



Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 209

Winter 2022

CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

Welcome to the latest Newsletter. The Club has enjoyed a successful Autumn season and following the summer exhibition we have held two open days, the most recent in October was attended by 54 visitors and included several families with young children. Two people joined up, David Griffiths and Pete Bickers and we look forward to welcoming them both into the clubroom. Just over £30 was given in donations and 28 members were present at various times throughout the day.

Progress continues to be made on the club layouts; the 0-gauge has been moved to the back wall to give sufficient space for fiddle yards to be added at each end. Gerhard is leading the project and drawing up a list of items to be undertaken so all are invited to get involved – you do not have to model in the 7mm scale. Following the successful Barton Road Platinum Jubilee and more recent Halloween themes scenic work is proceeding again. Baseboards in the fiddle yard have been painted earth colour and ballasting has commenced. This exercise is intended for members to have a go at ballasting and gain experience in scenic work if they do not have a layout of their own.

A former work colleague of mine has recently donated two N-gauge projects from his late Father. One is a well-made diorama depicting a recently dismantled rural branch line and the other is a small layout which can be refurbished for club use, again to give members scenic experience.

The current edition of Continental Modeller reports that thieves struck again at a recent Soar Valley Club exhibition. Strangely it was a previous Soar Valley event at Great Central Railway pre-lock down where several traders suffered major thefts. This time the event was at a school where the school insisted,

they would undertake security but seemingly the external door was only locked but not bolted so intruders forced the door with a spade. Ian Pidcock of Mount Tabor Models tells me he lost £22,000 worth of stock which included all of his limited edition Märklin Z-gauge stock bought in specially for the annual Z-gauge show and Roco Z21 complete train sets.

Thanks to James, the club has sponsored a Christmas Tree in CMK shopping centre, decorated with card models of trains made by members. Our tree is located in Midsummer Place, near the 'frog clock' and will be on display throughout the festive season.

Dennis took this picture of 45231 Sherwood Forester and 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley that were on a positioning move from Crewe to Southall. Nigel Gresley has since pulled a special from Kings Cross to York.



Just in case anyone still needs to move their subscription payments over the details are here... Lloyds Bank - sort code **30-98-97** Account No. **58101262** MK Model Railway **CLUB** (not MKMRS) Amount **£13/month** with your name and membership number as the reference please.

Perhaps a little early, but may I take this opportunity to wish all members and families a very Happy Christmas.

Chris Hughes
Chairman

Obituary

November has been a sad month as we have lost three people connected to the club;

Ray Cousins who had been an active member throughout our Bletchley Park days and only resigned in 2018 when his eyesight began to fail has passed away.

Jacqui's Husband, Bob Perrat has also passed away this month following a long illness. Bob's passion was G-scale and he brought displays to several of our exhibitions in the past.

Most recently we learned that Mick Gowling had died following a fall at his home. Mick, a retired Metropolitan Policeman, joined the club in 2017 and had a keen interest in railway photography.

We send our condolences to the Families and will mark their passing in the usual manner at the next AGM.

Meet Our New Members

Paul Egerton



Thank you all for welcoming me to the Club although I'm not that new, as I'm Ian's Dad and have periodically popped in when dropping him off!

My interest in railways goes back many years to the end of steam on BR when I have memories of the last days of filthy Black 5s hauling me to Blackpool North to see my Grandparents. I rekindled interest in mainliners when BR introduced the Sunday Shakespeare Luncheon Expresses from Marylebone to Stratford-upon-Avon and have trundled around the country after steam ever since.

I have previously been a member of the High Wycombe and District MRS before moving to Bletchley, and it has been through Ian's interest that mine has started once again. I'm currently building an analogue layout in my loft (cannot get my head around digital) mainly so that my models from the 1970s and 80s have somewhere to run. It is a fictitious place modelled variously on a Branch in Somerset that had a passing loop and bay very loosely based on Dulverton which alas, is now a private house but the buildings are still extent as an aid to modelling.

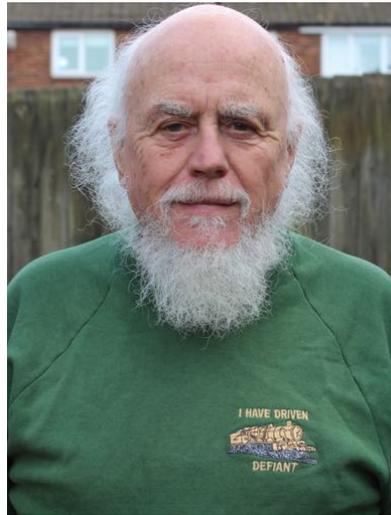
Railways must be in the blood, as I am a shareholder of the West Somerset Railway, and a member of the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway where I have been many times. I am indebted to my Wife Sharon for putting

up with my hobby especially when I disappear off to some preserved line that I have never been to before or chase after a mainliner usually up on the Settle and Carlisle.

