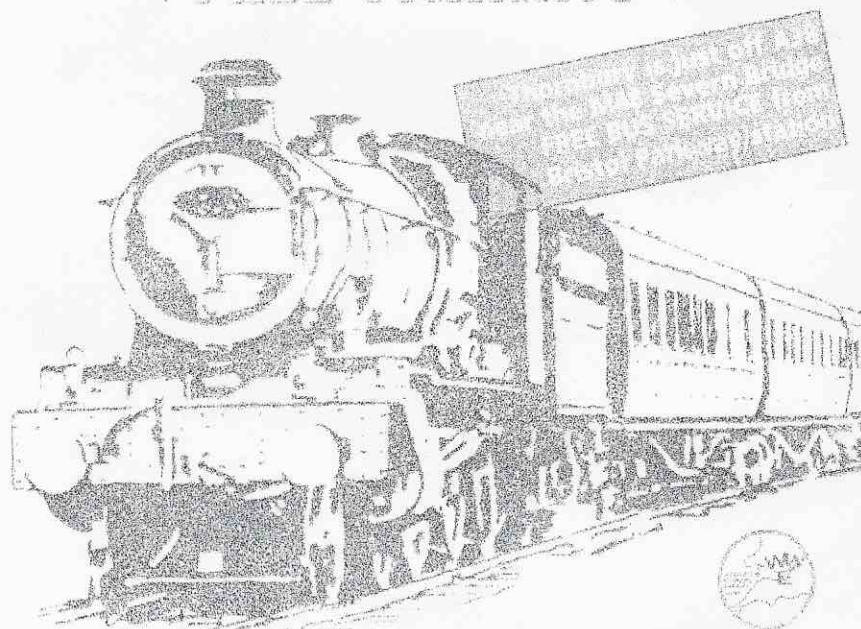


32nd ANNUAL
**BRISTOL
MODEL RAILWAY
EXHIBITION
2000**

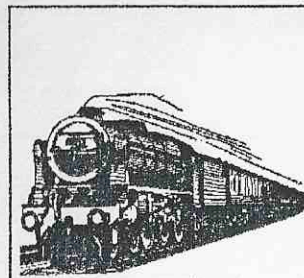
Thornbury Leisure Centre,
Alveston Hill, THORNBURY,
BRISTOL

Friday April 28th 2 pm - 8 pm
Saturday April 29th 10 am - 7 pm
Sunday April 30th 10 am - 5 pm

* FREE PARKING *



ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILWAY CLUBS, WALES & WEST OF ENGLAND LTD.

