

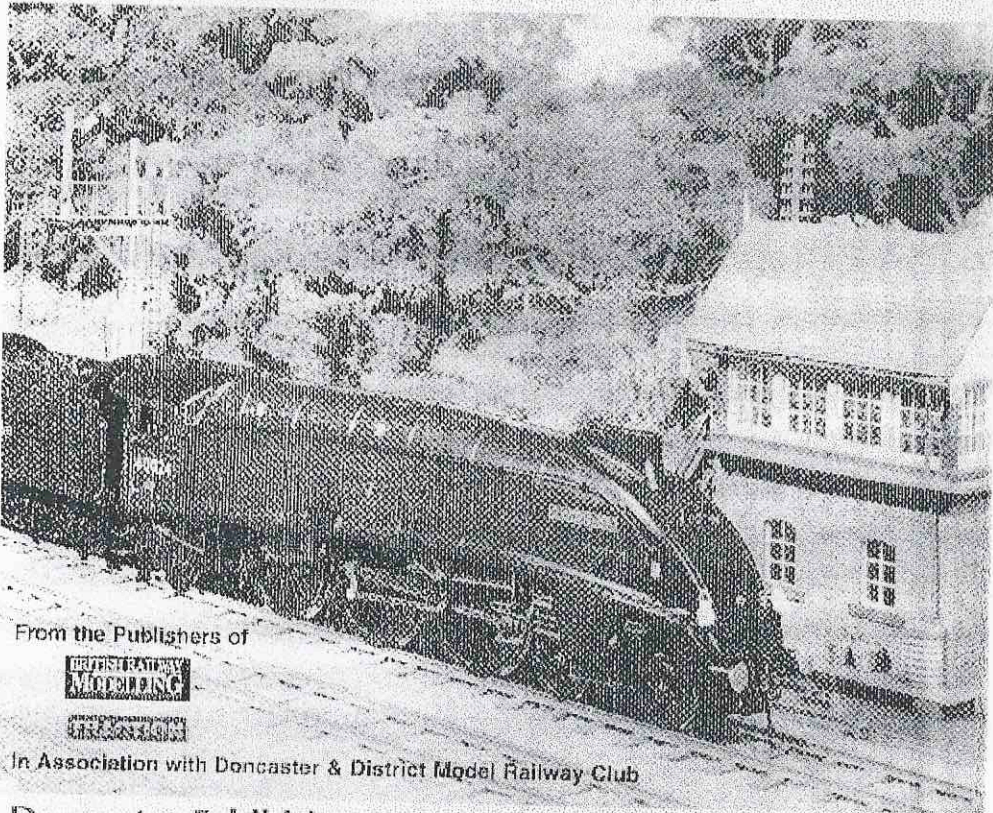
A MAJOR ENTHUSIASTS' SHOW

THE FESTIVAL OF
RAILWAY MODELLING

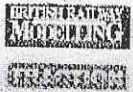
13th & 14th FEBRUARY 1999

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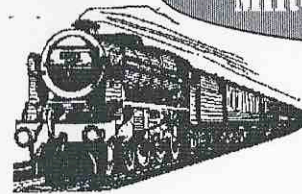
Doncaster Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, Doncaster
Sat 10am - 6pm & Sun 10am - 5pm

