



Risborough and District
Model Railway Club

Oct - Dec 2024 Autumn

FOOTPLATE



Who's who!

President	Rob Thompson robm.thompson@btinternet.com
Chairman & Footplate Editor	Paul Wright 07484 718477 rdmrc@btinternet.com
Secretary & Haddenham Manager	Roy Norton royrdmrc@gmail.com
Treasurer	James Aitken jag_aitken@hotmail.co.uk
Members Reps.	Mick Moignard Richard Neil Tim Peacock Gary Day
Publicity and Social Manager	Gary Day garyday@2dayrail.co.uk
Railex Manager	Tim Peacock schoonertim@gmail.com
Risex Manager	Vacant
Haddenham Manager	Roy Norton royrdmrc@gmail.com
Webmasters	James Aitken / Mick Moignard jag_aitken@hotmail.co.uk mick@mickmoignard.com

WELCOME

Over the past couple of months Mick has been running a series of DCC workshops which are being well attended as many have repeat sessions. I also reran the "Intro to tree making" workshop, again well attended and a repeat session will be scheduled for those that could not make it. This was held on the same day as a general modelling Saturday. The hall was split into 2 with the movable partition and this worked well.

July was the annual Risborough Festival and this year we had a half day at the end of the Festival. We had a lot of visitors and were able to show off the club projects. Well done to everyone involved.

Haddenham is at the end of September so just misses out in this edition of Footplate.

We have fliers for our exhibitions and it is very important that these are distributed to exhibitions especially those that are local or in the case of Railex are aimed at the finescale modeller.

We are still in discussion with QRS about moving the club to Quainton. We had a EGM at QRS and over 40 of us squeezed into the Oxford room. All these present had a tour of the Brixton building which might be our future home. At present QRS are in discussion with the owners about the refurbishment. We had discussions with QRA about what we wanted, basically an open plan room with toilets and a small kitchen area. We are now waiting to see what the owners will fund.

Paul

From the Internet

David Clarke's Amazing 1930s GWR Model Railway, 38ft,16ft 6in
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sxxDlfhTmA>

Man builds full size railway in his back garden .
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVupYn2FCL4>

HO Scale flood loader with automatic car filling with live loads
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5yUU51c68E>

This Tiny Engine Growls like a Beast (assembly & test run)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5hZstgliRY>

Corris Railway Gala 2024 - Part 1
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6IMk2ku4_U

Railways at Work Gala 2024 | Great Central Railway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-pNp-m33to>

Rhätische Bahn - Güterverkehr auf der Arosa Bahn mit Ge 4/4 II
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsqs25cjRXHc>

Front cover: Leeds City Transport No. 180, built 1931, photo by Roy.

Crich Tramway Village

On the way home from a short break to the Yorkshire coast recently we called in at the Tramway Village at Crich in Derbyshire. It was my first visit to what is billed as the national tram museum. It's housed in a disused quarry and a period (early 19th century) village has been created using buildings rescued from demolition from towns and cities across the country. There's a reasonable length of tram track, an exhibition hall, tram sheds and viewing area for the workshop plus cafe, picnic areas etc. There are over 80 trams mostly from the UK but also some from the US and Europe. Worth a visit if you are in the area <https://www.tramway.co.uk/> Here are some photos:-



Above: Blackpool Corporation No. 236 built in 1934. This is an Electric single deck modernised 'toast-rack' tram.



Above: Liverpool Corporation No. 869 built in 1936.



Above: Leeds City Transport No. 399 built in 1925.



Above: Oporto Tramways No. 273 built in 1928.

Roy

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.

Low cost building lighting.

I have created a number of building interiors but had not fitted any lights as the windows were fairly large and it was easy to see in. The bicycle workshop I had just completed had an interior but it was too dark to see. This had to have a light.

I therefore bought some cheap LED lights from eBay and there are exactly what you would expect. Simple moulded black plastic with a single LED, but they are supplied with resistors. They are not good enough to be visible but they can be used hidden inside buildings. The LED did stick down just below the plastic moulding, so a small piece of plastic tube was stuck on to extend the cover over the LED. This plastic moulding makes it easier to stop the light getting to the wrong place.

I created the light fitting by drilling a small hole in the top of the interior unit and then filling it with Micro Kristal Klear, which is a PVA based adhesive that will dry totally clear. Mod-Podge will also work. This then forms a dome on



the underside of the ceiling. The top is then painted black to help prevent light bleed. The LED light unit is then attached above this, so the light shines down through the clear dome which helps to disperse the light.