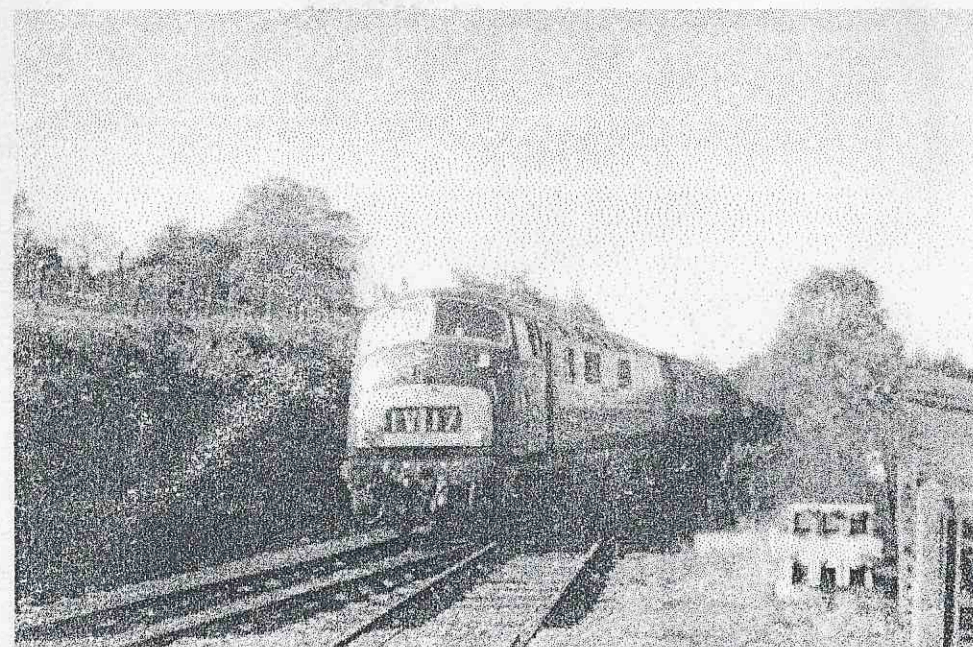


Milton Keynes

Model Railway Society

Newsletter

No. 94 January 2000



The MKMRS is associated with:

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

Working with the Bleichley Park Museum

Wheels within Wheels

If you are interested in transport in general, you cannot help but notice the way it not only reacts to the needs of communities but also shapes them. The Milton Keynes area and the involvement of the railways is no exception. Milton Keynes, at the time the MKMRS was formed did not really exist. It 'filled the gap' between Bletchley, Stony Stratford and Wolverton. The London and Birmingham Railway created the towns Bletchley and Wolverton. Until then, Bletchley was a village in the area of Bletchley Park with Fenny Stratford on the A5 as the market town.

Similarly, Wolverton was on the outskirts of Stony Stratford, again on the A5 which made a living from the stagecoach, the one with the 'horses' at the front as opposed to the ones with the 'horses' under the floor. It is said that the 'Cock and Bull' stories came from the 'coaching inns' of the same name, in the High Street. The High Street contained many 'hostelries' and it is said it was not possible to consume a pint at each one in an evening.

So all three towns were shaped by transportation of one kind or another. The links with the railway helped the brick industry to flourish in Bletchley although the origin of the amount of brush factories remains a mystery to me!

The strategic position of Bletchley as regards rail and road links probably, when combined with its situation almost as far inland as you can get, was probably the reason 'Station X' was situated at Bletchley Park. The Germans couldn't find it and many visitors find it difficult!

So, if it wasn't for the railways Bletchley Park might not exist in the form it does today and without Bletchley Park, the MKMRS certainly wouldn't.

Bletchley Park may also feature in the much needed revitalisation of Bletchley, if a scheme which has been proposed goes ahead. The wheel then, in more than one sense will have turned full circle.—
J.D.

And Finally

The newsletter is posted to those members who I do not see by myself, at my suggestion, to lessen the cost of postage. This is done every two or three months, 4 or 5 times a year.

Together with my suggestion that Bletchley Park might assist in its printing has brought its cost down to just that of postage, a saving of £158 or 80% to just under £30 and all above board!

I hope this allays the concerns shown by a member or members without my knowledge last October!

So as we leave the 'nineties' for the 'noughties'!!! May I wish you all a Happy New Year!

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:

'Warship' on the
Severn Valley
Railway.

Photo: Chris Avis

New Years Resolution

This editorial was written between the committee meeting preceding the AGM and the AGM itself and therefore can only cover the main thrust, in general terms of that which the committee proposes to put before the members.

In short, the main point for discussion is expenditure. It is felt by the committee that income should meet expenditure in the coming year. In previous years outgoings have far outstripped income in order to 'jump-start' new layouts and bring others 'up to scratch' with a resulting fall in funds.

The result is a proposed budget on layout spending as follows:

Fenny Stratford	£50	Verney Junction	£50
EM Layout	£100	Sherwood (shelf layout)	£75
Tinplate Room	£50	Outdoor Layout	£375

Another important issue is that of our relationship with the Bletchley Park Trust. It is widely felt that every effort should be made to strengthen our support for the Trust and fellow volunteers in other groups in every possible way in recognition of the mutual benefits concerned.

A new Trust Board is now in place and their plans will no doubt be made public in due course.

The MKMRS is in a unique position and it is not easy to act as a 'traditional' model railway club and a 'museum' at the same time and for the present it is fair to say that, on balance, the committee feel that they must concentrate on the 'museum' aspect of the club in order to fulfil our obligations to the Trust.

