

Guild Events for 1999 / 2000

Saturday 27th November 1999

Winter Trade Show

Bletchley Leisure Centre
Admission free to Guild members

Saturday 12th February 2000

Guild Auction

Bletchley Park
Guild members only

Saturday 18th March 2000

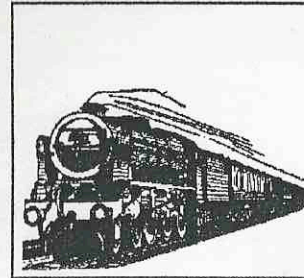
Spring Convention

Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading
Guild members £3.00, non-members £5.00
All tickets are family tickets

Saturday 3rd June 2000

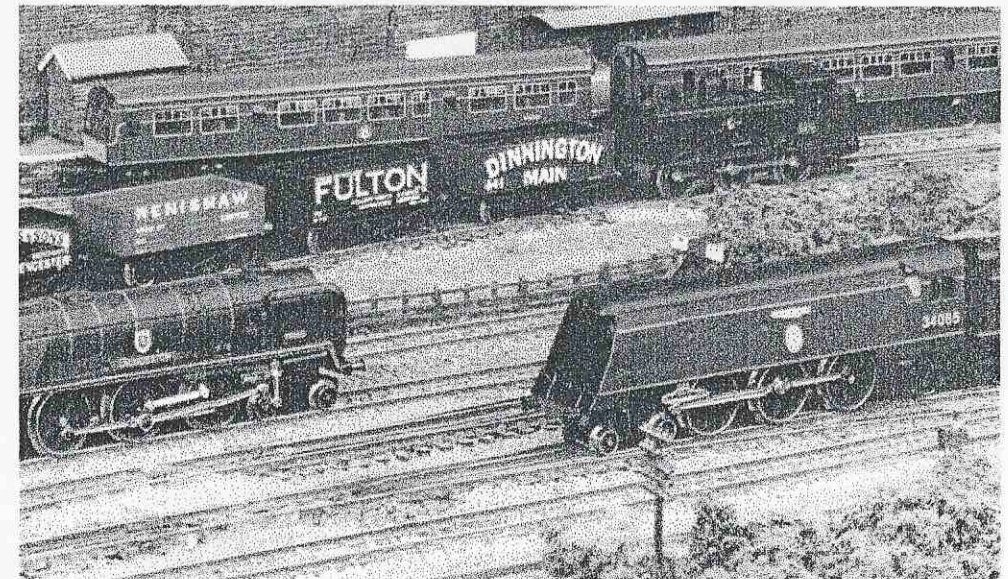
Northern Summer Convention

Northbridge Leisure Centre, Halifax
Guild members £1.00, non-members £3.00
All tickets are family tickets



Milton Keynes Model Railway Society

Newsletter No. 92 November 1999



The MKMRS is associated with:

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

Working within the Bletchley Park Museum

Museum News

The Halloween and Fireworks display was a great success. The weather which had been awful during the day, cleared up and a fine night meant the display went ahead as planned. The 'firewalking' went ahead and four Bletchley Park volunteers took part, although only one was at the 'group meeting'. No, they were not 'hospitalised'!

One item that might be of interest to members is a trip by train to London being organised by the Heritage Association to the London Transport stores on the 11th March 2000. This is where a great deal of artwork and other historic London Transport Train and Bus equipment is stored. It is a large building with six roads of 'tube stock' and houses all the items for which there is not enough room to display in their museum in Golders Green.

Finally, a reminder that there is plenty of positive and constructive happenings at BP. They work closely with MK Mind which provides creative projects for some of society's less able members.

The aim is to create a museum which is a real benefit to the community. In these days of blatant 'commercialism', it is refreshing to hear of any project that will benefit the disadvantaged.

There are many positive aspects to the Bletchley Park Museum and they should be emphasised whenever possible.

The MKMRS has benefited greatly from its involvement with BP and long may it continue to do so.

