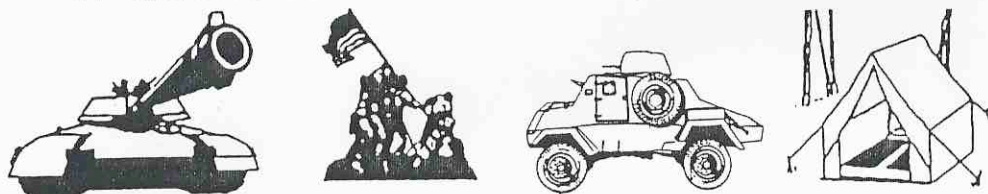


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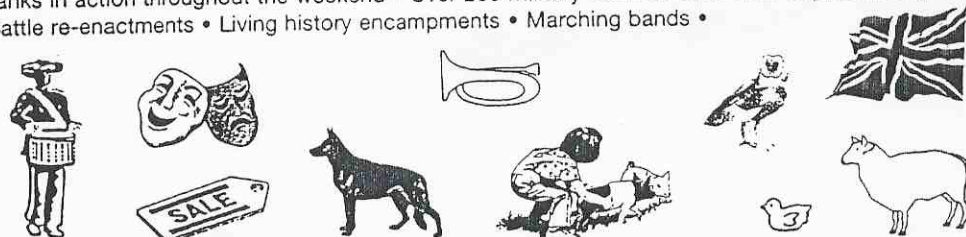
Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June

Bletchley Park *Britain's Best Kept Secret*

A weekend of military memories



Tanks in action throughout the weekend • Over 250 military vehicles from 1939 to present day • Battle re-enactments • Living history encampments • Marching bands •



Trade stands and side shows • Dog display team • Supervised children's corner with farm animals



Even bigger than last year

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See the world's first electronic computer at the famous WW2 codebreaking centre and see how we learned the enemies secrets. Visit the collection of Churchill memorabilia in the Mansion. Churchill also came to see the nation's best kept secret.

LICENCED BAR CAFETERIA SHOP BLETCHLEY PARK POST OFFICE ICE CREAM PARKING

Tickets (per day) Adults £3.50 Concessions £2.50

Show opens 10.30am - 5.00pm, Last admission 3.30pm (both days)

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MT Section, Bletchley Park, Wilton Avenue, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6EF

Presented by

Milton Keynes Model Railway Society

News ...

No.75

June 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.

Expo EM'98

Congratulations to the 'EM Gauge Society' for another excellent exhibition. Even better than last year and always 'very friendly'. The layouts were excellent and even though some had been at previous exhibitions, it was a pleasure to see them again. The relatively small size of the layouts, far from being a drawback, allowed their builders to concentrate on creating really high class scenery. It also provides inspiration to those of us without a lot of space available.

The layout operators and traders are helpful, even if you are a simple OO scale modeller like myself and there is no attempt to convert people or to make them feel inferior for not being a fine-scale modeller.

Also, they come back year after year, providing us with that all important 'nudge' that gets you modelling again if you have neglected the layout for a while. - J.D.

And finally ...

5 things you will never hear a railway passenger say!

I hope that person with the mobile-phone sits next to me.

I enjoy other people reading my newspaper.

I like standing in overcrowded trains, I meet more people that way.

I know exactly why this train is late.

I must congratulate the driver for a smooth ride.

And 5 things you will never hear a railway modeller say!

There's too much detail on this locomotive.

Let's make this layout smaller.

No thank you, I do not want a cup of tea or coffee.

My wife said come home when you like.

This layout is finished.

MILTON KEYNES MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY - Founded 1969

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Jim Wood

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Contact Point:
Dennis Lovett,
Chairman.
☎ 01908 376750

Black 5's and Sci-fi's

This week the Sunday Citizen, in its "Hobbies Focus", an article entitled "The Multi-talented world of the model maker" contained the following:

"Whether you collect beer mats or steam engines, the chances are that you spend a considerable amount of time and money on your chosen hobby.

Whatever the nature of the hobby, the hobbyist will rely on the services of specialised suppliers, dedicated clubs and societies ... Today's modeller has to be a versatile technician, knowledgeable in the many facets of model making.

... joining a club or affiliating with a shop will reap benefits.

... model making in the 90's is fun, demanding and ultimately rewarding."

