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IN THIS EPISODE...

We tour Alsager Model Railway Association's large N gauge club layout 'Fredstone Lane'. Plus, Phil Parker shares guidance for constructing your first wagon chassis and Howard Smith adds a common lineside detail to BRM's project layout.





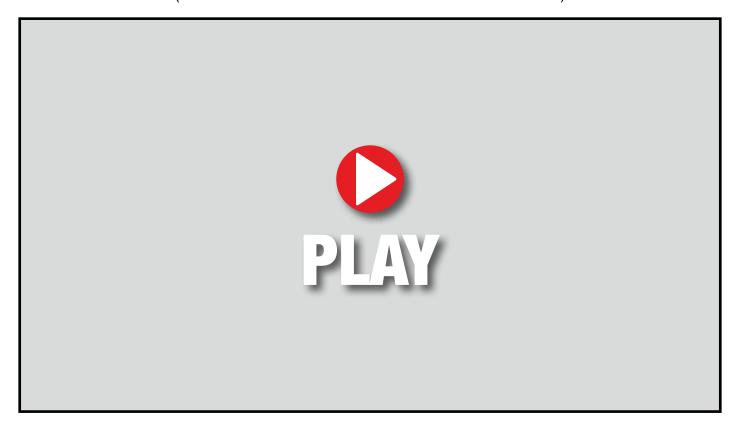
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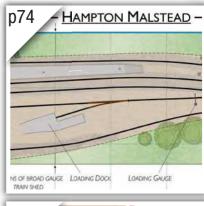


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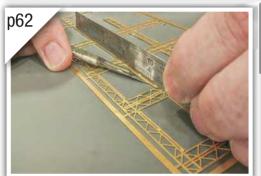
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Welcome to June

BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING

he BRM team hopes you and your loved ones are healthy and managing well in these unforeseen times. Our whole world is different, individually and globally and this has had effects on our hobby too, but not all bad.

The initial impact of the crisis resulted in extended New Year holidays for the manufacturers in China which will, inevitably, mean some delays to products arriving to the market. This is something that will manifest itself further down the road and it's a situation that as sensible people we can accept and live with; it's such a small price to pay. Everything seems to be back underway with production in China and shipping is getting back to normal flows for goods, so we will recover.

All team members are still working flat out, operating remotely and communicating through conference calls and email. It's meant a shift in working hours and patterns, but sometimes being freed from office hours can be a positive in terms of efficiency and creativity.

We are seeing shifting patterns in how our readers get hold of BRM too, as fewer retail outlets are open – more people are subscribing to have print issues delivered straight to the letterbox and digitally via the internet. The digital version of BRM gives us the chance to include more content with additional images and video, which just aren't

possible in print. We are also producing more content for readers online on our World of Railways website, with the latest news stories and other features.

As a percentage of us find ourselves with less work and more leisure time, our online traffic has risen substantially and the usage trends are interesting. As soon as lockdown came, the traffic started to rise. At this time of year after the clocks change usage seasonally dips a little as people are outside and out more, but this year it's different. We normally see a dip in traffic over the Easter weekend, but this year it was a rise. More modellers are using our sites and spending longer online. It's a lifeline for some, a way to communicate with their fellow modellers and we have specific areas for people to show what they are modelling and even offer mutual support at a time of stress.

There's another positive in that; it's evident that more people are spending more time modelling, it's a time of opportunity but also a means to lose oneself in a world which can be controlled.

We are also hearing from parts of the trade that they are going through an upturn in sales, especially with the staple products of track, electrical and scenic items, which again tells us there is activity. Hopefully, in brighter days, we'll see more finished models and layouts that we otherwise might not. We would love to hear your stories on what this

extra time has enabled you to do.

Sadly, all events were cancelled during the spring and this will surely continue through the summer to an unknown degree at this stage. However, RMweb members took the opportunity to make something good of the cancellation of their annual Members' Day in Taunton at the end of April and made this a virtual event to be enjoyed by more readers. Without the constraints of the village hall's walls, more layouts could be 'invited', more visitors could see the content in digital form and the event reached across the world. The content is still available to read on www. rmweb.co.uk

The event was also supported by many of the hobby's manufacturers as the initiative sought to raise funds for the NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Urgent Appeal, and through the means of a prize draw and donations for virtual Devon pasties, a total of £7,919 was raised, which has already been paid over to the charities. We are immensely grateful to the support from our readers for such a phenomenal response at a time when everyone is under different pressures.

We have all pushed through the first stages of a difficult period in history. There is more to come, but with the joy that a creative hobby can give, and a supportive community within the hobby, we will make it and we may all be better for it in different ways.

BRM Team

How to get your next issue of BRM

Although it's tricky to visit the shops at the moment and collect the latest issue, there are actually a number of ways you can get BRM delivered straight to your door or inbox!

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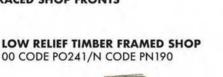


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51-695 Bachmann OO Gauge Class 470 47050 BR Railreight - Weathered	3/2001 - 1/201		1997 MAN (1997 - 1977)
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374-845B Graham Farish N Gauge Stanier Vestibule First Corridor LMS Crimson Lake £29.95 £23.96 374-845C Graham Farish N Gauge LMS Stanier First Corridor LMS Crimson Lake £39.95 £31.96 374-992 Graham Farish N Gauge BR Mk1 2-Coach Pack Hunslet-Barclay Weed Killing Train £64.96 £51.97 377-065 Graham Farish N Gauge Coal Trader' Pack 5 Plank Wagons Weathered £52.95 £42.36 377-097 Graham Farish N Gauge Coal Trader' Pack 7 Plank Private Owner Wagons Weathered £52.95 £39.71 377-650A Graham Farish N Gauge MBA Bogie Open Wagon With Buffers EWS - Weathered £39.96 £31.96			
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Steam train packs





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Steam locos

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O Gauge (1:43 Scale)



7S-006-023 Class 14xx 0-4-2T 1426 in BR lined green late crest (DAP) 14xx 0-4-2T 1444 BR lined g



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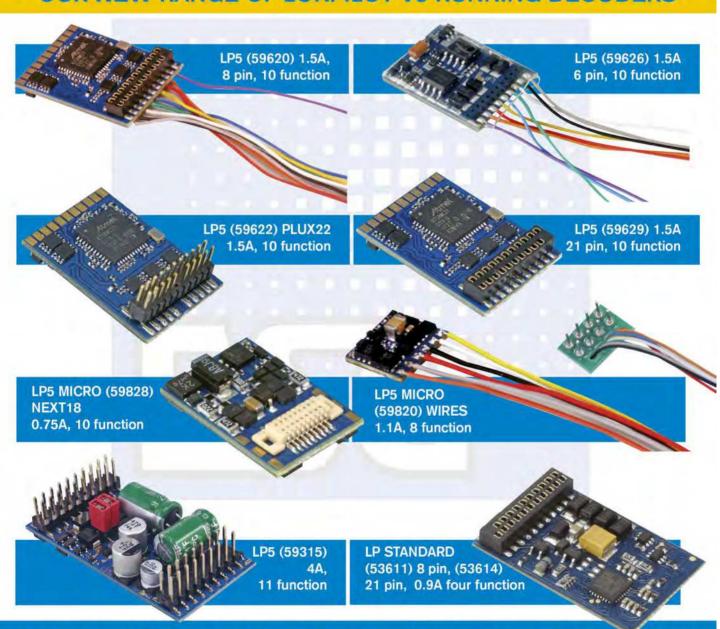


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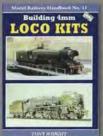
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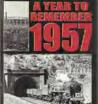
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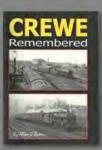
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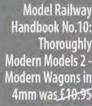


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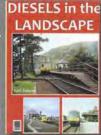
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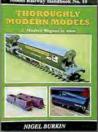


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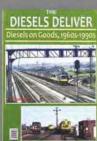
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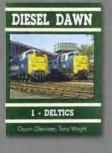
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WORLD OF RAILWAYS

HORNBY SHOWS LATEST CLASS 91 CAD IMAGES

In the latest instalment of The Engine Shed, Hornby showed progress it has made on the new Class 91 locomotive. A recent visit to the Bounds Green depot in London gave Hornby access to several Class 91s, thanks to an invitation by new owners, Hitachi Rail Europe.

Although the company has a full set of drawings, these don't always give the whole story and the designers were able to look at areas that had raised questions when working on the CADs. Apparently, there are several panels that look like they should be flush, but in fact, overlap each other.

One area of special interest is the pantograph. Modelling this complex piece of equipment has been the subject of discussion on RMweb many times and for many different models. The challenge is to produce something that works, but is robust enough for a model and can be produced in a factory.



UPDATES FROM REVOLUTION TRAINS

Revolution Trains has provided updates on several of its N and OO gauge rolling stock projects.

CAD has been completed and approved for its PFA wagon with the Cawoods Coal container, DRS low-level waste container and without container as used as runner wagons. These models are going into tooling.

Decorated samples of its Network South East Class 320/321, London Midland and Scotrail versions are expected soon. Revolution is also adding an additional 320 number – 320318.

The firm has received decorated bodyshells of the DTSO bodyshell in Strathclyde PTE and Silverlink liveries. These models are not confirmed because sufficient orders have not yet been received, but they are close to the minimum required so commissioned these shells, rather than complete decorated models, in the hope of giving them every chance to make the cut.

Silverlink-liveried models are ideal for the WCML 1997-2007 and for running alongside Pendolinos from 2003. They also operated in this livery on the southern ECML from 2010 until being re-liveried into FCC colours.

The eye-catching orange Strathclyde PTE is fondly remembered in Glasgow and its environs and was in use from its introduction in 1990 to the early-2000s.

Sadly, First Capital Connect livery is not close to the threshold and has been cancelled. Anyone who has ordered this model will either have their order switched to their second choice, or be contacted for a refund.

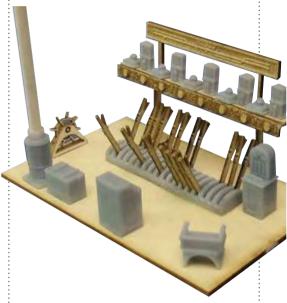
Once the decorated samples are received and assessed, Revolution will be closing the order book and putting these long-awaited models into production. This is expected to be at the end of June.

The OO gauge version of its IWA van/timber carrier is in tooling, with samples expected soon, while CAD of the N gauge model has been approved and will be available to order shortly. Once sufficient orders are received, it will be sent to the tool room, as ever, only models with sufficient support will be produced.

The IWA van, UIC code Sfins2, will be offered in Norsk Hydro, Cargowaggon, and unbranded silver liveries, while the timber carriers all carry the same mid-blue livery.

CAD artwork for its Class 128 models is almost approved and ready to go into tooling. Again, once the CAD is approved and costs are finalised, the order book will be opened. Versions in BR green, BR blue, and Royal Mail red will be offered, in both Western Region split headcode and Midland centre headcode variants.

Assessing the CAD for these models has reportedly taken a considerable amount of time, particularly in finalising the chassis arrangement. However, once tooling begins, Revolution anticipates this popular model will proceed quickly.



SIGNAL BOX INTERIOR KITS FROM LCUT CREATIVE

Large signal box windows mean modelling an interior is essential. These kits will make life easier for modellers in 00 gauge.

The kits are made from a mix of 3D-printed and lasercut parts that the modeller can configure to suit their situation. Small and medium kits are available and if more levers are required, an extension pack can be added.

The small kit (above) includes a block instrument shelf kit, lever frame with three extensions, four sets of levers, three instrument bells, three instrument indicators, a stove with chimney pipe, a coal box, a desk, armchair and wall clock

The medium kit has a block instrument shelf kit, a lever frame with five extensions, six sets of levers, five instrument bells, five instrument indicators, a stove with chimney pipe, a coal box, a desk, an armchair, a Wall clock, a token instrument and a level crossing gate wheel.

Its extension kit has a block instrument shelf with six lever extensions, six sets of levers, five instrument bells and five instrument indicators.

Laser-cut parts are made from conservation-grade wood fibreboard in thicknesses ranging from 0.45mm in thickness to 2.6mm. PVA glue is recommended for assembly and the models can be painted with enamels or acrylics.



UK LOCKDOWN FUELLING A SURGE IN HORNBY COLLECTABLES?



Europe's leading marketplace for art and antique auctions, *thesaleroom.com*, has reported a 96% spike in demand for Hornby trains this month, with collectors also looking to invest in watches, gold coins, toys, comics, and cigarette cards.

Bidders have been flocking to collectables such as Hornby trains – up 96% – as well as toys, comics, and cigarette cards, which have seen a 19% rise in demand since the UK was put into lockdown, reports *thesaleroom*. com. Sports fans haven't been missing out either, with demand for sporting memorabilia, including football shirts and programmes, up by 11%.

John-Paul Savant, CEO of Auction Technology Group, which owns *thesaleroom.com*, said, "We're seeing many collectors having fun using their time at home to start or continue on their journey of collecting items such as toys and memorabilia as a hobby. Also, traditionally during periods of economic uncertainty, we would expect to see high demand for items seen as alternative investments – items perceived as a 'safe haven' because they hold or increase their value regardless of what is going on in the financial markets. That trend is playing out in the activity we're seeing among bidders at auction."

Items that have seen the biggest increase in demand at auction on thesaleroom.com in the past month:

•	Hornby trains	96%
•	Blancpain watches	37%
•	Football programmes	30%
•	Comics	28%
•	Heuer watches	19%
•	Rolex watches	11%
•	Gold coins	6%

Attuned to the demands of bidders during the current climate, many auction houses have ramped up activities in these categories. They have also changed their sales to 'live online only', with live bidding conducted online (as well as the usual commission bidding and phone bidding), or to 'timed online sales' rather than live sales – a familiar format that has been growing steadily in popularity over the past year.

John-Paul continued, "thesaleroom.com saw a 12% month-on-month increase in new registrants at the end of March as auctions went fully online, and prices remain strong, too. Many auction houses specialising in collectables and investment pieces, such as toys, watches and memorabilia, have moved their entire business online for the first time in the last four weeks – a move that has paid off as demand has soared."



BAGULEY MCEWAN PRATT '677' 10HP CLASS 0-4-0PM FROM NARROW PLANET

009 modellers will welcome this new kit for a wartime diesel, based around an RTR chassis.

The '677' Class 10HP locomotives came about by an order from the War Department to Baguley Cars Ltd. for a lightweight locomotive that was capable of running on the lightest 9lb rail as used on the portable track system employed on the front line. While the supplied locomotives fulfilled the specifications set out by the WDLR at the time of ordering, they were not so successful in active service due to many shortcomings.

Over 50 locomotives were used by the British military railways, most of which were used in rearward operations to which they were better suited.

Narrow Planet's kit comprising of whitemetal and etched parts give it useful weight. A whitemetal driver figure (not included) is also recommended. A Tsugawa TU-DB 158 chassis is required to complete (included in NPL-016C). NPL-016 - £30 body kit only.

NPL-016C - £90 including chassis (limited quantity, re-motored with 12v Tramfabriek 0615 coreless motor).



HELJAN REVEALS O GAUGE MK. 2/MK. 2A COACH CADS

Last November, Heljan announced it was to produce 0 gauge models of BR's Mk. 2 and Mk. 2A coaches. Development work has proceeded rapidly over the last few weeks and the first CAD images are available.

Models will cover Brake Second Open (BSO), Brake First Corridor (BFK) and Tourist Second Open (TSO) variants in a selection of authentic liveries covering all the major colour schemes carried by these popular BR passenger coaches.

The models have been designed to replicate either vacuum-braked Mk. 2 or air-braked Mk. 2A vehicles, giving customers the option to tailor models to suit their needs by fitting the appropriate underframe parts and sliding or folding gangway end doors.

Highly-detailed interiors will also be a major feature of these models, with authentic early Mk. 2A seating, partitions and luggage racks on view. To showcase this, the models have been designed to accept an easy-fit interior lighting bar. Access to the interior for installing lighting and passengers couldn't be easier, as the roof will be held in place by magnets.

The models will ride on its new B4 bogie, which will make its debut under a new batch of Mk. 1 coaches later this year. Both types will be ideal companions for many of its 0 gauge BR diesel locomotives, from Class 25s, 31s and 33s, to 37s, 40s, 47s, 50s, 52s and 55s.

Planned liveries:

BR blue/grey ScotRail (TSO)

Network SouthEast

Regional Railways

Provincial Trans-Pennine

'Hebridean' green/cream (TSO/BSO)

West Coast Railways maroon (TSO)

BR blue/grey BSO(T) micro-buffet

DRS 'Compass' blue (BSO) InterCity Executive (BFK)

Network Rail yellow (BFK)



SCALECAST LAUNCHES A NEW BUS GARAGE KIT

Scalecast model building solutions has added a bus garage for 00 gauge modellers to its range.

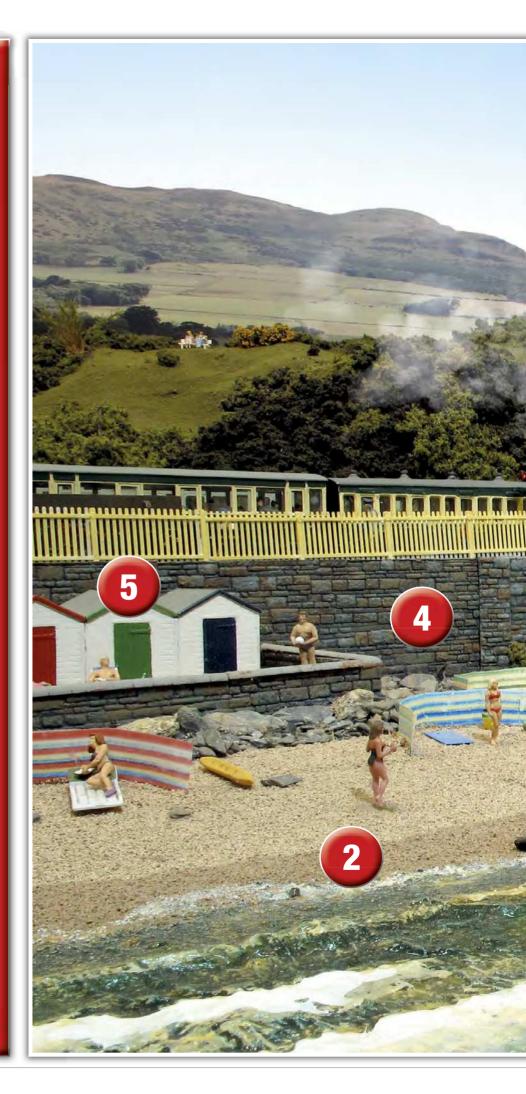
The kit is supplied as a series of moulds for the bus station front, salt box roof sections, standard brick sections and Apex.

The modeller uses these to cast the components in plaster, from which they can assemble the bus station, or any number of other buildings for a layout or diorama. By using multiple castings, the garage can be built as large as required, for no more than the cost of the plaster.

GET THE LOOK

With its sunny climate and coastal setting, Richard Holder's OO9 layout is surely a cheering scene. If we can't go to the seaside this year, at least it's possible to build our own at home! BRM featured 'Clydach' in the February 2018 issue.

- 1 The sea starts life as Artex wall filler stippled on with a 1in paintbrush to make basic ripples, then formed into the required shape while still wet. When thoroughly dry, it's painted using acrylics, starting with a dark blue for the darkest areas, blending into a lighter shade, then finishing with pale cream for the foam. Finally, there are several coats of high-gloss exterior varnish (often sold as Yacht varnish) to make it shine. The varnish is slow to dry and needs to be protected from dust as it hardens; dusty water never looks right!
- 2 The beach is real sand, the finest you can find - Chinchilla sand from a pet supplier is good. When varnishing the sea, some is allowed to creep up the sand to make it look like the tide has washed over it.
- 3 People on the beach are from Prieser or Noch. Despite being HO scale (3.5mm:1ft) rather than OO (4mm:1ft), this looks fine as real people are all sorts of shapes and sizes. The windbreaks are simply strips of paper coloured with felt-tipped pens.
- 4 Walls are Wills (SSMP200) stone sheets, suitably painted. The textured surface and depth these sheets offer make the challenge of cutting the thick plastic worthwhile. The trick is to try to cut through from the back of the sheet where possible, or use a fine saw.
- 5 Beach huts are Wills garden sheds that have been cut shorter and painted in suitably jolly colours. The Hornby (R8576) shed also makes a good beach hut when repainted.
- 6 Locomotives and rolling stock are kit-built, but today you could assemble a very similar train using RTR models from Heljan and Peco.
- 7 As well as using a commercial scenic photographic backscene, Richard has added his own photographs of Mevagissey to add the town.
- 8 Rock faces are moulded from Sculptamold and painted with Humbrol enamels. The large rocks on the beach are real pebbles collected from the Camel estuary in Cornwall.





Practical BRIV

HOW TO MODEL... A BEACH



PROFILE
Andy is the editor of the RMweb website and Modelling Inspiration digital magazine. He's never content to let a product be as it comes out of the box and works to improve things, principally in his chosen 4mm

nncipally in his chosen Anim scale, but would never claim to have a Tinescale' mindset. Bodger and tweaker is probably more accurate?

RMweb and Modelling Inspiration editor, **Andy York**, shows you how to effectively model a beach.

and in your eyes, some questionable litter and the odd barker's egg are as likely to be memories of the British seaside in summer as much as ice cream and Punch & Judy. Here we look at how to create an average sandy beach, not that you'll find too many railways running through such scenery but the techniques



Polyisocyanurate insulation foam from brands such as

Kingspan, Knauf and Celotex can be found in DIY stores. It is a lightweight foam sold in panels which can be easily cut and sanded to produce a variety of landscape forms. Panels are available in various sizes and thicknesses so it's worth thinking about the sizes you'd need for your own projects. In this case a breadknife and sandpaper was taken to a small section of the foam to sculpt a beach scene. Most beaches, be they sand, shingle or stone, follow a broadly similar profile and this can be adapted to suit your own layout needs. A bit of practice in working with the material is advisable before diving into terraforming large tracts of land.

The dunes received an optional layer of plaster bandage on the top surface as I wanted to smooth out some of my gouges before a coat of emulsion paint (Craig & Rose 1829 Chalky Emulsion 'Basket') to give a pale sandy colour. Please don't fall into the trap of using sand to model a sandy beach, it's just wrong when everything else is to scale but it's surprising how many times I've seen it used.



The surf zone is painted with the 'Cupboard Blue' shad of the same emulsion starting with the outer parts of the water and mixing the blue with the sandy shades as you move closer to the beach to give a pleasing graduated colouring.



Clear gloss varnish is used on the water surface to give more reflectivity and an apparent 'wetness'. The varnish is also applied to the 'swash' area of the beach to mimic a broken wave washing back down the sand to meet the next incoming wave. The scarp face of each wave's surface is treated to daubs of white acrylic paint to give the appearance of the wave crest gently collapsing on itself as it nears the shore. Once the white foaming is dry another layer of clear gloss varnish gives further protection and 'wetness' to the surface.

The effect of the graduated colouring to the water can be seen in this picture as the beach slopes upwards towards the dunes. The first illustration showed the humped shape of the storm berm which is formed by higher tides and larger waves depositing material higher up the beach which remains untouched by normal tides and weather. Over the crest of the storm berm is where, in the real world, you'll find the mixture of dried seaweed, driftwood and flotsam. Take your pick of any suitable waste materials you may have around to replicate any of the above, I simply made use of the dried contents of a used tea bag and some of the peculiar contents of my wife's rather odd tea collection.

The marram grass of the dunes is created from a double application of long static grass fibres. On reflection the dunes should be somewhat taller but you get the idea.



Read more articles by Andy York on www.model-railways-live.co.uk.

Go to page 36 for our full timetable of Scenery Articles this month.

Practical R

HOW TO MODEL... SEA-WATER





Modelling realistic sea-water is an art that few can master. Let RMweb editor, **Andy York**, explain how he created the impressive sea-water for the harbour on his Keyhaven layout.

o, what colour is sea?
Aside from the suspended muck and minerals, seawater is pretty clear but it does reflect the sky above so the colour of your body of water should bear some resemblance to the weather and colouring of the rest of your layout and reflect whether it's a dismal winter day or the bright blue skies of summer.

This image shows the difference in colour in varying weather. For this article we'll go with the average, something close to the middle picture.





We start with a small pot of emulsion. I love the Craig & Rose 1829 Chalky Emulsion range available at B&Q for scenic work and a small pot for a couple of quid will cover around two square metres.

I chose the 'Cupboard Blue' shade here but this base colour will dictate the end appearance so you may want something greener or browner but bear in mind that the end result will appear lighter in tone than the end result.



2

The base coat is given a layer of clear gloss varnish when dry. A cheap varnish will do and I used a product which is touch dry in 20 minutes.