Bletchley Park Roster – November/December 1999

Saturday	13 November	Colin Jamieson	Geoff Bell	Martin Shenton	
Sunday	14 November	Phil Gilbert	Chris Lester	Steve Ellingham	
Saturday	27 November	Eric Bowman	Tony Winn	Mark Wilson	Christmas
Sunday	28 November	Dennis Lovett	Les Wood		Fair
Saturday	11 December	Bernard Worden	Ken James	John Dibben	Christmas
Sunday	12 December	Gordon Shrimpton	Chris Hughes	Nick Hughes	Carols

And Finally ...

By the time you read this the Chairman will have 'notched up' another year, so take it easy on the 'old fella'!

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

CMRA Rep:
Chris Lester

Museum Curator:
John Hatton

Editor:
John Dibben

Committee:
Geoff Bell
Colin Jamieson
Bruce Garwood
Gordon Shrimpton

Librarians:
Ray Cousins
Richard Cousins

**Published by/
Contact Point:**
Dennis Lovett
Chairman

Cover Picture:

'Mandlebury
Central' as featured
in the Graham
Farish catalogue.

Business as usual

The 'top story' this month has to be the 'difficulties' the Bletchley Park Trust has suffered in the past few weeks. When we moved into our present premises it was made clear by the Chairman that our fate was now inextricably linked with that of the Bletchley Park Museum. I have to admit to initial personal doubts but I have long since been a 'convert'. When I took over as editor of the MKMRS News two years ago, the Chairman specifically requested the members to be kept informed of BP news and events.

I have attended the meetings to which volunteers were invited and can reassure members that nothing has been mentioned that affects the MKMRS directly or indirectly, now or in the foreseeable future.

The 'Lurid' headlines in the press relate only the more 'unfortunate' aspects of the situation at BP today. It is very much 'business as usual' for the groups with planning for events through to the end of next year. It is a measure of the support which BP has gathered and the character of those involved that individuals holding 'opposing views' can sit around a table and not allow those views to affect the groups as a whole.

This is in no small way due to the openness of meetings, each group is specifically requested to speak, individuals have the ability to ask as many questions as you like and report fully on their groups activities. It can be a lengthy process but the initial report by whoever is presiding over the meeting is concise and is followed by a summary of forthcoming events about which those concerned can speak and request assistance. When complete there is plenty of time for individual questions which can lead to an open discussion on any relevant subject.

Mark Cornelius, the groups' representative has also gained much credit for his even handed approach when chairing meetings. He has expressed a wish, as have others, that groups are kept fully informed of the situation with minutes of meetings distributed to *all* volunteers. He also emphasises that the openness and trust shown to volunteers be returned by making sure that harmful rumours are not spread to the press.

The activities of the MKMRS are appreciated by the Bletchley Park Trust in a way many members may not realise and we have many friends within its ranks.

John Dibben
Editor



Notices

Christmas Social Evening

Yes, its here again and this year a 'social evening' is planned for Tuesday, 21st December. Details will appear in due course.

Bow Brickhill Rail Day

The Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users Association's Rail Day at Bow Brickhill on Saturday 16th October was a great success. During the afternoon the hall was very crowded. Mandlebury Central had its final outing and appeared to be performing well. A sizeable contingent of MKMRS members were present including Colin Jamieson, the BBRUA's vice chairman. Other layouts of note present were a large diesel depot layout which was operated by a club member whose name I must confess I have forgotten. The layout belonged to a friend and featured many 'blue' diesels. A very fine layout, 'Monkswood' was on display. It was an 009 layout which ran splendidly which is no mean feat. The buildings were excellent models of 'real' buildings in the south of England and were part of an excellent rural scenic setting.

Historical Model Railway Society Meetings – 1999/2000

November 24th, 1999 – 'Centenary Lecture': 'The West Coast Main Line 100 years ago' - Peter Davis. *(To be held in the mansion at Bletchley Park, all ticket, free of charge – see advert).*

February 23rd, 2000 – 'The Railways during World War 2'.

April 26th, 2000 – 'Modelling the London & Birmingham Railway' - Ian Forsyth.

Meetings commence at 1930, are free of charge and MKMRS members are welcome to attend.

MKMRS Sweatshirts and Polo-shirts

Gordon Shrimpton has asked that it be mentioned that MKMRS sweatshirts and polo-shirts are still available. Sweatshirts £14.50 and Polo-shirts £12.50. 'Personalised' shirts with name embroidered £3.00 extra. Orders to Gordon.