This was written in connection with ASK Models but with minor changes could apply to us. Such positive media coverage is rare.

The National lottery has just given £2.7m for Bobby Moore's medals. You can make up your own mind where that leaves the Bletchley Park Museum in the queue!

With more of this enlightened media coverage it wouldn't matter.

We are all in the same boat, better get paddling!



John Dibben
Editor

Cover Picture: Thanks to Bill Nelson one of the 'security' team at Bletchley Park for this delightful photograph of the 'Mansion' and its 'wildlife'!

Diary



June 13th/14th	Military '98 (see below and back cover).
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. Rowley Fields Community, Leicester. 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.
September 20th	Swapmeet. (as above).
November 8/9th	Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.
November 22nd	Swapmeet. (as above).

Museum Notes

The Military '98 weekend will be held this year on the 13th /14th 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.

Museum Duty Roster - June 1998

	Saturday	Sunday
13/14 June		Gordon Shrimpton, Chris Hughes, Nick Hughes
27/28 June	Chris Lester, Tim Davey, Phil Gilbert	Dennis Lovett, Les Wood

The open days 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.		

Historical Model Railway Meetings - 1998/9

Bletchley Meetings are held at our clubrooms unless stated.

Bedford Meetings are held at the Addison Centre, Kempston.

Light refreshments are served at meetings.

1998

September 30th Bletchley The scope and work of the Railway Correspondance and Travel Society - A.H. Gould, President of the RCTS.

October 28th Bedford Coastal shipping of the British Isles - A. Sibley.

November 25th Bletchley The Severn Valley Railway and preservation - J. Houlder.
This event will be held in the Mansion in Bletchley. It will, again, be an all ticket meeting, tickets (free of charge) are obtainable from the Organiser. See Eric Bowman for details concerning MKMRS members.

December 30th Bedford The Area pub night at The Bedford Arms, Woburn.

1999

January 27th Bedford Garden railway construction - J. Chamney.

February 24th Bletchley GWR coaches and passenger services - D.L. Hyde.

March 31st Bedford Etched brass kits - David Smith of Blacksmith Models.

April 28th Bletchley The Raetian Railway in Switzerland - E.C. Vaughan.

Meetings commence at 1930 prompt.

If you wish to join the HMRS, contact The Organiser: John Chamney, Nodden Gate, Station Road, Aldbury, nr. Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5RS (Telephone 01442 851214).

Information kindly supplied by Eric Bowman who will no doubt answer any queries from members.

Please make a note of dates and details if you are interested as the 1999 meetings will not appear in the diary until nearer the date. - Ed.



Bletchley Shed Allocation 1945 -1966

by John Dibben

In 1959 the Cambridge to Oxford line and Buckingham branch were dieselised. Dmu's took over the services. 12 'original' Derby 2-car power-trailer units with 'cathedral' roofs were sufficient for the requirements. These were the same design as the two single cars which had been working the Buckingham to Banbury section of the branch from Verney Junction, which closed about the same time. They then worked the remaining Bletchley to Buckingham branch. As only one was required for this duty for most of the day, two extra trailer cars were received at Bletchley to increase their operational range. The Buckingham branch closed completely in 1964 making them redundant and they were transferred away. One still exists today as Derby Research vehicle 'Iris', repainted in B.R. green and used for testing radio reception.

9 Derby 2-car power-trailers of the later design were allocated in the 1960's. These units ran alongside the earlier units for some time and as they were not compatible for multiple working, must have caused a few 'operational headaches!'. Simple diesel facilities were installed alongside the engine shed, the units being stabled in the carriage shed, which was located in the curve formed by the Oxford branch just south of the station.

The B.R. Standard 4 tanks were transferred away and replaced by 6 Ex-LMS Class 4 2-6-4 tanks. The Sulzer Type 2 diesels gradually took over the suburban services but several examples remained until 12/64, notably 42105 and 42106 on local freight including the Newport Pagnell branch freight. A handful of B.R. standard class 4's remained until only a few months before the closure of the steam shed on the 5th July 1965.

Two extra 'Jinties' arrived in March 1963, 47606, the number of the Tri-ang/Hornby example for many years and 47307 notable for having only 4 wheels, standing near the turntable, of not much use and consequently the last engine to leave! 1964/5 was a particularly interesting time for a young trainspotter at Bletchley the variety of forms of traction and different classes of locomotive meant you never knew what was coming next!