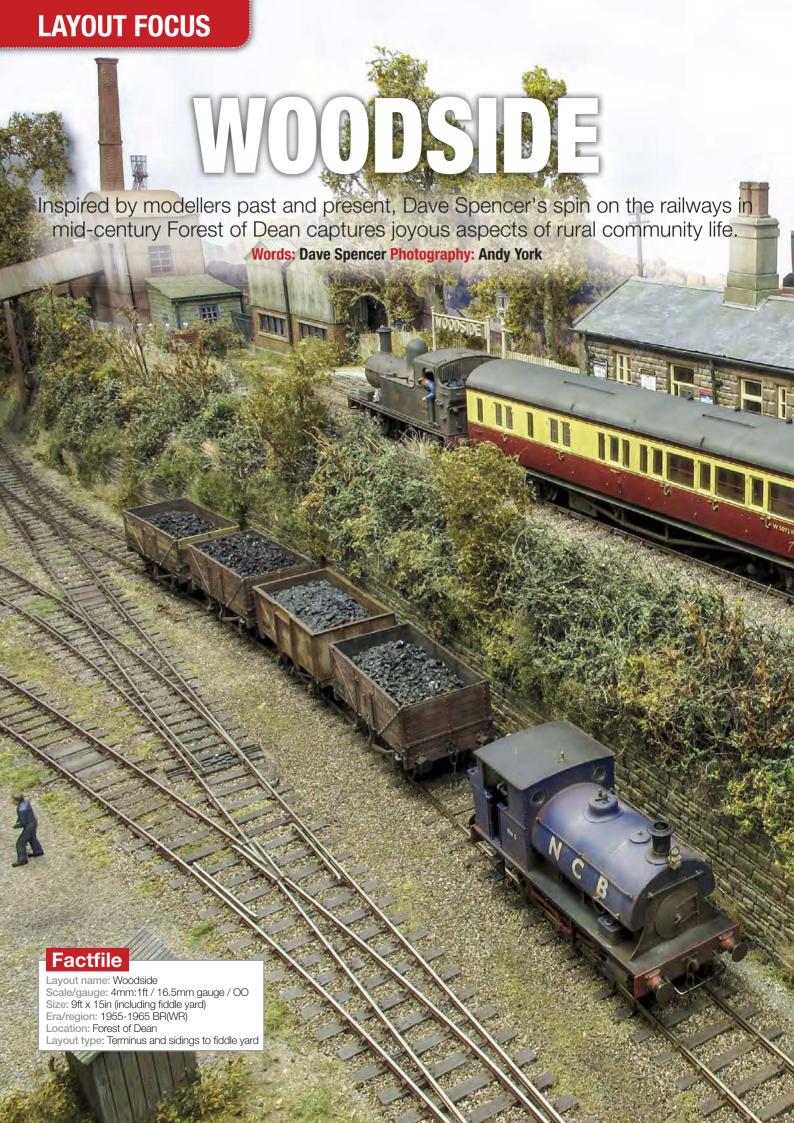
When the varnish is dry I pour on puddles of PVA adhesive, this is spread out with a stippling motion with a brush. The stippling creates the wave texture but the PVA will start to find its own level as it starts to dry so you may want to restipple the surface a couple of times during the earlier stages of the drying process. Let this dry thoroughly, it will go clear as it does so and then repeat the varnish layer.

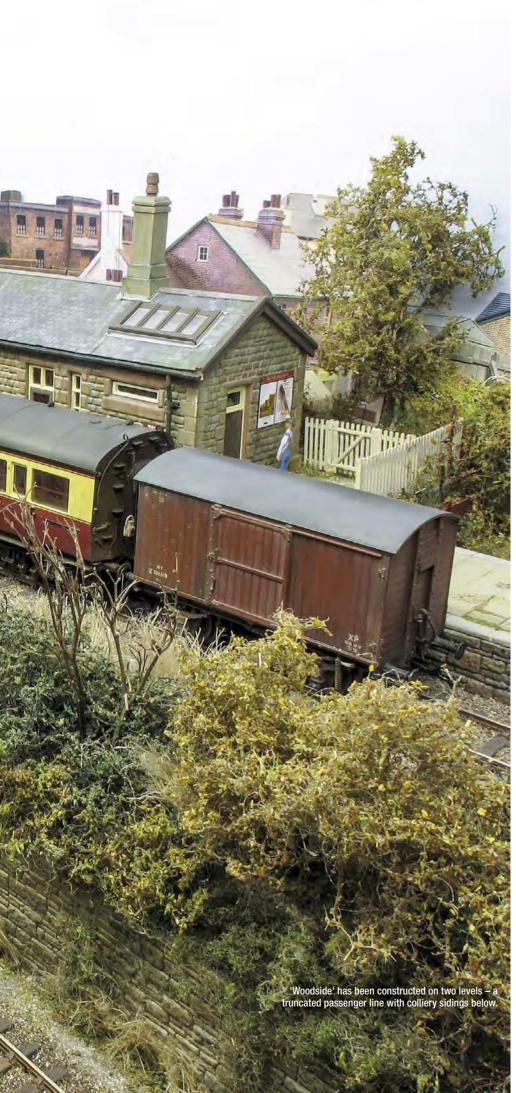
Read more articles by Andy York on www.model-railways-live.co.uk. Go to page 36 for our full timetable of Scenery Articles this month. In this project I wanted to add the variety of colours that you can pick out when closely observing images of the seawater. I thinned down some brown emulsion with water which settles into the small troughs between waves and dries to give a variety of tone. Repeating the PVA/ varnish layers to taste gives added 'depth' to the water and gives a more translucent appearance. In this example I used four layers of PVA and varnish. When finished your seawater should then reflect the ambient light around your layout - the two images here show the difference in the same water viewed under a cloudy grey sky and a clear blue sky.



Have a play around with some small test samples before committing to the layout and enjoy your cheap but effective work.

NEXT MONTH - Read all about Andy York's Keyhaven layout in the August issue of BRM on-sale July 12





ooks and articles about railway history in the Forest of Dean by Neil Parkhouse, Ian Pope, Ben Ashworth, and John Stretton, show how this extensive area of natural beauty became penetrated by a maze of branch lines and mineral routes serving mines, quarries, and various heavy industries. By the time the railways were nationalised, evidence of industrial decline and abandonment was everywhere: overgrown tracks, ramshackle old colliery buildings, squalid manufacturing premises, and spoil tips. Only a few regular rail services survived, holding the most important industrial townships together, while also connecting them to regional centres outside the Forest.

I've always been drawn to the stark environmental contrasts found in the places these authors have photographed and decided to build a layout that captured their distinctive atmosphere. In 2012/13 'Lydgate' was completed - an imaginary colliery community in the Forest c. 1955-65. Sadly, its size meant that it had to be sold when I needed to vacate the workshop where it was kept. Undeterred, I quickly moved on to my next project - 'Woodside' - which is the subject of this article.

Unique features

With a viewing area of only 5ft 6ins x 15ins, 'Woodside' is a fraction of the size of 'Lydgate'. Storage space will not be a problem! It is deliberately set in the same Forest locality and BR transition era, and uses some of the 'Lydgate' stock. Sometimes I refer to it as the 'son of Lydgate'. It is dedicated to Malcolm Young, who provided the premises where I undertook my modelling projects until his sad passing in the summer of 2016.

In general terms, 'Woodside' is not unlike the mini/micro/cameo layouts that Iain Rice illustrates in his recent volume. It is selfcontained - a single scenic baseboard plus detachable fiddle yard. Everything has been carefully conceived, planned, and built to a high standard.

But 'Woodside' has some attributes that differentiate it from other small layouts. First, its location. It sets out to capture the distinctive 'sense of place' that defined the Forest of Dean in the 1950s and 1960s. Second, the seasonal atmosphere. Some of the materials and colours used to represent autumnal vegetation rarely feature on layouts. Third, design. 'Woodside' is a split-level layout combining visual interest

LAYOUT FOCUS

with operating potential. Passenger services operate on the higher level; freight below. Fourth, rolling stock. While I can't claim that BR(WR) tank locomotives, small tender locomotives, and certain diesel types make the layout different, the re-painted dirty NCB Peckett saddle tanks and Sentinels may help. Admittedly, I've taken liberties here, because to my knowledge, the NCB Forest collieries used small BR locomotives rather than any of its own. 'Woodside' also features several dilapidated internal user Coal Board wagons with their distinctive white crosses on the side doors denoting that they are prohibited from BR running lines. At the time of writing, I haven't come across any on a layout at shows.

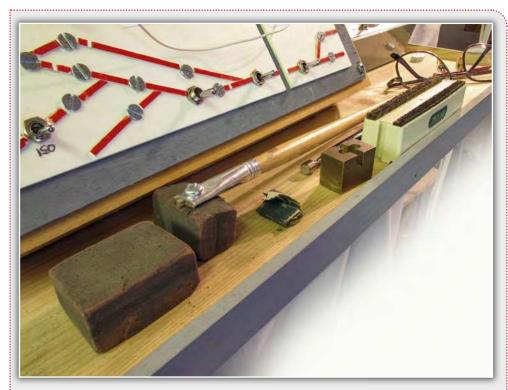
Micro challenges

My perennial challenge would be to include enough detail to give a convincing impression of an imaginary rail-served rural-industrial community in about 6sq ft of modelling space while, at the same time, not over-crowding the scene.

I opted for a very modest trackplan so as to avoid filling up every part of the baseboard with railway activity. Indeed, the passenger line is supposed to be a branch that became truncated when the colliery needed room to expand, so it stops well short of the baseboard end. This leaves space for colliery buildings, a coal conveyor, half a dozen mature trees, and saplings. I left sufficient room along the front for a loading wharf, plus a few cameo scenes that include road vehicles and human activity. I try not to run intensive services – although I may feel obliged to do so at exhibitions. A maximum of two locomotives are normally in use at any one time - usually one on each level. Both can move simultaneously because each level is controlled independently, and this generates more interest.

Rolling stock

Fortuitously, Dean Forest trains tended to be short. During the 1950s, passenger services usually comprised auto trains, railcars, or a couple of locomotive-hauled coaches plus a van until they ceased in 1958. Freight trains would sometimes add up to no more than half a dozen wagons. Small tank locomotives were the 'norm' everywhere - 14XX auto tanks, various 'Panniers', and occasionally small 'Prairies'. The biggest locomotives would be GW 0-6-0s and BR 2-6-0s (mostly in the west of the area). Smaller diesel Classes 08, 14, 22, and 25 took over the few

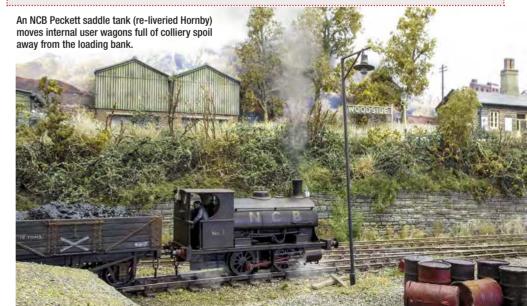


Reliable running

Like all small layouts, Woodside requires that locos start and stop smoothly without hesitating or stalling. They must run at scale-speeds, so a long-term challenge is to ensure that everything is fine-tuned. My analogue control system means I can't use 'stay alive' technology to achieve this! I take all the well-known steps to make sure electrical contacts remained scrupulously clean so I won't dwell on them.

A few additional ploys helped me to rise to the operating challenge:

- Current pick-ups are inspected and 'tweaked' if necessary to ensure they remain in contact with all loco wheels at all times. Delicate bending with a pair of fine tweezers usually solves any problems, but beware, some of Hornby's latest products have pick-ups that aren't very springy - break one at your peril...
- I loosen the keeper plate under Bachmann steam loco wheels very slightly to give them a little more vertical 'slop'; this rudimentary system of compensation helps keep wheels touching the track at all times. This trick won't work with the newer Hornby saddle tanks or the new Hattons 14xx because the pick-up system differs.
- A Gaugemaster feedback controller transforms the slow running qualities of many Bachmann, Hornby, Dapol, and Heljan locomotives. However, I sometimes need to plug in an old Pentroller (acquired second-hand) because it has a setting designed to get the best out of locos with coreless motors - such as Hatton's 14XX and Oxford Rail's Dean Goods. The inertia setting works like a dream.



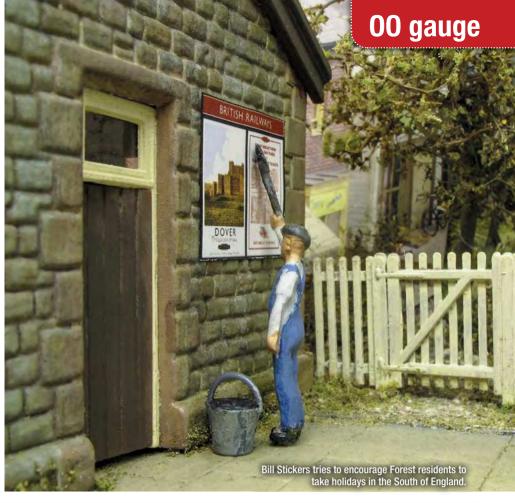
remaining freight duties after steam ended. I resolved to run only these particular steam and diesel types, plus tiny industrial shunters, otherwise the layout would look overwhelmed (and the locomotives out of place).

Operational success

I've been determined to keep the 'big hand from the sky' away from 'Woodside!' I once used the Sprat & Winkle system of 4mm magnetic hooks and loops as the manufacturers intended, but abandoned it because wagon couplings became entangled and failed to operate as required. After much experimentation, I decided to develop a minimalist version of it with hooks designed for 3mm models.

Short fixed rakes of wagons are held together internally by Smith's links. Wagons coupled to the front and rear both have a Sprat & Winkle hook with a steel 'dropper' set up as per manufacturer's instructions, but only at one end.

The staple-shaped wire 'loop'



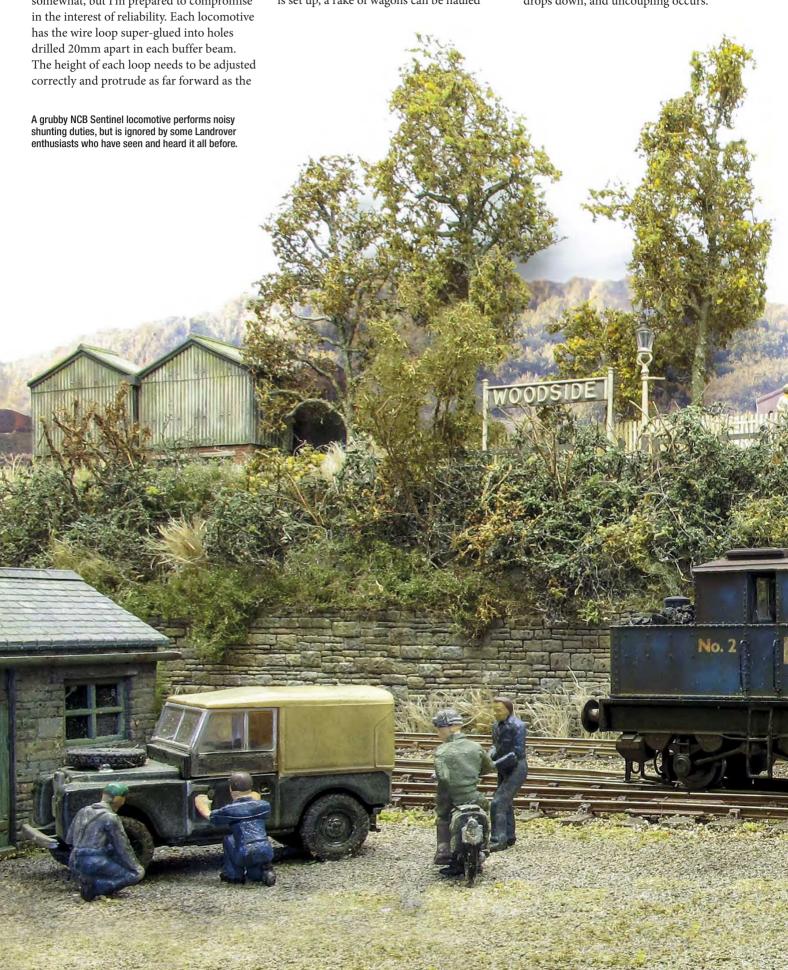


LAYOUT FOCUS

recommended by Sprat & Winkle is omitted from wagons. Rakes remain intact on the scene, which limits operating potential somewhat, but I'm prepared to compromise in the interest of reliability. Each locomotive has the wire loop super-glued into holes drilled 20mm apart in each buffer beam. The height of each loop needs to be adjusted correctly and protrude as far forward as the

buffer heads so that it will always engage with the wagon hooks when locomotive and stock are pushed together. Once everything is set up, a rake of wagons can be hauled

over a magnet, and the tension between wagon and locomotive released by halting and 'easing' the locomotive back. The hook drops down, and uncoupling occurs.



I discovered that I could fix Gaugemaster medium-sized permanent bar magnets between track sleepers without disturbing them. Four placed in a row generates a magnetic field that has enough 'pull' to work well. Much time was spent determining where the Woodside magnets should be, bearing in mind the actual shunting operations that would take place.

Of course, electrical cleanliness (as described above) is absolutely essential for this system to work properly. Locomotives must be very responsive to the controller, otherwise it will be a struggle to stop them directly over the magnets.

The challenge for operators is to know exactly where the magnets are. Carefully chosen trackside debris normally marks

their position, and practise makes perfect! From time to time it's important to check that hooks and loops have not been knocked out of alignment – otherwise there is likely to be much poking and prodding leading to frustration and disappointment.

I've managed to convert some passenger stock to accept my minimalist version of the Sprat & Winkle system. The underside



LAYOUT FOCUS

of coach bogies had to be heavily modified to accommodate the hooks – an intricate operation! At 'Woodside' terminus (where space constraints rule out a run-round loop) locomotives can bring in a train, uncouple, and move away. A second locomotive can then reverse onto the other end of the coaches and take the train out. This means that I don't always have to rely on push-pull trains and railcars, and it leads to greater operating interest.

Building work

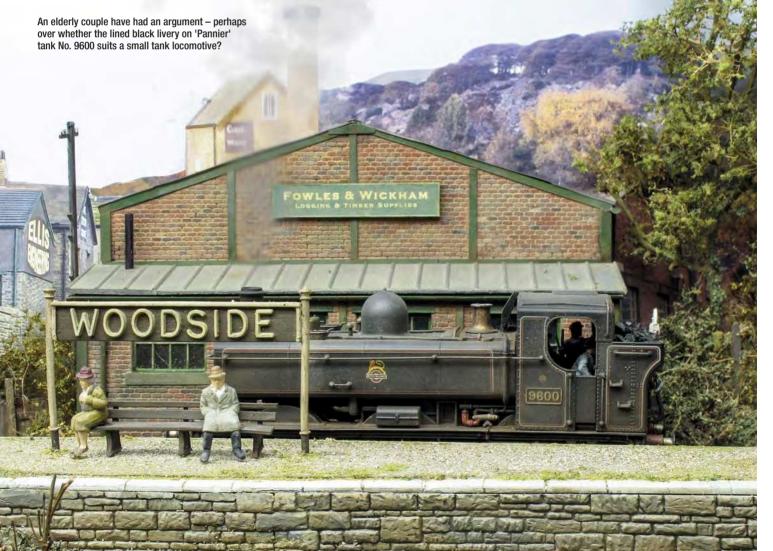
Some buildings and natural elements were modelled using the 'less is more' philosophy. They were represented in half-relief to occupy less space but, nevertheless, create a significant impact. Apart from the colliery coal conveyor and a few huts, the industrial buildings located close to the edges of the layout (such as the loading screens) were reduced in depth. A group of natural features received the same treatment. Only half of the canopy of some specimens is visible, leaving a relatively flat rear profile to allow them to be positioned very close to buildings, the backscene, or other vegetation.

Arranging a selection of half-relief trees,

Inspirational Sources

For quite a few years I've been drawn to the work of Gordon Gravett, lain Rice, Chris Nevard, Martyn Welch, Tim Shackleton, Peter Taylor and the late Roye England (to name but a few). Inspiration has come from seeing their models at shows, at talks and demonstrations, and via their publications. To my mind, they are creative modellers as opposed to purchasers of items who put them straight on show. 'Ready-to-use' products are a resource for producing a superior version of the real thing... or possibly something completely different! Locomotives and rolling stock are (as a matter of principle) altered, re-painted, re-numbered, detailed, or weathered – whatever is appropriate. Modellers who inspire me the most will invariably scratchbuild, kit-build, kit-bash, or cross-kit in order to create something that is 'right' for a particular time and place. They innovate by successfully using unusual modelling materials, and pioneer new techniques. As I built 'Woodside' I tailored their approaches and principles to my own needs.









bushes, saplings, and buildings creatively in close groupings helps conceal the extent to which they have not been modelled in full. Adding a few small items directly in front of them (overgrown fences, station nameboard, gates, lamps, telegraph poles, small trees, and shrubs) makes these parts of the layout really come alive. The areas to the left and right of the station building show what half-relief modelling and selective detailing can achieve in a space of only a few square inches.

Creating virtual space

A 2D backscene is essential to make a micro layout look more spacious than it is. It can also complement or enhance the principal 3D features by locating them in a wider landscape context and by creating the illusion of depth. I was determined to create a bespoke photographic backscene with layers of images in order to create 'virtual space' and suit the models I had made (or planned).

I began with the sky. I opted for selfadhesive Gaugemaster sky paper sheets in a fairly neutral shade of pale blue/light grey. These sheets were initially only tacked in place and checked out under the layout lighting - a trick I learned from Pendon Museum. A cool white fluorescent tube in the 'roof' and a strip of LEDs behind the pelmet kept the colours nicely muted and gave sufficient illumination. Once a few buildings had been tried out on the scene, I found that these lights didn't cast many shadows.

Next, I photographed different landscape types in and around the Forest on October afternoons, mindful of the views I required to complement my plan. I edited the images to make their focus 'soft' and the colours slightly pale, knowing this would make the landscape scenes appear to recede into the distance. I kept a sample of foreground modelling materials in preferred colours at hand throughout the editing process to avoid guesswork when backscene hues and tints were adjusted. Appropriate photographs were printed, temporarily positioned, and tacked above the sky paper.

Moving on, I selected images of buildings that could be super-imposed on top of some - but not all - Forest landscape photographs to create a virtual environment that gradually faded into the distance. They were sourced from appropriate photographs that had appeared in modelling magazines. I was relieved to find that photographs of top quality models looked much better than

Cameos

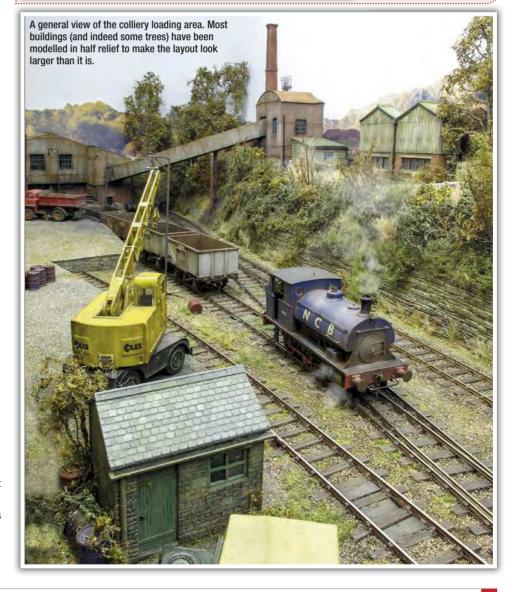
The railway is not the only focus of interest. A number of strategically-placed cameos also catch the eye and capture the imagination:

- A group of disgruntled miners confront a Coal Board official outside his office.
- A worker in brown overalls emerges from a small hut near the loading screens and admires a motorcycle and sidecar.
- On the platform, passengers and station staff are deep in conversation, but a seated elderly couple have fallen out! In a quiet corner, Bill Stickers is all alone putting up holiday posters, while signal box staff prepare for the next passenger service.



 In a prominent position at the very front, a group of mechanics and a passing motorcyclist share views on how to repair a damaged Land Rover door.

All of these life-like groupings help to spread visual interest across the layout, and even if no trains are moving, the cameos can hold attention. They also capture the everyday world of Forest communities. It's just another humdrum day at 'Woodside', but I feel I've made 'the ordinary' come alive.



LAYOUT FOCUS

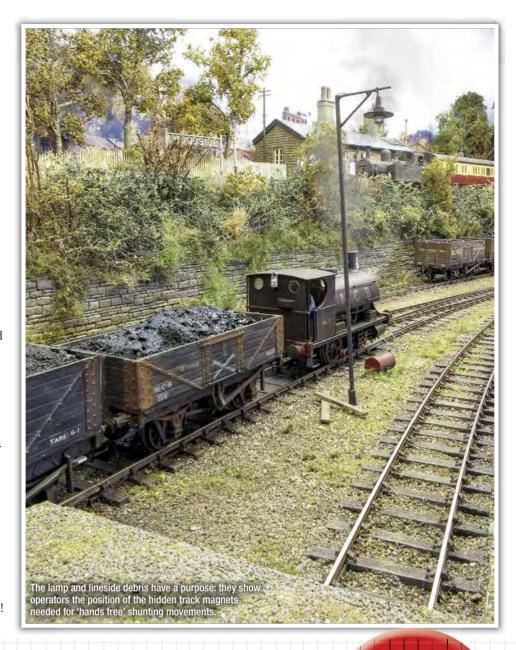
photographs of real world structures when inserted between my own 3D creations and landscape images. I refrained from sticking them permanently in place at this stage.

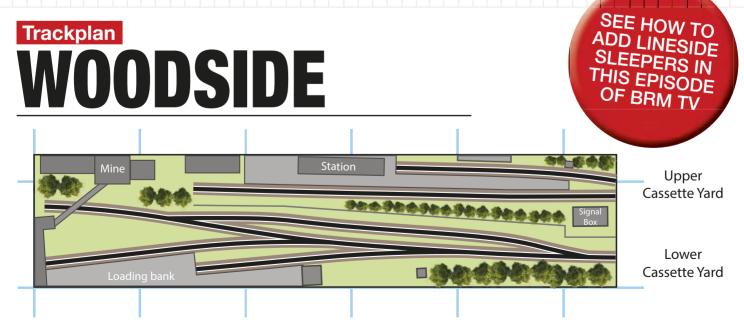
Finally, I spent several hours using old-fashioned 'cut and paste' techniques to arrange and re-arrange both sets of photographs until they related well together. This proved to be a frustrating experience at times, but it was worthwhile. I paid particular attention to filling the spaces behind the half-relief groupings I had already created. After much trial and error, the 3D baseboard modelling and 2D backscene landscapes came together as one. I then glued everything into place to generate an impression of seamless depth.