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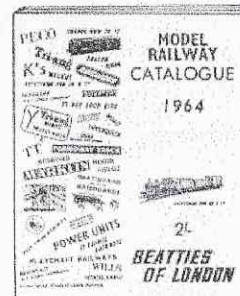
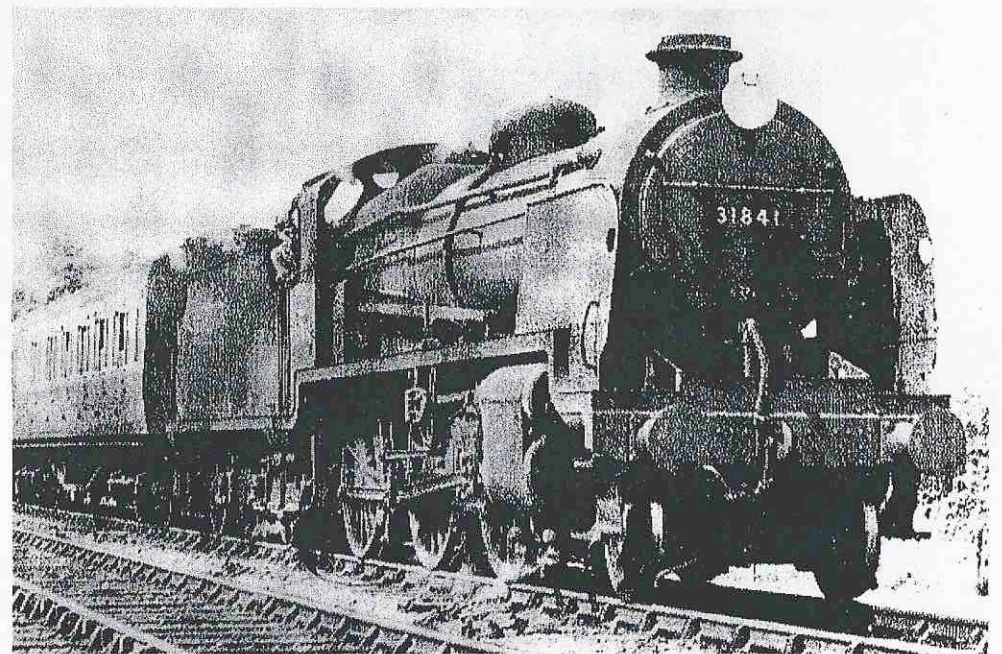
Milton Keynes Model Railway Society



Newsletter ...

No. 82

January 1999



The MKMRS is a member of:

- The Chiltern Model Railway Association
- The Model Railway Club
- The World War II Railway Study Group

and finally ...

Yes, he's been searching in the belfry again and come up with another piece of history. Below is the 'peak' service to and from Euston in 1964, immediately prior to electrification.

They are extracts from the local bus and train timetable booklet of that year. The timetable shows the diversions of overnight trains via Claydon Junction and the G.C. to Marylebone to allow overnight electrification work to take place between Bletchley and Euston. The first two trains are from Manchester and Wolverhampton. The 6.15 am. from Rugby is the Stranraer 'sleeper' and the 8.29 pm. to Rugby is the return service. The 9.6 am. To Euston is from Wolverhampton and the 11.5 am., 11.24 am. On Saturdays, was from Carnforth and Barrow. Try working out your journey to London from these timetables.

BIRMINGHAM-BLETCHLEY-LONDON LONDON MIDLAND REGION												
WEEKDAYS												
	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF
	8.0	8.15	8.30	8.45	9.00	9.15	9.30	9.45	10.00	10.15	10.30	10.45
Birmingham	12.00											
Coventry	1.15											
Rugby, Midland	3.10	0.37.59			6.15							
Northampton C.		4.15			6.29							
Roads												
Castlethorpe												
Wolverton												
Bletchley	6.42.3	5.4	3.4	5.15	5.24	4.9	6.57	1.47	2.07	3.57	3.97	5.08
Leighton Buzzard												
Cheddington												
Tring												
H. Hempsstead												
Apsley												
Kings Langley												
Watford												
Harrow & W'stone												
London, Euston												

LONDON-BLETCHLEY-BIRMINGHAM LONDON MIDLAND REGION												
WEEKDAYS - continued												
	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF
	8.0	8.15	8.30	8.45	9.00	9.15	9.30	9.45	10.00	10.15	10.30	10.45
London, Euston	11.55	11.55	11.53	12.10	6.1	4.3	1.53	0				
Harrow & W'stone												
Watford	12.22	12.1	12.1	12.40	2.2	8.2	2.0	2.6	3.3			
Kings Langley												
Apsley												
H. Hempsstead												
Barkhamsted												
Tring												
Cheddington												
Leighton Buzzard												
Bletchley	12.56	11.21	11.21	12.2	3.3	3.3	1.54	5.4	3.0			
Wolverton												
Castlethorpe												
Roads												
Northampton C.												
Rugby, Midland												
Coventry												
Birmingham												

The advert at the bottom might be familiar to some members and it is this organisation which is responsible for my interest in model railways.

A happy and healthy New Year to everyone - J.D.

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Milton Keynes Model Railway Society - 1969

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Gordon Shrimpton

CMRA Rep:
Chris Lester

Museum Curator:
John Hatton

Librarians:
Ray Cousins
Richard Cousins

Newsletter:
John Dibben

Published by/Contact Point:
Dennis Lovett
Chairman
01908 376750

A Happy New Year!

