



WARLEY  
NATIONAL MODEL  
RAILWAY EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 9th &  
SUNDAY 10th  
OCTOBER 1999

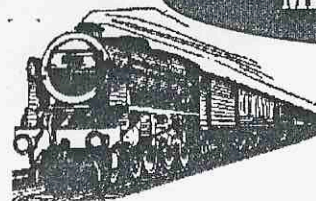
HALL 9,  
NEC BIRMINGHAM

SATURDAY 10 am to 6 pm

SUNDAY 10 am to 5 pm

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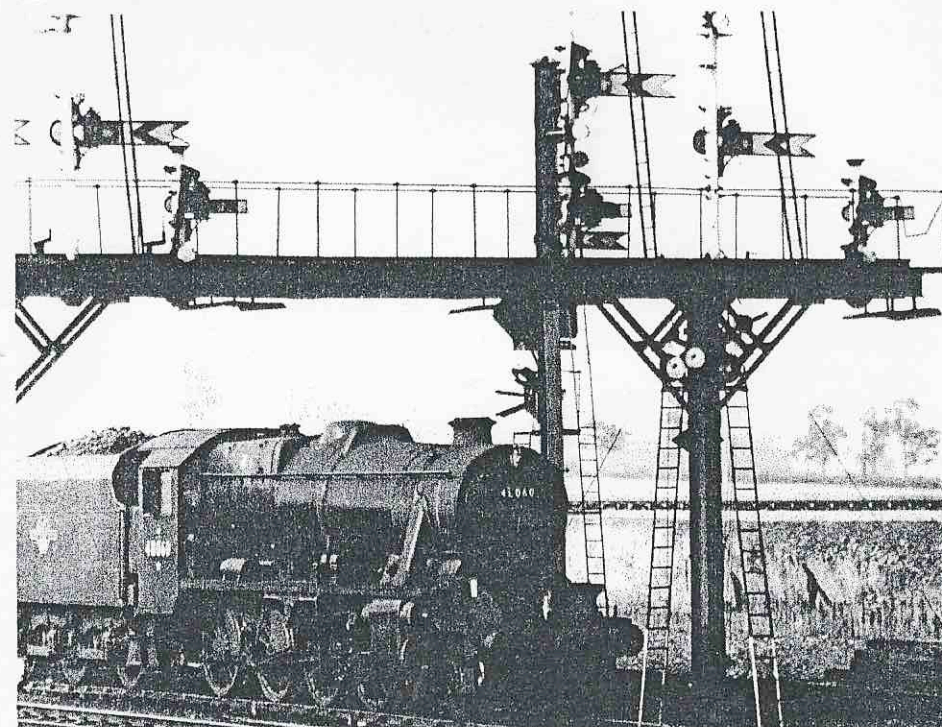
Milton Keynes Model Railway Society



# Newsletter ...

No. 88

July 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 ...

Last month the article on this page 'The MKMRS - Today', the first version of which only appeared in the first twenty copies was 'Woolly' and caused some confusion. The opinions should have been expressed simply that 'the value our wealth of resources should never be overshadowed by their distribution' and if 'we incurred the costs that other clubs have, we would have to consider our expenditure very carefully'.

I was fortunate enough to be able to correct it even before it was brought to my notice. Expressing any opinion whilst trying not to cause alarm or offence is not easy. 'Good news' newsletters are very popular with committees but in my experience, very few others. Both Peter Jarvis and Don Pigott warned me of the pitfalls of trying to please everyone, so quite frankly I do not try.

I listen very carefully to the committee and the members. I never express any opinion that is not shared by a significant number of members and normally at least one member of the committee.

Another important point to make is that any facts reported, for example, 'there has been a shift away from the idea of club layouts to layouts associated with one person or a group of people' is simply that, a fact, not a criticism of anyone. In fact I could put forward powerful arguments both in favour and against.

A 'wise man' once said 'it is better to provoke a reaction than none at all'. This has recently been picked up and used by a car manufacturer in their advert.

It is very easy to produce a newsletter which is reassuring and full of 'good news' but people today are not only too aware of this form of 'news management' and have learned to ignore it.

I am always eager to hear any 'feedback' as it helps when writing the newsletter.

Dennis has always given me plenty of scope and along with Fred and John Hatton keeps me supplied with articles and information. What has happened to 'Sagittarius'? If Dennis can 'pen' an article whilst on the way home by train, I am sure others can find the time to make a contribution.

Could I make a plea to 'Railtrack' for a 'speedy' West Coast main line upgrade as it makes his handwriting very 'wobbly'.

