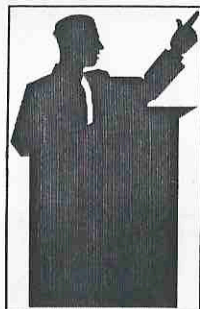


WANTED

Volunteers for Pendon Museum



Do you have some spare time at weekends?

Do you want to drive trains over Dartmoor?

**Do you want to be part of possibly the biggest
4mm modelling challenge in the country?**

If so, come and help us out at Pendon Museum

REWARD

Keeping Roye England's dream alive

**Enabling the Museum to continue to present
4mm modelling at its best**

**Talking to people from all over the world
about model railways**

INTERESTED? CONTACT ERIC BOWMAN

Milton Keynes Model Railway Society

News ...

No.74

May 1998



The MKMRS is a member of The Chiltern Model Railway Association,
The Model Railway Club and The World War II Railway Study Group.

Published by John Dibben
on behalf of The Milton Keynes Model Railway Society.

Message from the Secretary

I need to bring to everyone's attention again the Data Protection Act.

In order to comply with the Act, to maintain data relating to persons - whether on computer or just a written list, a Body should register with the Data Protection Registrar at a cost of £75 renewable every three years.

There are however certain exemptions to cover Club Registers such as ours:

1. We are an unincorporated club or association,
2. every member has been positively asked if they have any objection to the data held, and
3. members are aware of the uses to which the data is put.

It is some years since I sought the members' agreement at a previous AGM, and as it is not very often that I get the opportunity to speak to every member individually, I intend, through this message which will be circulated to every member, to make the following statement:

1. Data is held on my personal computer at home for the use purely as a club membership list.

2. The data held is as follows:

Membership number
Name
Address
Post code
Telephone No.
XD if appropriate.

3. A hard copy of this list is issued to members of the Committee.
4. A list, without telephone numbers, is issued to Ken Wiggins as newsletter distributor.
5. A list of names without address or telephone numbers is held by the Park.
6. This information is not made available to the general public and is not used for any commercial purpose.

I seek everyone's approval to maintain and upgrade this list in accordance with the foregoing.

If any member wishes their names or other details to be removed from the database, please telephone me on 605417, or speak to me at the Club.

Chris Hughes

THE E.M.GAUGE SOCIETY PRESENTS ITS . . .

expoEM'98

PROGRAMME OF FINE SCALE RAILWAY MODELLING IN 4MM SCALE

LAYOUTS - DEMONSTRATIONS - LECTURES - MANUFACTURERS' TRADE STANDS

SATURDAY 16th MAY 1998

10.30am to 6pm

SUNDAY 17th MAY 1998

10.30am to 5pm

THE LEISURE CENTRE PRINCES WAY - BLETCHLEY - MILTON KEYNES

Who needs reminding that it is expoEM time again? Get these dates in your diary now. This two day event is one of three expoEM presentations by the Society in 1998. The next being:

**expoEM North'98 - 19th and 20th September 1998
at The Colne Valley Leisure Centre,
Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire**

This is expoEM where there are no 'crush barriers'. It is where you can talk to the specialist manufacturers and where you can discuss with the layout owners any facet of modelling you wish, and even have a go yourself.

If you would like a map giving directions to either of the expoEM events shown here, please send your request to Doug Fairhurst, 4 Meadway, Freezywater, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 6NU

ALL VISITORS WILL RECEIVE A PLAN OF THE HALL ON THE DAY

Further details of the Society :

Mike Bell (Membership Secretary) 200A Prospect Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 7NG
Colin Wilson (Secretary) 45 Hillside Avenue, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 8PH



By train :

The Centre is a short walk from BLETCHLEY station

By car :

Use exit 14 of the M1 if travelling from the North
Use exit 13 of the M1 if travelling from the South

**Admission £4
(2 day ticket*)
EMGS Members £3**

(* This is a single price "Weekend" ticket and accompanied children are admitted free. However, as this is a specialist show we leave it to your discretion whether you bring very young children as this may spoil your appreciation of the models, demonstrations and lectures available throughout the weekend.