Final thoughts

As a friend said to me, the layout is balanced and seamless; everything gels together to form a satisfying whole; the time frame is clearly the mid-1950s-1960s; and the season is unmistakably autumn. The railway is embedded in the landscape. Sometimes, viewers have to look over or around the built structures to see the trains in action, or catch glimpses of them through the natural features.

I'm pleased to say that when running there are few mishaps, and operators only intervene occasionally. The magnetic uncoupling system works well, too. If something fails to couple or uncouple, or if a loco stalls, a light touch with a small paintbrush usually works. The 'big hand from the sky' can't be completely eliminated!





About the modeller

I grew up in Cumbria in the 1950s/1960s, and in my youth felt moved by the sights and sounds of steam-hauled freight trains labouring through former Furness Railway territory. By the age of 11, I was a keen modeller, and recall pleasant evenings with trainspotting friends constructing Airfix 'two bob' kits. These tended to get smeared with glue and caked in runny gloss paint, but I kept on trying...

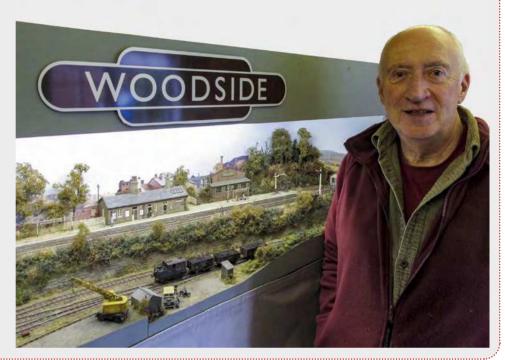
For a couple of decades, modelling took a back seat due to work and family commitments, but I was now in Reading, so the Pendon Museum became an easy drive from home. I hold it responsible for re-awakening my modelling interests! Repeated visits were made to savour Roye England's iconic cottage models and landscapes together with Guy Williams' GW locomotives hauling scale-length goods and passenger stock. I just had to develop a GW-based layout of my own. I joined a Berkshire club to meet like-minded enthusiasts; a few BR(WR) home layouts were started (and never completed), but skills and knowledge were acquired and lessons learned.

Early retirement took me to Wiltshire, and with more time at my disposal I became much more involved in the hobby. I've built (and completed) two OO gauge exhibition layouts - 'Penrhos' and 'Lydgate' - both 1950s/'60s.

I love to construct goods vehicles from kits,

attend shows, write magazine articles, exhibit layouts, demonstrate wagon detailing and weathering techniques, and attend a club. For a few years I also worked with the landscape modelling

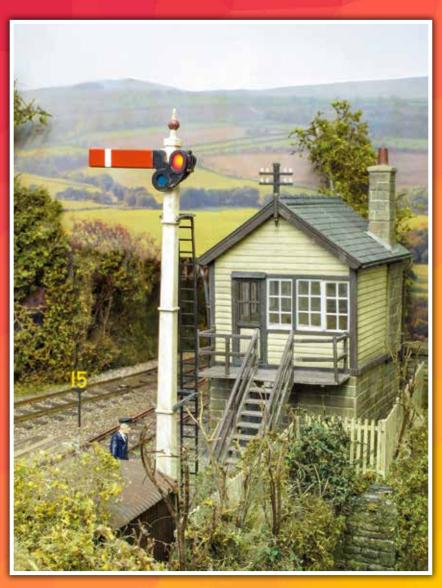
team at Pendon and learned the secrets of creating high quality trees, bushes, and undergrowth in 4mm scale. My modelling has progressed in leaps and bounds



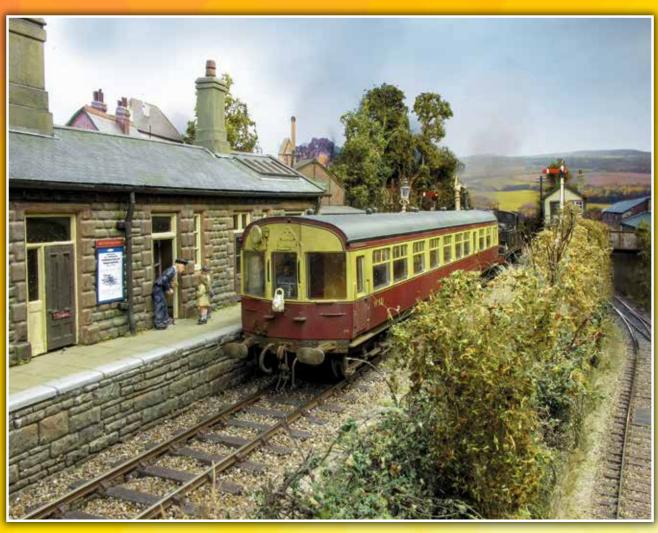


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BRITISH RAILWAY UNIFORMS

Helping us add more authentic model figures to our layouts, Rob Anderson retraces the evolution of apparel carried by British Railways staff.

n 1947, The British Transport Commission standardised the material that all uniforms worn by Southern, Great Western, LMS and LNER were made from and this practice was continued with the start of British Rail on the January 1, 1948. There came a reorganisation from the 'Big Four' privately-owned railway companies to a large Nationalised system and this structure was then regionalised and assigned colours:

Scottish - Cambridge Blue North Eastern - Tangerine Eastern - Oxford Blue London Midland - Crimson Lake Western - Chocolate Southern - Green

When looking at the uniforms of BR in 1948, it should be noted there wouldn't have been an overnight change. With all issues of new items of clothing in large organisations, there is a 'lead in' period and this can take years to achieve, so it was possible personnel were still using their uniforms from pre-Nationalisation days until their new clothing was distributed, even a year later.

Uniform

Locomotive crews wore a type of cotton denim dungarees with jacket in dark blue. This faded with washing, giving various shades of blue over time. The flat cap worn by the crews had a shiny black top.

All other grades wore a uniform in a black serge-type material similar to what they had worn before Nationalisation, but with the new badges as described below.

Badges

From 1949, badges in the regional colours started to make an appearance. The badge was made of metal with an enamel background in the regional colour. Lettering on the badges was as follows, in brass: Guard - Worn by Passenger Guards





A British Railways North Eastern Region locomotive crew cap badge.

British Railways – Worn by locomotive crew in chrome.

Guard – Worn by goods. Guards Porter, Excess Luggage, Ticket Collector, Foreman and British Railways – For all other grades.

Caps

The flat cap worn by the Foreman had a black oak leaf band around the crown. This band was piped with silver. The ranks of Station Master and Inspector had a similar oak leaf band, but with their respective titles embroidered in gold wire script lettering.

Lion and Wheel Era

In 1950, a lion astride a wheel with an enamelled bar across the centre was adopted. When this was used for cap badges it was backed in the regional colour.

Lettering on the badges was in block capitals, in gilt for male staff in Station Master, Yard Master, Inspector, Foreman roles and was British Railways for other grades.

Female staff had white metal badges for the Porter, Guard, Ticket Collector and British Railways (for other grades).

Caps

Inspectors' caps had a black leaf band around the crown with gold piping on the lower and upper edges. The badge was mounted just below the top piping. Station Masters had a similar cap, but with only the gold piping on the bottom of the band. Enquiry Inspectors' caps were in LMS red with the same black leaf band, piping and badge as Inspectors. Female Staff wore a beret.

Uniforms

Uniforms continued to be similar to the pre-Nationalisation period.

Lion and Crown Era

In 1956, following a grant of arms, a demilion holding a wheel between its paws rising from a crown was adopted for the cap badges in either gilt or chrome. The enamelled badge was reshaped to include fish tails and continued to use the same colours as with the previous badges.



Locomotive Crew Driver and Fireman (my Father) in 1967.

Lettering on the badges was as follows in chrome or gilt and in block capitals:

- Ticket Collector
- Foreman
- Porter
- Guard
- Excess Luggage
- British Railways

Uniforms

Uniforms were issued either annually or biannually depending on the job title.

Goods Guards - Double-breasted jacket, two pairs of trousers and sleeved or sleeveless waistcoat annually, overcoat or mac bi-annually. There was also the option of either a Sou'wester or PVC cap every four years. The cap had a black oak leaf band around the crown with a chrome enamelled 'Guard' badge with Lion and Crown above. Passenger Guards - Double-breasted jacket, two pairs of trousers and sleeveless waistcoat annually, overcoat or mac bi-annually. The cap had a black oak leaf band, the bottom piped in gold around the crown with a gilt enamelled 'Guard' badge with Lion and Crown above. There was also a gold edge to

Station Foreman - Double-breasted jacket, two pairs of trousers, two shirts, four collars, two ties and a sleeveless waistcoat annually, overcoat or mac every three years. The cap had a black oak leaf band, the top piped in gold around the crown with a gilt-enamelled 'Foreman' badge.

Excess Luggage Collector - Doublebreasted jacket, two pairs of trousers, two shirts, four collars, two ties and a sleeveless waistcoat annually, overcoat or mac every four years. The cap had a black oak leaf band, the top piped in gold around the crown with a gilt enamelled 'Excess Luggage' badge.

Porter - Single-breasted jacket, two pairs of trousers, choice of sleeved or sleeveless waistcoat, two shirts and two ties annually. The jacket had chrome buttons and there was the option of a pea jacket or overcoat every three years. The cap had a chrome -enamelled 'Porter' badge.

Diesel Locomotive Drivers for passenger services - Light green single-breasted jacket with darker green coloured collars and three black buttons. On the collar was a circular dark green cloth patch with the letters BR embroidered in yellow. The trousers were the same dark green as the collars, as was the cap. Around the headband were the words

'British Railways' embroidered in yellow on a fishtail badge and a Lion and Crown above the lettering. Another version of the same uniform had a dark green jacket.

The steam locomotive crews continued to wear the same uniform as before and it would have been acceptable for them to wear their denim overalls while working non-steam goods or moving traction around the sheds.

It has also been mentioned that some of the drivers on shunting duties wore

an orange cloth jacket. This would not be for hi-visibility safety purposes but so they could be seen at a distance by other personnel.

Depot Foremen sometimes wore a warehouse type coat in dark blue.

Depot Fitters wore dark blue overalls and shunters could be seen in either the Loco crew denims or a similar uniform to Porters, with a cap bearing the badge 'British Railways'.

A British Railways Fireman (my Father) on ex-NER G5 No. 67254 in 1957. The locomotive would be withdrawn later in



Locomotive Crew Driver, Guard, Fireman (my Father) in 1963.



FEATURE



Second Man (Bob Anderson) in the 1970s.

Additional guides

The simple rule with hi-visibility clothing is there isn't any! This type of clothing is definitively reserved for later periods of British Railways and is conspicuous by its absence in the 1940s up to pre-Corporate image.

Permanent Way staff wore no protective clothing. The Lookout for the gangs had a white armband, which had a disc attached. They also carried a red flag and horn to warn the other members of the gang.

Trousers were sometimes tied around the calf to stop them from being caught on points.

Dirt

Anyone working on the goods side of the railways would be dirty. My Father was a Fireman at South Dock, Sunderland, and he returned home after every shift still dirty despite having a quick wash before he left the shed. His overalls were ingrained with coal and would leave a coating of black dust inside the washing machine, much to my Mother's joy!

We weather our locomotives so why not weather our crews, too?

Prototype for Double Arrow period

In 1964, British Rail started trials on a new style corporate uniform. This lasted for two years and at the end of the period the suggestions submitted by the staff involved, along with the British Railways Board saw a new uniform for all staff, which began to be distributed in April 1966. When the uniform was given out it came with a booklet entitled Your New Uniform, explaining the reason behind the change. The first paragraph "Why a new uniform?" was to set the scene for the future, "An up-to-date transport service cannot be represented by uniforms dating from a less style-conscious age".

The first chapter "Fit and Quality" describes the reasoning behind the uniform, pointing out the square cut jacket to avoid sagging. It was made from good quality, lightweight, smooth wool. The trousers were made to be worn with or without braces and with the addition of belt loops so jackets could be taken off if heat was an issue.

Caps were made to be comfortable and close fitting, with a modern image. The crown was made so it would not stick out and couldn't be knocked off by the wind, which had been a problem with previous caps. Shirts and ties were issued so there was no variation between the wearers of the uniform, unless it was one to denote rank.

The colour was described as a "pleasant and practical change and the dye is reliable". With this in mind the colour was described as dark blue. However, I have seen almost black variations of the uniform over the

The idea of the uniform was so no one would think the wearer was anyone other than a member of British Rail. The Board wanted employees to be smart and anyone who had an incorrect fitting uniform was to notify their supervisor.

The second chapter "Wear and Care" pointed out to the wearer the importance in having pride in their uniform and how to look after it, including the correct way it should be worn. There was to be no individuality, with the jacket and waistcoat buttoned up for appearance at all times, nothing to cause bulges in the pockets, no unofficial badges and only those authorised such as Trades Unions or a flower for special occasions. The uniform was to be dry-cleaned to restore its new look when necessary and staff were allowed to decide on their own footwear. However, it was expected to complement the rest of the ensemble. It read: "A new look from head to foot is the distinguishing mark of all who wear the British Rail uniform. Now that you have it, please see that you play your part. Keep your uniform in the best possible condition and so help to establish the new image of British Rail".

Driver - Cap to have blue patch with gilt double arrows on. Gilt buttons with double arrows on.

Three drivers; Dicky Malkin, Gordon Wilson and Cyril Malkin at South Dock in 1987.





Second Man - As the driver but with chrome double arrows. Chrome buttons with double arrows on.

Guard - Cap had chrome double arrows, white piping around the back and white braid on the peak. The jacket had four chrome buttons with the double arrows on, double arrow badge on each collar and silver piping on the sleeve cuffs. Trousers, a sleeveless waistcoat with five black plastic buttons and an overcoat with four chrome buttons

Station Porter - Cap with red double arrow. Dark grey jacket in wool serge and four chrome buttons, red double arrows on collars (either side) and sleeves with red piping to the cuffs. The sleeved waistcoat was also dark grey, with six black buttons and the sleeves were striped in red and black going down the arms. Trousers were black and the dark grey overcoat had four chrome buttons.

Station Master and Manager - Cap with an oval piece of material on the front bearing a gilt lion, wheel and crown. Three bars of gold piping around the back and a wide gold edge to the peak. Double-breasted dark grey jacket with four black buttons. Sleeveless waistcoat with five black buttons. Dark grey trousers and overcoat with four black buttons.

Foreman and Ticket Collector - Cap with chrome double arrow. Dark grey jacket with four chrome buttons and chrome double arrows on collars (either side). Sleeves had silver piping to the cuffs and the sleeveless waistcoat had five black buttons. Trousers were dark grey, as was the overcoat, which had four chrome buttons. Foremen had a black enamel rectangular badge worn on the right breast with 'Foreman' in white lettering.

There were also specific uniforms for Travelling Ticket Inspectors, Train Attendants, Station Inspectors, Junior Station Masters and Managers. All buttons on jackets and overcoats were embossed with the double arrow.

1973 uniform change

This was mainly a change to the double arrow badge, which now had bevelled edges on the caps and buttons.

Drivers and Secondmen - The cap badge was replaced with a gilt version and the jacket now had three gilt buttons.

Guards - Chrome cap badge with two silver pipes around the back and a silver edge to the peak.

Station Supervisors and Inspectors - The gilt badge was made larger.

1978 uniform change

This was the start of a new trial for different material of a wool and synthetic fibre to be used for uniforms. The trial uniform was accepted and issued in 1981 to Railmen, Leading Railmen, Senior Railmen and Chargemen, with Guards and Station Supervisors receiving the uniform in 1983.

These changes saw a dark blue blouson jacket with elasticated cuffs and red zip. Both arms had a red double arrow on the upper sleeve and between the elbow and cuff was one red bar for Railman and two red bars for Leading Railman. The cap was changed to include a red band around the back and a red double arrow. For the Senior Railman there were two light blue bars on the lower arm and three for the Chargeman. Both of these had a light blue band around the hat. Guards' hats had a silver embroidered double arrow with two silver pipes around the back, while Station Supervisors had a gold double arrow. Trousers were in the same material. Three-quarter-length overcoats were also issued with rank markings and these grade colourings were also used on the shirt epaulettes.

1994 uniform change

In 1994, British Rail again changed its uniforms for the final time. It issued two clothing booklets, *British Rail Clothing* and *The Right Clothes*. The uniform was very different from the previous corporate uniform and included jackets, trousers, skirts, shirts, blouses, overalls, ties, bows, footwear, hats and gilets, as well as instructions on how hair and jewellery were to be worn.

Some of the clothing items were reversible and universal hi-visibility clothing began to appear. However, 1994 also saw the

beginning of privatisation so, although the uniform began to be distributed, it would change under the new regime.

Additional guides

Hi-visibility clothing didn't start to appear on British Rail until around 1985, and even then it wasn't in any great quantity. *A Day in the Life of British Rail,* published in 1989 by Guild Publishing of London, and edited by Murray Brown of *Rail* magazine, shows a snapshot of BR from the time. In this publication, Permanent Way and Workshop staff are seen wearing non-reflective orange overalls, bib and braces, coats and short bibs with orange rubber buttons, while either were in the workshops or on the track.

Train crews were not issued with the short bib until later in the 1980s, and from conversations with my Father, who was a driver, they very rarely wore them unless necessary or told to do so! The original bib was later replaced with another style of short bib, which had reflective stripes on it.

Needless to say, health and safety became a bigger issue in the 1990s, and the use of hi-visibility reflective clothing became more important.

Irregularities

As the new uniform started to go on general release in 1966, there is nothing to stop you from using figures wearing it in green diesels. Of course, there would be a changeover period. Although British Rail set down regulations for their uniforms, there were always Drivers who would wear something not in the clothing manual. Look at the photograph of the three drivers at South Dock, opposite. One of them is wearing his old pre-Corporate washed-out blue coat!





SHED DILEMMA

After a couple of false starts, I am now seeking to house my new layout at the bottom of the garden. (The garage and loft layouts were a bit of a disaster).

Have you any experience on the dilemma of building a 6m x 3m purpose-made timber shed to my own specification – doors, windows and insulation – as opposed to buying a second hand site cabin from a manufacturer such as Portakabin?

The first is going to cost me more, but gives me what I want. The latter will be cheaper and quicker to get going. I am worried about the insulation qualities of the site cabin and the compromises I will have to make with buying something off-the-shelf.

Chris Fletcher-Smith

Howard Smith replies: Hi Chris, it's an exciting dilemma to have. Speaking from experience after building a shed from materials, you'll be far better placed to get a custom design that maximises your space, though this comes at a premium. If it's something you don't feel confident building yourself using raw materials - many plans are available freely online - outsourcing the work to one of the many companies is a good solution. Be wary of thinner and cheaper materials that might be used, however - you'll need the building to be secure if it's outdoors and weatherproof. The building must be classed as a temporary structure; i.e. no foundations, unless you seek planning consent, and it must abide by regulations such as maximum height or distance from boundaries.

You can enhance cheaper sheds with better roofs, doors and windows, though premium sheds are preferable for the reasons outlined above. An additional layer of cladding might be worth considering, too, plus the positioning of windows and doors, relative to your model plan. Harsh light through a window is likely to affect one part of your model more than the rest, potentially fading colours on card buildings, or causing track to expand. Would a roof lantern be worth considering for a more even distribution of light? Regarding insulation, you'll need to run power out to the shed with armoured cable, so installing a source of heat from electricity won't take much for those chiller days. Keeping the shed waterproof is simple, but reducing levels of humidity will take more effort. The seals on doors, windows, and even the raised floor will need to be sealed tight, and a de-humidifier will almost certainly be required to prevent ingress of moisture to sensitive model components or card buildings. With either solution, I think the prevention of humidity with our damp winters will be your largest battle.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Your forum for sharing information, questions, praise, grumbles, projects, layouts and your thoughts on the hobby then and now.

CONTROL PANEL

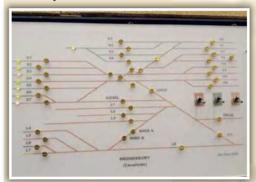
I read with interest "How to Design a Control Panel" and thought you may be interested in a control panel I have just completed for my layout 'Wednesbury' (Canalside).

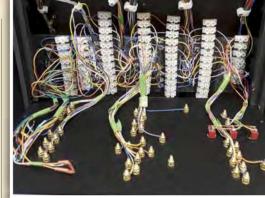
It is generated on Excel and sandwiched between two sheets of acrylic 3mm thick. The top sheet is opaque so as not to show any scratches, I hope.

I operate DCC and the control panel is for pencil touch solenoid point control, with a hidden diode matrix for route selection. There are Irdot 1s operating dual colour LEDs for hidden storage occupation. The layout is wired in three areas for easier short circuit finding and the three isolation toggle switches can be seen on the right.

The Panel was reasonably easy to make and not very expensive. Care was taken in drilling the holes for the bolts, which are too big, but seemed OK at the time. It's over-engineered but that's me; if there is an earthquake, my wife reckons my layout will be intact.

Ken Foley





A FITTING TRIBUTE

We regret to announce the recent death of long-time member, David Knight, on January 24, 2020. An extremely competent and skilled modeller, he will be best remembered for his lifetime's work on his justifiably famous layout 'Somweir Junction', modelled on Barnstaple Junction in LSWR/SR days, and featured some years back in **BRM**, where it graced both the front cover and was selected as layout of the month.

By profession an architect, David eventually settled down in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, where he enjoyed a long and fruitful career with the Council. He joined the Association in its early



days, soon becoming Secretary and organiser, a position he held for many years, safely steering it through many stormy waters along the way, before stepping down and being presented with life-time membership in recognition of his unstinting work.Indeed, it would be fair to say that, but for David's unbounded enthusiasm and caring nature, it is unlikely the Association would exist in its present form, if at all.

His architectural skills were put to good use in his models, often with superb results and he always had time for those around him, encouraging the shy and experienced alike.

In the final months, with his health beginning to fail him, he was unable to attend club meetings, but he still retained a keen interest in everything and was regularly updated by fellow members. Contact was then made with Barnstaple Museum and such was the high standard and reputation of his work that several members of this prestigious organisation travelled up to Shropshire to see the layout and David's offer of donation.

On seeing the layout, the decision was immediately made to accept the offer. It was carefully disassembled and then transported over 200 miles back to Barnstaple, where the museum was about to undergo a major and sympathetic extension to the main building. This has now been completed and the curator, Alison Mills, has now had 'Someweir Junction' re-erected in a dedicated room for all to see, with a local group running operating sessions during opening hours in the summer months; a fitting tribute to an outstanding modeller.

The funeral service took place on Thursday, February 6 at Christ Church in Shrewsbury, and was attended by many people from all walks of life, the Association being represented by a substantial contingent of his friends and colleagues. A dedicated family man, he will be sadly missed by his wife, Annette, and by his family to whom we extend our sympathy. Kind, knowledgeable and generous to a fault, he was above all a true friend, and we will miss him.

Eric Challoner

On behalf of the Association of Shrewsbury Railway Modellers









N GAUGE CONUNDRUM

I have taken up your 'layout in a box' suggestion following my N gauge model. Luckily, I managed to purchase some modelling material before the long haul of hibernation and purdah.

I have only got as far as building a couple of baseboards and have managed to lay the main track and I now have the electrics, track ballast, and scenery to wrestle with.

I hope you will help this newbie with an N gauge conundrum. As a fan of lain Rice, I followed his advice, and added weights to my rolling stock, which helped to balance movements. I have searched online for similar words of wisdom to no avail. Have you any suggestions?

Les Stinton

Phil Parker replies: I'm not aware of any specific recommendations for wagon weighting in N gauge, however the N Gauge Society might be able to help. As I recall, Rice's ideas were based on the NMRA standards, but modified as American rolling stock tends to have bogies and we enjoy a lot more four-wheel wagons. You could develop your own. The key is for all the wagons to be a similar weight so pick your heaviest and then add lead to bring the others up close to this. It's a little rough and ready, but should help the layout run well.





INGLENOOK REQUEST **BOOK REVIEW**

I am a young (23), keen and aspiring modeller as I have a reasonable fleet of locomotives and rolling stock, not to mention an avid reader and subscriber of BRM. As I have little room for a layout and only a beginner, I was wondering if it would be at all possible for more Inglenookstyle shunting layouts to be featured? This would be extremely helpful as I feel it would give readers in a similar position encouragement and a variety of ideas to work with. I understand it may not be considered the most enthralling feature. However, it would be interesting to see what people can and have achieved with such layouts including their setting, scenery and space management. Not to mention all the minor and intricate details they may have included. Oh and thank you for continuing to publish such an inspiring magazine!

James Byers

Just a line regarding the review of Steam on the Eastern and Midland by David Knapman in April BRM, I thought the reviewer, while regionally correct, on comments referring to the North Eastern being outside this books remit, may have perhaps forgotten that from a locomotive spotter's standpoint there were, in the '50s and '60s, four essential steam spotters' books ie: Southern; Western; Midland and Eastern. They represented the products of the four companies, plus in each the BR Standards. I suspect the author was referring back to these,

hence North Eastern (and ex-LNE Scottish) Region was, to locomotive spotters, not really that relevant, as the Ian Allan Blue book covered most locomotives you'd have seen at York; Darlington and Ripon.

Chris Worby



BRIDGEFIELD QUARRIES

lan Wilson's interpretation of this ironstone line with typical East Midlands architecture in pleasant countryside arose from a site visit in 1966.