## P.S.

Does anyone remember a TV programme called 'Railway Roundabout'? The 'mists of time' have made my memory fade - J.D.

## Milton Keynes Model Railway Society- 1969

**President:**  
Jim Wood

**Vice President:**  
Les Wood

**Chairman:**  
Dennis Lovett

**Vice Chairman:**  
Fred Collins

**Secretary:**  
Chris Hughes

**Treasurer:**  
Eric Bowman

**Committee:**  
Geoff Bell  
Colin Jamieson  
Bruce Garwood  
Gordon Shrimpton

**CMRA Rep:**  
Chris Lester

**Museum Curator:**  
John Hatton

**Librarians:**  
Ray Cousins  
Richard Cousins

**Editor:**  
John Dibben

**Published by/  
Contact Point:**  
Dennis Lovett  
Chairman  
☎ 01908 376750

## Communications

This was the title of an editorial some years ago by Dennis and is an area which is important no matter what organisation is involved. Everywhere you go and whatever you are doing, communications are taking place. From 'junk mail' to mobile phones, there is no escape from the 'barrage' of information being offered to us. Whether we are any wiser for it all is 'questionable' to say the least.

The form of communication referred to in the title is of a much more fundamental kind, the communication between members. The regular members of the club amount to about that of a normal sized classroom. At school we new everyone in the class very quickly and yet how many club members do we know? By this I do not necessarily mean their personal lives but about their interest in model railways and if they are new members what prompted them to join and what do they hope to derive from membership of the club.

I am constantly surprised at what I find out, when talking to members which makes this job, for me, so interesting. Conversations can range from model railways to 'singers of pop hits' in the 60's, 70's and 80's!

We can be proud to have amongst our numbers a great wealth of experience and knowledge of all aspects of model railways. If you have a question on the subject or a 'bit stuck' with a project at home or in the club, you can be assured there is someone amongst the membership who can assist you. However, this can only be achieved by that most basic of communications, 'word of mouth'. You might receive a 'great deal' of advice, some of which is conflicting but it is nice to have a choice, isn't it?

Some people seem to think that a club's success is measured simply on the amount of work being carried out. Whilst there much work to be done, at 'the end of the day', it is the promotion of the hobby by meeting fellow railway modellers, conversing with them, assisting one another and the ability to make new friends.

*That's why people join clubs, isn't it!*



John Dibben

## Cover Picture:

8F 48060 at Denbeigh Hall, Bletchley, with the 'foot' of the 'flyover' in the background, circa 1960.

# Diary



## JULY

24/25 Bletchley Park Open Weekend (Polish Anniversary)  
27 QGM

## AUGUST

7/8 Bletchley Park Open Weekend  
21/22 Bletchley Park Open Weekend  
29 Bletchley Park Radio Club Fair

## Notice Board

### Fire Door

Fred has been hard at work building a new fire door in the large club room.

The old one was unusable and had to be removed.

There are still some problems with the access on the outside with many years accumulated undergrowth.

He is working with the Bletchley Park Trust to get this cleared.

Any changes to the fire procedures will be announced in due course.

### SWAPMEET DATES Woughton Campus

The next Woughton swapmeet will be held on September 26th.

Doors are open from 1100 - 1500.

The admission is 80p Adult, 40p children/Senior Citizens and £1.60 Family (2 adults and children).

The last swapmeet of the year will be on November 14th.

## Pick of the bunch!



Tracey Broyd, pictured above, 'posing' for the camera whilst at work on the 'garden layout'. This ever growing group *shovall* their energies into the *axe* that are required to build this *flowering* project. They *fork* out a great deal of time and effort and can now see their favourite locomotive and *rake* of coaches complete the figure-of-eight layout.

It is very relaxing to sit and watch Austin Daly's O gauge stock or Tracey's G scale 'mobile Noah's Ark' going past. You can sit under the trees and enjoy a cup of tea and a snack and the birds provide the 'icing on the cake'! Austin has returned to the club recently as has a number of us in the last few years.

Tracey, PE and biology teacher, can be found clutching her 'Bekonscot' brochure and dreams of building her own outdoor layout. She enjoys herself which is the main thing and her dreams of 'Bekonscot' - well that is what railway modelling is all about isn't it?

Whilst on the gardening theme, I fear the supplier of this photograph is going to be *spade*! What would the world be like without the ladies?!!!- J.D.

## QGM

The next QGM will be held on Tuesday 27th July at 20.00 in the clubrooms. A committee meeting will be held the week before on the 21st July at 1945.