EVEN MORE ABOUT "MUCKLEBOROUGH"

The "Muckleborough Collection" is the largest privately owned working military collection, under cover in Britain. It has 16 tanks in working order, a unique collection of 54 model ships, 120 vehicles, guns and missiles and 600 models of military vehicles and aircraft from WWI and WWII. Admission: Adult £4, Sen. cit./HM Forces £3, Children £2, Family £10.50.

It is situated on the site of a military camp and stands in 300 acres on the North Norfolk coast at Weybourne. There are 10 sections in the main hall plus a restaurant and outside display areas and the Gama Goat Ride Area. The 10 under cover sections are as follows:

- THE YEOMANRY HALL is dedicated to the history of the Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry.
- THE ARTILLERY HALL is the home of the Heavy Artillery exhibits and displays of some fine model aircraft.
- THE HENRY DAWSON HALL is named after a well known local residents and features a collection of tanks.
- THE CENTRAL HALL contains a fine display of armoured cars and troop carriers.
- THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT HALL displays some examples of ground to air guns which are still in use today.
- MARITIME MODELS Over 50 models on display, the bulk of which are to the same scale 1 to 96.
- THE DIORAMA ROOM 8 dioramas, including a World War II trench, The "Tailor's Shop" (a collection of military uniforms), "Battle of Britain" (The instrument panel of a "Spitfire" situated within a collection of World War II equipment), Personal collection of Sir Dennis Cromby-Milling KBE, CB, DFC, AE., Gulf War August 1990, Gulf War items, Gulf War scene and A Ships Radio Room.
- THE WEYBOURNE ROOM traces the history of Weybourne Camp from its earliest record in 1588. The central model diorama portrays part of the original camp during World War II with some of the vehicles and tanks of the Collection today in attendance.

THE EXTERIOR EXHIBITS include an ACK-ACK Gun, Bloodhound missile, Churchill tank, V1 flying bomb, "Doodlebug" and an RAF Meteor jet aircraft on loan from the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

THE MUCKLEBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

It has its own special call sign, GB2MC, and operates from a Commer radio lorry. A similar truck houses a collection of wartime radio sets, most of which are operational.

GAMA GOAT (AN ARTICULATED PERSONNEL CARRIER) RIDES are available and there are tank displays on a training area.

MILTON KEYNES MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY - Founded 1969

Communication

Today, the public are influenced by the media in a way I have never seen before. I am fascinated how the public can be persuaded to buy products they don't need and hold firm opinions on subjects they know little about. The young in particular are heavily influenced.

What has this to do with the MKMRS? Everything. What child at school is going to admit to "trainspotting" or even consider it? Many of us started as "trainspotters", I did. Even being a railway enthusiast would be considered "sad".

The label "sad" is given to people who do not conform, though to what and laid down by who I do not know and I suspect they don't either! The effect of this has been a drop in public interest in minority hobbies such as ours, exhibitions being increasingly for "specific interest" groups, fragmenting the hobby.

Our hobby, and *all* craft modelling, including "buses", is *probably* one of the most inoffensive, harmless, skilful, educational and rewarding imaginable. Visitors who see our efforts are impressed and leave enlightened. The Bletchley Park Museum has done much recently to raise its profile and has started a monthly newsletter. Good luck to them.

There always has been and always will be people making models of something. I consider our hobby is too good not to bring its benefits to people's attention vigorously and at every opportunity.

I have now acquired the title of "Nighthawk". The idea of an ever vigilant crusader appeals to me. *I must have watched too much "Lone Ranger" and "Robin Hood as a kid.* Many thanks to all contributors. Copy being delivered up to 2100 on Sunday. I believe that the club can only benefit from good communication. Ideas explained in black and white are often better received, and I find it is easier to marshall my thoughts when written down. If you feel the same ... you know what to do!

L. Dibben

John Dibben
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Fred Collins

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John Dibben

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Ray Cousins
Richard Cousins

Contact Point:
Dennis Lovett,
Chairman.
☎ 01908 376750

Cover Picture: A "Western" entering the idyllic Bewdley Station on the Severn Valley Railway in 1996. Photo: Chris Avis.

