the church hall are a bit small so bring your own if you like large mugs of tea.

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

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.

P4 BR 16 TON MINERAL WAGON

Previously, I had constructed a couple of Ratio wagon and coach kits, but this is my first real undertaking in constructing a brass wagon chassis. The body of this model is from Airfix and according to the 75p price on the box is about 40 years old and has sat in my UFO pile for as long as I can remember.

The chassis is a Rumney kit. The etchings from the kit are excellent, and the accompanying instructions are well detailed. I would strongly recommend Rumney kits to both novice and experienced modellers alike. The brass kit however, does not come with all the parts required. The wheels I had spare, the couplings are part scratch built part Rumney. The buffers are sprung and from Accurascale, and again, these are excellent. Finally, the axle boxes and springs were supplied separately from Rumney Models. The only other materials required are 0.3 and 0.8mm brass rod.

Fortunately, each part of the kit is carefully numbered and referenced in the instructions. However, I must admit that I found the construction very challenging, particularly the fine elements of the brake gear. Despite some choice words and some scrabbling about on the floor to locate errant parts, the kit eventually came together nicely. I do confess to cocking up one of the brake levers and guide, but Tim Peacock came to the rescue with a spare which was duly fitted (many thanks!).



Above: Completed model prior to painting and weathering.

The body was a far easier endeavour consisting of only four sides and a floor. All that was required was a bit of filing to remove some flashing and fitting two 0.3mm grab handles on the drop side end. "Liquid Lead" was finally added to the body shell to bring the weight up to 50g.

I sprayed the entire model with Halfords grey primer. The chassis was then sprayed with Humbrol enamel dark grey. Prior to painting the body with Lifecolour rail grey, I brushed on some random rust effects using Light and Dark Rust-it! Once this was dry, I covered the rust areas with Humbrol Maskol and then preceded with the rail grey top coat. Once the top coat was dry, I carefully picked off the Maskol with a tooth pick to reveal the rust areas below. I did receive a comment regarding the rust, as to why was I painting my wagon orange but this was toned down once a weathering spray of Humbrol Dark Grey and Leather was applied.

The transfers were the original Airfix ones and considering their age, went on very well. Finally, a real coal load was added and fixed in place with Deluxe Super Phatic glue. This unfortunately brought the weight up to 75g, 25g more than I had planned!

Overall, this was a challenging but satisfying kit build. However, considering the Accurascale models which are now on the market, it is probably not one that I would repeat.



Above: (courtesy of Paul Wright): Finished model at Wheeltapper.

Gary

Uppingham (LNWR)

Rutland's only passenger branch terminus

The Model Railway Club (1910) London will be hosting a Talk entitled 'Uppingham (LNWR) - Rutland's only passenger branch terminus: the first 130 years' on October 10th 2024 at 19.30. The Talk will be delivered live to an audience at Keen House, and will be available live on Zoom, and as a recording for later viewing (registration open from October 1st - visit <https://www.themodelrailwayclub.org/contact/> and follow the links to Autumn Talks).

Part one of the Talk - 'The Prototype: 1894-1964' – traces the history of the railway station at Uppingham - in Rutland, England's smallest county. It was the terminus of the LNWR branch from Seaton Junction on their Rugby to Peterborough/Stamford line, having served the Town and School of Uppingham, and Uppingham's own Iron-ore mine, over its 70 years of operation.



Part two - 'Uppingham' in miniature – tells the story of the Leicester Model Railway Group's EM Gauge Pre-Grouping layout of 'Uppingham', (entirely kit and scratch-built), from its inception in the 1970s, through its years of life in the care of Peter Simmerson, to its 'retirement' and 'homecoming' to Uppingham School in 2024, and its future prospects of again being on display to the public. Reference will also be made to Martin Olley's 3mm layout of 'Uppingham'.



Lecture Title: 'Uppingham (LNWR) - Rutland's only passenger branch terminus: the first 130 years'

Presented by Andrew David

Date: 10/10/24

Time: 19.30-21.30

Location: The Model Railway Club (1910)

Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London, N1 9DA.

(The Lecture will be delivered live to an audience at Keen House)

For access live via Zoom - please register from October 1st at:

<https://www.themodelrailwayclub.org> and follow the links to Autumn Talks. A recording will also be available for later viewing.

Donations: Individual voluntary donations to The Model Railway Club to cover the costs of the Talk gratefully received.

Army Painter Primers

The Army Painter is a Danish company that provide a large range of paints for military modelers. One of the best things is the range of 30 coloured primers, see www.thearmypainter.com for the full range. There are a few shops that stock them but they are also available from Amazon.

So far I have used the Uniform Grey which is useful for wagon grey and is a little darker than Halfords grey and the Daemonic Yellow which I needed for a PO wagon. This primer covers better than the Coat D'Arms yellow acrylic I tried over Halfords primer. Yellow and red generally seem to be more transparent than most of the other acrylic colours. The Army Painter describe these paints as a primer and base coat in one. They work and give a wide range of base colours.



You do need to take care not to put too heavy a coat on as it will fill detail but this also applies to the Halfords primer. The Tamiya primer does not seem as bad for this.

Paul

Club Diary 2024

Jul	12	Test Track
	13	R&DMRC Openday for the Risborough Festival.
	20-21	Chatham & District Model Railway Club, Slip 5, Main Gate Road, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham ME4 4TZ
Aug	3	Tree making workshop
	3	Modelling Day
	23	Test Track
	31	Abingdon & District Model Railway Club, Didcot Civic,Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7HN. Mellin Parva will be attending.
Sep	7-8	Guildex 2024, Bingley Hall on Stafford County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD.
	21-22	Scalefour Society, Cressex Community School, Holmer Lane, High Wycombe, HP12 4QA.
	28	Risborough & District Model Railway Club, Haddenham Village Hall, Banks Road, Haddenham, Aylesbury, HP17 8EE.
Oct	4	Test Track
	5-6	Fareham & District Model Railway Club, Fareham Leisure Centre, Park Lane, Fareham, PO16 7JU.
	10	The Model Railway Club Talk ‘Uppingham (LNWR) - Rutland’s only passenger branch terminus: the first 130 years’ at 19.30. Presented by Andrew David.
	12-13	Warley Model Railway Club, Statfold Barn Farm, Ashby Road, Tamworth, B79 0BU.
	19	Modelling Day
	25-27	79th NMRA British Region Convention 2024, CMI Business Centre Cookham, Berkshire.