Words: Ian Wilson Photography: Tony Wright





LAYOUT FOCUS

t was 1966 and I was about to start a graphic design course at Leicester College of Art, so one summer's day, I decided to take the opportunity to explore some of the local quarry workings. My Uncle, John Grogan, had recently died and I had acquired his grey Minivan 235 FNV and was enjoying the new freedom of owning my own car and not having to beg to borrow my Dad's Singer 'Gazelle'. At the time, my father was working for Stewarts & Lloyds Ltd. at its massive steelworks in Corby, Northamptonshire, where the extensive quarry network was used to supply the four blast furnaces. I was brought up with the glow of steel making all around and within earshot of steam locomotives hard at work in nearby quarries. In Northamptonshire there were also smaller ironworks at Kettering, Cransley, Islip and Wellingborough. At Corby the quarries were connected directly to the steelworks, mostly by standard gauge lines, but at Kettering the gauge was 3ft and at Wellingborough it was metre gauge. There were also outlying quarries where quarried ore was taken to exchange sidings by four and six-coupled industrial tank locomotives, and then made up into main line trains for onward shipping to steelworks.

Storefield at Barford Bridge – between Corby and Kettering – was one such

outlying quarry system. It was owned by the South Durham Steel & Iron Co. Ltd. and the ore quarried there was taken in 26T vacuum-fitted tipplers to West Hartlepool, usually hauled by a 9F 2-10-0. A short distance north along the ex-Midland Railway line from Kettering to Nottingham was a smaller quarry system - Bridgefield Quarries - which like Storefield had originally been a 2ft 6in narrow gauge system owned by E.P.Davis from Bennerley in Derbyshire. In 1929, both systems had closed and the track had been lifted, but with the start of World War II, there was an increased demand for iron ore and in 1940 standard gauge track was laid in the two systems. The smaller workings at Bridgefield were taken over by Stewarts & Lloyds Ltd. and quarry locomotives were sent there from the company's main quarries at Corby, a short distance away. Usually, there were two locomotives in steam, one to handle wagons on the fairly level route to the quarries and the other to handle taking loads up the 1-in-40 incline to the exchange sidings.

On arriving at Bridgefield, I found two locomotives being readied for their day's work - Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST *Pen Green* works No. 607 of 1903 and Peckett 0-4-0ST *Cockspur* works No. 1289 of 1912. *Pen Green* was a Corby locomotive that had escaped the scrapper's torch in 1964 and had been transferred away from internal steelworks

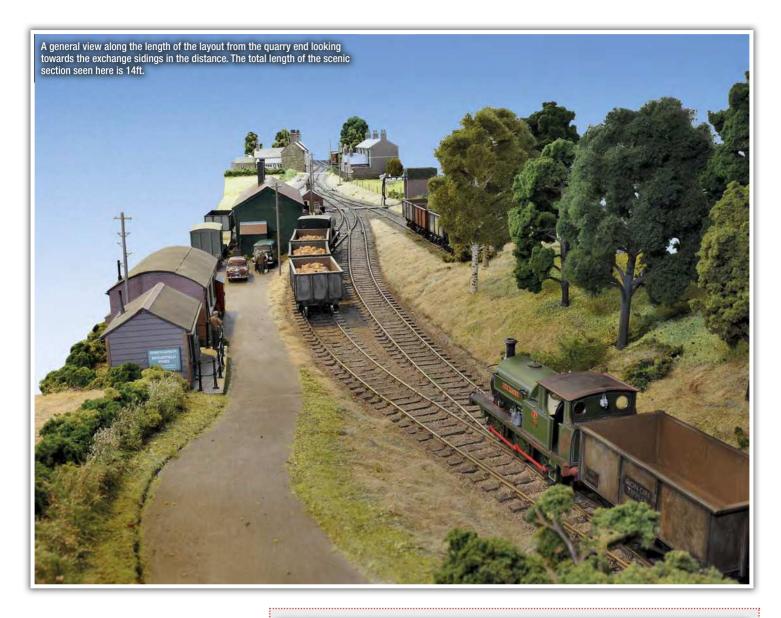
duties to the rural setting of Bridgefield, while *Cockspur* had been transferred to Bridgefield Quarries from Storefield (where Andrew Barclay 0-4-0STs were the favoured motive power).

Quarry Operation

In the quarries, track was lightly laid so that it could be slewed sideways as excavation of the quarry progressed. One excavator usually a dragline with sufficient jib length for tipping clear of a train awaiting loading would remove the overburden and another, usually a steam or electric shovel, would load the wagons at the quarry face. Lines then often travelled through picturesque scenery before reaching the exchange sidings. Loaded trains from the quarry would amount to perhaps eight wagons but more often a lot less, especially if the route to the exchange sidings was up a gradient. Many quarries continued working into the mid 1970s so in addition to four or sixcoupled tank locomotives, both industrial and former main line diesels could also be seen. Where rail access to quarries was impracticable, lorries were used to bring ore to tipping docks at the exchange sidings.

The most intensive quarrying operations were around Corby in Northamptonshire, where the extensive quarry network was used to supply the four blast furnaces of the massive Stewarts & Lloyds steelworks.





Layout Planning

The concept of an ironstone layout came about when my friend John Emerson suggested a compact joint project suitable for taking to exhibitions. The main influence was Storefield at the time. John was already well known on the exhibition circuit for his extensive 7mm scale layout 'Gifford Street Sidings' and a plan was drawn up of an 8ft diameter layout made up of four equal quadrants. It looked good on paper but after some thought we decided that the tight curves required would make it impractical and the idea was shelved. But the concept lived on - one of the locomotives earmarked for use on the layout was John's DCC-fitted Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST by Ixion, so I purchased it from him and with custom plates from Narrow Planet re-liveried it as HC607 of 1903 No. 3 Pen Green. This locomotive had worked in the quarries of Stewarts & Lloyds at Corby from new until



Ironstone History

The earliest ironstone quarries were found where the ore deposits lay close to the surface. Excavation was originally done manually by plank and barrow working, and loaded wagons of ore would be hauled away by horse power. As quarrying became more intensive, narrow gauge steam-hauled systems arose and most – but not all – were eventually replaced by standard gauge lines. Later quarrying used large draglines to remove overburden and reveal the iron ore seams for smaller excavators to dig out and load into railway wagons - then to be carried either directly to nearby steel works or in the case of more outlying quarries to exchange sidings on the nearest main line railway.

LAYOUT FOCUS

withdrawn in 1964. A second locomotive – a DCC sound-fitted Peckett 0-4-0ST by Minerva was purchased and this too was fitted with custom plates from Narrow Planet as P1289 of 1912 *Cockspur*. The real *Cockspur* had come from Irchester Quarries in 1940 and worked at Storefield until scrapped in 1967.

With the arrival of this locomotive I then had sound added to the Hudswell Clarke by EDM of York, and so I had a stud of two locomotives – more than adequate for the

small ironstone line that was in my mind.

Bridgefield Quarries

Storefield is one of the locations featured in an Ivo Peters' video *Ironstone Lines of the East Midlands*, but sadly its location at Barford Bridge between Kettering and Corby has now been completely obliterated by the dual carriageway of the A43 road. However, the video, along with boyhood memories of the Storefield site prompted me to follow up the original layout plan and to build a

7mm scale model of an ironstone system trying to capture some of the character of the line. My Bridgefield Quarries layout is a small layout by O gauge standards, but has many of the features of Storefield – at one end a glimpse of the upper fiddle yard exchange sidings and the rear of a Midland signal box, which suggests that the sidings are alongside a main line. The line continues across an ungated crossing dropping down to a passing loop where full wagons are exchanged for empties to be taken back to



the quarries for loading. The line passes under a road overbridge with very tight clearance to reflect the line's supposed narrow gauge origins to reach the bottom fiddle yard that represents the quarries. The ruling gradient is 1-in-40, but the track to the engine shed, which diverges from the main line, falls away steeply at 1-in-18 – just as at Storefield. A long siding allows access to the water tower and provides storage for empty wagons.

Baseboard Construction

The baseboard comprises four sections,

each 5ft long, constructed with a frame of 75 x 25mm timber and 9mm MDF decking with an additional 3mm cork track bed. The two centre scenic sections are 27in wide, while each end board has a 600mm long continuation of the 27in wide scenic section reducing to 280 x 955mm at the top exchange siding end and to 150 x 915mm at the lower quarry end. So on the 20ft long layout, the visible scenic length is 14ft, and this is supported on two 2121mm long x 950mm high sub-frames that are on castors so that the layout can be fairly easily manoeuvred in the railway room for

maintenance. Landforms were built up using Styrofoam coated and textured initially with exterior Polyfilla.

Trackwork

Peco Streamline bullhead track is used throughout with turnouts operated by Tortoise slow-action motors controlled by biased two way centre off switches. I didn't want a control panel, so the toggles of the switches are positioned in full view alongside the tiebar of each turnout. The switches are quite unobtrusive and cosmetic point levers from Southwark Bridge Models



LAYOUT FOCUS



Where did iron come from?

At one time, all the continents were closer together, and changing shallow seas covered parts of Europe, including at times the East of England. Rivers carried sediment and dissolved minerals to the seas and lakes, where they were laid down. While this was happening, the Midlands of Britain was as far south as the French Riviera is now.

The outcrop of Jurassic minerals - including Portland Stone, Oxford Clay, Northamptonshire Sand Ironstone, Lincolnshire Limestone, Frodingham Ironstone and Cleveland Ironstone - stretches from the Dorset coast in the South to Middlesbrough in North East England. To the east of this is the outcrop of Cretaceous minerals - mainly chalk and limestone. The Northampton Sand Ironstone of the Jurassic ridge is the principal ironstone-bearing bed in the East Midlands, and the reason for the abundance of quarries in Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and South Lincolnshire in the middle of the 20th Century.

Hudsell Clarke 0-6-0ST *Pen Green* is on shed while 0-4-0ST Peckett *Cockspur* hauls more loads to the exchange sidings. Note the inspection pit in front of the shed and the very basic coaling stage, based on one at Desborough Quarries.



constructed for me by Tony Wright add an extra touch of realism.

Rolling Stock

The two locomotives currently used on the line have already been mentioned. The 8F 2-8-0 seen in some of the photographs was loaned for the photo shoot by John Emerson. The main business of the line is obviously collecting iron ore from the quarries and hauling it to the exchange sidings. Peco 27T iron ore tipplers are

perfect for this and mine have been expertly weathered by Geoff Haynes. I run them in rakes of three and have removable ironstone loads so that empties arriving in the quarry fiddle yard can be 'filled'. The locomotive shed siding is home to a variety of vehicles – a Lionheart BR 16T mineral with locomotive coal, a Skytrex 'Lowmac' and a Slater's MR Box Van, lettered as a Stewarts & Lloyds stores van. Two Slater's ex-NER hoppers are also lettered as S&L internal vehicles and appear from time to time, while at the

exchange sidings a Slater's 20T BR brake van adds main line interest in the short siding by the signal box.

Building work

Working along the line from the exchange sidings, the first structure is from a Prototype Models Midland Railway signal box kit (which I produced the artwork for shortly after I merged the company with Slater's Plastikard in 1977). The prototype for this kit was the box at Luffenham



LAYOUT FOCUS

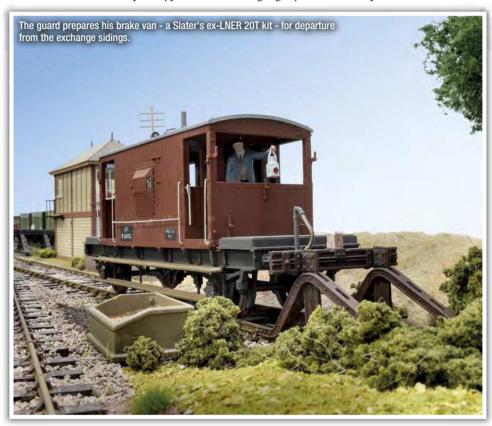
Junction on the line between Stamford and Oakham, and a lamp hut based on the prototype at Glendon East near Storefield completes the scene. Next to the ungated crossing is a farmhouse group constructed by the late Allan Downes, and beyond the crossing is a row of terraced cottages based on ones at Storefield and scratch-built.

All the structures around the shed have also been scratch-built by me, and all are based on prototypes from East Midlands locations - the water tower is based on one at Blisworth, the locomotive crew office and the workshop are from Glendon East, and the quarry office based on one at Corby. The engine shed was built from original plans of the shed at Harston near Grantham and includes all the internal timber framework. There is a story attached to how these plans came into my possession: when the quarry operations at Corby ceased, there was a sale of surplus office equipment and I purchased two plan chests for £5 each - a real bargain! On getting them home the bargain improved when I discovered that they were both full of plans of locomotive parts, quarries and quarry structures, including the plans of Harston shed. The actual shed had been acquired after dismantling by the Rutland Railway Museum at Cottesmore in Rutland, and the plans were used by them when the

shed was re-erected. The museum is now called Rocks by Rail and the shed can be seen there.

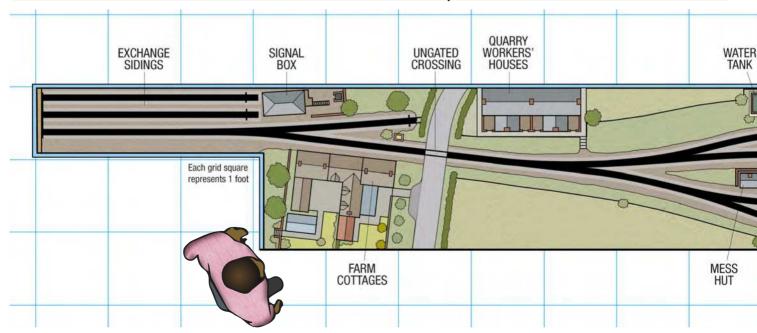
The final structure is the road overbridge and this is based on the prototype at

Storefield, which appeared in the Ivo Peters' video mentioned earlier. Clearance through the arch of the bridge is very tight because Storefield was originally a 2ft 6in narrow gauge system, which operated from 1902



Trackplan

BRIDGEFIELD QUARRIES



until closure in 1929. In 1940, during World War II, the South Durham Steel & Iron Co. of West Hartlepool re-laid the system with standard gauge track and production of ore then continued until closure in 1971.

Scenic Features

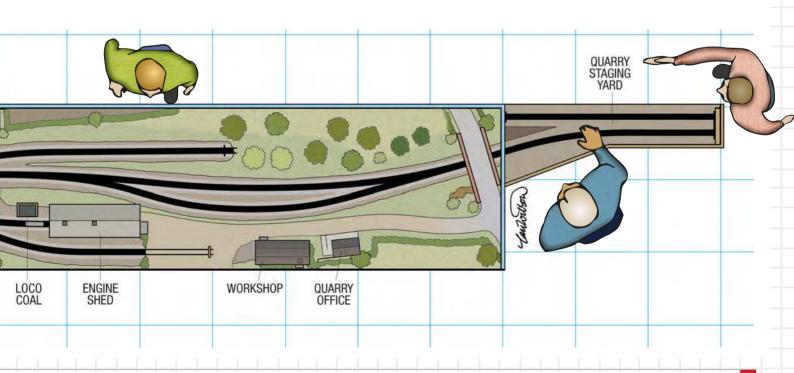
The two quarry locomotives have crew by Modelu, and more of its superb figures populate the layout, plus some from Omen Miniatures. I try where possible to group figures in twos or threes for added realism. There are also three road vehicles on the layout - a Ford Thames van 476 FRP finished in Stewarts & Lloyds green and the grey Minivan, 235 FNV. Both are by Oxford Diecast. The other vehicle, RNV 640, is a Singer 'Gazelle' by Lansdowne Models - the real one belonged to my father.

For detailed information on all aspects

of ironstone quarrying I recommend the series of nine books by the late Eric Tonks titled The Ironstone Quarries of the Midlands and published between 1988 and 1992 by Runpast Publishing of Cheltenham.

Or, for a practical ironstone quarrying experience, the Rocks By Rail museum near Cottesmore in Rutland is worth a visit. For more information see the museum's website: www.rocks-by-rail.org.





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HOW TO... BUILD AN LNER 32FT BRAKE VAN

Words & photography: Tony Wright

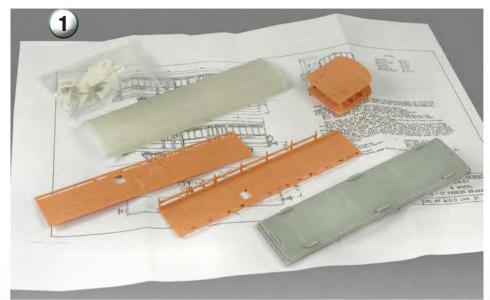
Seeking variety for his fleet of rolling stock, Tony Wright turned to this modern-media OO gauge kit of an LNER 'Pigeon' van, manufactured by Isinglass Models.



must admit to being rather ignorant of modern media for constructing models, so I approached the building of this resin kit from the perspective of a 'newcomer'. The description 'pigeon van' causes concern in some circles, but the LNER described these four-wheelers as such and so does the Isinglass drawing. The type was built in numbers between 1928 and 1930, erected at Stratford and York Works. There were detail differences which modellers should be aware of - springs inside or outside the 'W'-irons, ventilator positions, handrail positions and so forth. Consultation of prototype pictures is essential. They could be seen anywhere on the LNER's lines and those of its successors; indeed, by BR days, these versatile vans could be seen anywhere on BR. They lasted into the corporate blue era of British Rail, and at least one example has been preserved. What one gets from Isinglass are 'sides;

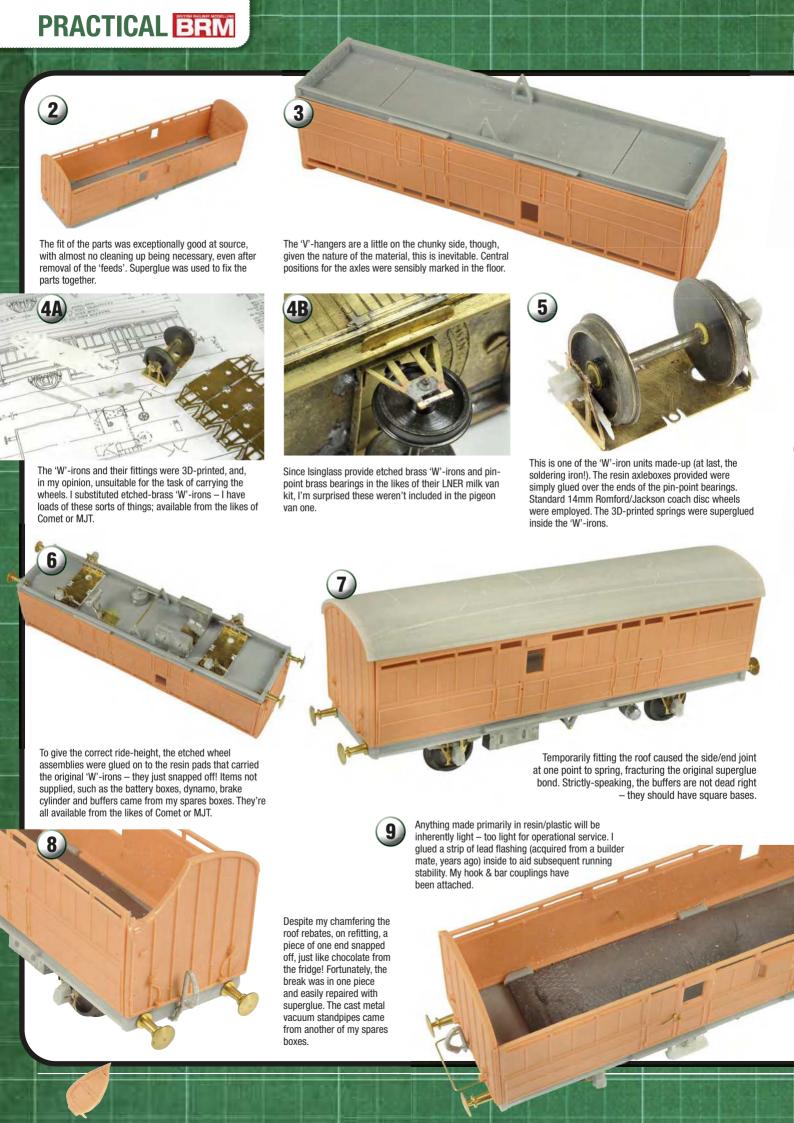
ends; roof; vents; drawing. One also gets a complete floor pan, headstocks and solebars. 'Available on request are underframe; bogies' - bogies? Not included are wheels, handrails, door handles, interior detail and underframe components. 'Sort of' instructions are

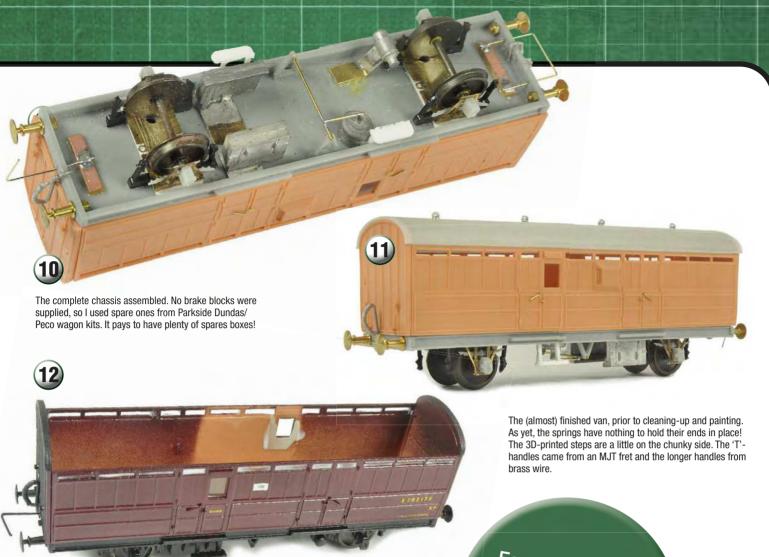
provided, but these are generic – including bogies! It's a pity the accurate drawing is not to 4mm scale, which would have made it much more useful in plotting positions. Everything is provided in resin, in one form or another.



All the components are 3D-printed and laid out prior to assembly. No need for a soldering iron, then!







After painting, the glazing was applied using 'Glue-'n'-Glaze for the upper lights and thin Plastiglaze for the guard's door windows. Because of the roof's 'lip' for fixing, there was insufficient room for Plastiglaze in the upper lights.

Conclusion

Running on 'Little Bytham', the finished model really looks the part in my view. I based it on the picture at the top of page 15 of David Larkin's book BR General Parcels Rolling Stock, A Pictorial Survey, Bradford Barton, 1978. This shows an example without the bodyside horizontal handrails, and no grey 'destination' panels. My model's in company with another example of the type, built from a Chivers plastic kit by the late Dave Shakespeare. The differences in the tumbleholme shape, footboards and body depth should be noted.

In general, the fit of the parts is superb and it generally captures the 'look' of these distinctive vehicles. Where it fits in with equivalents, I'm not sure

I'm delighted with how this model has turned out. Any beginner could build the body (it's a doddle), but getting it running could prove troublesome, especially with the running gear supplied. I'd definitely recommend including etched-'W'-irons, and also including all the other parts to complete it. Surely buffers, battery boxes and dynamo could be produced in resin, though the first-mentioned might be too vulnerable. For me, an experienced modeller with a vast supply of odds and ends, it was very easy and a pleasure to build, and (I hope) the finished result speaks for itself.

For more practical



The completed model, after painting. The springs' ends were fixed to the brass section, glued in place - not dead right, but better than before. Painting was achieved by using Halfords car acrylics (rattle can); red primer and then Ford Burgundy Red, followed by brush-painting appropriate areas with Humbrol matt black No. 33. Lettering and numerals came from the HMRS Pressfix range, and the 'York' stick-on signage came from Hollar. The isinglass drawing suggests the prototypes were painted maroon from 1967, but it was a decade earlier than that. By 1967, any survivors would be repainted in rail blue.

HOW TO... BUILD A PIT HEAD

Words & photography: Phil Parker

Looks can be deceiving with this intricate model, which is easier to build than you think.

ome modelling projects demand hours of work and the results aren't that impressive or exciting. Others will amaze your friends and family, but not actually require that much skill or effort. This is one of those.

At first sight, this Pit Head looks fearsome. Made of delicate metal latticework, it's a mass of detail. Even more impressive, this model is in N gauge, so surely you need to possess the skills of a watchmaker to assemble it?

Don't tell anyone, but the answer is no. The model is built from a kit designed and manufactured by Severn Models. Supplied as a set of brass etches, the modeller just has to follow the instructions, carefully removing and forming each part before fixing it in place.

You might assume that, at the very least, the parts will need soldering together, after all this is the usual advice for assembling etched brass kits. The good news, for those who see the technique as a black art, is that superglue will do the job. Andy Vaughan, the designer, is happy to show how all his models can be assembled with the stuff when he builds them at exhibitions.

Even a confident solderer like myself would be wary of trying it on this model. Any excess solder inside the lattice legs would be pretty much impossible to clean away for a start.

As it is, the most challenging aspect is forming all the bends, but with the aid of nothing more sophisticated than a steel rule, it's not a hard job. A line along where the metal will be bent is half-etched and if this is kept on the inside of the bend, the metal will naturally form where it's supposed to.

You don't even need many tools - a craft knife, steel rule, scissors, flat file and a small pair of pliers will be sufficient. It's a pleasure to build a well-designed kit.