As we enter each new year it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months and look forward to the next. That 1999 is our 30th Anniversary year gives added impetus to the year ahead.

At the end of January, we hold our Annual General Meeting. It is a time for you, the members, to question club officers, hear about our achievements over the past 12 months and hear of plans for the next. We are one of the most democratic of clubs. We hold not only an AGM but three shorter QGM's which enable you to be brought up to date with news and to ask questions. Every club officer and committee member position has to be voted upon at the AGM and any member can stand for the positions providing nominations are received before the meeting actually starts. We are so democratic, that I have no idea how the AGM night will progress. It is always as much as a surprise to me as it is to you! I look forward to a good turnout and hope that as many of you who can make it will do so.

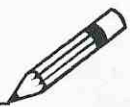
The AGM night is also competition night and gives you the chance to enter. Not all of us budding Beeson's so don't be afraid to enter something. There is a place in our competition for all scales and all classes. One of our members won a class last year with a converted ERTL O gauge diecast "Percy" locomotive with a scratchbuilt chassis and its features changed into a very convincing industrial tank locomotive, making it a worthy class winner. So if you have built anything - scratchbuilt, kitbuilt or converted ready to run model - bring it along. The more you do the better you get. So don't be afraid, the entries are entered anonymously, so there is no need to hide anywhere. Not even the judge knows who the winner is until we ask the winner to step forward.

I believe that 1999 will be a very good year for MKMRS. We will discuss at the AGM how we build on the foundations that were laid down in 1969. But build on them we must. Over the past 4 years we have established ourselves at Bletchley Park and we must carry on developing and improving our facilities.

Dennis Lovett
Chairman

Cover Picture: To celebrate the eventual arrival of the Bachmann 'Maunsell' N Class locomotive in the shops, a photograph of 31841 near Crediton on 28th August, 1954. Whilst seen all over the S.R., no less than 19 of the 80 locomotives in its class were allocated to Exmouth Junction in 1958. They had been regular performers on the North Devon line since they were built in 1924-5, which makes them a must for modellers of the 'withered arm'. - J.D.

Diary



JANUARY

23/24	<i>Bletchley Park Open Weekend</i>
24	<i>Woughton Swapmeet</i>
26	AGM 8pm

FEBRUARY

6/7	<i>Bletchley Park Open Weekend</i>
13	<i>Gauge O Guild Auction</i>
20/21	<i>Bletchley Park Open Weekend</i>
23	<i>HMRS Meeting - GWR coaches and passenger services</i>

Club Competition

As usual, the club modelling competition will be run in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, so now is the time to start finishing off your models.

The classes of competition areas follows:

Scratchbuilt locomotive	7mm or above	T. Wilson Trophy
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run locomotive		
Scratchbuilt rolling stock		Moorcroft Shield
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run rolling stock		
Scratchbuilt locomotive	4mm or less	George Barret Memorial Trophy
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run locomotive		Jim Armstrong Trophy
Scratchbuilt rolling stock		Sylvia Armstrong Trophy
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run rolling stock		
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run locomotive	2mm or less	P & D Marsh Trophy
Scenic Items	Any scale	Rail Trophy

That almost concludes the review of 1998, except to mention the Bletchley Park Museum.

The appalling weather last year affected every major event in the Park. However, the Park has been host to the 'cameras' on a number of occasions and has appeared in diverse programmes, such as the local news, 'The Antiques Roadshow' and Channel 4's 'Secret History'.

A film crew set up camp in one of the old huts and filming took place, often late into the night and extras were advertised for in the local papers, for a Channel 4 documentary to be shown in the next few weeks. I am afraid I have lost the date! Sorry!

This exposure in the media can only help their cause.

The 'cheap' weekend for people with a MK postcode was an outstanding success. The club rooms were 'packed to the gunnels' that weekend. *What's a gunnel?*

What's in store for 1999, our 30th Anniversary. Will all our 'electrical stuff' go 'wonky' on 31st December! Only time will tell!

Bletchley Park Museum dates - 1999

The list of open days and 'special events' for 1999 are listed below. A full roster will appear when Chris Hughes finally shakes off his cold!