Failure to do this could result in the inability to do either and is an important point to be considered when 'difficult' decisions have to be made.

The MKMRS and its committee has not forgotten its 'roots' or the members that helped the club grow to its present size. Confirmation of this will be shown at the AGM, details of which will appear in next months issue, although I hope as many members as possible can attend and hear the discussions for themselves.

John Dibben
Editor

Photo: Chris Avis

Notices

Historical Model Railway Society Meetings – Spring 2000

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.

Woughton Swapmeet

The dates for next years swapmeets are as follows:

February 6th May 14th September 17th December 3rd

They will be held at the Woughton Campus from 1100 – 1500. Admission is £1 Adults, 80p Concessions and Children under 18 Free.

Gauge O Guild Auction

The ‘Guild Auction’ to be held at Bletchley Park on Saturday 12th February, 2000. Members are asked to volunteer for stewarding duties on the day.

Ern’s Good Turn

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I can inform members of Ernie Johnson’s kind offer of the use of his large selection of West Coast Main Line rolling stock of an era suitable for use on the Verney Junction Layout. This will give the layout a truly LNWR/LMS flavour.

Chris Hughes, Eric Bowman, Gordon Shrimpton and others have spent a great deal of time bringing this old layout out of retirement for show at weekends as an example of a ‘local’ station in the 30’s and 40’s.

Whilst most r-t-r stock will run on the layout and members in this area having some models of their own, it has been difficult to provide a good selection of suitable stock on a weekly basis.

Thanks to Ernie this is now not the case. Regrettably, he feels he cannot continue with his model of Wolverton which he has been engaged upon since his retirement. He can, however, rest assured that his stock will find a good home and be much appreciated by members and visitors alike. – J.D.

Museum News

A new roster, courtesy of Chris Hughes, appears below. He wishes it to be known that it is desirable that a Committee Member is present at each Opening and that members arrange their own swap if they are unable to do their rostered duty. John Hatton, John Tennant and Ken Ranns are NOT rostered separately as they attend most weekends.

Bletchley Park Roster – February to June 2000

Saturday	5 February	Bruce Garwood	Ken Wiggins	John Dibben	
Sunday	6 February	Fred Collins	Bernard Worden	Ian Harrison	ATC
Saturday	19 February	Les Wood	Mark Wilson	Tony Winn	
Sunday	20 February	Gordon Shrimpton	Dave Ruck	Steve Ellingham	
Saturday	4 March	Geoff Bell	Ray Cousins	Richard Cousins	
Sunday	5 March	Chris Lester	Tim Davey	Phil Gilbert	
Saturday	18 March	Colin Jamieson	Paul Wakely	Jeff Mathie	Craft
Sunday	19 March	Chris Hughes	Nick Hughes	Martin Shenton	Fair
Saturday	1 April	Eric Bowman	Eric Preston	Jim Wood	
Sunday	2 April	Gordon Shrimpton	Roger Blackburn	Ian Leigh	
Saturday	15 April	Dennis Lovett	Austin Daly	Ken James	
Sunday	16 April	Fred Collins	Bernard Worden	Phil Wood	
Saturday	29 April	Geoff Bell	Stephen Walker	John Dibben	Womens
Sunday	30 April	Bruce Garwood	Ken Wiggins	Martin Shenton	Weekend
Saturday	13 May	Colin Jamieson	Tony Winn	Jeff Mathie	
Sunday	14 May	Chris Hughes	Nick Hughes	Steve Ellingham	
Saturday	27 May	Chris Lester	Tim Davey	Phil Gilbert	1940’s
Sunday	28 May	Les Wood	Mark Wilson	Paul Wakely	Military
Monday	29 May				Weekend
Saturday	10 June	Eric Bowman	Jeff Mathie	Austin Daly	Challenge
Sunday	11 June	Gordon Shrimpton	Dave Ruck	Stephen Walker	Weekend
Saturday	24 June	Dennis Lovett	Ken James	John Dibben	Boat Club
Sunday	25 June	Bruce Garwood	Ken Wiggins	Tony Winn	Enduro

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society



A.S. No. 50000 Union of South Africa, masquerading as Oxyrex, stands under the magnificent iron steel roof (now sadly demolished) at Blackburn, 27th April 1991.