Woughton Swapmeet

The final swapmeet of the year will take place on Sunday 14th November at Woughton Campus from 1100 – 1500. Admission is 80p Adults and 40p Children/Senior Citizens and £1.60 Family (2 adults and Children).

Gauge O Guild – Winter Trade Show, Bletchley Leisure Centre

Volunteers are being sought to assist with the above show on the 27th November, 1999. Please add your name to the list in the lobby if you are interested.

ATTENTION

YOU'VE SEEN "THE 1900 HOUSE" ON TV – NOW
COME, SEE AND HEAR ABOUT "THE 1900 RAILWAY"

THE WEST COAST MAIN LINE 100 YEARS AGO

by
Peter Davis

THE HMRS (BEDFORD BRANCH) PRESENTS THE
CENTENARY LECTURE AT 7.30 pm ON WEDNESDAY,
24 NOVEMBER 1999 IN THE MANSION,
BLETCHLEY PARK

DOORS OPEN AT 6.00pm

As well as the lecture, there will be an exhibition of
7mm scale models of locomotives and rolling stock of
the period: specially brought together for this event.

This is our "local" railway. It passes within 200
metres of our clubroom. It is the one we use when we
travel by train. It is the one which made Bletchley,
Wolverton and Stony Stratford and the other villages
around here what they are. After agriculture, it was
the largest source of employment in the district. It is
OUR history. We all know someone who had a
connection with the West Coast Main Line of the
LNWR, the LMS or BR (London Midland Region).

Come and find out more about it. Non-members
welcome.

Support your local HMRS Branch

FREE ADMISSION

by ticket available from Eric Bowman

Notice of Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the requirement of the club rules, I hereby give advance notification of the 2000 Annual General Meeting of the Milton Keynes Model Railway Society which will be held on

Tuesday 25th January, 2000
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
8 November, 1999

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
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run locomotive	
Scratchbuilt rolling stock	
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run rolling stock	
Scratchbuilt locomotive	4mm or less
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run locomotive	
Scratchbuilt rolling stock	
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run rolling stock	
Kitbuilt or modified ready to run locomotive	2mm or less
Scenic items	Any scale

The rules of the competition state:

- 1 – No entry shall have previously been entered in a club competition
- 2 – The person submitting the entry shall be a fully paid up member at the time of entry

The competition will be judged during the AGM and prizes awarded afterwards

QGM

A QGM was held on the 26th October and the Chairman spoke about a number of issues which appear below. The Treasurer also requested monies owed as treasurers' are apt to do. The main topics were as follows:

Bletchley Park Museum

The MKMRS will continue to fulfil its role within Bletchley Park whatever the outcome of the present 'difficulties'. A meter was installed some time ago, at the club's expense to monitor use of electricity. We may be required to pay a proportion of our fuel bills at some future date and this measure will enable us to record usage and report it if required. It is also felt that the recording of numbers of visitors entering the club rooms at the weekend could be of great value in the future and members were asked to ensure that the everyone was accounted for so the numbers were as accurate as possible.

The Internet

The Chairman and his son Simon have opened a 'web site' and details about the MKMRS and its activities will be 'posted' on it. The address is www.MKMRS.FS.CO.UK and will commence on 15th November, 1999. The use of this technology can be used to great effect and shows we are 'up with the times'.

Mandlebury Central

No offers have been received for the layout to date. The price is £500 or any reasonable offer. It will be mentioned on the MKMRS 'web site' which may attract some offers.

Bletchley

It has been decided to build an N gauge model of Bletchley station as it was during wartime. It was realised sometime ago that an OO gauge model was not feasible due space that would be required. Panning is at a very early stage and important decisions such as how much should be modelled and whether all sidings and points should be 'live' or 'dummy' to reduce cost and construction time.

Heating Policy

It has been decided to formulate a heating policy to ensure that exhibits are kept at a temperature which avoids damage but does not use more power than is necessary. This will appear in the 'Newsletter' as soon as it is complete, probably next month. The size and construction of the club rooms make it difficult to heat adequately during the winter months as many club members will be all too well aware.

The chairman was asked about the possibility of a coach trip next year and this will be looked into.

The subject of advertising to attract new members arose and several suggestions were made.