January	23rd/24th		
February	6th/7th	20th/21st	
March	6th/7th	20th/21st	Living Craft Fair Sunday Parachute Regiment Brigade
April	3rd/4th/5th	17th/18th	
	Easter Open Weekend		
May	1st/2nd/3rd	15th/16th	29th/30th/31st Challenge weekend
June	12th/13th	19th/20th	26th/27th
		Military Weekend	
July	10th/11th	24th/25th	
		25th Polish Anniversary	
August	7th/8th	21st/22nd	29th Radio Club Fair
September	4th/5th	12th	18th/19th
		Enigma Re-Union	

Then every other weekend throughout the year.

Membership

One highlight of the year was the number of new members which have joined the club.

Of these, four have come to my notice. Apologies to the others who have eluded me thus far.

Jaqui Dennison

Jaqui Dennison, (trees a speciality), marital partner of equal status of Steve, joined the club earlier in the year and has put her 'arboreal artistry' to work on the Fenny Stratford layout. She is a keen modeller of doll's houses in great detail. She co-writes a glossy newsletter for modellers of G scale with Steve. *Tea times will never be the same!*

Martin Shenton

Martin was already involved at BP with the Fire Department and since joining us, has been involved with the 'outside layout' and is the proud owner of a G scale American locomotive which dings, hoots, whistles and flashes and he will definitely not lose it in the dark.

He is into 'vintage cars' and Gordon and Ken have enjoyed a drive in his 'Austin 7', which may have caught the camera during the recent filming.

Ian Smith

Ian is a keen EM gauger and as well as working on the EM gauge layout, builds models of diesels of the 60's and 70's era and will paint them 'BR blue' without hesitation.

Ken Ranns

Ken Ranns is the fourth new member and appears separately as he has asked me to thank everyone for 'the help and kindness shown towards him over the past year'. He would particularly like to thank Dennis, John Hatton and Gordon for their help and lifts to and from the clubroom. Whilst he is not a man who can be accused of understatement, he is obviously most sincere and enjoys the benefits of being a member of the MKMRS.

In fact, he has said the club 'has saved his life!'. I think this is being very modest and his own unique character is probably the main factor.

I would like to add that this gesture is, as far as I am concerned, the highlight of the year. In the 30 years of the club's history, I have never heard an expression of thanks of this kind, yet alone wanting it put in the newsletter! I cannot think of any higher complement that could be paid to a club.

He joined the club after a visit on an open weekend. Since then and despite his illness, he has thrown himself enthusiastically into many activities in the club and at exhibitions. He does not pretend to be knowledgeable about model railways, except the 'correct' way to pronounce 'Hornby-Dublo'! He is now to be found sitting behind a layout of the above "as happy as the proverbial in a pile of the smelly stuff"!

Notice Board

M&GN 40th Anniversary Nth. N'folk Rly.

Our honorary member for Norfolk, Gordon Eckersley, has invited MKMRS to take part in the model railway exhibition being held on various parts of the North Norfolk Railway on the first weekend of June 1999. Anyone who is able to offer a layout for transportation is invited to speak to our John Hatton who is co-ordinating the event. Several layout owners have already indicated a willingness to take part. Accommodation will be provided by the NNR and all layouts transported in a large vehicle by Gordon Shrimpton.

Gauge O Guild Auction (Saturday 13th February 1999)

The club has been invited to host this event at Bletchley Park. The auction, in the CAA Hall and will be open to members only. We shall need assistance with stewarding, car parking etc. Although it is a non open weekend, we have agreed to open our premises on that day, so that GOG members can visit our complex. Details from Dennis Lovett. Geoff Bell has agreed to erect part of the O gauge layout for the weekend, so that visitors can see the potential of our projects.

HMRS Meeting

The next HMRS meeting at our clubrooms will be held on February 24th and is on the subject of "GWR coaches and passenger services" and the talk is by D.L. Hyde. Meetings commence at 1930 prompt. MKMRS members are invited to attend all HMRS meetings held at Bletchley Park.

SWAPMEET DATES Woughton Campus

January 24th, April 11th, June 13th
September 26th and November 14th.

Open: 1100 - 1500. Admission 80p
Adult, 40p children/Senior Citizens and
£1.60 Family (2 adults and children).

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26th January, 1999

Commencing at 8pm

At the MKMRS Club Room, Bletchley Park

Nomination forms for the appointment of club officers will be available from me in due course. These should be completed and handed to myself before the start of the meeting on the date specified above.