Diary



- April 29th **The Historical Model Railway Society** are holding a meeting at our clubrooms, with a talk entitled "**Traffic on the G.C. London Extension**" by **S. Banks**. MKMRS members are invited free of charge. The meeting commences at 7.30pm.
- May 16/17th **Expo EM, Betchley Leisure Centre.** Sat. 10.30am - 6.0pm, Sun. 10.30am - 5.30pm. Admission £4, EMGS Members £3.
- June 7th **Club Outing - North Norfolk Railway.** (see facing page).
- June 21st **Swapmeet.** to be held at Woughton Campus. 1100 -1500. Admission is 70p Adult and 30p children and senior citizens.
- June 27th **CMRA Modellers' Workshop.** Leicester. (see below).
- September 20th **Swapmeet.** (as above).
- November 8/9th **Warley National Model Railway Exhibition,** National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.
- November 22nd **Swapmeet.** (as above).

Notes

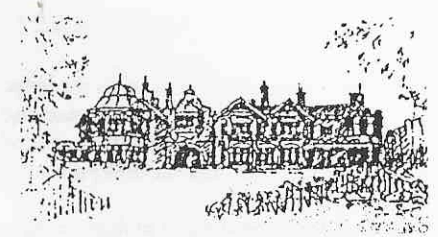
Photo passes New photo passes are being issued. Please give your old passes to John Hatton so they can be replaced.

CMRA Modellers Workshop As a member of the CMRA, MKMRS members are invited to the Modellers Workshop on Saturday 27th June 1998 at The Rowley Fields Community in Leicester. This is located just off the A5460, less than five minutes from junction 21 of the M1.

Described as an informative, participative day on numerous topics related to practical railway modelling. As well as the club and individual stands, there will be a programme of talks and demonstrations that will run throughout the day.

Tickets £4 which includes lunch.

Museum Notes



Museum Duty Roster May/June 1998

2/3/4 May	Bernard Worden, Ernie Johnson.	Gordon Shrimpton, Chris Hughes, Nick Hughes. Bank Holiday Monday: Dennis Lovett, Ray Cousins, Richard Cousins.
16/17 May	Colin Jamieson, Marvin Knapper.	Bruce Garwood, Ken Wiggins.
30/31 May	Tim Davey, Tony Winn.	Ernie Johnson, Mark Wilson.
13/14 June		Gordon Shrimpton, Chris Hughes, Nick Hughes.
27/28 June	Chris Lester, Tim Davey, Phil Gilbert.	Dennis Lovett, Les Wood.

PLEASE ARRANGE SWAPS AMONG YOURSELVES

The Militaria 98 weekend will be held this year on the 14th /15th June. This is usually the busiest weekend of the year and is the scene of much activity and features many events and activities. I am sure it would be greatly appreciated if as many members as possible were on duty that weekend.

The number of visitors will gradually increase during the summer months and as members' commitments increase as well, anyone assisting, if only for a few hours will be most appreciated.

Chris Hughes will no doubt be drawing up a new roster in due course. The dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

July 11/12th, 25/26th. August 8/9th, 22nd/23rd. September 5/6th, 19/20th.
October 3rd/4th, 17/18th. October 31st/November 1st November 14/15th, 28/29th.
December 12/13th.

Expo EM'98

A copy of the leaflet giving details of the event is printed on the inside of the rear cover. The layouts invited are ● Port Victoria - SECR by Andrew Browne. ● Hartwell - LNWR c. 1902 by John Degg and Bill Wood. ● Eastwell Ironstone Company - modern image industrial in its new format. ● Ashburton - GWR by Chris Lamacraft. ● Kentside - by Karl Crowther. ● Reighton - East Yorkshire in the 1980's by Steve Flint. ● Stormy-on-Tees - a country station in the 1940's - 50's presented by Toni Ann Armitage. ● Angelbank - a mineral line by the Liverpool MRS. ● Compton Park - GNR during the period 1900-14, exhibited by the Market Deeping MRS. ● Elm Park - South East London in the 1960's by Nigel Bowyer. ● Thompsons End - LNER by Malcolm Crawley and Tony Gee. ● The North Holderness Light Railway - the North East in the 1940's - 60's.