The etched parts for the model are supplied in an envelope attached to some plywood with elastic bands to keep them flat. Care is certainly needed to look after them as the metal is very thin and you really don't want to bend it.

holding them in the fret with a hefty craft knife. The remnants of the tab can sometimes be filed away, but I prefer to use scissors. You don't need anything special for this - these cheap scissors have been on my bench for a decade and they are still sharp enough.



The sheave wheels are made up of three layers that can be arranged so there is a groove around the edge for the ropes. Bearings and supports are included and slide through the centre, allowing the wheels to rotate



The main leg etch folds up with the joints being halfetched overlaps. The lower of the two platforms then sits on top with the edges overlapping the top latticework. Once the glue is dry, the structure is far stronger than it looks.

TOP TIP

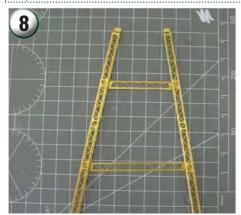
Superglue can be strange stuff. Sometimes it sets instantly, usually just when you would like a bit of adjustment time.

Occasionally though, you want stuff to set immediately and it decides to take its time. Blowing on the joint can help as the glue is set by moisture, but for an instant

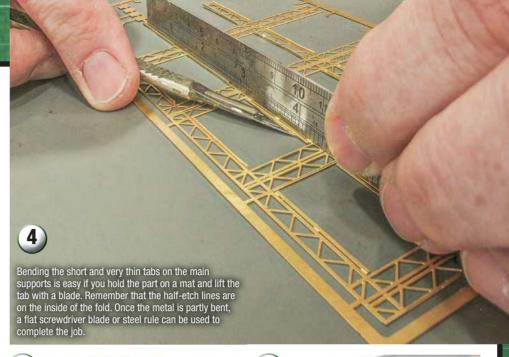
result, a squirt of 'kicker' will do the job

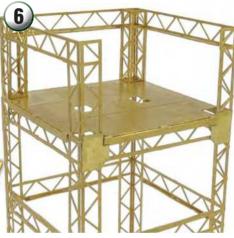
Work in a well-ventilated room as the stuff stinks. A joint that has been 'kicked' isn't as strong as one left to dry naturally. It's often good enough and when you are juggling components and just want them to stick, this can save a lot of frustration and bad temper.





The long legs are joined by more rails, and a cutting board marked out with squares helps to ensure they are both leaning in at the same angle

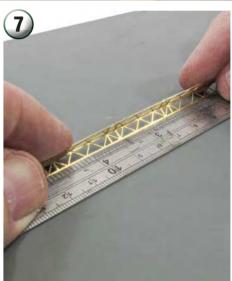




Folding the upper level is the same as the main leg and they are stuck to the top. The glue joint is weak but fixing the gusset plates makes things strong. Finally, the inner 'L'-shaped sections of latticework are folded and glued to make all the legs a square section. The tabs folded over at the start of the process help hold these in place, but a dry-run with each piece is important to ensure they go in the right way up.



Sticking the legs to the main body is where epoxy resin beats superglue. The bulky glue ensures that you don't need a perfect joint at the top. Adding the gusset plates helps beef the joint up. Using weights to hold everything in position while the model is sitting on a mirror or other flat surface helps keep all the legs on the ground.

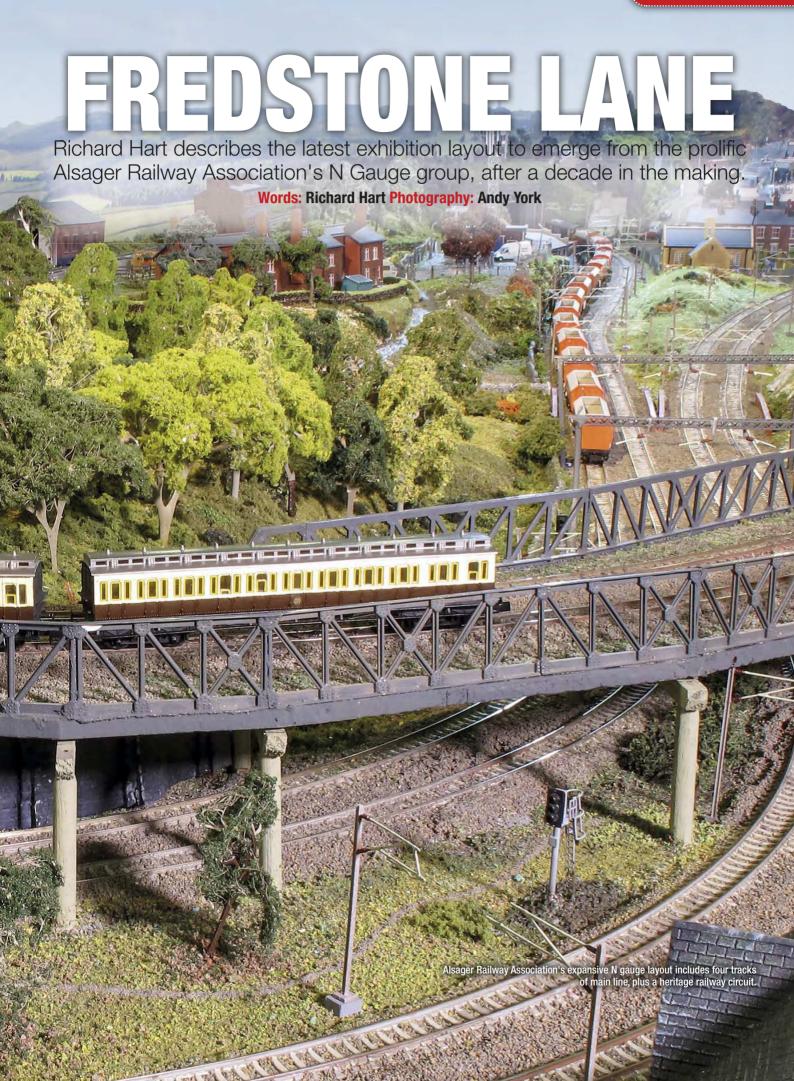


Moving to the long, angled legs, these are folded from flat to a square section and it's best to use a steel rule to hold the piece down when each bend is started. The metal folds easily enough, but try not to bend it back and forth too much or it can harden and snap.



The fiddliest job is attaching the cross bracing. This is fitted from inside the tower using a drop of superglue on the end of each arm. The piece has to be accurately placed in the hole so each arm touches a corner. Job complete!







RM magazine readers might recall from articles and DVDs over the years that the Alsager Railway Association's (ARA) N gauge group has been prolific in producing exhibition layouts. The vardstick for members for the last 25 years has been the club's flagship layout, 'Newcastle by the Water', a favourite at many an exhibition. However, a decade ago, and after many iterations, a succession plan was conceived that drew on the experience of operating 'Newcastle' by adopting certain successful features and introducing new ones to bring it up to date.

The architect of 'Newcastle' was the late Fred Johnson, a modeller well respected throughout the exhibition circuit and stalwart of the ARA. The mantle was picked up by Fred's cousin, John Cox, who is the club's vice chairman as well as exhibition and layout manager. The first collective decision was to dedicate the new layout to Fred, by naming it 'Fredstone Lane'.

Making baseboards

The overall dimensions of 24ft x 9in by 4ft in depth is the same as 'Newcastle's'. This has enabled certain elements, such as the lighting rig, curtains and pelmet, to be shared. This has also helped cost control and avoided reinventing the metaphorical wheel.

The six baseboards of equal size are paired with brackets for transit, and bolt together for shows, using John Cox's trademark tongue and groove end boards for stability and smooth running across board joints. Each board has hinged legs with diagonal support struts that fold up under the board. The two boards with four legs offer themselves as anchors when setting up, with the other four boards with two legs each being attached in sequence.

The surface board on which the track and scenery sit is made of 9mm plywood. Originally, the track underlay was foam sheeting throughout, but this proved unsatisfactory and the scenic section was re-laid with cork and then re-ballasted. The fiddle yard still has the original exposed foam, although coloured to delineate track function and direction. However, this is becoming brittle and is flaking so will eventually be replaced.

Powering up

'D'-plugs are daisy chain linked between

the boards from a central power box, which in turn links to six control panels, each with a Gaugemaster analogue controller, and a mimic plan with stud and probe wiring to a CDU and Seep point motors. One improvement made is to utilise Steve Lowndes' (see 'Bluebell Cutting' BRM July 2017) hollowed-out biros as the probes with stout wires replacing the ink tubing.

Operational needs

'Fredstone Lane' is a modern fictitious layout and the track comprises of inner and outer circuits at different levels with crossovers and reversing loops, with separate double tracks for passenger and freight. Two operators control a passenger and goods line each in a clockwise direction, while two others operate similar services in the opposite direction.

A fifth operator controls the outer pair of loops in both directions, which are dedicated to heritage trains, with its own station, halts and hidden storage yards. This line affords an opportunity to run virtually anything under the guise of heritage, including Thomas and friends, who are greatly appreciated by children of all ages.



Preserved steam-hauled trains and holiday specials are also frequent on this outer track.

At one end of the layout, maintenance and freight marshalling yards offer shunting opportunities for the sixth operator. The yards are accessed from the main line, which requires operators to talk to each other!

One of the ARA standards is that our layouts are no more than one metre in height and thus suitable for wheelchair visitors to have an unrestricted view. We see this as a simple courtesy and we know from feedback that it is appreciated.

The team's emphasis is on entertaining exhibition visitors rather than 'rivet counters' and so, while we have a considerable nod towards authenticity, a liberal approach to a constant supply of stable and visiting trains from different regions and eras is encouraged.

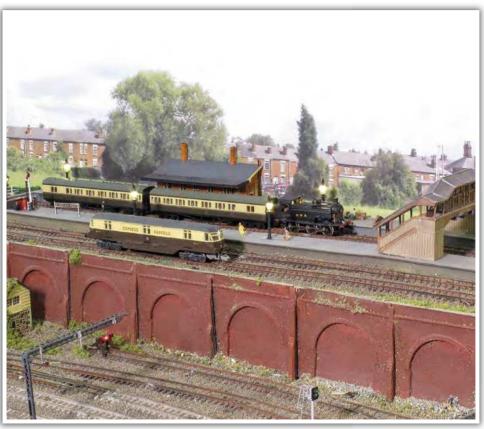
Scenic work

Stations and sidings at different heights enable local stopping trains to be passed by through express passenger and goods trains. Buildings are a mixture of Metcalfe card kits, Ratio and other plastic and resin buildings, with lineside features from P&D Marsh and Ten Commandments, with trees, lichen, sea foam and scatter from various traders at exhibitions. Street and platform lighting, as well as flashing lights on police cars, together with much underside electrics, came from Kytes Lights.

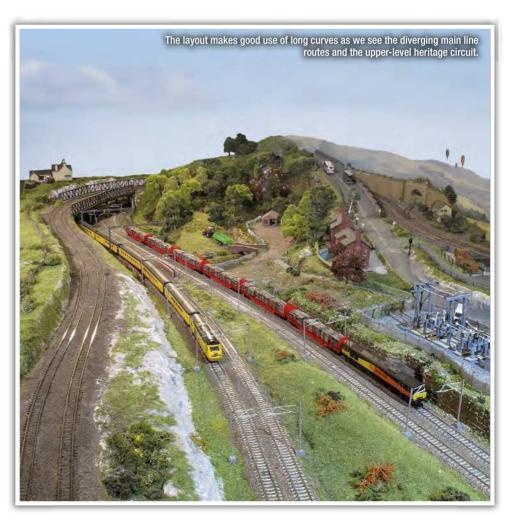
The principal track of the layout is modern image, with overhead catenary being a mix of Peco for single lines and N Brass Loco portals for spanning multiple tracks. We have not fitted overhead cables between sections of the catenary. Experience suggests that, even for the most careful of operators, rectifying a derailment can cause even bigger problems with hands that are far from N scale. The track itself, of which there is over 200ft in the scenic section, is Peco Code 80 with concrete sleepers on the main line and wooden on the branch. We employ Peco Electrofrog medium-radius points throughout.

Behind the scenic section is a storagecum-fiddle yard, which enables the potential of N scale to be realised by accommodating full length High Speed, Pendolino and goods trains as well as local DMUs. Each of the four main-line operators can accommodate five or six trains, with the passengers having the bonus of out-front station platforms that can be by-passed.

The ARA doesn't own any rolling stock and so all trains are provided by members



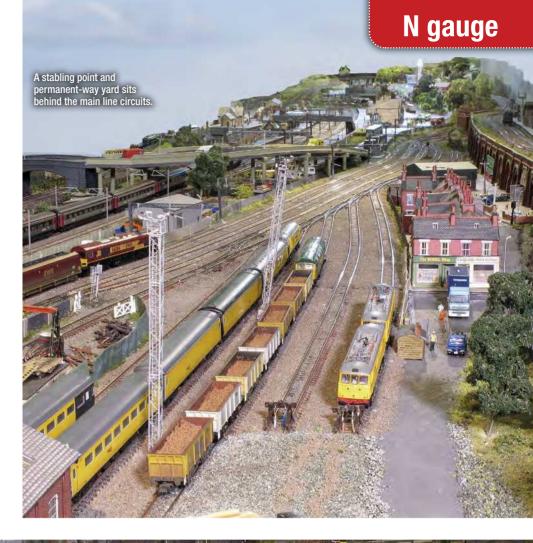
The rear of the layout has a heritage railway operation at a higher level that works around and down to platforms adjoining the main line station.



from their own stables. Most are diesels, but increasingly we are seeing locomotives with pantographs to complement our catenary. The diversity of members' home layouts in terms of eras and geographical location also underpins why we cannot be overly prescriptive about what runs on the layout. Primarily, locomotives and rolling stock are Dapol or Farish with some CJM and a few kit-built examples.

The focal point at the other end of the layout is another of John Cox's trademark features (See BRM December 2018 on his layout 'Knot Littlefield'), live running water which is powered by a Volvo windscreen washer motor. These water features are much loved by visitors who have to demonstrate a sense of humour in response to our standard way of answering their question of "is that really live water?"; they soon dry out.

The 9in high scenic break sports several ID Backscenes hills and dales self-adhesive sheets, spanning some 24ft in length. In some places we have abutted low-relief buildings, created by cutting buildings in





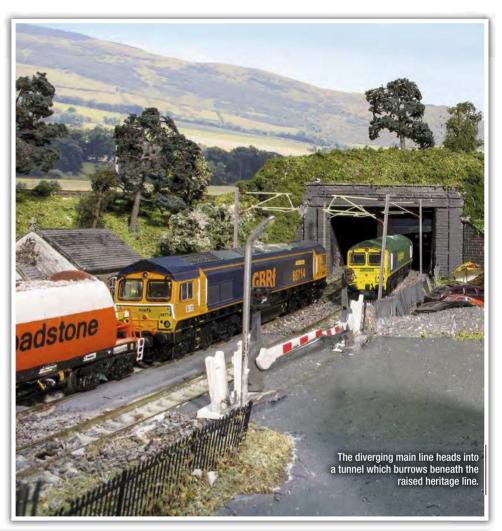
half, lengthways, on the club's bandsaw to double the frontage.

Teamwork

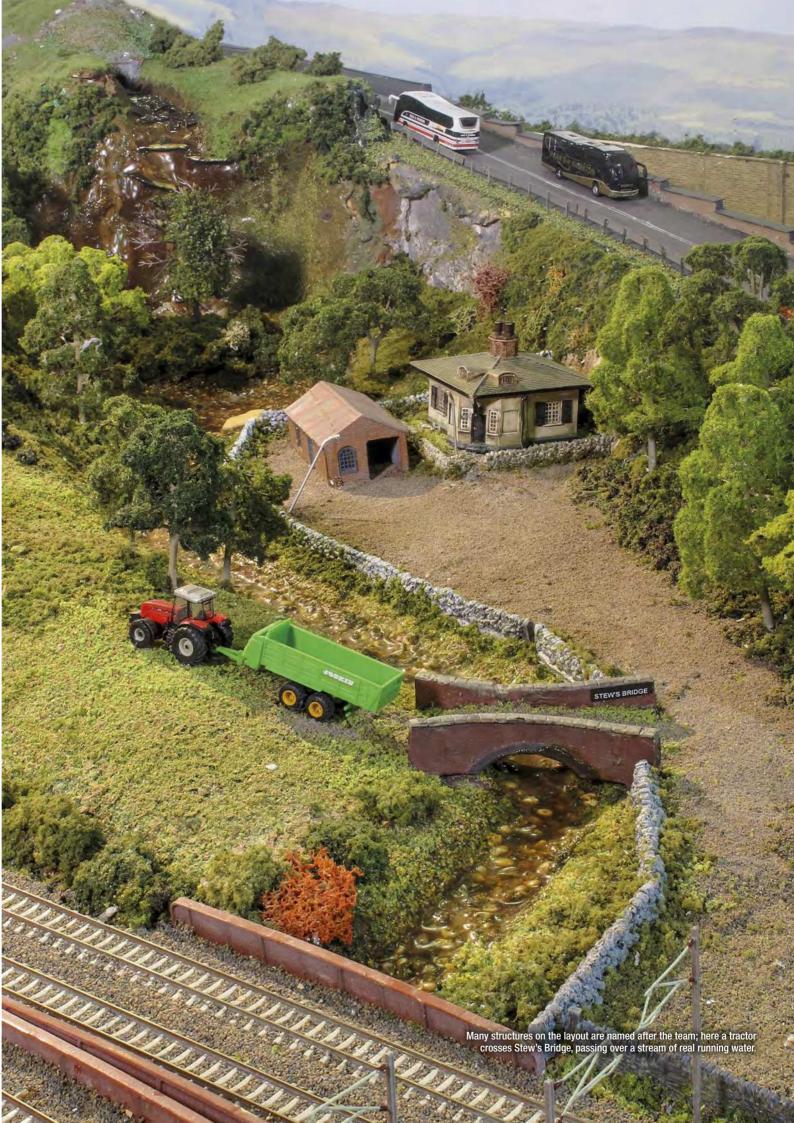
Under John Cox's direction, many members, past and present, have contributed to the building of 'Fredstone Lane' over the last decade. Some members are dab hands at making buildings, others at soldering and wiring, yet others are thinking up cameos and populating scenes with people, vehicles, animals, machinery and vegetation. Some features added a decade ago have already been replaced and no one is (too) precious about their contribution, even when superseded.

For example, my first task when I joined the ARA back in 2011 was to build a motorway section passing over the marshalling yard, inspired by the northern end of the M5 adjacent to Bescot Yard. After much measured research and six weeks of construction, it was completed just before I went away on holiday. Upon my return I found that a committee had decided they didn't like it and scrapped it. However, the good news is that I am not bitter about it and almost never mention it!

Sadly, some members have died and we've tried to incorporate their names in the layout. We started by naming Bingham





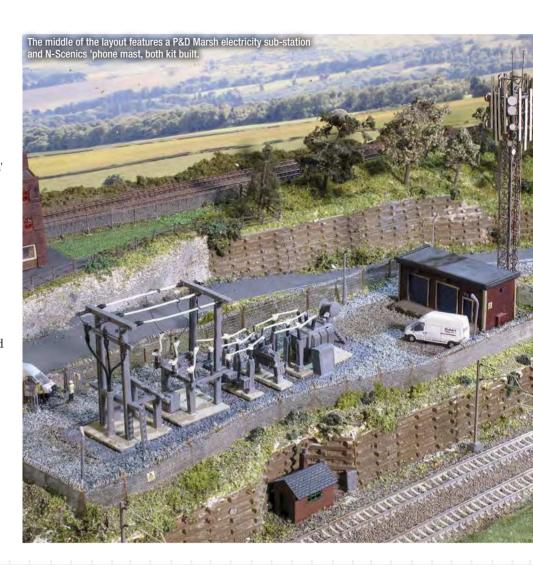


Halt after our late colleague Keith, who constructed the rock face of plaster on Styrofoam. Subsequently, and bearing in mind our average age is on the advanced side of middle aged, I decided it would save time if I started naming features after contributors now. Consequently, 'Fredstone Lane' includes such landmarks (in no particular order) as Howard's Way, Lowndes' Lane, Cox's Causeway, Guildford Close, Whittaker Way, Finney's Farm, Small spare parts, The White Hart pub, Ryan Junction, Christian Chapel and so on.

On display

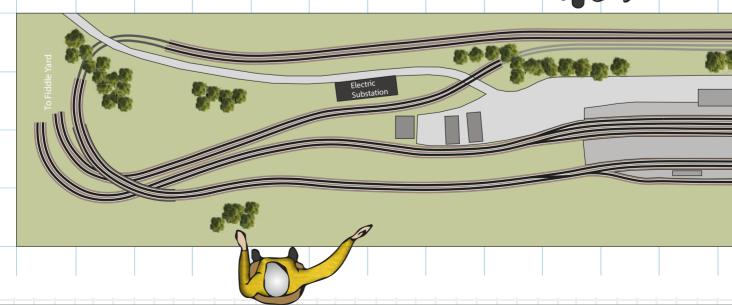
'Fredstone Lane' has had a few outings to exhibitions, winning two cups at our inaugural show at Bristol, and we operated it at our own exhibition at Crewe last November. The layout has been well received by the entrance fee-paying public, which is gratifying, as we thrive on interaction with the public. Otherwise we would simply build the layout and stay in the clubhouse operating it in private.

So where next? We are already thinking of a new club layout; perhaps now for something completely different. In the meantime, we have a host of exhibitions to visit with 'Fredstone Lane' and we welcome BRM magazine readers approaching us with questions and observations.

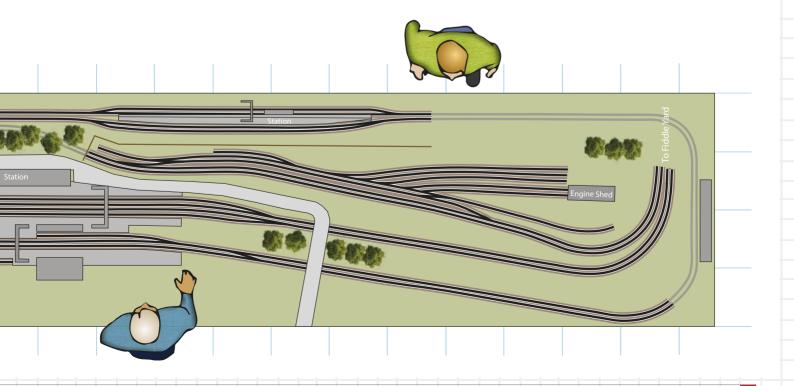


FREDSTONE LANE









HOW TO... CREATE YOUR IDEAL TRACKPLAN

Words & photography: Phil Martin

Part 2: Phil Martin concludes his class on successful layout planning and illustrating.

ou could draw a trackplan using pencil and paper, but a computer program will give you a lot more flexibility and will make many things easier we're in the 21st century, after all!

Use a drawing program, not a painting program. A drawing program keeps all the parts of the drawing separate so that you can always go back and change anything. It also stores the parts very accurately, which means that curves will always be smooth and details won't dissolve into pixelated mush when you zoom in. If you later want to

Engine shed

send the plan to someone else, a drawing file is usually smaller than the equivalent paint program file.

Creating an illustrated plan using a drawing program will take more time and effort than using dedicated track planning software, but the advantage is that you will have more control over what it looks like and the end result will be clearer, more pleasing to the eye and will help you and others imagine what the final layout will look like.

I use a drawing program called Xara

Designer. Other drawing programs can do the same job and since they all work in slightly different ways, I will describe how to do things in general terms rather than specifically how my program works.

It's very useful to set a scale factor between the drawing and the real world, such as 1:10 or 1:20, like an architect's drawing. This means you can draw on a normal-sized piece of paper while the program shows scaled up measurements. If your drawing program does not have this feature, you may have to do the scaling yourself or draw at real size.

LAMBSTEAD

FOR MARTIN (BALDERS45)

Loco release headshunt End loading Station Building Bay pla Goods shed

Back siding

Procenium arch

View blocker foliage

A layout plan is essentially a technical drawing, meaning that measurements are taken from line centres, regardless of how thick the lines are. So, set the program up to exclude line widths from your measurements. Use dark lines and light, pastel coloured or semi-transparent fill colours so that the colours don't overwhelm the important technical information.

Some vector drawing programs

- · Affinity Designer
- Adobe Illustrator
- Corel Draw
- Inkscape
- Xara Designer

'Lambstead'

atform

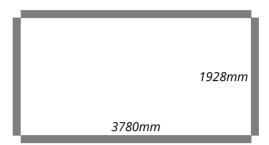
'Lambstead' uses elements of Lambourn to provide operating potential. The platform is curved for scenic interest and the cattle pens are on a deliberately difficultto-shunt kickback. Large Y turnouts are used to make the trackwork flow smoothly and a curved turnout is used in the entrance curve. Embankments and cuttings are shown by standard mapping symbols. Minimum radius

> Yard shunting clearance point

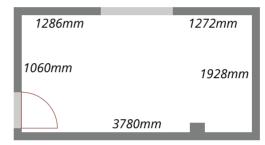
Drawing the Space

Using the measurements you took (and assuming the room is straight and square for simplicity): Draw a rectangle the length of one wall, and 100mm wide:

Draw more rectangles for the other walls and snap them together:

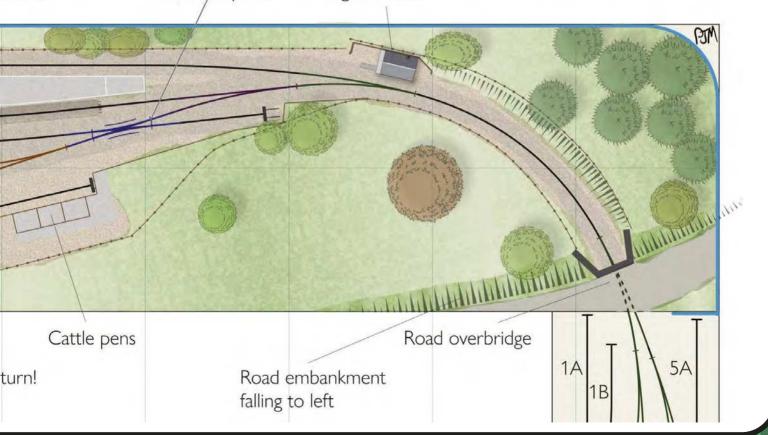


Fill in the corners and add details such as windows, doors and boxing:



This plan originated on RMweb, with the question of whether it was possible to fit something like Plymouth North Road into a 16ft x 8ft garage. By skewing the station and combining the pointwork into the curves at the ends, it fits very well, with room for five through platforms around 6ft long and three bays. The fiddle yard design (by another helpful RMWeb member) makes very efficient use of the space. Minimum radius is

Signal Cabin



Drawing track

Create a new layer called 'Trackwork' under the Grid Layer and draw an unfilled circle of your intended minimum radius - if you have one - and a line of your minimum intended train length. Set both to be quite thin and maybe red. These are just guides that you can copy and drag into different positions to give you an idea what will fit in your space.