### Garden Layout

Working parties are being held regularly at weekends during the summer. Progress is noticeable with the figure-of-eight with two tracks now complete.

It has been suggested that the hut be transformed into a 'signal box', 'a la Bekonscot'. Any ideas or volunteers?

Whilst it is called a 'garden layout' it is rather 'concrete' at the moment. However, ideas for 'landscaping' have been mooted and it would obviously benefit from some 'real live scenery'.

### MKMRS Sweatshirts and Polo-shirts

Gordon Shrimpton is still taking orders for MKMRS sweatshirts and polo-shirts at £14.50 and £12.50 respectively. They can be supplied with your name embroidered on them for an extra £2.00.

The Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users' Association is offering baseball caps for £1.30. Any thoughts? The main problem seems to be deciding which way round to wear them!

### The Historical Model Railway Society

Our links with the HMRS go back many years and their popular talks, half of which are held in our club rooms, will recommence in the Autumn. A list will appear in the next issue.

Eric Bowman, our Treasurer, is our contact and is always happy to answer any enquiries on the subject.

### North Norfolk Railway's Celebrations

Reports from those who attended suggest that they had a good time, particularly in the evening when a certain amount of 'brown fluid' was taken on at the local 'water columns'.

Dennis has received a letter from Gordon Eckersley, Honorary Member of the MKMRS and Director of the North Norfolk Railway which says '*Please accept my sincere thanks for your help ...*'

*It was a most enjoyable day, and we do appreciate all the effort put in by you, and hope that you enjoyed the day as much as we did.'*

BLETCHLEY PARK ROSTER 1999		JUNE TO DECEMBER		others who 'turn up'
Saturday	12-Jun Chris Symonds	Martin Shenton		
Sunday	13-Jun Dennis Lovett	Les Wood	Geoff Hammond	RNL WEEKEND
Saturday	19-Jun Chris Lester	Tim Davey	Phil Gilbert	RNL WEEKEND
Sunday	20-Jun Gordon Shrimpton	Chris Hughes	Nick Hughes	MILITARY WEEKEND
Saturday	26-Jun Tony Wynn	Paul Wakley	John Dibben	MILITARY WEEKEND
Sunday	27-Jun Dennis Lovett	Ian Smith	Steve Ellingham	
Saturday	11-Jul Eric Bowman	Ken James	Eric Preston	VINTAGE CAR PICNIC
Sunday	10-Jul Bruce Garwood	Ken James	John Dibben	PICNIC/FIRE ENGINES
Saturday	24-Jul Fred Collins	Phil Wood	John Dibben	POLISH WEEKEND
Sunday	25-Jul Dennis Lovett	Les Wood	Tracey Broyd	POLISH WEEKEND
Saturday	07-Aug Geoff Bell	Colin Janneson	Nick Hughes	
Sunday	08-Aug Gordon Shrimpton	Chris Hughes	Geoff Hammond	BATTLE OF BRITAIN
Saturday	21-Aug Ray Cousins	Richard Cousins	Steve Ellingham	WOMEN'S WEEKEND
Sunday	22-Aug Gordon Shrimpton	Dennis Lovett	John Dibben	2nd CRAFT FAIR
Saturday	04-Sep Tim Davey	Mark Wilson	Chris Symonds	2nd CRAFT FAIR
Sunday	05-Sep Roger Blackburn	Ian Leigh	Ian Harrison	
Saturday	18-Sep Chris Lester	Tony Wynn	Martin Shenton	BATTLE OF BRITAIN
Sunday	19-Sep Dennis Lovett	Les Wood	Geoff Hammond	WOMEN'S WEEKEND
Saturday	02-Oct Eric Bowman	Bernard Worden	Gordon Shrimpton	WOMEN'S WEEKEND
Sunday	03-Oct Chris Hughes	Nick Hughes	Brian Barnes	2nd CRAFT FAIR
Saturday	09-Oct Mick Clements	Stan Pennington	Steve Ellingham	2nd CRAFT FAIR
Sunday	10-Oct Ray Cousins	Richard Cousins	John Dibben	
Saturday	16-Oct Eric Preston	Tim Davey	Nick Hughes	
Sunday	17-Oct Gordon Shrimpton	Chris Hughes	Richard Cousins	HALLOWEEN AND
Saturday	30-Oct Chris Symonds	Ray Cousins	Paul Wakley	FIREWORKS
Sunday	31-Oct Bruce Garwood	Ken Wiggins	Martin Shenton	
Saturday	13-Nov Colin Janneson	Geoff Bell	Steve Ellingham	
Sunday	14-Nov Phil Gilbert	Chris Lester	Mark Wilson	CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday	27-Nov Eric Bowman	Tony Wynn	John Dibben	CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday	28-Nov Dennis Lovett	Les Wood	Nick Hughes	CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Saturday	11-Dec Bernard Worden	Ken James		CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Sunday	12-Dec Gordon Shrimpton	Chris Hughes		CHRISTMAS CAROLS

## *30 years ago!*

*By Dennis Lovett*

In our April newsletter, Fred Collins explained the background to the West Bletchley Model Railway Club. Fred also outlined that there were three model railway clubs.