I'm definitely a 00-gauge modeller, and the majority of my freight stock is all kit built mainly Ratio or Parkside Dundas. I'm toying with the idea of starting a Collett Coach kit from Wizard Models, but until I have finished my layout, that will have to wait. My interest is GWR/BR Western Region of the period 1920 – 1950.

Meet Our New Members

Peter Bickers



Let me introduce myself, my name is Peter Bickers I am a retired computer programmer.

I am also a member of the Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway Society, the Signalling Record Society, the Railway Performance Society and the Bedford Bletchley Rail Users Association.

Also membership secretary of another MK organisation and Trustee of a charity in London.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway Autumn Gala 2022 By Paul Egerton

My son Ian and I, spent a week in our caravan enjoying the beautiful scenery through which the NYMR is blessed to pass. Our prime reason for visiting,



was to see and photograph LNER Class A4 no 4498 “Sir Nigel Gresley” in its ‘temporary’ livery of wartime black, and we enjoyed a ride behind it from Grosmont to Pickering and return. Pictured here arriving at a very crowded Pickering station.

It was good to see the locomotive back in action following overhaul, as it has been many years out of steam and since the expiry of the boiler ticket of number 60009 “Union of South Africa”, there has

been no A4 running on either the national network, or preserved lines.

As might be expected, all trains hauled by 4498 were full and packed proving it is a very popular locomotive to ride behind.

4498 was not the only guest engine, as it was joined by BR Standard Class 5 number 73156 visiting from the Great Central Railway, and Taff Vale Railway Number 85 visiting from the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway. If they were not enough, the home roster included 9F 92134, Schools Class 926 *Repton*, S15 Class Number 825 "*Greene King*", BR Standard 4 76079, BR Standard 4 Tank 80136, NER Q6 63395, LNER J27 65894, Lambton Tank "*Peggy*" No 29 and perhaps most unusual, Class IV No 8 "*Lucie*" which was deployed at Levisham undertaking shunting demonstrations.

"*Lucie*" disgraced itself on the Sunday by dropping a pin from one of the connecting rods and thus blocking the loop preventing trains from passing. A significant delay to the timetable resulted which in the end was resolved by "*Greene King*" detaching from its train, running round the loop, and pushing the crippled "*Lucie*" into the sidings. That apart, the event was very well supported and as always, enjoyable.

But the trip was not all about the NYMR, as Ian has long wanted to visit The Model Centre at Beck Hole near Goathland. A word of warning, Satnav's do not always precisely locate addresses, and thus on this occasion, it sent us passed the entrance but a backtrack found it. The business is in the middle of nowhere, but if you have never been before, do visit, as it is a cornucopia of everything modelling and weathering is their speciality. My purchases were relatively modest being four point motors and wiring for my own home layout, but I could have spent a fortune there so have a budget in mind.

Sandy Falant

By Andy Culham

Some of you may remember the article that was published in the newsletter about four years ago explaining the rationale and back story to my layout, and showing the early stages of construction. You may also remember I ended the article at the point where I was about to start on wiring the layout and points (all thirty of them), and saying that this could take a while because I'm no electrician.