If you've already got a set of turnout and crossing symbols, load them in so that you can copy and paste them into your new plan.

If you need to create your own set of track symbols to match commercial products, pay careful attention to the dimensions, curve radii and angles because these symbols must be very accurate for your plan to translate from the drawing to the real world successfully. This can be quite time consuming but you'll only do it once and then you can use them repeatedly for years.

Start drawing the track using simple straight lines to represent the centre lines. Snap turnouts and crossings to the lines to start to form the plan of your trackwork. Remember, you can change the length, position and angle of any part of the track at any time, so have no fear of trying things out. There's always an 'Undo' button if you go badly wrong!

You can add curved tracks by using partial circles or sectors, or by using the more free flowing, 'Bezier curve'. A Bezier curve (pictured above) joins two fixed points and is stretched by two other points that pull it into a smooth, variable radius curve.

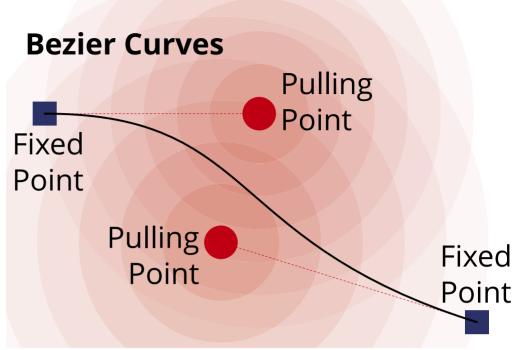
Obviously, you need to make sure that all track joints are smooth - your program might help to do this - and be careful that no part of any curve is tighter than your minimum radius. Don't rationalise your trackwork too much, or you may end up with something that has no character!

Add simple perpendicular lines to the ends of tracks to indicate buffer stops.

Once you have a trackplan, consider whether it actually works. Are the headshunts and run-round loops long enough? Can you turn trains off-scene if you need to? Do you have enough storage for the services you want to run? Is the intended train length accommodated? Can you shunt effectively without obstructing any other movements that might be going on at the same time?

Baseboards

Once you have a working trackplan, you



can see where the baseboards are needed, so create a 'Baseboards' layer under the 'Trackwork' layer and draw light coloured rectangles with thin black outlines to represent baseboards. Use the grid to set them to sensible sizes. Use diagonal rectangles or triangles to add fillets where needed. Check that any operating well is big enough and that you can reach all areas of the baseboard. If not, you may have to revise the trackplan, leave access spaces in corners or design access hatches in the scenery.

If the baseboards fill a room, make sure you can always open the door from both sides for safety. Ensure that the baseboards can be built realistically.

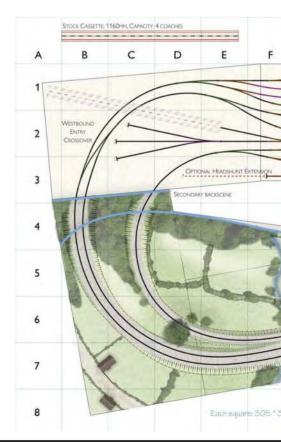
If the baseboards need to be demountable, make sure that each one is not too big to handle and check that turnouts and crossings don't fall across the joints between the boards.

Scenic ground surfaces

Create a separate 'Ground' layer under the 'Trackwork' layer and paint a light ballast texture under the track. Don't worry about getting neat edges or exact distance from the track - a bit of variation is natural. Use a slightly different texture for the large areas of yards and sidings. Paint a general grass texture everywhere else, giving it a large scale variation that doesn't look flat or boring. Paint roads and car parks using a suitable texture and perhaps use other textures to represent puddles and drier areas. But be careful not to overwhelm the technical details!

Trees and shrubs

On a new 'Greenery' layer, add trees and shrubs. Simple green circles will do the job, or you can use more detailed Landscaping clipart symbols. In either case, use muted colours and transparency so that they don't dominate the drawing or hide the details below. Once you have a few different tree and shrub symbols, you can easily copy them to place new greenery in your drawing.



You can also paint large areas of trees using a suitable texture. If you are modelling a real location, it's interesting to create a 'Woodland' texture from online aerial photographs of that area.

Buildings

Add buildings and other structures on a layer called 'Buildings'. Buildings can simply be rectangles coloured light grey or brown, but you can add more life by giving them shaded roof faces. Simple pitched roofs can be represented by just two equally-sized rectangles snapped together. Imagine the sun falling across the layout and decide which roof face should be highlighted and which should be shaded. Apply the same light direction and the same colours to all the roofs in the drawing for consistency. The faces of more complex roofs usually meet at 45 degrees on plan, no matter what pitch they are. Again, once you have one building symbol, you can copy it to other places in the drawing where it can be resized as needed.

Give buildings a small shadow all around to suggest the darker corner where the walls join the ground. This gives an impression of the building's height. You might also draw platforms on the 'Buildings' layer or give them their own layer. Platforms against curving tracks can be hand-drawn or you

can use your program's contouring function to help create the outline.

Details

You can show cuttings and embankments using the standard mapping symbols to help the reader visualise how the railway relates to the undulations in the landscape. The standard representation is a row of thin triangles, which are thickest at the top of the slope and pointed at the bottom. Use the brush function in your program to automatically repeat the triangles and vary them in size as the height of the slope changes.

Text and Labels

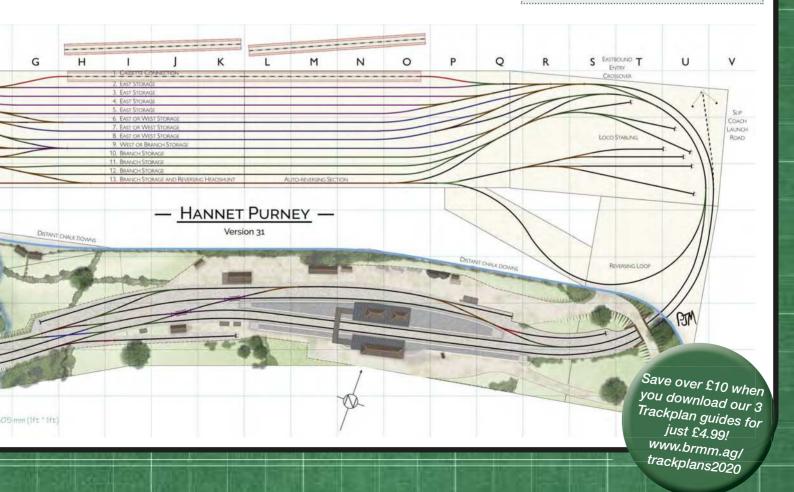
Add labels in a simple sans-serif font. Some labels can be placed directly on the drawing, but to keep the drawing clean, most labels should be outside with fine arrowed lines pointing in.

'Hannet Purney

This ambitious freestanding "roundy-round" layout represents an imaginary junction on the GWR line between Paddington and the South West in the 1930s. The trees and hedgerows are taken from online aerial photos near Patney, Wilts. The hawthorn trees are in flower and this detail could be modelled on the layout. The fiddle yard provides many storage loops, connections for stock cassettes, a reversing loop for turning locos and trains off-scene and last but not least a slip-coach catapult...! Minimum radius is 610mm.

TOP TIP

- Keep track parts separate because they are easier to edit that way. Just use snapping to align them precisely to each other.
- Use groups to make common formations like crossovers and then copy and paste the group wherever you need a crossover.
- The angle of a diagonal line won't change if you
 make sure the aspect ratio is locked when you
 scale it. This is a great way to quickly extend
 sidings, for example.
- You can quickly convert a left-hand turnout to a right-hand turnout (or vice versa) using mirroring functions. No matter what angle the turnout is at, it won't be distorted by mirroring. Mirroring first horizontally and then vertically is a quick way to rotate by 180 degrees.
- Try to make all the routes through your pointwork as smooth as possible. Avoid reverse curves (track that turns one way, then the other) if you can. Where pointwork is approached by a curve, try to combine some of the pointwork into the curve. Use curved and 'Y' turnouts to get more subtle alignments. Use longer turnouts whenever you can they often fit in smaller spaces than you might think.
- Make small constant radius sectors of track that turn a few degrees and then snap them into place, like a refined version of a set track system. This allows you to predict the angles of parts on either side of the curve. For example, a turnout at 12 degrees might be followed by a 3-degree sector curve.



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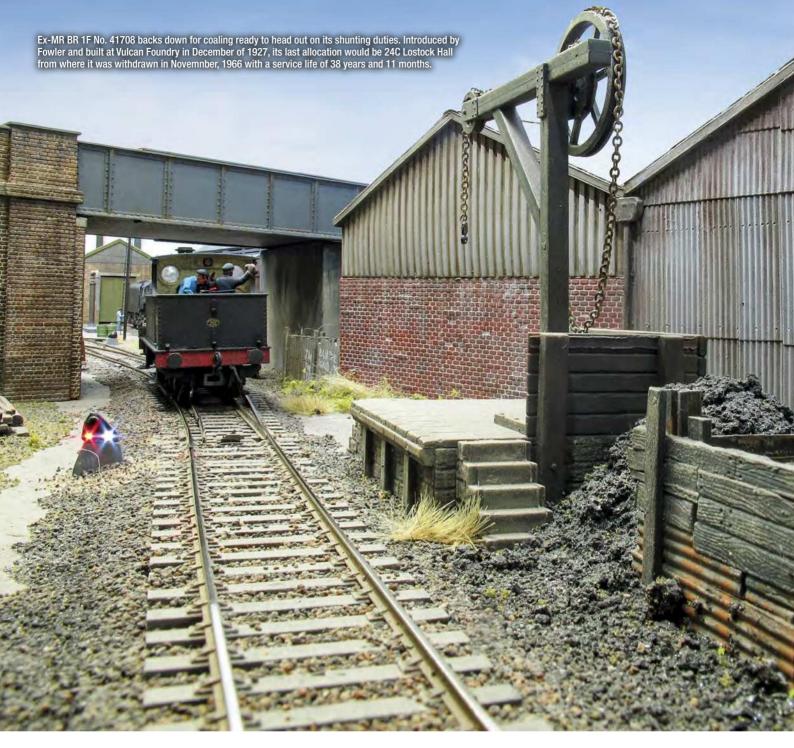






With a passion for DCC control, John Gay's micro layout offers a great deal more than lights and sounds to entertain viewers.





hen I started planning this layout, the idea was to just show off my ever-growing collection of DCC sound-fitted locomotives. Going to shows with my stand for JMC (my DCCfitting service), I was asked by many people if I would be interested in showing the layout. After a few shows, I found it to be very popular, so I made the decision to make it into a full exhibition layout and give it the name Byway MPD.

It is a fictional layout, trying to model a small BR urban Motive Power Depot, set in the late-steam era. It is built to one of a series compact layout plans by Ian Futers, using

only three turnouts in a 4ft 6in space. A fellow club member, Ron North, who helped plan this layout, gave me a small cardboard mock-up of the layout while I had been off plotting it out on Anyrail software. Very interesting to see two different takes on the planning side, an 'old & new' so to speak.

The initial build

Building the first version took only four-five months as I wanted to show the layout at Wycrail later that year, give it a day of use in anger and see what played up. I was happy to see it worked well but found things I was not happy with. The point motors that I

had used were very noisy for a start, I had installed a panel of push buttons and LEDs for the points; as you can see I've changed that for a more techy solution, too. The original lighting was a 12v LED tape that also gave poor output.

It has been very useful trying out different products and finding ones that suit. I'm now a huge fan of Tam Valley Depot Products.

My main interest is in the technical side of model railways. So, I have made things like the Ratio coal crane and the water column arm move with servos mounted underneath. Lighting is also a feature that I really like; this layout has night and day lighting,





Cameo

I'm currently relocating to Nottinghamshire to be closer to work and live with my fiancée, Jenna, who you might be able to spot watching the trains on the layout as a OO gauge figure via ModelU.



even with that old saying, red sky at night shepherds' delight, this is can be seen on the layout by lights fading and red effects. I can adjust the time ratios of the day by choosing either: 1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:6, 1:12 or 1:20.

At exhibitions I usually set it to 1:20, so a day usually lasts about 30 minutes. It is fun to observe people coming back to the layout to comment: "It was day time a moment ago!". I started to feel sorry for Phil (taking the photos featured in this article) as the layout kept changing from day to night as he was trying to take a shot. He is used to layout owners being divas, but what about the layouts?!



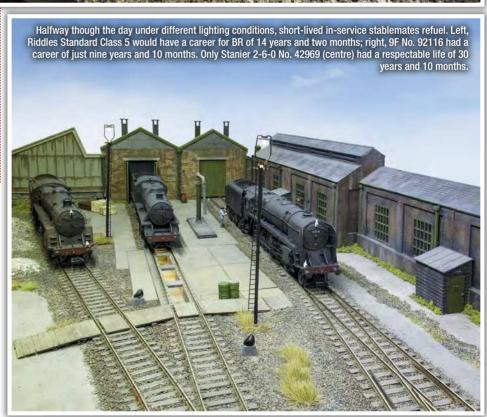
The sun sets

I'm particularly pleased with the lighting on this layout, with all my locomotives having firebox glows and some having lamps. It is really nice to be able to go to night time and see the locomotives sitting in the sidings with the fires glowing away, also having a locomotive parked over the pit that has lighting. I know they wouldn't have had lighting back in the steam days, but it is a really nice element seeing the light pass between the spokes of the wheels.

Rolling stock

I tend to have lots of Midland locomotives sticking to a late-steam to early-diesel era, but as time has gone on I have found other locomotives taking my fancy, such as the Peckett W4, L&Y Tank and LNER J70 to name a few. All my locomotives are DCC sound-fitted by myself and I always take pride in packing as much as I can into my models. All my steam locomotives have stayalive capacitors to ensure I have faultless running at very slow speeds.

The trackwork is nice and simple; I used



Peco Code 75, painted and weathered. The ballast is a mix of three Woodland Scenics colours, all fine grade. I think the medium is just a little too coarse.

Going along with the tech theme of the layout, you will find five working signals, four ground signals and the calling-on signal leading you off the layout to a single road fiddle yard. These signals have logics programmed into JMRI software so you are not able to change a signal without a point being set correctly or the track not being cleared. It's a bit of fun on the layout, but was a pain to get it right! JMRI seems to favour the round and round layouts rather than an end-to-end.

Operational control

DCC was the only way to go with this layout. The main DCC system is a Uhlenbrock Daisy II with a USB interface that links to a Raspberry Pi 3 – you can see the 5-inch touchscreen for the Pi mounted in the front of the layout. Having used the Daisy II, this gives my Loconet communication - handy for feedback on the track for block detection and lighting controls. Because the Pi 3 has built-in WiFi, I've turned it into a router allowing me to connect iPods and iPads to control the layout. Wireless control means I can walk around and control everything on the layout.

I always get asked about controlling my layout from my iPad. It is really not hard to do this via JMRI software and with DCC manufacturers making new systems to make this easier, watch out for the new TCS UWT-100 handset (see BRM June). Sometimes I have been known to leave the layout and stand behind the crowd watching. Using an iPad, I can see on the screen where the locomotives are on the layout. It is good fun watching people trying to work out how the layout is running itself!

Tam Valley Frog Juicers deal with the Electrofrog points so you can derail a loco before you short the track power. It's quite funny to see a locomotive bouncing along the track as they have stay-alive fitted. Point movement is done with servos control by Tam Valley Quad-Pic 4-way board.

Scene setting

Buildings and scenery are finished with a few kits, most of them are cardboard with Wills material sheets stuck over the front.

One building that is most recognised is the Airfix engine shed along the back of the layout. I found it sitting in a box at my old model railway club in High Wycombe.



An iPod touch is used to control all the features of the layout and drive my locomotives.



Thinking this might be what I needed, I then looked at our bandsaw. The kit was already made up but wasn't painted, so I cut the building lengthwise and used the two halves to form a long low relief shed at the rear of the layout.

Future projects

Having learned a lot from building 'Byway MPD', I am currently building a new,

bigger MPD layout ('Clifton Street'), two baseboards 4ft each, making 8ft for the total layout. The trackwork will be Peco Code 75 again, having this crazy idea of using three 3-way points back to back, and Tam Valley Hex Frog Juicers with Octopus III to run the servos. It will have a three-road engine shed, working water column arms and lots of lighting.

As a member of the High Wycombe

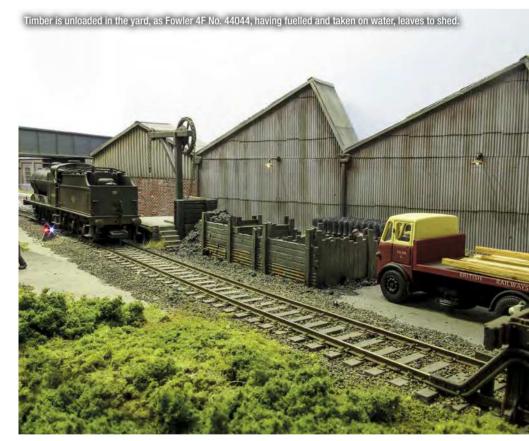


Model Railway Club, I've had a lot of help from its members. Ron North has been a huge help with work on the buildings; his painting skills are brilliant. The perspective view between the two low relief buildings by the coaling area is my favourite.

When I headed off to Switzerland for my 30th birthday, I came back to find my layout had been ballasted! I believe his words were, "Well, it gave me something to do."

The biggest tip I can give anyone in this hobby is join a model railway club. You learn so much from others in this hobby and if you're like me, I learn by doing and not by reading. I've made lots of mistakes along the way but I've learned from all of them. I've met some amazing people and each one of them I know for a different skill.

I sometimes think that if I did this layout again, I would add an extra turnout and give myself another road to sit the engines on. Having a locomotive sat on the back road in front of the shed doors means you are not able to move any locomotives on or off the layout. Maybe one day I'll do another version of 'Byway' with Peco bullhead







trackwork and the missing extra road into the shed.

I can never seem to get over the attention this layout gets at shows. It always seems more than my other 17ft long layout 'Halland', which I feel is more pleasing to look at. A fellow member and colleague, Dave Fryer has spent so much time operating 'Byway' that he is now in the process of building his own MPD layout. MPDs can be very addictive!

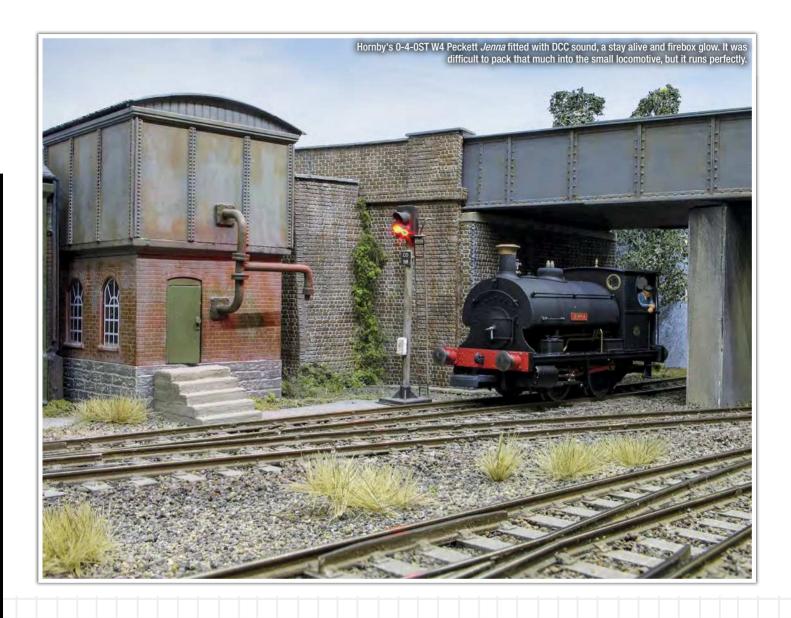
I would like to extend many thanks to my team of regular operators, especially to David Murtagh, Logan Kinnaird, Steve Povey, Sam Johnson and many more.

I've always had a strong interest in model railways. Thanks are due to my granddad for building my first layout on the back of a bedroom door (which was taken off its

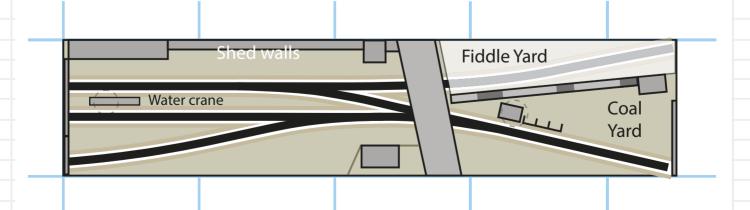
hinges!) when I was a kid. It was a 'Hornby, Country Local'; anyone else have that set? I still have the Jinty somewhere in a box. Having turned 35 this year, I guess I'm still classed as a youngster compared to most in the hobby. I think it's safe to say I'm leaving my mark on the hobby or it's leaving its mark on me, I can never tell!

I am currently building a new layout 'Clifton Street', two baseboards 4ft each, making 8ft for the total layout.





BYWAY MPD





BYWAY MPD

John Gay gives us a tour of Byway MPD, plus explains the digital innovations behind this Midlands-inspired micro layout.

El Chosine

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

(You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)





RUNCORN SALT UNION

PART FOUR: Detailing the scene

Words & photography: Howard Smith

BRM's latest project layout reaches completion as Howard Smith transforms barren boards into a convincing industrial scene, during a week of 'lockdown' modelling.



any of us admit that our model railways are rarely ever finished. . We complete one area, only to find another area looking below par and requiring further attention as our skills and techniques improve. Time is a large factor, too and this project is no different. The layout has neared that intangible point of completion, but I still feel there's room for improvement and further details should be added. Fine-tuning modelling often transforms mediocrity into something that's very pleasing on the eye, but it requires the luxury of time. Railway modelling has

certainly earned its title of 'pastime' - the days spent in producing this article flew by.

This is the first model railway - and hopefully last – I've constructed during 'lockdown'. The ability to run out of paint faster than expected, or discover pots of paint that should have been left as they were in Tutankhamun's sarcophagus was surprising. Getting modelling essentials from a physical shop at short notice shouldn't be taken for granted. Luckily, many model railway suppliers are still trading and can send items out in the post.

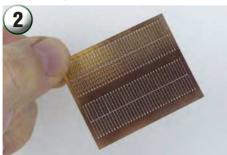
I used airbrushes rather than weathering

powders to complete the scene. Clumsily, I damaged one of my airbrushes in the process, my foot getting caught in the air line when rotating a baseboard. I can add its repair to my 'to do' list, though luckily I had backups. Lashings of Testor's Dullcote provided an even, dull finish across the scene, particularly important as PVA glue leaves a sheen when used for ballasting.

Modelling Runcorn Salt Union has been an enjoyable experience, though I feel it still has great potential for further developments and it requires rolling stock. Read about these soon, in BRM.



It's easier to spray track before ballasting for a more authentic appearance. I've used Lifecolor's Weathered Wood set with my Iwata CM-C to paint the sleepers. Odd sleepers are picked out a different colour. The waterbased paints dry fast.



Before painting the rails, I spray a sheet of laser-cut cosmetic fishplates from Canadian manufacturer, Precision Design Co. These are superglued to the rails and enhance the standard Hornby track.



Working outside has its advantages when airbrushing and this water-based paint dries rapidly. Adjacent roads are masked to prevent overspray and a light spray of sleeper grime is applied.



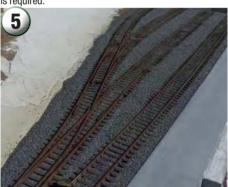
PVA glue is mixed with water in a 40:60 ratio, respectively, with a dash of washing-up liquid to break surface tension, and applied with a pipette. The mixture will last for a few days if correctly stored and can be used to apply scenic details, too

Duraplus 100/180 grit sanding sticks W www.finescalemodelworld.co.uk

- Craft knife
- Steel rule
- Iwata CM-C airbrush
- Harder & Steenbeck Infinity CR Plus airbrush
- Pipette
- Paint brushes



Rail sides are sprayed with Deep Rust from Lifecolor. A brown paper envelope I had to hand serves as a mask to prevent overspray on the adjacent sleepers. The airbrush spray pattern is very fine to prevent mishaps, so patience



Hornby Basaltic Rock is a useful ballast colour. Note the drawing pin keeping track aligned before the ballast is glued. This is an industrial site, so track isn't perfect, but excessive track kinks should be avoided on a model.