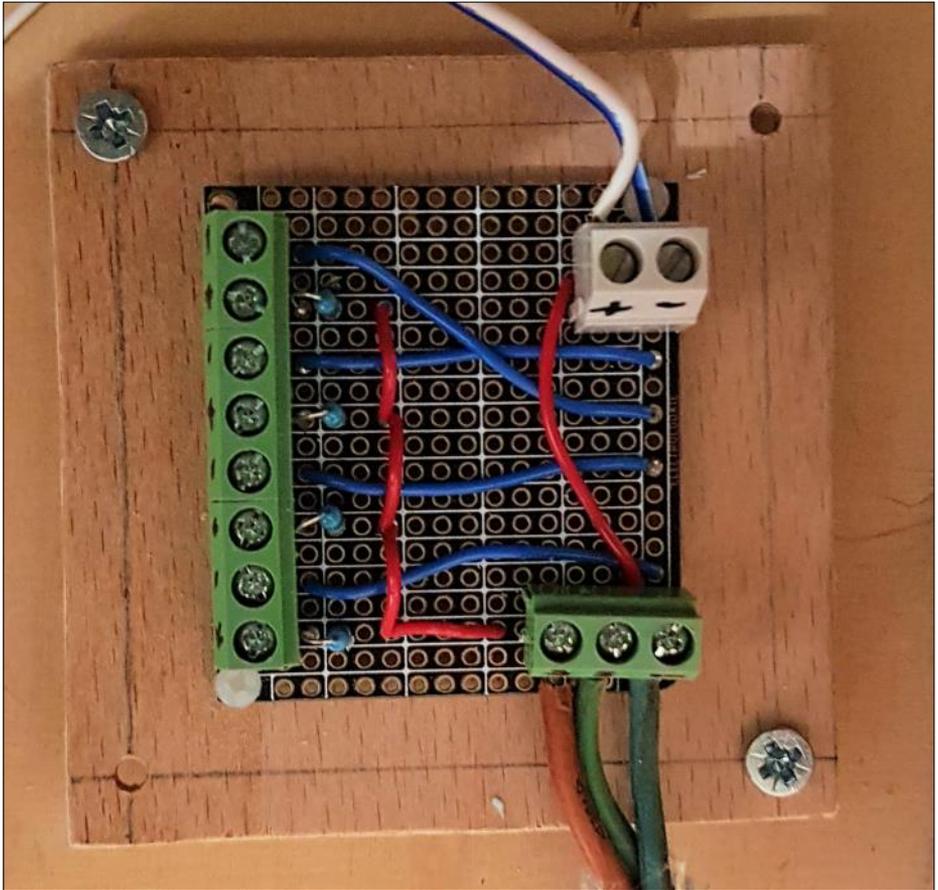


Above: the bicycle repair shop with the light off and on.
Below: a closer view.



The other buildings I have now installed lights into are a grocers and a bakers. In this case I cut a rectangular hole in the top of the interior unit and again filled it with Micro Krystal Klear to make flush fluorescent fittings. The LEDs were again stuck over the top with superglue.

All the lights are connected to a single switch to keep it simple. I made a small circuit board so everything can be attached with screw terminals. Power is attached top right and the switch lower right. There are 3 wires as the switch is illuminated. There are then 4 sets of terminals on the left to attach lights.



You could have DCC individually switched lights using a DCC Concepts Mimic board or light effects using a NCE Light-it board. I have kept it simple!