The members expressed their thanks to all those involved in making the recent barbecue a success.

The meeting ended on an unusual note, that of the fire bell. A fire drill was held and the members filed out in good time, just under two minutes. A few ribald remarks were made when the signing – in book was read out by the Secretary, trying to understand various 'squiggles' but it is a serious matter and members are asked to try to make their signatures legible.

Donations

A number of members have requested that the MKMRS has a 'donation box' for visitors to make donations if they wished. This was discussed thoroughly at the committee meeting before the QGM. Other groups have them and it was thought that this could generate some income. The general feeling was against such a move although the sincerity of the members making the proposal was taken into account.

Permission would have to be sought for such a proposal if it was considered and now would not be an appropriate time to ask.

By inviting the MKMRS into the Bletchley Park Museum site Bletchley Park Trust has saved us many thousands of pounds not to mention the cost of printing of the newsletter and we have 'done our bit' in return.

The Tinplate Room

The 'Tinplate' room is now ready for the 'Tinplate Team', Stan Pennington, Brian Barnes and Mick Clements to move in. Thanks for this must go to Reg Cook, Paul Wakely and Bernard Worden. The sturdy baseboards with hinged flap by the door and cupboards underneath look really impressive.

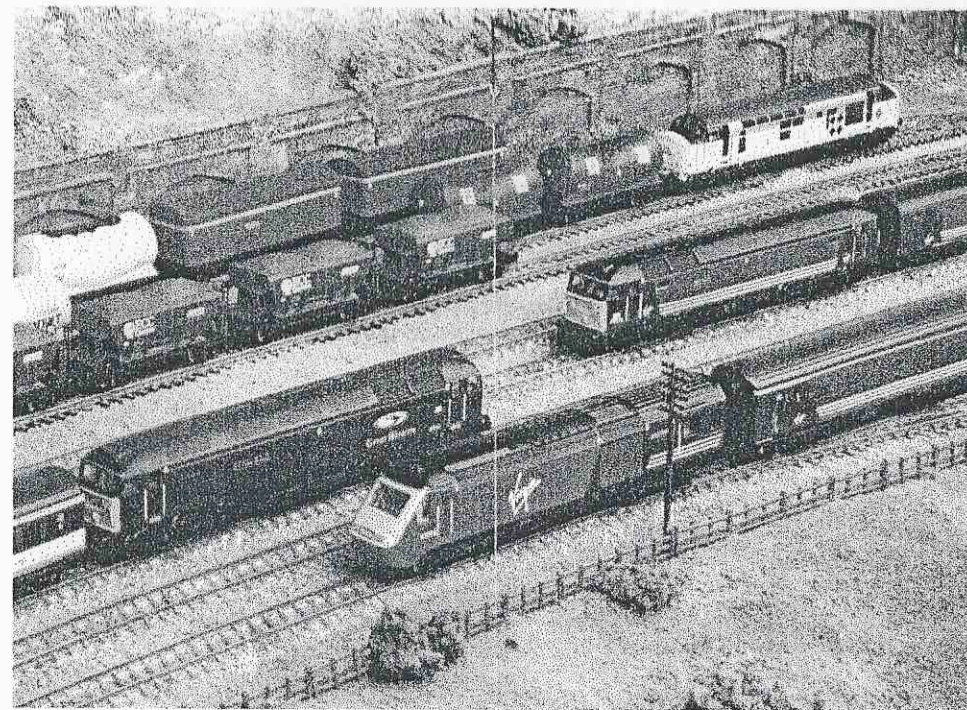
Club Layouts

Work on the outdoor layout is more difficult in the winter but Geoff Bell has announced a working party on Saturday November 13th when he on the roster.

The Hornby-Dublo layout has been altered to make more efficient use of space and Ken has been given space at the entrance to the large clubroom on the understanding that it does not grow any more and this is now known as Ken's Corner.

Some time ago Graham Farish sent a team to photograph their latest products on the Mandlebury Central layout. By sheer coincidence this included a HST in Virgin livery, the Chairman's employer. Graham Farish have promised a few of their products in return.

The photographs appear in their No. 2 catalogue which lists their most recent releases. A selection of the photographs which appear in the catalogue appear on the cover and the next page.



Mandlebury Central