Chris Hughes
Secretary

1998 – A Review

By John Dibben

As is customary in the new year, this is a review of the events, achievements and progress in 1998. Much of the following has appeared in previous issues but I hope this brief summary allows an overall picture of the club's activities during the year and serves as a lead up to the AGM at which members will have the chance to make their views known to the rest of us. The activities of the previous year can also serve as a starting point when plans for 1999 are put to the members.

It is a personal view and I hope an accurate one. No doubt any errors or omissions will be pointed out as usual.

Firstly, a quick look around the layouts.

Wilton/Sherwood: In use every BP (Bletchley Park) open weekend and now fully fitted with CCTV, much to the relief of the operators working trains two rooms away!

Verney: It is now operational and with its large double-track oval, makes an excellent test-track for members stock and is frequently used as such. The scenery has also been improved.

Mandleburys: This layout has had a great deal of work done on it. Its constant use every weekend means that maintenance is a full-time job. It has also had an outing to Warley, where the new colour-light signals made it very popular with the public. It now has its own lighting which is a great improvement.

The EM gauge layout: This is also operational now. Work is progressing but occasionally there is a well earned running session.

The O gauge layout: Work continues on the layout although it is awaiting a permanent 'home'.

Fenny Stratford: This layout has reappeared and has undergone extensive rebuilding of the scenery. It also had an outing to Fenny Stratford as part of the Bedford – Bletchley Rail Users Association exhibition and although unfinished, proved very popular.

The G/O dual-gauge outside layout: Despite the awful weather this summer, work has continued on the layout with over a dozen members involved on club nights and on numerous weekends. Much of the work has had to be done indoors and is therefore not been as apparent as it might have otherwise been. The green house has been renovated and now looks much better.

Two other layouts have sprung up in a space of a few months. The Trix-Twin layout consisting of several ovals laid on green baize serves as a mobile display for these ever popular trains. It has had outings to Stacey Hill Museum and other events and has proved very popular.

The second is a Hornby-Dublo layout, consisting of two ovals of track with some sidings and a turntable leading to an engine shed. It serves the same purpose as the above and both were built in a matter of months at very little expense.

To put this into perspective, when we moved into Bletchley Park, the number of layouts working or under construction was 3. It is now 10!

Of course, not all work is on the layouts. As part of the BP Museum, displays have to be improved and protected. To this end all the layouts on show are now behind Perspex and Verney has a Perspex partition in a wooden frame, complete with display of photographs and information about the area.

The most noticeable feature is the 'shop window' in the lobby. An attractive feature in itself and an excellent way of displaying members' model railway items.

A stand has been built on which a TV screen stands to show videos to entertain visitors and members alike.

There is also much more railway 'memorabilia' on the walls.

We now have the most attractive club rooms in the country. *probably!*

At this point, it is only fair to mention those whose activities are 'behind the scenes' or not immediately apparent. These include those involved in the administration of the club. From legal requirements, money matters, hospital visits, librarians and of course, the 'weekenders'. Their contributions carry on from one year to the next.

I have not mentioned any names deliberately as I would almost certainly miss someone out but it is safe to say everyone has had a hand in at least one of the above activities.

Of course, there are always differences of opinion, this is quite natural and to pretend otherwise would be foolish.

Was it a successful year? That is for you decide.

The club does not exist primarily to build layouts. Rule 2, (Rule 1 is the name of the club), states that the MKMRS exists to 'further the interest in railway modelling'. This can be done in many ways other than the above. Just being a member is sufficient. I have learnt a great deal from the club and value the 'social' aspect of it, as I know, do many others. To lose sight of this is to 'lose the plot' entirely.

Whatever you may feel, Dennis reminded us, in the editorial that the AGM is one event where you can express your views and ask questions.

In this respect, the AGM is the most important day of the club year. Dennis stated, that we are a democratic club but democracy requires participation by the membership as a whole. The election of committee members, preferably by ballot, is important. As I am sure Dennis would agree, it is a responsible position. It is not an honorary position, or a position for services rendered. It is a position for services in the coming year. The committee is elected to serve the club and members are required to attend every committee meeting whenever possible.

Although we are a model railway society and not the EU, we do not want to be obsessed with rules. I have heard it suggested that a copy of the rules be distributed to members, as was done by Dennis some years ago, maybe this is a good idea, otherwise we will not know if we are breaking them!