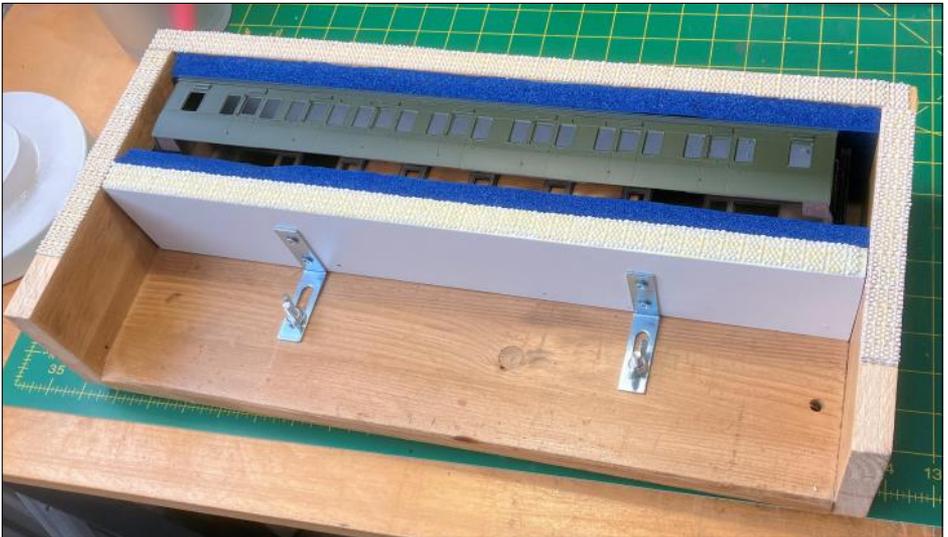
Paul

Lining John Hipwell's Southern region coaches.

John gave me this coach ready painted in SR satin green, ready for the lining and window frame paint to be applied.

Degreasing prior to lining:

I took a small quantity of water in a plastic tub, and added one drop of Fairy liquid, mixed it up fully. I prepared a similar quantity of plain water, to use as a rinsing agent. Using a fairly stiff brush, I scrubbed the detergent mixture over one panel of the side, down to where the lower cartouche ends. I sopped off this detergent with a small piece of clean absorbent tissue (Blitz, so as not to leave any particles of paper). Using a different soft brush, I rinsed off the remaining detergent mixture, and again sopped off the remnants of rinsing water using absorbent paper. Using the airbrush, I blasted the region with plain air, to ensure absolutely all the water was removed. I continued along the coach side, repeating all the above for each panel.



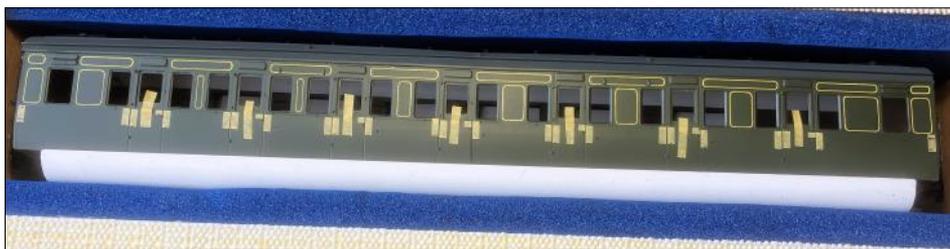
I made an adjustable cradle out of scrap wood, lined with soft rubber panels to protect the model (cut from my wife's Pilates mat - with her permission!) and anti-slip strips across the top to prevent slippage of the straight edges I used for lining. (Above Photo)

Lining :

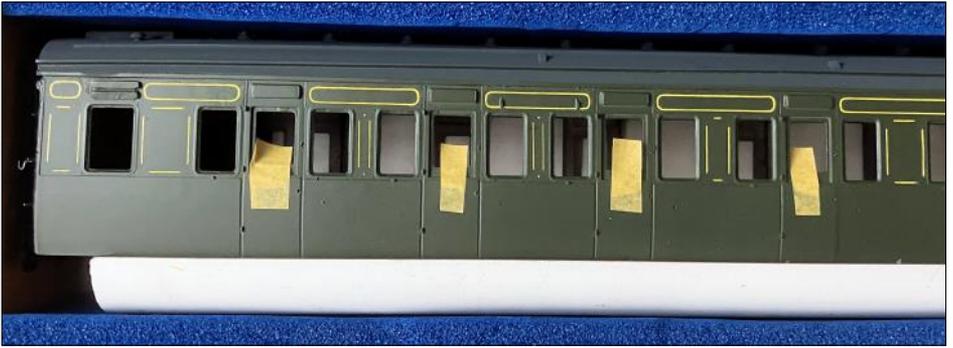
I stuck some thin Tamiya masking tape (6mm) onto a clean glass plate, making sure it was straight. I marked the centre, producing 2 off 3mm wide strips, which I cut using a sharp scalpel. I then cut this transversally into lengths, each longer than the height of the cartouche. (Below).