Excerpts from "The Pendon Paper"

"It has become very clear to me during my period as Pendon's chairman that we need to increase the voluntary resources on which the Museum's survival depends. I therefore warmly commend the appeal... and invite all ... living within a fifty-mile radius of Long Wittenham to consider whether they can help ..."

"*Rota staff.* Our ability to open the Museum to the general public depends upon the availability of rota staff, and their ranks are getting uncomfortably thin just now."

"I should like to reinforce Richard's appeal to those of you who live close enough to spare some of your time - perhaps one day a month - to help us. As he indicates, we can use a wide range of talents. If you would like to help, please write to me at the Museum."

"Can you help?"

Many ... find that working for Pendon is highly enjoyable. If you are willing to join them, you will be most welcome: we are in great need of more helpers. There is scope for a great variety of talents at Pendon. We need people to help during showings at the Museum, whether in the shop, to run or to commentate on the Dartmoor trains, or to explain the Vale Scene to visitors. (Training is of course provided for drivers, commentators and Vale guides.) We also need people with special skills, such as carpentry, metalwork, electrical work, electronics and computing. Some of the work in these categories is carried out at the Museum, but a great deal can be done at home."

If you are interested, please write to the Acting Chairman, Ken Surman, at the Museum to let us know what you would be able to offer.

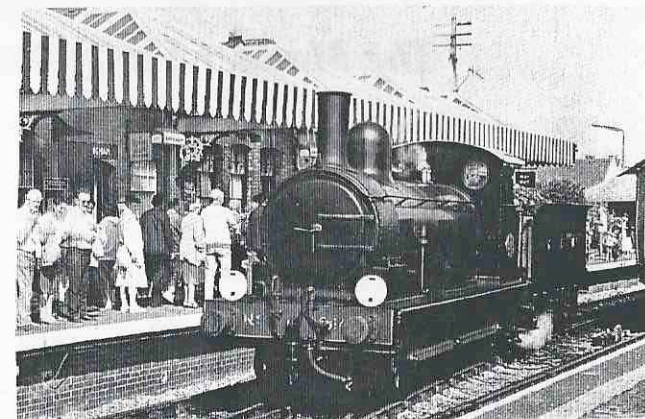
The address is Pendon Museum Trust Ltd., Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QD"

PENDON NEEDS YOU!

See advert on rear cover.

Club Outing

The club outing booked for the 7th June, a coach trip to Sheringham and the North Norfolk Railway, as announced last month, will this year include Muckleborough Military Museum.



See booking form enclosed for details.

TIMETABLE FOR SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

Sheringham to Weybourne and Holt 1100, 1230*, 1400, 1530, 1700 (Diesel)

Holt to Weybourne and Sheringham 1135, 1315*, 1445, 1615, 1720 (Diesel)

Journey time: between 24 and 28 mins. each way. * Limited accomodation - pullman dining train.

Leaflets for both destinations can be found in the entrance to the clubroom.

"Even more about Muckleborough" see rear of newsletter.

Railwayana on display

by Dennis Lovett

Thanks to Tony Skeggs, your chairman's ex boss from Waterloo, for generously donating the nameboard from "The Brunel Cobbler". This once graced the front of a Network South East Class 50 as it ran from Paddington to Northampton during an Ian Allan Network Day. Tony lives in Northumberland and the headboard had lived in his barn since he retired from Leighton Buzzard to Hexham. It will be on display soon.

Another sign has turned up, courtesy of Virgin Trains. A Network South East Milton Keynes Central station sign will soon grace our walls. We also have a replica nameplate for display "The Gauge O Guild" The original plate was carried on an 8F to the Guild's 40th Anniversary AGM at the National Railway Museum at York.

The displaying of railwayana creates right ambience for our displays. Offers of loan items will not be refused and will be securely fixed to the walls!