A strange turn of events in March 1964, saw 10 B.R. Standard Class 5's appear and all Black 5's transferred away, only to return 9 months later, in January 1965 and the 'Standard 5's' disappear! At the same time 3 'ugly duckling' Ivatt Class 4 2-6-0's arrived. One of them, 43122, was a regular performer on the last regular steam passenger working at Bletchley, the Wolverton Works workman's train. A loco and a couple of coaches leaving in the morning and returning in the evening.

At the time of closure of the steam shed only 3 'Jinties', including the 4 wheeler, 3 Ivatt Class 4 2-6-0's, 13 8F's and 7 Black 5's remained. A total of 26 locomotives.

For about 12 months Bletchley gained an allocation of main line diesel locomotives. These consisted of about a dozen Sulzer Type 2's, later Class 24's and a similar number of English-electric Type 4's, later Class 40's. In addition two Class 08 and 12073 and 12074, familiar sights for a number of years, later Class 11, LMS design diesel-shunters.

Electrification complete, Bletchley lost its main line locomotives which retreated 'up north' and the rest as they say ... is 'modern image'!

Club Outing

Due to a lack of patronage for the club outing on the 7th June, I regret that after consulting with fellow club officers, it was necessary to cancel the club outing. There were a number of factors that caused this and I have apologised to Gordon on our behalf.

I appreciate that some members will be disappointed at the cancellation but feel sure that they will understand the need for me to take this action in the light of the heavy financial loss that would have occurred, had we proceeded.

Dennis Lovett
Chairman

* * * * *

"Serious Fun"

The new shop in Stony Stratford called 'Serious Fun', announced in the April newsletter is now stocking Graham Farish and Peco in addition to Hornby as advertised in the leaflets which are available in the clubroom. Whilst principally a toy shop, he stocks railway modelling items but demand is a factor. Ken Wiggins is keeping me informed and will no doubt advise me of any further developments. Ken is supplying him with our leaflets which are being made available in the shop.

So, if you are in the area, you may wish to pay him a visit. Since the departure of Beatties we have been without any model railway shop of any kind within Milton Keynes.

The address is 2, George Yard, Stony Stratford, between Boots and The Old George.
Telephone 01908 263728.

* * * * *

"ASK Models"

Another model shop is opening on the 30th May in St. Mary's Avenue, Bletchley. Not in Gordon's old shop but across the other side of the road. The proprietor of ASK Models is Iain Tennant, son of John Tennant, a club member for many years', son. Iain is a keen modeller but his main interest is in sci-fi. However, he is intending to stock model railway items in the near future. Until then he will be supplying those modelling essentials e.g. Milliput and Plastruct.

I am of the view that all modelling is beneficial and do not see why anyone should be put off by the sci-fi element. I am sure that as with 'Serious Fun' we can work closely with them both to our mutual benefit. I will keep you informed. I am sure we wish them both the best of luck! - J.D.

Colin French

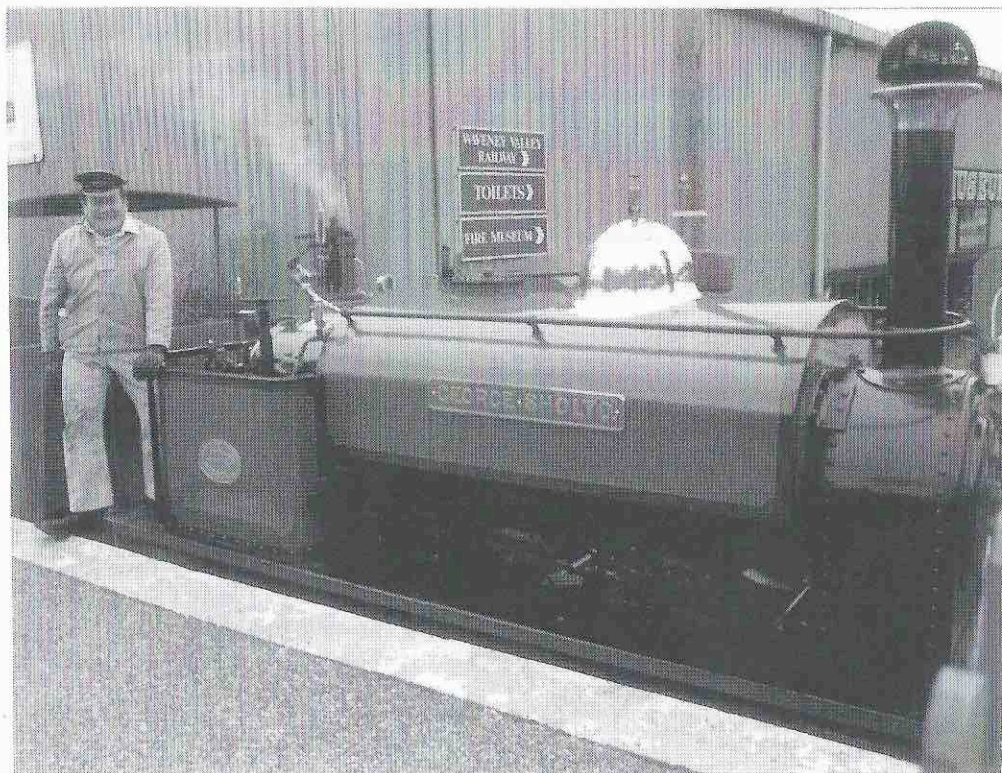
A personal profile by his long-time friend Les Wood