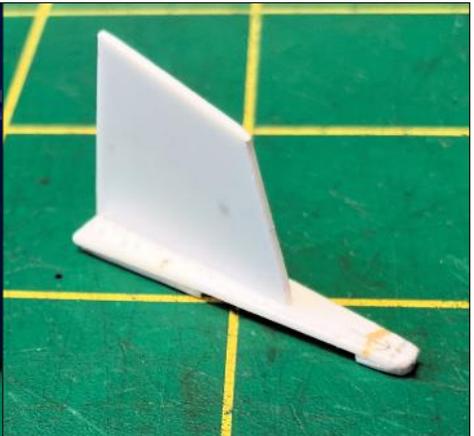
I positioned 2 of these strips for each of the top & bottom cartouches to draw the horizontal lines, butting against the edge of the coach panels I marked on these strips the distance from the top edge of the panel to the horizontal lines (1mm &, for the bottom cartouches, 6mm) to get the vertical position of the horizontal lines. As a check, the bottom line of the bottom cartouche is below and butts up against the bottom edge of the commode handle fixing plates. (Below).



I drew the lines using the Haff pen, set to 4.75, using metal straight edges & Humbrol Gloss Yellow #69. I then removed the strips. I cleaned up the edges (& particularly the ends) of these lines using a 00 brush, dampened with fresh clean white spirit. I then repeated the whole process for the verticals. (Next page).



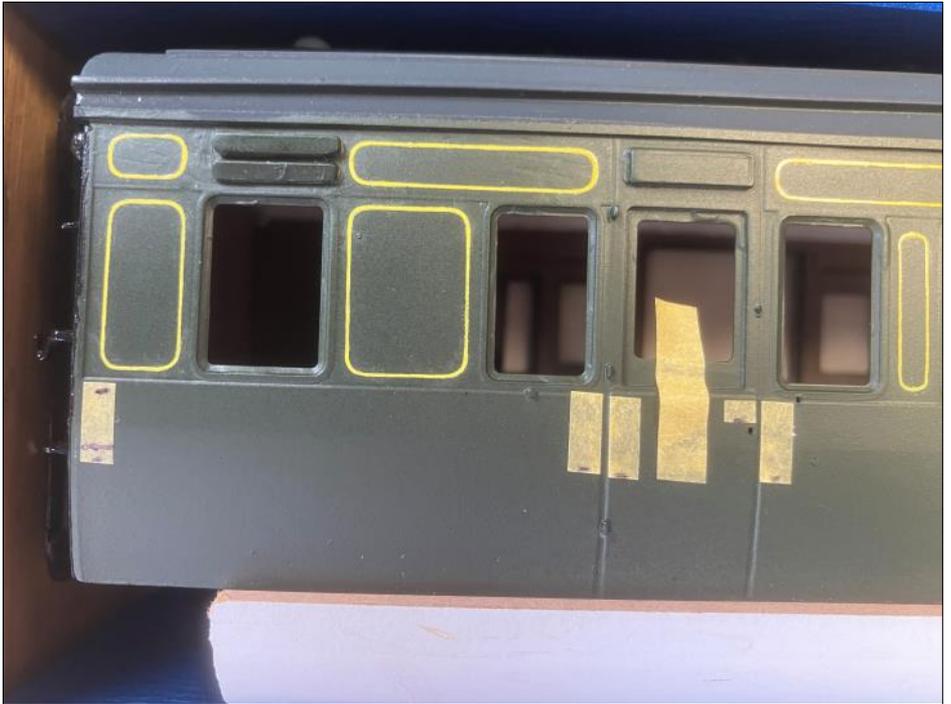
I tried numerous methods, on scrap, of drawing the curved ends of the cartouches; a conventional bowpen compass, a drop compass (I made a guide to hold the point (Below left) but none of them worked, so in the end my solution was to make, from scrap sheet brass, a 2mm radius outer template for the corner curves. (Below right). Using this template I dotted in the curves with a

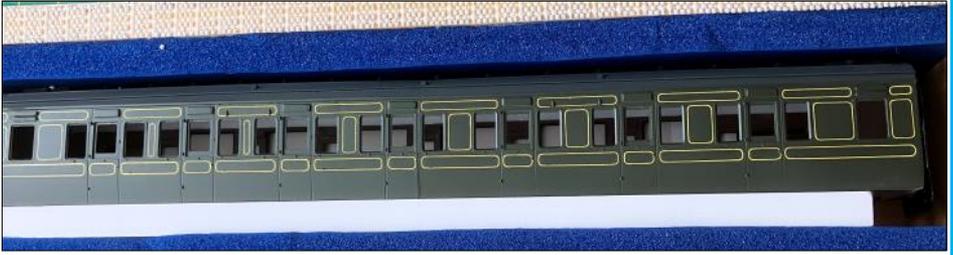


00 brush, with a minuscule amount of paint, then filled in the dots with slightly more paint on the brush. I then cleaned up the edges of these curves using the damp brush technique. I then checked & rechecked the lining, repeating the above brush work until I was happy. (Photo next page).