Over the years, I have endeavoured to find out a bit about these organisations. Fred with his inside knowledge of West Bletchley has already dealt with one of them. The other back in circa 1970 was the Lakes Model railway Club. I believe that this was part of a larger modelling group and although it survived only a few years, did a good job in encouraging those who found themselves attached to the new development at Water Eaton. I believe that they met in a community house off Buttermere Close, although time has made those recollections sketchy. I am sure that one of the Arts and Crafts Festivals in the early 1970's, all three clubs were exhibiting. Perhaps a visit to the old Bletchley gazette files at some future date will reveal more.

The Bletchley MRC existed in the early 1960's but appeared to close in the mid-sixties. Certainly it was not in being by 1969. I once established from a former Bletchley MRC member, Gordon Dunnnett, that the club had an extensive OO layout behind 'The Elms', on the corner of Victoria Road, Vicarage Road and Queensway. This is today better known as Matthews, the undertakers and is by the roundabout into our old club rooms. I believe the layout was in an outbuilding behind the main building. When I was at school, this building was part of the Council's offices (Bletchley UDC).

In the past, our magazine carried details of an exhibition being held by the Bletchley Model Engineering Club (around 1958). One of the exhibits was a large model railway layout. Perhaps the model railway section of this organisation may have gone on to form the Bletchley Model Railway Club.

I have always had my suspicions that a branch of The Hornby Railway Company and/or The Meccano Guild existed locally at some stage. If anyone finds details in an old Meccano Magazine, please shout! I would be very surprised if a railway town like Bletchley did not have such a base.

I would hate any of our members to think that these other organisations were seen as rivals. They were not and we actively supported them. We continue to support Olney MRC (our nearest neighbours) when we can and wish them continued success, there is room for us both. Indeed, some years ago we supported the setting up of Leighton Buzzard MRC by three of then our committee members. It is a long story, which our Treasurer may be willing to relate in a future edition of MKMRS News.

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### *Exhibitions*

**Warley National Model Railway Exhibition** – NEC Birmingham, 9th/10th October, 1999.

**The Bedford to Bletchley Rail User's Association Rail Day** – Bow Brickhill Village Hall, 16th October, 1999.

## *Bletchley Park Acquisition*

Below is the information supplied in the 'press release' upon the 'acquisition' and contains the main points within it 'word for word' as opposed to that which was reported in the press.

The main thrust of the heritage park plan will be:

**Heritage Zone** – a celebration of Bletchley Park's achievements, how it worked during the war and a look into the future of communications technology.

**Conference Zone** – with a media centre and other resources to attract industry specialists, academic users and others who wish to enjoy the special environment.

**Community Zone** – providing children's resources and social facilities for volunteers and local people, with a company that will train and employ disadvantaged citizens.

**Knowledge Zone** – designed to appeal to organisations in business and education whose presence will rekindle technological innovation at Bletchley Park.

Around half the total site will be acquired by the Trust in a 250 year lease ...

The Trust will be able to use existing and new buildings ...

The formula will allow the Trust to use parts of the site to raise essential money to fund its preservation and development plans, but the landowners may share in any 'windfall' profits. After 25 years the freehold of its land will automatically pass to the Trust, whose holding is entirely within the existing Conservation area and includes key historic buildings.

The capital cost of the land is due to be repaid by the Trust over three years ...

£1.5 million is needed to kick-start the development plans.

Trust chief executive Christine Large ... 'Bletchley Park has so far received no grants or substantial external funding. We will not achieve the Trust's aim unless money is forthcoming from public, private and commercial sources who believe, as we do, that Bletchley Park can be a landmark of political, psychological and technological importance to the generations of the new millennium. This deal is a beginning, not the end.'

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### *Bletchley Park Roster*

The roster until the end of the year appears on the following page.

It is subject to last minute changes which we try to include but if you have already confirmed a swap or have told Chris Hughes or John Hatton you will not be available and the roster has not been altered, ignore it.