Concrete bollards were observed between the road and the line leaving the salt works. Scale Model Scenery's 3D-printed miniature replicas are placed on a piece of up-turned masking tape and sprayed with Rustoleum Concrete Effect paint

SHOPPING LIST

Hornby Grey Ballast (R7165) Hornby Basaltic Rock (R7168) W www.hornby.com

Pipe load kit (AX105-OO)

Automatic Rising Arm Traffic Barriers (AX090-OO) 3D Printed Coiled Yellow Gas Pipe (AX054-OO) 3D Printed Coiled Blue Water Pipe (AX092-OO) Tyres - Medium (LX144-OO) 3D Printed Palletised Drainpipes (AX077-OO) Pre-cast Concrete Fence Posts (AX047-OO) Road Cones 10 Small (AX043-OO) Modern Lineside Signage (S017-OO) Pre-cast Concrete Drainpipes (AX053-OO) 2m Palisade Security Fencing (LX055-OO) LPG Gas Tanks (AX095-00) Chain Link Security Fencing (LX007-OO-A) W www.scalemodelscenery.co.uk

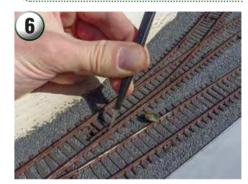
Martin Welberg Olive Green Bushes Type B (WB-SBOL)

W www.themodeltreeshop.co.uk

Precision Design Co (1001HD) fishplates W www.pdc.ca

ModelScene Beige Grass Tufts (050-47S) W www.albionhobbies.co.uk

Lifecolor weathering and paint sets W www.airbrushes.com



Before applying glue, ensure that no ballast fouls moving point blades. A pair of tweezers can be used to probe or free stuck grit. It's easier to remove these now than later.

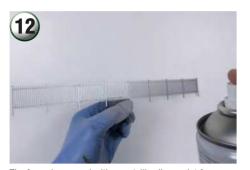


Superglued to the layout, and later weathered with Lifecolor Surface Shadower, these are convincing. Note the grease and oil stains added to the points where permanent way staff would maintain them

PRACTICAL BRM



Security fencing is seen all around the entrance to this industrial site and a few packs of laser-cut Palisade Fencing is required from Scale Model Scenery. Each pack assembles into 90cm of fencing, though a day was consumed in its assembly.



The fence is sprayed with a metallic silver paint from a rattle can. It's far too bright for a galvanised steel fence, but serves as a close base colour, which is enhanced with Lifecolor Surfaces Shadower, applied by airbrush.



Concrete fencing is treated differently and sprayed with Rustoleum Concrete Effect paint. A light dusting is applied three times, leaving 15 minutes between each application. It's easier to spray, then cut each one from the sprue, than the opposite.



For a neat assembly, a tube of Busch (7593) glue is fitted with a Micro Tip (AC9) from Deluxe Materials. This combination prevents waste of adhesive and unsightly glue blobs on the model.



Holes for the fence are measured by eye and drilled with a cordless drill fitted with a 2.5mm drill bit. The fences are pretty forgiving with a degree of flex, allowing 'tweaking' to fit. Superglue ensures each post is firmly



Each post is carefully positioned into the pre-drilled holes, observing the location of supports. Fishing wire is supplied and threaded through the holes with tweezers. The thin fabric mesh is stuck to masking tape and cut to size with scissors for ease, before gluing into place.



Still not satisfied with the high level of sheen on the fences, more Lifecolor Surfaces Shadower is applied and the fence blends better with the ballast. Observing photographs is key – it's too easy to overdo an effect.

EXPERT TIP Light conditions

I spent the best part of a week modelling this layout outside in April. Luckily, the weather was excellent, though wind gusts often had the spray from the

airbrush travelling perpendicular to where I wanted it to go! It also masked the sun's rays and I received an even tan. This aside, moving the layout inside each evening, I noticed the difference in paint colour hues because of artificial light. My advice is to model in the same lighting conditions you'll later use for viewing to ensure best results.



Disguising the model filler around the base of the buildings sees the airbrush used once more with a dusty tarmac colour. Masking tape prevents overspray. I always seek low-tack varieties to prevent damage to objects or paintwork that can easily lift when it's removed.



17

Buildings are located into their final positions and glued using a gap-filling cyanoacrylate glue. Humbrol Model Filler ensures they appear well-planted without gaps. Compromise has been made for the location of the silo because of the space required.



An area of land opposite the railway has been used for storing industrial equipment and parts for a few decades. Inspired by an aerial photograph, I selected a number of similar objects for use on the layout.



A number of the items are 3D-printed in plastic. Despite depicting what would be plastic elements in real life, these need toning down. So, the airbrush is used again, loaded with diluted Lifecolor (UA286) Signal Yellow to the consistency of milk.

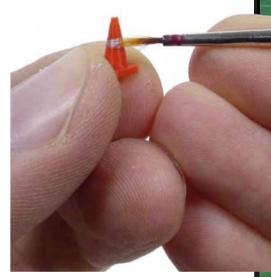


An unpainted pipe (left); note how it appears garish versus the other two. Weathering can be applied when it is added to the layout.





Acrylic paints are great for quick drying times, but they also dry quickly inside the airbrush. After each application of a colour, and before each reload of colour, it is cleaned with Medea Airbrush Cleaner and a pipe cleaner, both in the airbrush cleaning set from Airbrushes.com.



Traffic cones have their silver reflective centres painted with Darkstar Molten Metals Tarnished Steel. A fine brush is required - I'm using a Lifecolor 591/000.



Each tyre is assembled from three pieces of laser-cut wood. Busch (7593) glue - unlike superglue - allows adjustment to ensure the three circles are concentric.



The tyres are painted with Stuart Simple black paint. This acrylic has a very high pigment content, and only one coat is required



Though effective for a new tyre appearance, I'm looking for a final colour that resembles an old discarded tyre. Lifecolor Dark Dust is lightly painted across all sides. It creates a bleached rubber look.



The 3D-printed tanks aren't the smoothest, hence I attempt to flatten the printing lines using sandpaper. Finescale Model World Master Prime is then applied by brush, left to dry, and sanded smooth, before painting.



I challenge you to find a layout where weeds can't be justified in one form or another. These are torn from a sheet of low bushes produced by Martin Welberg, available from The Model Tree Shop and superglued in place.



The yellow and blue plastic pipes are improved by wrapping and gluing thinly-cut pieces of paper to create the illusion of thick plastic strapping. These are sizeable pipes for 00 gauge!



You might be tempted to break the concrete posts from their support, but before doing so, spray them with the same concrete paint colour. When gluing these to the layout, I ensure that the unpainted side is face down.



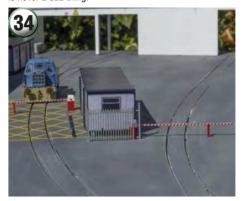
Taller bushes by Martin Welberg are used around the fence as seen on photographs. Artistic licence is permitted on this project, given that its trackplan has already been modified for practical reasons.



The concrete pipe sections have a little stray plastic left by the printing process, but a scalpel soon tidies them up. These are sprayed with Rustoleum Concrete Effect paint and weathered using Lifecolor Surfaces Shadower.



The details are added to the yard section of the layout. This area is vast in comparison with the rest of the layout, but leaving space for things to breathe in a scene is never a bad thing.



Barriers guarding the entrance from Scale Model Scenery are constructed, painted and installed. Their positioning is carefully chosen to avoid fouling the working vehicles that move around the site. The hazard stripes are self-adhesive and included for fast installation.



Sealing the layout and its paints is a generous coat of Testor's Dullcote. This matt laquer provides wear-resistance for the Faller road vehicle magnets which can wear through the road surface. The invisible barrier can be re-applied as it is worn away. Runcorn Salt still requires an authentic photographic backscene. Look out for updates on our website world-of-railways.co.uk, future episodes of BRM TV and BRM.







GAUGEMASTER Analogue Control



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We also produce various controllers with Feedback and Simulation, two effects controlled by the controller itself. Feedback senses the load on the circuit and helps maintain the locomotive at a steady speed up and down gradients. Feedback controllers are not suitable for use with locomotives with coreless motors. Simulation (also known as Inertia) allows a train to accelerate, coast, and be braked to a standstill, by use of a regulator and a brake.

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Most Suited to OO/HO/N/Z Scale Layouts



Most Suited to OO/HO/N Scale Layouts



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Some modellers may wish to incorporate their controller into an overall panel to control their layout. The Model 100 Controller has a single 12V DC output.





GMC-U Single Track Controller with Simulation

With the brake knob controlling the 12V DC track output, this controller allows you greater realismwhen running locomotives.



GMC-W Single Track Walkabout Single Track Controller Most Suited to OO/HO/N/Z Scale Layouts



Fitted with 1.5m of cable, this controller allows you the freedom to move around your layout while still controlling your layout, it has a single 12V DC track output



Did vou know...

If you don't have a handy accessory output from a controller, the GMC-WM1 Wall Mounted Transform can be used on its own to a wer accessories, such as paint motors and lights from the 16V

Just plug it in and connect it up!





PRICES

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GMC-COMBI	Single Track Controller/Transformer	£45.00
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GMC-100MO	Single Track Controller for O Scale	£120.00
GMC-10LGB	Single Track Controller for G Scale	£125.00
GMC-10LGB5F	Single Track Controller for G Scale with Fan	£215.00
GMC-P	Single Track Controller with Simulation	£125.00
GMC-D	Twin Track Controller	£125.00
GMC-DS	Twin Track Controller with Simulation	£200.00
GMC-TS	Three Track Controller with Simulation	£215.00
GMC-Q	Four Track Controller	£225.00
	16 1 1 1 10 10 11 11 11 11 11	and the second second

Panel Mounted Controllers (Orange text shows transformer required)

GMC-100	Single Track Controller (GIVIC T1/M1)	£45.00	
GMC-100.0	Single Track Controller for O Scale (GMC 12/M2)	£50.00	
GMC-U	Single Track Controller with Simulation (GMC-T1/M1/WMT)	£55.00	
GMC-UF	Single Track Controller with Feedback (6MC-F1/M1/WM11	£50.00	
GMC-UO	Single Track Controller with Simulation for D (GMC-T2/M2)	£70.00	
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GMC-UDS	Twin Track Controller with Simulation (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£90.00	
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See the GM365 Gaugemaster Catalogue (£5.00) for more details

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Single Track Walkabout Controller

GAUGEMASTER products are available from your local model shop or, in case of difficulty, direct from ourselves GAUGEMASTER Controls Ltd, Ford Road, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0BN, United Kingdom tel - 01903 884488 fax - 01903 884377 email - sales@gaugemaster.com



RUNCORN SALT UNION

Howard Smith gives a tour of Runcorn Salt Union and reflects on its construction, now that the last article has appeared in BRM.

E.C. CAUSINE

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

(You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)



HOW TO CREATE RUST WITH HAIRSPRAY

Words & photography: Phil Parker

Phil Parker shares a method for creating realistic rust, often used by military modellers.



he technique I'm using for this project isn't new. It's just that we don't see many people using it in the model railway world.

Head over to the land of plastic kit modelling and you'll find hairspray weathering and salt chipping employed on nearly every model in any magazine or at most exhibitions. They have been doing it for years and yet cross-fertilisation with our hobby seems very limited.

This is odd, because we need to model rusty metal as often as anyone else, it's just that we have developed different techniques, some of which are now being copied by other modelling disciplines.

Hairspray rust effects are pretty simple.

Paint the model a nice rusty colour and let it dry. Spray a few thin coats of normal hair lacquer (I had to buy some specially for the job as I don't have enough hair for a style) over everything and once this is dry, paint the top coat. Spraying is preferred for this step, although with care you can apply the paint by hand.

To expose the rust, simply wet the model. Water will find its way under the paint to dissolve the hair spray and cause the top coat to flake off. The best effects come from scrubbing away or scratching the surface with brushes and soft implements.

With a little practise, realistic patches can be worn away in a few minutes. Pay attention to those areas where the prototype loses its paint and you'll have a good looking model in minutes.

My prototype is a steel shipping container. These things can be bought for small amounts of money once they have finished their lives carrying goods around the world and are popular as storage sheds either on their own or in large groups for storage yards. My model is the former, simply because they tend to be a bit more beaten up

Once you've got the hang of the hairspray technique, you'll be looking at all sorts of rusty metal on your layout.

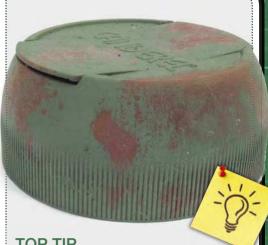
I quite fancy having a go at some mineral wagons for a start...



Skytrex's resin container needs a little flash trimmed from the bottom and then a good wash in soapy water to remove any mould release. Ordinary washing up liquid is fine, but give it a good rinse afterwards.



Although the model doesn't really need priming, I give it a coat of red oxide sprayed from an aerosol as it's a good base colour.



TOP TIP

As this is a fairly new technique for me, rather than launch straight in to the model, I dug around in our recycling bin to find a nice plastic shape to practise on.

The lid was painted in exactly the same way as the container, but if anything didn't work as well as I hoped, no harm was done. As it was, all went well, February 1st??

which made me more confident to do the real job. Test pieces like this might seem like a waste of time, but if they save you messing up a model, they are well worth the effort.



The Rust is Humbrol 70 (Brick red) and 62 (Leather) splodged on with a small sponge. We don't want a smooth coat of either colour and it doesn't matter if some of the primer shows through.



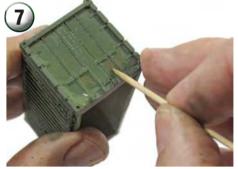
The model is sprayed with three thin coats of hair lacquer. Try not to flood any of the detail and let it dry between coats.



For patches of serious rust, table salt is sprinkled on to more wet hair spray. Once dry, the model is sprayed with the Humbrol acrylic main colour. I'm using 102 - Army Green - but any colour will do.



Now for the rusting process. Using an old, stiff brush, run some tap water on to the container. The water will seep into the hair spray, loosening the paint on top and this will gradually wear away in patches.



For scratches, use a wet toothpick to remove some paint. This is especially effective around the door closing bars.



For the most serious paint removal, an old toothbrush is perfect and works really well on the corners of the container.



The container is patted dry with kitchen towel and then it's ready to install on the model. Stepping back and deciding if there is enough rust is a good idea. You can always break out the stiff brush and water for a bit more weathering



WEATHERING

Phil shows us how you can produce rust effects easily on a steel coal wagon with some hair lacquer, a stiff brush and a pot of water.

E.C. CIUSINE

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

(You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)



NEW PRODUCTS



PETER'S SPARES (PS92, PS 93 AND PS94) HORNBY GEAR REPLACEMENTS

Designed as direct replacements for Hornby 33 tooth (S9633) – PS92, 28 tooth (S9634) – PS93 and 11 tooth (S2290) – PS94 gears, these new hard-wearing replacements from the model railway RTR spares specialist will ensure your pride and joy continues to function for years to come. Often used in Hornby's Ringfield motor mechanisms, the common parts wear away with extended use. The retailer also provides a repair and replacement service. Visit its website for more details.

Price: PS92 or PS93 (each): £1.15, PS94: £1.99

www.petersspares.com



GAUGEMASTER (GMC-WM5) ANALOGUE WALL-MOUNTED POWER SUPPLY

This 12V DC 2A smoothed regulated power supply has recently arrived with the retailer and is ideal for powering DC accessories around the model railway. Plugging directly into the mains, its 12V output via a cable can be plugged into the supplied adapter with screw terminals allowing for a solderless connection. Find its other regulated power supplies on its website, with a choice of AC, DC and voltage outputs.

Price: £4.00

W: www.gaugemasterretail.com



MAKE YOUR MARK MODELS PLASSER & THEURER TWIN JIB CRANE

Add variety to your rolling stock with this Plasser & Theurer heavy duty twin jib crane, available as a kit or RTR from Make Your Mark Models. Made from polyurethane resin, the kit consists of 101 resin components, which enables the builder to represent the modifications that have been made by some operators during the cranes' lives. Buffers, wheels and couplings aren't supplied, allowing builders to choose their preferred gauge or supplier, or couplings to suit their stock. Buffers can be sourced from Wizard Models, and transfers can be supplied. RTR versions are available in BR or Balfour Beatty liveries. Models are non-motorised.

Price, kit: £135, RTR: £345.00 (BR) £375.00 (Balfour Beatty), weathering (optional) £50.00

k www.makeyourmarkmodels.com





DEXTER'S COVE 3D-PRINTED RESIN FIGURES

Joining its selection of architectural accessories are a number of high-resolution 3D-printed figures for 00 and 0 scales. Available now, they're supplied in sets of four comprising passengers with luggage, passengers without luggage, passengers in overcoats and modern passengers without luggage. Supplied unpainted in blue resin, the figures would make an ideal weekend painting project and layout addition.

Price: 00: £6, 0: £15
W: www.dexterscove.com

GAUGEMASTER (GM538) 3MM LED BEZELS 12-PACK



Looking for a smarter way to house LEDs on your control panel? Model railway superstore, Gaugemaster, is now retailing these plastic light bezels with insulator supports and metal nuts, suitable for 3mm diameter LEDs. Simply drill a 6mm diameter hole through your panel and install using the nut provided. Maximum depth of control panel fascia mustn't exceed 5mm

Price: £4.00

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FINESCALE MODEL WORLD (FM023, FM026 AND DURAPLUS 240) SHAPED FOAMIES

Recently added to its range of consumables for model surface preparation is this selection of sanding sticks. Often referred to as 'foamies' because of their sandwichlike construction around a foam centre, these make swift work of many sanding tasks on wood, plastic or resin objects during construction. Ideal for removing excess flash, mould seams, or for smoothing back filler and available in useful grades of grit to the modeller, it pays to have a few spare too, particularly if you are a regular kit builder. Price: TBA

W: www.finescalemodelworld.co.uk



ROAD TRANSPORT IMAGES ERF E SERIES SLEEPER CAB WITH TIPPER TRAILER

Introduced in 1986, ERF's E series tractor units marked a turning point for the manufacturer, which had been struggling through the early 1980s. Fitted with a more refined and aerodynamic SP4 cab, by 1988, the manufacturer had registered 3,740 trucks in the UK. Though a static model, this resin and white-metal kit from Road Transport Images is ideal for many sectorisation-era onwards layouts. The tipper trailer, sold separately, can be substituted for many of its other types: flat-bed, curtain-side or tanker to name a few.

Price: Cab: £10, 6x2 chassis: £8, wheels: £2.50, detailing pack: £3.50, trailer kit: £13.50 W: www.roadtransportimages.com

GAUGEMASTER (GM438) FORDHAMPTON **DOCKSIDE WALLING**



Whether constructing a dock, or a large retaining wall alongside a road, canal or river, this modular kit is a great start for those whose scratch-building skills are inprogress. Manufactured by Faller, and widely distributed in the UK via Gaugemaster and Gaugemaster stockists, the injection-moulded plastic kit requires a minimum of tools and assembly skill, making it ideally suited to the beginner.



SILVER TAY MODELS SMOKE **DEFLECTORS FOR HORNBY LMS DUCHESS 'PACIFIC'**

The thickness of plastic used on steam locomotive smoke deflectors has long challenged RTR manufacturers. Too thick and they look incorrect, too thin and they break. These etched brass replacements from Silver Tay Models feature accurate fold lines, rivet detail and perforations. Supplied with detailed instructions, its growing range of RTR steam locomotive smoke deflectors is ideally suited to modellers seeking higher levels of finesse on their RTR or kit-built models. See its

www.ebay.co.uk and search for 'Silver Tay Models'

PETER'S SPARES (PS95) REPLACEMENT TRI-ANG HORNBY MOTOR HOUSING



Produced exclusively for the model spares specialist, this motor housing has been re-tooled at its Chinese factory as a direct replacement for Tri-ang/ Hornby X3170 / X239 / X337 motor bogies as found in its Class 37, Class 31, Class 35, Budd Railcar and EM2 models. The part (\$5452) is listed on service sheet Nos. 75 (Class 35), 31 (Budd Railcar), 69 / 92 (Class 37), 66/92 (Class 31) and 30 (EM2)

Price: £5.99

W: www.petersspares.com

GAUGEMASTER (GMKD1007) BREWERY/FACTORY BOILERHOUSE





Looking to introduce some brick-built industrial architecture to your layout or diorama? This plastic kit will satisfy your weekend modelling cravings with its 58 individual parts, moulded in three colours, with window parts, a paper mask and instructions. Of generic design and widely seen across all areas of the UK from the industrial revolution to the present day, it could be added to other similar buildings to create a factory complex.

£24 00

www.gaugemasterretail.com



RMweb Virtual Exhibition Highlights

RMweb members held a virtual exhibition on Sunday 26th April, if it had been a real exhibition, it would have certainly been one of the best ever! All of the content is still on RMweb to read. We bring you a few video highlights of layouts from the owners that appeared at the show. As you will see it's not always too serious!

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

(You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)



Ladmanlow



Upbech St Mary





Abbotswood Junction



Manifold Valley Minerals



E.C. Comme

Sheep Dip



Canute Road Quay





Tucking Mill



Bethesda Sidlings



Sandy Shores



Ropley



IRISH RAILWAY MODELS CIE FERTILISER BOGIE WAGON

Words & Photography: Andy York



The distinctive side profile of the wagons is well captured with a variety of markings.

ritish railway modellers may now be more familiar with the Accurascale name than its progenitor, Irish Railway Models. It's the same team behind the brand and the attention to detail first surfaced in products for the Irish railway network with their ballast wagons, cement bubble and plough brakes.

The Córas Iompair Éireann or Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) networks made extensive use of a standard 42ft underframe with bogies for a variety of wagons and IRM will be extending the same use to forthcoming Guinness keg cage, spoil, weedspraying and intermodal wagons.

90 of the fertilizer wagons were introduced from 1974 for transportation of bagged products around the network from Irish Fertiliser Industries near Arklow as block trains or within liner services. The red oxide livery was carried through their life and the CIE branding survived the transition to Irish Rail in 1987. IRM have captured different variations in livery and markings within the range of twin packs of wagons in four differently-numbered packs.

In use, the wagons were loaded with pallets of bagged fertilizer via forklift; the metal-framed plywood hinged side doors opened and could be retracted into the recess between bays for clear access to the six compartments on each side. The centre two bays could only be loaded to half height due to metal beams above those bays to

ensure the wagon did not exceed its 40T capacity.

The model includes a full load of double and single height pallets of bags. If the modeller wishes to portray empty wagons the top rails can be unclipped and the pallets removed, which gives an ideal excuse to model an unloading facility.

As ever, all of the detail is accurate and well-executed, with the detail beneath the underframe, such as pipe runs and gear linkages, particularly pleasing even if they will be rarely seen. The axle ends feature rotating axle boxes as with the preceding Tara Mines bogie wagon. As the width of the bogies are dimensionally accurate, there is capacity to fit scale-width axles and wheelsets for those modelling the network in accurate 5ft 3in gauge. Further detailing is provided in the pack with a choice of tension-lock or rigid bar couplings to mount into the NEM pockets. There are also vacuum brake pipes for the bufferbeam and the locking bar mechanism for each end of the sides if there is sufficient bogie clearance on layout curves.

The wagons carry minimal livery markings, but those on the models all copy prototype photographs for each number and are effectively executed in clarity.

Priced at €100.00 for a pair, the models are available directly from irishrailwaymodels. com, the price reflecting the lower quantity production runs that are appropriate to the smaller marketplace. With this and other models, the prospect of modelling a different world is more appealing and I am particularly looking forward to the introduction of the A Class locomotive, which I had chance to control an engineering sample of last year, admiring its exceptional running qualities.

Aside from the excellent quality, the choice of model is a good one as a prototype, which lasted for near on 30 years and could be found anywhere on the network. With this, previous releases and forthcoming models, this is a golden age for the modeller of the Irish Rail scene.



datafile

BASICS

Manufacturer: Irish Railway Models

CATALOGUE REFS:

IRM1040A CIE/IR Fertiliser Wagon Pack A IRM1041B CIE/IR Fertiliser Wagon Pack B IRM1042C CIE/IR Fertiliser Wagon Pack C IRM1043D CIE/IR Fertiliser Wagon Pack D

RRP: €100.00

Gauge/scale: 16.5mm gauge, 1:76 scale

Era: 1974 - 2002

Company/Operator: CIE/Irish Rail Weight: 130g per wagon Body and chassis: Plastic

Miniumum Curve Radius: 263.5mm (R2) Couplings: NEM-mounted Rapido and rigid

Accessories: Vacuum pipes and locking



The pallet loads make a useful item to include in a yard unloading scene.





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Web & details: megapointscontrollers.com



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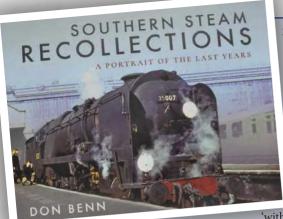






PAINT EASY THE HARDER WAY

NEW BOOKS as reviewed by Tony Wright



SOUTHERN STEAM RECOLLECTIONS by Don Benn, Pen and Sword

Every now and then, when reviewing a book, I'm reminded of how indolent and haphazard were my making of notes to accompany the photographs I was taking at the time, and, because of these failings, how difficult it's been for me to write really accurate captions to those pictures of mine now they're being published. This is just such a book, because the author was extremely diligent in making notes; so much so that the captions to his pictures are very accurate and informative. There are over 150 monochrome photographs in this book, illustrating the author's exploits with a camera on all three sections of the Southern Region from 1960 until the end of steam on the ex-LSWR main line in 1967. Fortunately, they include many of the older, indigenous Southern classes, and not just fag-end images of filthy dirty, nameless Bulleid Pacifics living out their last (but still very fast!) days on the Weymouth road in 1967. Most of the region is covered (including parts of the withered arm' in the deep South West, though a large number of the images are in the immediate

Home Counties (near to where the author lived). The accuracy of the captions will be of great use to modellers assembling correct period trains. It's a pity, then, that some of the images don't match the quality of the captions. We're told that a number of the earliest pictures taken were rejected because of poor quality. The very first image in the book (arguably of great importance) is 'muddy', as is the second. And, in the author's 'all time favourite shot of the train' (The Golden Arrow) on page 27, the shutter speed used has not been fast enough to 'stop' the locomotive. The immediate above said, there should be enough therein to satisfy SR followers.