The Railway Correspondence and Travel Society now meets regularly at the C.I.U. Workingmens Club, London Road, Stony Stratford at 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of every month.

For the second meeting of the New Year on Thursday 3rd. February we are to be entertained by Hugh Ramsey, editor of "Railway Reflections" and "Capital Steam" with a slide show entitled "June to December 1962"

As usual all are welcome. Do come along if you can.



Christmas Quiz and Social Evening

On Tuesday 14th, December, the club held a 'Social Evening and Quiz'. The 'Quiz' took up most of the evening with a break for a tea or coffee and a mince pie *or two or ...*

The evenings' 'top feeds' were '18.2', otherwise known as Eric Bowman and Chris Lester and the 'tail lights' were Ken Ranns and Geoff Hammond who enjoyed themselves nevertheless. Les Wood and Mark Wilson were worthy runners up and the 'Dynamic Duo', with the invaluable assistance of Fred Collins, crept into a creditable third place. Attendance low with only six teams and some onlookers. Thanks go to Steve Dennison and Phil Gilbert, the question compilers, Phil for acting as 'Quizmaster' and both for the way the 'quiz' was presented. - J.D.

Do you have your own layout? Do you wish to exhibit it?

The MKMRS is a member of the Chiltern Model Railway Association which is an association of model railway clubs in the Chiltern area. The CMRA has a register of available layouts for the use of member clubs when organising an exhibition. Any person belonging to a club which is a member of the CMRA can have their layout included on the register. The CMRA is at present updating this register and MKMRS members are invited to have their layouts included on it.

The exhibitions are all within a radius which does not cause exhibitors any travelling problems, such as overnight accommodation. They are held throughout the year and many MKMRS members visit them regularly.

Chris Lester is our CMRA representative and if you are interested please contact him. He will advise you of the details required.

The CMRA also frequently ask for volunteers for stewarding at exhibitions and a list of venues is available on the notice board.

Members also frequently attend exhibitions in this capacity and I am sure their assistance is greatly appreciated. - J.D.

MKMRS (Corporate Image) Sweatshirts and Polo-shirts

Sweatshirts	£14.50
Polo-shirts	£12.50

'Personalised' with names embroidered
£3.00 extra.

Orders to Gordon Shrimpton

Catching the Train with the 'Net'

By John Dibben

After years of yawning at the very mention of computers and the 'Internet', I have been converted to one and now the other. Although middle-aged and sporting less hair than I once did, I am always open to new ideas. It is obvious that the 'Internet' is like all those other new crazes that 'will never catch on' and then do, like radio, television and 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'!

It was for information on buses that I originally decided to 'get on the net', for which it has proved invaluable. However, the amount of railway and model railway information which can be gleaned is vast and growing, quite literally, daily.

As you will have read Dennis and his son Simon have set up a web-site for the MKMRS which is linked to the Bletchley Park site. The address is www.mkmrs.fsnet.co.uk.

We are by no means unique. There are a significant number of sites set up by model railway clubs. It has to be said most are in south-east England. Uckfield, for example has a very colourful site with full details of their layouts and several pictures of each in a format similar to that found in a model railway magazine. This includes full construction details and layout plans. They have obviously seen the enormous potential of creating a web-site.

Model railway manufacturers are getting 'in on the act'. Langley Models is a notable case and N gauge features prominently. Sites of 'historic interest', such as Tri-ang can be found with many pictures and information about their products. With the 'net' one item leads to another through 'links' and 'webrings' and looking through a site such as Tri-ang can lead to sites for 'collectors' which would be of interest to many.

Bookshops have been 'quick off the mark' and checks can be made on the latest titles and second hand items at minimal cost.

It is a vast area to cover and pictures take time to download, so beware of that first 'phone bill after 'getting connected'. I am well aware that even after reading these few lines those who are 'unconverted' will be wondering where the article on a nice 'pacific' locomotive has got to. However, it is the future and with effort is a way of attracting young people who might not otherwise see a model train.