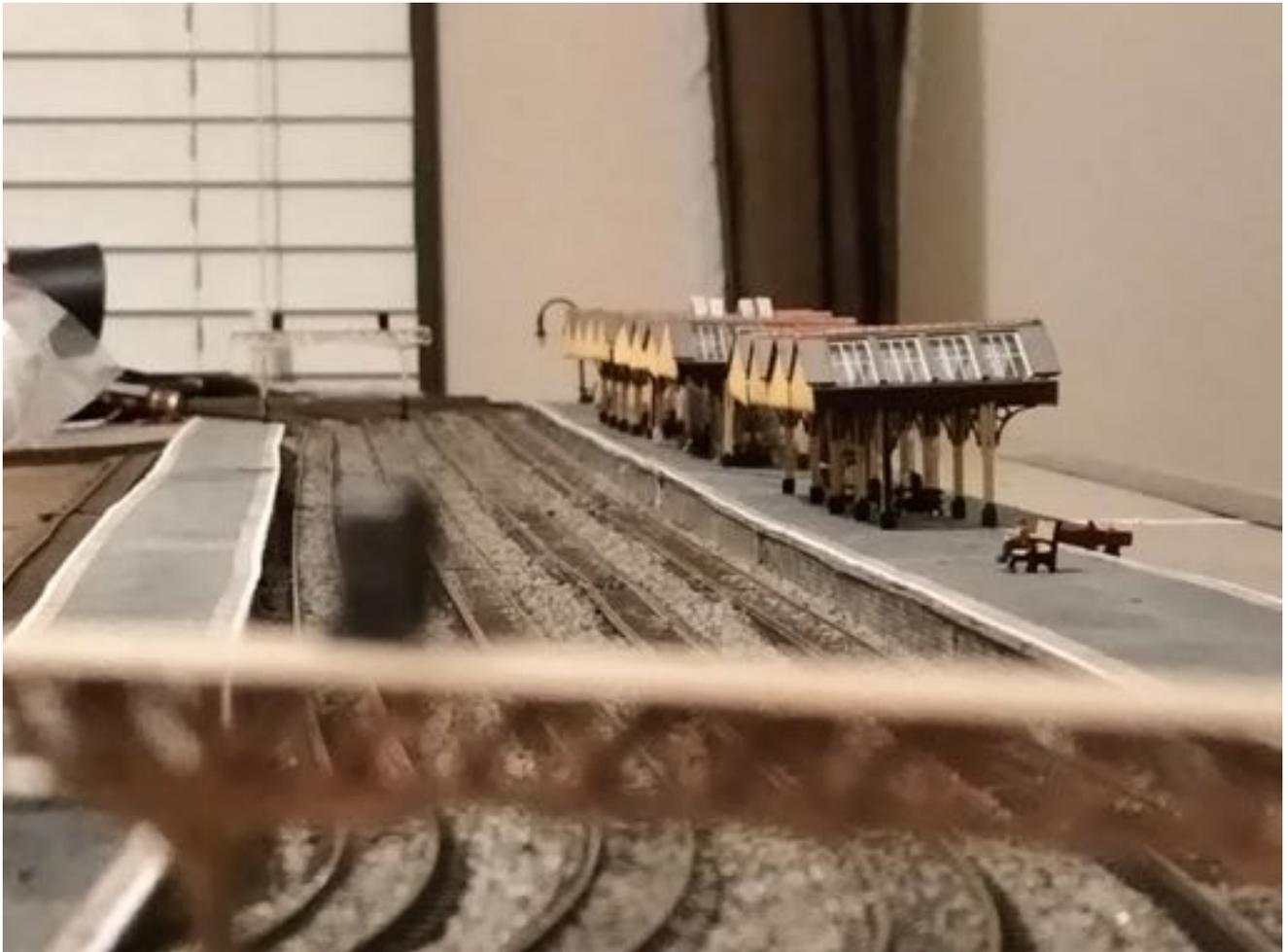
Well, it's taken four years, but it's at long last done, although, in my defence, I feel I must point out, I have a 120ft x 30ft garden which I am slowly re-landscaping (summer), and household management keeps requiring me to re-decorate various rooms, (I can't see what's wrong with them, the wall paper is still up) during the winter. The results of my labours can be seen in the video I posted on the clubs Facebook page a couple of months ago.



I have now started work on ballasting, with the station area completed, and the last couple of weeks have seen me turn the dining room table into a kit building factory, with various station structures being built and lighting added using Kytes Lights mini LED SMDs, somewhat fiddly but, I think, well worth the effort for the resulting

effect. I have also ordered bespoke station signs from Trackside Signs which I am waiting for the Postman to get round to delivering and I have run out of 'seated passengers' to populate the platform although I have enough 'standing passengers' for my current needs.







Once I have completed the main platform I will carry on with the ballasting whilst I save the spondoolies to enable me to equip and populate the town backscene and the other platform, the progress of which I will report in future newsletters, (unless of course I receive enough financial encouragement not to !!!!!)

Member Updates

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the club. If you see them in the clubroom, please introduce yourself.



Paul Egerton



Peter Bickers

David Griffiths



The MKMRS Newsletter will only survive with your help, we need you to provide articles -

- ❖ These can be write-ups on exhibitions you have attended, modeling titbits, or anything that you think other members would find interesting.
- ❖ If you would like to be included in our “Meet the Members” articles in a future Newsletter, please send in your notes for inclusion.
- ❖ The articles need to be sent in by email to MKMRSNewsletter@courtmk.co.uk they need to be the words that you want to appear, include any pictures that you want in the article. All can be sent to the above email address for inclusion.
- ❖ Hoping for lots of copy for the newsletter.

Deadline for articles for the Spring Edition is the 24th Febuary 2023 with the Newsletter being published by the 1st March 2023.