The Madder Valley Railway

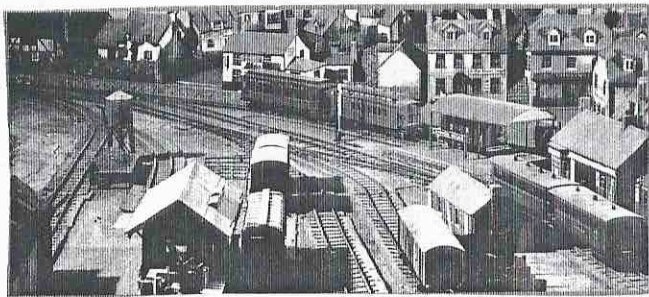
With Pendon Museum mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, information supplied by our "friend of Pendon" Eric Bowman, I thought it might be of interest to include an article on The Madder Valley Railway, built in the 1930's by John Aherne, on permanent display at Pendon but due to its age is only operated twice a year. With summer coming and Pendon only a few miles away I thought it was appropriate, particularly for anyone, but I doubt there are many, who have never visited this exhibition of railway modelling excellence. The following is taken from a guide dated 1968 - J.D.

So well known that it has become almost a legend among modellers, this is not only a fascinating layout but also an historic relic of the early days of model craftsmanship. Built entirely by one man, John Aherne, it blazed a trail of scenic modelling, for until then no-one had thought of making the scenery as important as the model railway. To be fair, the founder of Pendon had done so, for Roye England, who had not heard of John Aherne or the work he was doing, was even then building a village to form a complete landscape intended to surround the Vale of White Horse main line; but while he was slowly working out the plans which were to lead to Pendon and a technique designed to reach the ultimate in rural modelling, John Aherne forged ahead and produced a work of art which is still an inspiration to many.

With his gifts he was the pioneer who first achieved, who first showed other modellers what could be done, who caught their imagination and raised their standards of realism to new levels, and whose name became a symbol among them. For these things alone his masterpiece is in the nature of an historical document; but also is a thing of great beauty, unique character, and most rewarding detail.

It is an imaginary scene: the River Madder flowing from the hills down to the sea at Madderport. Steam trawlers lie in the harbour with its cranes and lighthouse; the town is partly prosaic, partly beautiful, with a station whence a quaint light railway runs upstream to the amusingly-named village of Much Madder. Here the scene becomes rural, nearing the once-feudal country of the Gammon - Hogg family. The line divides, a low-level branch running to Gammon End, while the main line climbs past Gammon Worthy halt, through a tunnel in the foothills of the Madderhorn, to the picturesque town of Gammon Magna, whose steep, winding streets are dominated by the Castle (lately become a museum - admission 6d.

The date of the Madder Valley has never been pinpointed, but it is nicely suggested by a placard on the wall of the Royal Oak Dining Rooms - "Three Course Lunches 1/9".



The Great Outdoors ...

*"The trees are green,
the grass is riz,
I wonder where the birdies is!"*

Which is just another way of saying that Spring is just around the corner (although you wouldn't believe it because it is p-p-p-persistently raining as I write this), and thoughts turn to outdoor pursuits.

What has this got to do with railway modelling? I hear you say. Has the old boy cracked at last? Well it has a lot to do with our hobby, as we move on to tackle the club's next big project - the outdoor layout. As you will know, the plans were drawn up and approved by the membership some time ago, so now it's time to put the plans into action.

The first stage is the groundwork - a number of blocks have been "acquired" and Fred "Fix-it" Collins and John "Tea up!!!" Hatton have cleaned them up ready for use. The area has been cleared and the site will be marked out shortly. So, we will soon be needing some muscle power for mixing mortar, lugging blocks, preparing timber, etc. It is planned to have a couple of weekend working parties to get the work under way, and make some impact.

Later on we shall make the baseboards and track, which can be done indoors.

So if you fancy some outdoor exercise, and, no doubt some good natured banter (and plenty of John's brown liquid refreshment) please let me or Geoff Bell know - remember, this is a major club project with the potential for attracting new members, so any help, no matter how large or small will be greatly appreciated.

Colin Jamieson

*The trees are green, and growing conkers,
Committee member's just gone bonkers.*

*About the scheme, we've had some doubts,
but now we've heard the ins and outs,*

*If its a chance to get us fit,
Then I for one am "up for it". - J.D.*