For the middle cartouches, which are deeper, I put on 4 strips per cartouche, so as to not waste lots of Tamiya masking tape. Here it is with the horizontals lined in and with the Verticals masked up. A lengthy job... (Photo#8)





Here is the job nearly finished (Above).

I painted the window frames & droplights with Phoenix P996 Weathered Teak (Matt), having first got John's OK to use this colour. 2 coats, because it is pretty thin. Here is the final result : (Below).



John C

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.

Aylesbury LNWR Update

Aylesbury LNWR stock continues to be completed. Here is a horse box built by John Compton from a London Road Models (ex D&S etched kit)



I have also completed a LRM 6 wheel brake van but modified to be an Engineers brake van. These have the upper end planking removed and red ends. This will run with the rail and ballast wagons.





We have another 10 or so wagons in progress including LNWR opens, PO opens, picnic saloons and horse boxes. Buildings also need attention , see below.





Above: the first set of buildings refurbished. They were first cleaned and then the paintwork touched up where required. The sign over the bicycle shop was rebuilt as it had been badly damaged. The fish shop does not have a window and there is no sign it ever had one. The fish on the counter are too close to the front to fit the window.

Aylesbury LNWR will be displayed in the coach we are currently using in the Museum. We are moving as much stuff as possible to a PalVan also within the museum to clear space. The supporting framework needs to be rebuilt due to the benchwork under the layout. Once assembled there are a few buildings and fences to repair and some trackwork we need to fix. Everything will need cleaning. This work is progressing well and the layout is starting to come together.

Paul

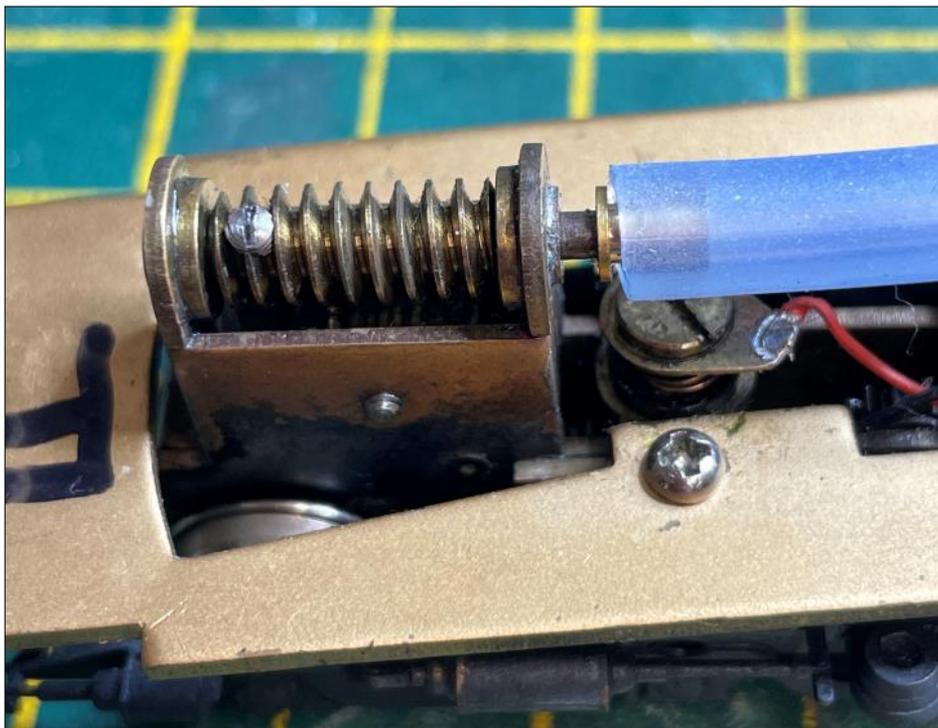
Don't throw anything away.

One recent Friday, in the pub after the club meeting, someone mentioned my modelling/railway room. I will admit it does have quite a lot of stuff in it, and it was suggested that I really need to clean it all out. I demurred, on the basis that most of what's in there brings me joy (the dust is the #1 item that doesn't) and that most of it is useful, and also that I do know pretty much where everything is, at least everything useful.