To be honest there is a lot of 'junk' to be found as old sites 'hang around', cluttering up the lists. 'Search engines', a posh name for a 'directory' help, but a general request for a search for 'model railways' will turn up over 7,000 entries which is impractical but shows the amount of information that is available. This is where 'web-rings' with good links like the 'UK Model Railways Community Webring' are invaluable. Typing www.geocities will also produce some very interesting sites.

Of course, as you will be aware the USA is 'way ahead' in this field. For modellers of things American web-sites exist for all major manufacturers such as Athearn, Lifelike, Concor, Walthers and many more. These contain photos and lists of current items with the option to purchase 'on the net'. Warning, do not visit these sites with a weak will and a credit card!

When it comes to the 12" to the foot scale stuff, there is no limit to the amount of pictures of American trains. Elaborate sites with route maps exist for the major railroads. A Chicago and North Western site gives a full 'roster', fleet list to you and me, with pictures of about a half of each of the individual locomotives.

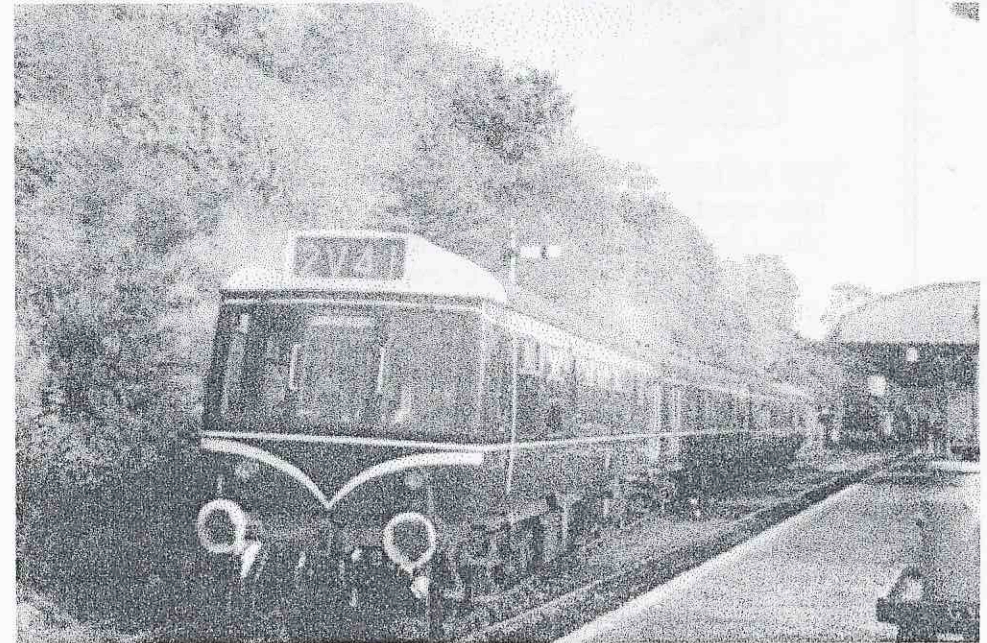
Continental railways such as the many Swiss railways can be found with views of their locomotives in spectacular settings. There is also plenty of information and 'background' which is invaluable to modellers. The only model railway manufacturer I have come across to date though, is Marklin.

Back in the UK, some preserved railways have web-sites which are useful for anyone planning a visit.

Information which you spent ages searching for at significant cost is now available very easily, once 'you get the hang of it'. Magazines, which are becoming increasingly expensive with often the same old photos rehashed will never disappear but as a source of information for the railway modeller might take a back seat in the future and save a few trees into the bargain!

If you have got this far, I thank you for bearing with me on an activity which, for most members, will eventually become as normal as switching on the television. Oh yes it will!

Next month, its back to those nice familiar steam engines and internal combustion engines although I think they will never catch on!



Preserved DMU at Bewdley on the Severn Valley Railway. Photo: Chris Avis