During his early life, Colin French had a distinguished career with B.R. as a signalling technician *holding the record for falling down more signal ladders than he went up!* Later posts as a prison officer at Brixton and Grendon Underwood Jails and then with the Ambulance Service at Newport Pagnell and ultimately rising to officer level in the East Anglia Area.

Colin was Vice Chairman of the MKMRS before moving to Somersham circa 1978. He is married to Margaret who shares much of his enthusiasm for steam and has three daughters (who have provided three grandchildren, *so far!*).

He is a great fan of the Swift & Delightful (Somerset & Dorset Railway), also known as the 'Slow & Dirty' and produced several layouts of Burnham-on-Sea. At the end of the day at the Amersham exhibition, Colin was seen to 'blow his top' when a Canadian Pacific 4-6-2 on a long bogie freight and caboose appeared from the fiddle yard instead of the 'Scottie' goods. It was returned to the fiddle yard!

(Continued at the bottom of the facing page.)



Colin French with "George Sholto" at Bressingham. Photo: LesWood.

The Olde Curiosity Shop

by Dennis Lovett

Bernard Worden has been busy over recent weeks transforming an ugly section of the lobby wall into a very impressive model shop window. Your chairman had seen similar recreations in museums, and more recently at the Beefeater restaurant in Central Milton Keynes. Throwing out the challenge to the workshop gang during a tea break, Bernard jumped in the deep end (or was he pushed?) and the results are there for all to see.

We can all remember standing nose to window, drooling over the latest offerings from Hornby/Triang/Trix/Hornby-DUBLO/Meccano/Dinky Toys* (*Delete the ones that didn't appeal to you) and you get the idea of what we are trying to achieve.

What goes on in the model shop window is dependant on you. Ideas and offers of exhibits to the Curator (John Hatton). Like all shop windows, we will have plenty of opportunities to change the exhibits around, so don't be disappointed if we can't fit your 6' model of the Titanic in at first!

Boxing in Verney

by Dennis Lovett

Over the past year, our Verney Junction team have been busy restoring the layout after 10 years storage in the basement underneath Holne Chase School. The layout is now running and work continues on the scenic side.

We shall be following the approach taken by Pendon with the Madder Valley layout and boxing it in, so that it will become a visual display when not being operated. This will increase our visitor floor space and allow us to remove the central doors between our first exhibition room and the Verney layout. Appropriate displays will tell the story of the station eventually, along with display stands and other exhibits.

Colin French continued

Colin regularly drives at Bressingham as well as having a 5" gauge track in his garden at home. To keep the grandchildren, (*and others*), happy, he has a 'Thomas the Tank Engine' and is developing a new 'O' gauge layout to replace the 'Ouse Valley Light Railway' layout which was featured in the Gauge 'O' Guild 'small layouts' handbook.

When Colin moved away he was made an Honorary Member of the MKMRS, an appointment he values greatly and provides the First Aid at all Gauge 'O' Guild and other exhibitions we get involved in. He is happy to discuss NHS or Private terms for any treatment - so long as there is no open wound as he tends to faint at the sight of blood!