The day following, I had the perfect example of why a modeller should never throw anything away that could have the slightest future use. I was working on a model of the White Pass and Yukon's #108 Alco DL535 diesel, which I'd acquired in, let's say, well used, condition at the NMRA Winter Meet at Stokenchurch. This is a brass model made in Japan back in 1983 or so, and which appears to have pulled quite a few trains since judging by the worn state of the wheels. I'd done some renovation work on the cosmetics which had come out OK, but it ran very noisily. This is not good by modern standards and not a great start for a DCC & Sound project. I determined

that the issue was in the primary driveline between the motor and the trucks, which used hard - rattly - plastic tube to connect pronged balls on the motor and the trucks as a type of jointed cardan shaft. I figured that replacing these with lengths of neoprene tube would work well. The problem then being that while I had plenty of neoprene tube with a 2.3mm or so bore, the motor and truck shafts were 2mm diameter. I knew I had some 2.0/2.4mm brass tube, and indeed knew exactly where it lives, but wondered if there might be an alternative before cutting off lengths of it. And indeed, there was, in my motors box. Some old Graham Farish N-gauge brass motor brush holders, removed



from customer models during DCC installs and kept because they might come in useful. 2.0mm ID, 2.4mm OD. Perfect, as you can see in the photo. The loco now runs mechanically almost silently.

Moral: don't throw anything away if it could possibly come in useful. That includes you, James!

Mick Moignard MMR.

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.

Railex 2024

Here are a few photos from Ric to remind you of this excellent event.



Above: Mostyn
Below: Paul Bambrick's diorama



Above: Pottendorf



Above: Exchange Sidings
Below: Lightermans Yard



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.

Mellin Parva at Didcot

At the end of August, Rob and I took Mellin Parva to the Abingdon Club's small show at Didcot. There was a good selection of smallish layouts at least half of which were narrow gauge. Trade was all second hand so a bit disappointing. Catering was good with bacon rolls for breakfast, although there was a small communication issue between the organisers and catering as they were not ready at the advertised time.



The layout ran well as Rob has spent some time checking and fixing things. We did need to resolder one wire but that was all the repairs needed during the day. The uncouplers are also working, it turns out they are fed from a controller which needs to be turned up. The cable for the building lights had been modified so all the lights are now on and we had overhead lights as well.

I hope we will get more invites as this is the only exhibitable club layout at the present time. It was a good opportunity to talk to people about our club, our shows and to give out lots of fliers.



Paul

Making Trees

Following the club's tree making workshop I have been making more trees and experimenting with more materials.



This first tree is a pollarded common willow. The main trunk is made from Oasis, a foam material used by florists. This is covered with acrylic filler (gesso) and painted with black, grey, green and yellow acrylic paint all on a thin cardboard base.

The upper branches are florists wire with foliage mat and light green leaf scatter.

The second example is a dead tree covered in ivy. This is made from a twig from a dead box bush I had in the garden. The other materials are: dark green scenic clumps scatter, dried tea leaves (also useful for ground cover), small pieces of lichen for ivy branches and of course PVA glue.



The dead twig was soaked in organic glycerine and water (1 part to 2 parts) as a preservative. The cut end of the branch was steeped in the mixture for a few days. The twig soaks up the glycerine mixture and becomes much more pliable



It was finished off with green (light and dark) and grey acrylic paint.

The third tree is an ornamental fir. It is constructed from dead flower heads from a liquorice plant. Again soaked in the glycerine and water preservative. It is finished with dark or mid green scatter material with cheap hairspray as glue and Windsor and Newton spray fixative to keep it all in place

John A

Club Diary 2024

- 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.

Nov 9 High Wycombe & Dist. Model Railway Society,
Cressex Community Centre, 203 Cressex Road, High
Wycombe, HP12 4PZ.

15 **Test Track**

2025

Jan 11 Marlow, Maidenhead & District Model Railway Club
Cox Green Community Centre, 51 High Field Lane,
Maidenhead SL6 3AX.

Feb 22 **Risex, Wades Centre, Princes Risborough.**

Mar 1 Swindon Model Railway Club, STEAM - Museum of the
Great Western Railway, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon
SN2 2EY

1-2 Abingdon & District Model Railway Club, Abingdon &
Witney College, Wootton Road, Abingdon OX14 1GG

Apr 12 De Havilland Model Railway Society, Methodist Church,
Ludwick Way, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3PN

19-21 York Model Railway Show