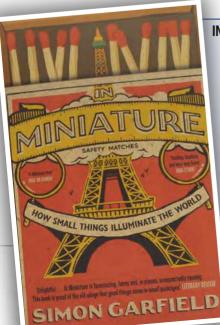
Price: £25.00 W: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

LUXURY RAILWAY TRAVEL A SOCIAL AND BUSINESS HISTORY by Martyn Pring, Pen and Sword

In this lavish volume, the quality of the reproduction is excellent throughout, though it's not principally a pictorial book. We're taken on a journey (pun intended) from the Victorian expansion of railways to include luxury travel, the Edwardian period, the Big Four up to the Second World War, right through to the British Railways/Rail era as far as 1975. Following the chronology, from 1976 we're shown preservation and restoration projects, then examples of 21st Century luxury rail travel in Asia. I found this last-mentioned chapter a little odd in context, given that the book is really a history of prestige rail travel in Great Britain. Then we have an appendix describing the luxury trains on the ex-LNWR/-ex CR, ex-MR and ex-GN/ex-NE /ex-NBR routes to Scotland, plus further ones on posh travel to the West Country, Bournemouth and to the SE Coast from London. The 'South Wales Pullman' and the diesel Blue Pullmans are also mentioned in the main text. The period advertisements and illustrations are just fantastic – as evocative as the great trains themselves, and I found this lovely book entirely engrossing. Given the quality of the stock, the written material and the standard of reproduction, it is a joy to indulge in. A.N. Wolstenholmes' 'wood-cut' illustrations showing 'The Queen of Scots', 'The Capitals Limited' and 'The Mid-Day' Scot, which brought back many happy memories. The same artist used to provide the cover illustrations for all those Ian Allan abcs. Frank Newbould's beautiful,

pre-War colour posters are also perfectly-reproduced. Just two points of 'criticism'; by the time the picture on page 252 was taken, the 'Princess Coronation' on the 'The Royal Scot' would have been upgraded to '8P', and the shot of the 'Bournemouth Belle' on page 323 is definitely not at Clapham Junction; it's on the section of main line south west of Woking controlled by electro-pneumatic semaphores. Recommended.

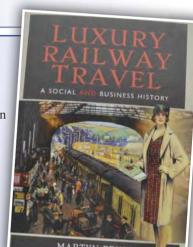
Price: £35.00 W: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk



IN MINIATURE HOW SMALL THINGS ILLUMINATE THE WORLD by Simon Garfield, Canon Gate

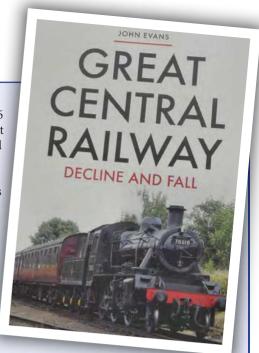
This is a most-amusing little read, written in an entertaining and illuminating way. It's really a selection of small subjects, where only one chapter deals with railway models (Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg taking due prominence), but it's interesting nonetheless. In the same chapter, I was delighted to read how Sir Rod Stewart handled the 'ignorant' Piers Morgan when he was interviewed by the bloke about his model railway. 'Train set'? What do reporters know? We're also delighted by descriptions (among others) of a matchstick Eiffel Tower, miniature cities, a miniature painting, a flea circus, tiny books, Queen Mary's doll's house and a vast collection of model ships built from matchsticks. Enchanting.

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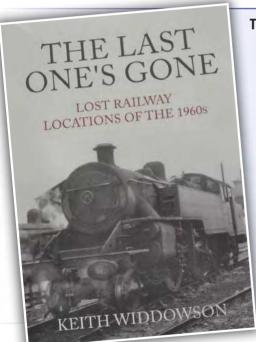


GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY DECLINE AND FALL by John Evans, Amberley

Given hindsight, the closure and demolition of the great Central London Extension from 1966 onward was an act of crass folly. A fantastic transport resource was allowed to just disappear; it could have even been the start of HS2! This well-written and well-illustrated book tells the sad story of the ex-GC during its final years up to 1966; when it ceased to be a main line throughroute for expresses from Manchester and Bradford to Marylebone. Along with the author, other writers contribute pieces describing aspects such as a journey along the line, the delights of trainspotting, the great Nottingham Victoria Station, Woodford Halse's loss, the 9F-hauled 'windcutters' or 'runners' and the arrival of the 'Royal Scots'. The work is largely pictorial (though one image has been used twice), mainly in good-quality colour. The photographs illustrate all aspects of the decline of this once great, trunk route, including some very sad shots of the destruction of Nottingham Victoria. All in all, despite the excellence of the pictures, they're rather depressing and lugubrious, though entirely indicative of the time. The work will be of great assistance to modellers, not least because of the variety of trains shown – from all of the four English Regions, with locomotives from three of them, and BR Standards and diesels and MSW electrics. There's a nod at the end towards preservation, which is repeated on the front and rear covers.



Price: £14.99 W: www.amberley-books.com



THE LAST ONE'S GONE LOST RAILWAY LOCATIONS OF THE 1960S by Keith Widdowson,

Speaking of lugubrious railway books, this one is even more so than the last, but no less-interesting. That lugubriousness is even reflected in the reproduction of some of the images; one needs the 'eye of faith' to believe that we're looking at Brighton Shed (page 9) or Crumlin Viaduct (lower picture on page 13). Granted, the shots were taken with a Kodak 'Brownie', but they add little to the book, despite their personal interest to the author. Thankfully, not all the images are poor, as we're taken on a personal photographic journey between the years 1963-'68. The journey encompasses many of the lines under threat from the Beeching proposals of 1963, including (among many) the SR in Devon and Cornwall, the Isle of Wight, Derby Friargate, Leicester Belgrave Road, the GC, the Port Road, parts of the SR near London, the Fife Coast, Glasgow, Wolverhampton, Leeds, Northern Ireland and the near-Continent. Locomotive builders will find many of the shots useful, because pictures of locomotives predominate; mainly filthy dirty! Interesting, though rather depressing, especially comparing the pre-Beeching railway map with the post-Beeching one; being born only a year before the author, I remember the times well.

Price: £14.99 W: www.amberley-books.com

BLUEBELL RAILWAY SIXTY YEARS OF PROGRESS 1960-2020, by Colin Tyson, Amberley

To finish, we have a much more-optimistic book from Amberley, celebrating the last 60 years of the Bluebell Railway in preservation. The story is very well-told, and illustrated throughout with high-quality reproduction, mainly in full-colour. It's astonishing how photographs from years ago reveal how 'weird' some of us looked back then, several of the subjects shown since deceased. It's very interesting to see how the railway has been used by the TV and film industry down the years (even though Downton Abbey is supposed to be in Yorkshire!), bringing in much-needed revenue. The diamond Jubilee celebrations scheduled for August 7-9, listed on the last page of this delightful book hint at a note of real optimism. It was published before coronavirus became widespread! Given the current crisis, one feels for the railway preservation movement indeed.

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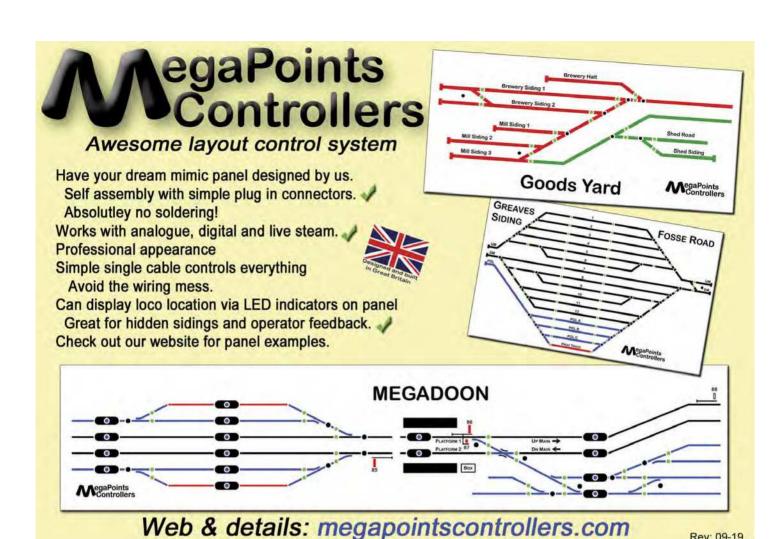
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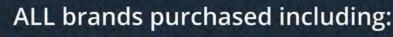
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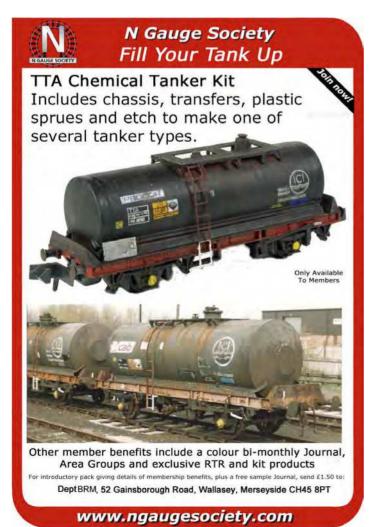
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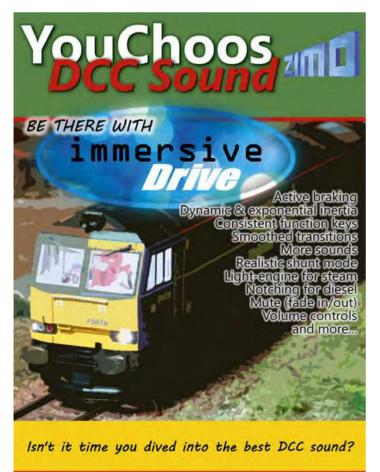
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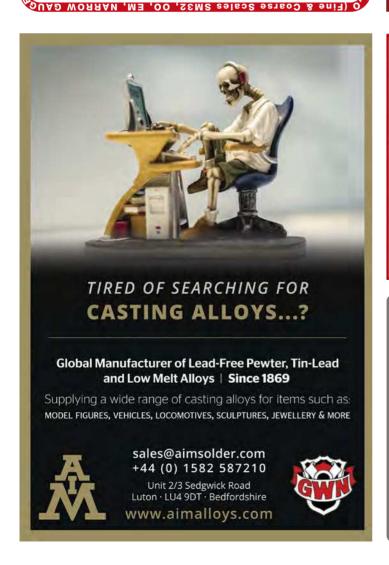
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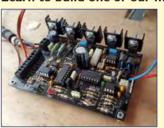
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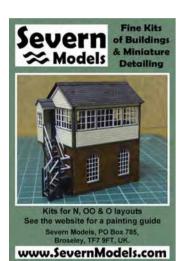
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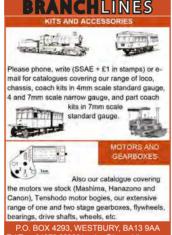
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Buffer (1) BRM Film Club

OK, it's nearly the end of the bank holiday weekend. Time to settle down in front of a nice movie, preferably one with some trains in. But Phil want to see Wallace & Gromit in "The Wrong Trousers". Andy prefers a bit of Bond, "From Russia with love" with the green Black 5 at the end. Howard is going traditional with "The Titfield Thunderbolt".... See O 27 52 comments Like Comment Comment Share -Most relevant Comment as British Railway Modelling Oh Mr Porter, Train of Events, The Ghost Train, Runaway Train, The Flying Scotsman (1929, just for the railway shots), The Love Match, The Wrecker, for a relatively short one The Signalman, all good Like - Reply - Message - 4 d David Scott Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, well at least the opening sequences filmed on the Cumbria and Toltec, Denver and Rio Grande Western. Like - Reply - Message - 4 d Author

We might not be able to get out and about at the moment, but that doesn't mean us modellers can't keep chatting to each other.

On the BRM Facebook page, we asked for recommendations for films featuring a train that would be worth watching.

Unsurprisingly, *The Titfield Thunderbolt* was mentioned many times, but many of you are film buffs as we also had a few surprises: *The Ghost*

Train, Runaway Train, The Flying Scotsman (1929, just for the railway shots), The Love Match, The Wrecker, The Signalman, Postman's Knock and O'Leary Night.

Bond fans would be happy with *Octopussy*, *Golden Eye* or even the weird colour Black 5 in *From Russia with Love*. Sticking with spy thrillers, how about the wildly unrealistic Channel Tunnel sequence in *Mission Impossible*?

Finally, there is even something good about the Final Indiana Jones film *The Crystal Skull*, a terrific sequence at the start on a Western circus train, almost certainly the highlight of the film...

Burning Question...

What's your favourite film with a train in it that isn't *The Titfield Thunderbolt*?

Andy: The video to KLF's *Last train to Trancentral*, makes me smile.

Phil: One of our Dinosaurs is Missing.

Howard: Wallace and Gromit - *The Wrong Trousers* - Aardman animations at its best...

Debbie: *Harry Potter.* I'm waiting at platform 9 ¾ for a ride.

Ruth: Definitely Trains, Planes and Automobiles for me. John Candy, what

a legend!

This month in pictures...



For a virtual weekend of trains on the Isle of Man, the organisers needed a photo from 1993, which we were happy to provide.



After years of not enjoying wiring up layouts, Andy worked out it's easier to paste a reversed template of a point underneath the points to aid where the wiring ends up.



Lockdown boredom persuaded Mr Practical to dig out a half-built kit for a Cravens parcels DMU. He quickly remembered why he'd stopped working on it...



Out in the garden, fishplates don't really do the job so Phil's been fitting clamps to hold his track together, followed by a mammoth running session to test everything.







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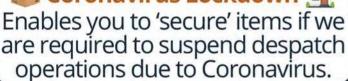
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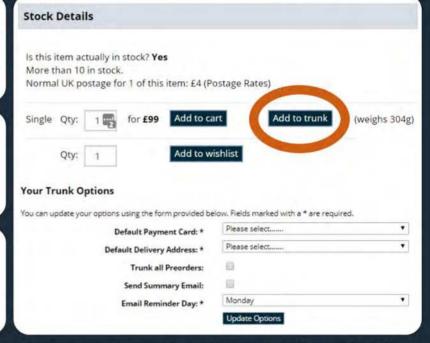
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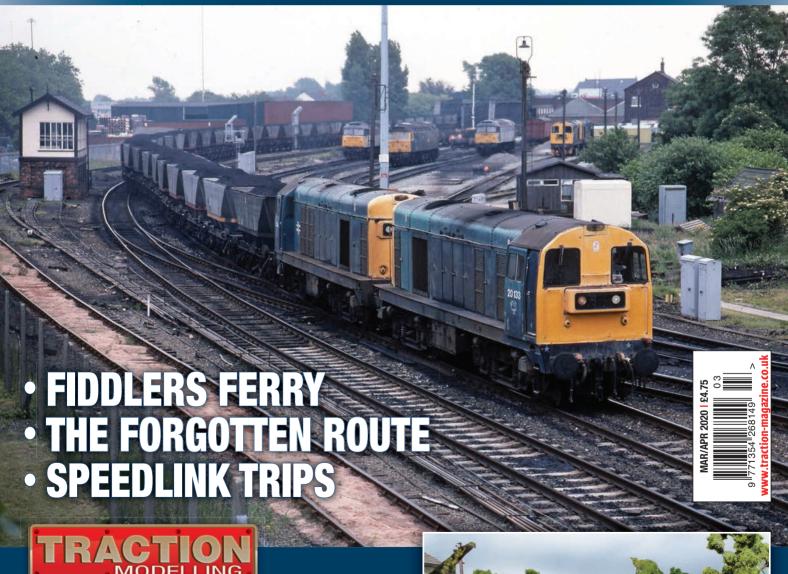
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TRACTION
issue 257 will
be on sale
Friday 3rd
April

Welcome

This issue of TRACTION is a little unusual as we have three articles about one railway centre. Focusing on Warrington, the changes in freight train operation at this once busy junction start with an article by Jeff Nicholls about coal traffic to the large power station at Fiddlers Ferry, which has recently closed. David Clough examines what he considers to be the forgotten route between Manchester and Liverpool which was once busy with a variety of freight flows. David Ratcliffe reminds us of the years when Warrington was a major Speedlink yard with trip freights from across the North West arriving throughout the day.

The days of long distance coach tours to locomotive depots are recalled in an article by J. Crosse who led a tour from the North East to depots in the London area in the 1970s. Elliot Hopewell returns with another tale of his train spotting days when he spent holidays in Cornwall in the days of the Class 50s and how he eventually managed to see the last one he hadn't seen before.

It's easy to forget just how much the physical railway scene has changed over the years but Chris Cole's photo study of changes at Sandy documents one such changed location. Mick Humphrys returns with the second part of his article in which he recalls some of experiences driving the first generation of AC electric locomotives on the West Coast Main Line out of Euston.

Colin Boocock is intrigued by the introduction of the new Stadler bi-mode Class 755s in East Anglia with their small diesel power unit vehicle located in the centre of the train. He points out that having such a separate power unit is not a totally new idea.

Steve Woodhouse has long been a fan of the Class 40s and visited the Manchester area many times to see them in action on passenger trains out of Piccadilly station in their final years in service.

Gavin Morrison's contribution this issue is a series of images taken on the Settle and Carlisle in winter conditions, when he required considerable determination to reach the locations where he wanted to photograph the trains.

In TRACTION MODELLING this issue we feature two superb diesel era layouts in different scales. The first is Oldham King Street in Gauge O with its emphasis on parcels traffic and DMUs. The second is that marvellous 4mm scale layout Charwelton. The members of the CBM Diesel Group re-worked an existing layout based on the

now closed Great Central Main Line station and brought it into the BR blue period imagining that the line had stayed open.



Stephen

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20133 and 20194 pass Warrington Arpley stabling point on June 14th 1990, JOHN DEDMAN





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E-mail: steverabone@hotmail.com Editorial postal address: 120 Churchill Road, Middlesbrough TS6 9NS The closure of the Liverpool to Manchester freight line as a through route, and the Woodhead line a year later, brought diversion of coal movements between South Yorkshire and Fiddlers Ferry Power Station and a change of traction to Class 56. 56009 passes the site of Warrington Bank Quay Low Level station with an empty rake for Healey Mills.



Focus on Warrington: Coal to Fiddlers Ferry

With the impending closure of Fiddlers Ferry Power Station, Jeff Nicholls looks back at the often complex history of rail operations serving the power station.

pened in the early 1970s, Fiddlers Ferry Power Station is situated between the towns of Warrington and Widnes, on the north bank of the River Mersey, from which it draws its cooling water. From the outset it was designed to use the Merry-Go-Round (MGR) system, employing HAA hoppers built at Shildon. In recent years the power station has only operated during the winter and early spring months. At the time of writing, Fiddlers Ferry is scheduled to shut down for the last time in March 2020.

Coal to Fiddlers Ferry - the Early Years

At first, the power station used coal from the local Lancashire coalfields, although the majority of the coal came from Yorkshire with trains originating at Wath or Rotherwood yards. Some coal also arrived from Point of Ayr colliery on the North Wales coast, whilst another supply during the early 1980s was the Cumbrian coalfield. For a time, in the early 1990s, coal came from Silverdale colliery in Staffordshire. From the 1990s, imported coal for Fiddlers Ferry came through either Birkenhead or Liverpool Gladstone Docks.

Lancashire coal was supplied from local

mines at Parkside (Newton-le-Willows), and Bickershaw, with the mines at Golborne and Parsonage being linked underground to Bickershaw in the mid 1970s. Bold colliery at St. Helens also supplied coal until the 1984 miners' strike, during which its coal faces were lost and the pit closed. Cronton, at Widnes, also shipped coal until its closure in 1984.

Yorkshire coal was supplied by rail from the Skelton Junction to Arpley Junction and Ditton Junction line. (For those not familiar with the area, Skelton Junction is near Altrincham, Arpley Junction is in Warrington and Ditton Junction is in Widnes.) Trains from Yorkshire could travel directly into the power station, whereas Cumbrian and Lancashire coal trains had to undertake two run-rounds in the Warrington area; one in Walton MSC (Manchester Ship Canal) sidings and one at Latchford Sidings. Trains from North Wales and Staffordshire would need only to run round at Latchford.

From Latchford Sidings trains for Fiddlers Ferry traverse the freight-only line to Ditton Junction, leaving this line close to the power station and traversing the site via a loop line. For much of its length, the double track line parallels the disused Sankey to St Helens Canal. The line from Skelton Junction to

Arpley Junction closed in 1985 because of the condition of some of its infrastructure, notably Latchford Viaduct. From then on, Yorkshire coal travelled via the Chat Moss route, undertaking the two reversals in the Warrington area.

For a while, a pilot loco was employed to drag trains from Walton MSC Sidings to Latchford Sidings, thereby saving time. This could be a Class 08 or any other loco available, such as a Coal Sector Class 31. For a time in the 1980s, a brake van was used instead of a locomotive to assist with the propelling move.

With the closure of Point of Ayr colliery and the last local mine in the early 1990s, followed not long afterwards by the majority of the mines in Yorkshire, it became necessary to source coal from abroad, although even into the 21st Century some did come from opencast pits in Scotland. Countries as diverse as Australia, Russia, Poland, Colombia and even Peru have all contributed to this traffic flow.

The line to Fiddlers Ferry is notable for its profusion of signal boxes and, until fairly recently, of semaphore signals. Two of the boxes control level crossings into industrial and/or housing areas and a handful of semaphores remain in use. One signal box at



An unidentified Class 50 heads the 10:13 Bickershaw Colliery to Fiddler's Ferry Power Station MGR past Winwick Quay sometime in 1974 or 1975. TOM SUTCH: TRIANGLE PUBLISHING



For a short time in the 1980s, coal was brought from the Cumbrian coalfield to Fiddlers Ferry. Here 47198 heads a Maryport to Fiddlers Ferry MGR south through Golbourne on August 25th 1983. RICHARD CLAYTON

(RIGHT) On June 14th 1990 20127 is heading a loaded train past the yards at Arpley and into the reversing sidings at Latchford. For many years a locomotive was attached to the rear of trains that reversed at Latchford to assist in the drawback operation. The two train engines can be seen in the distance at the other end of the train. After reversing the train will head to Fiddlers Ferry. JOHN DEDMAN





20133 and 20194 pull away from the reversing sidings at Latchford and pass Warrington Arpley stabling point on June 14th 1990. JOHN DEDMAN



On August 8 2012 60065 'Spirit of Jaguar', still wearing clean EWS livery, climbs from Walton Yard and crosses over the West Coast Main Line at Warrington Bank Quay and joins the Down Slow line behind the station. It is hauling 6F38 Fiddlers Ferry Power Station to Liverpool Bulk Terminal. JEFF NICHOLLS

Crosfields has been automated, and controls road traffic within the PQ chemicals complex, once part of the Lever Brothers empire.

Coal to Fiddlers Ferry - the Later Years

Imported coal for Fiddlers Ferry has been shipped via numerous ports, the most frequently used being Liverpool Bulk Terminal, Manisty Wharf at Ellesmere Port, Portbury or Avonmouth in the Bristol area, and Hunterston in Scotland.

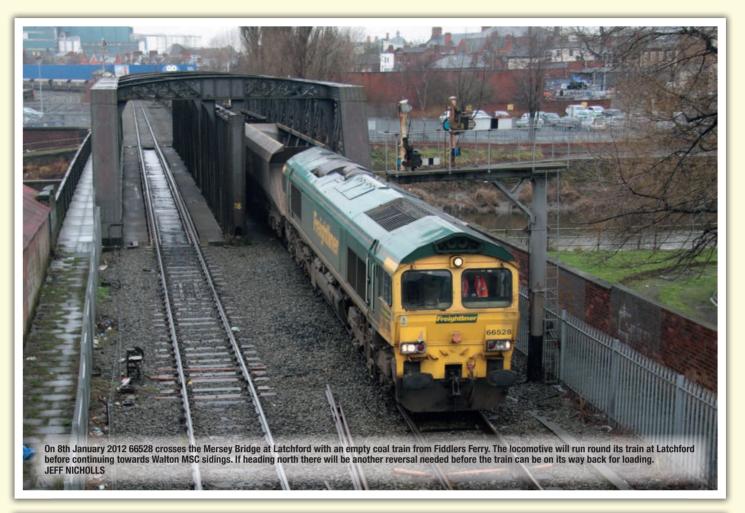
After privatisation, traffic from Liverpool was handled by EWS (later to become DB Schenker and then DB Cargo). Following a fire in Bootle Branch Junction signal box in 1987, the Olive Mount Junction to Bootle Branch Junction line, which was used to access the docks, closed. This meant that Fiddlers Ferry trains had to run via Edge Hill and Ditton Junction to Latchford before running round and going back to the power station. In March 2009 the chord to Olive Mount reopened to reduce congestion in the Edge Hill area. Trains bound for Fiddlers Ferry from the docks could then revert to running via Earlestown, Warrington Bank Quay and the double reversal of direction before heading for the power station. All other flows were handled by Freightliner Heavy Haul, except from summer 2017 when GBRailfreight began to supply one train a day from Redcar Bulk Terminal. GBRf involvement was short lived as this service reverted to Freightliner in 2018.

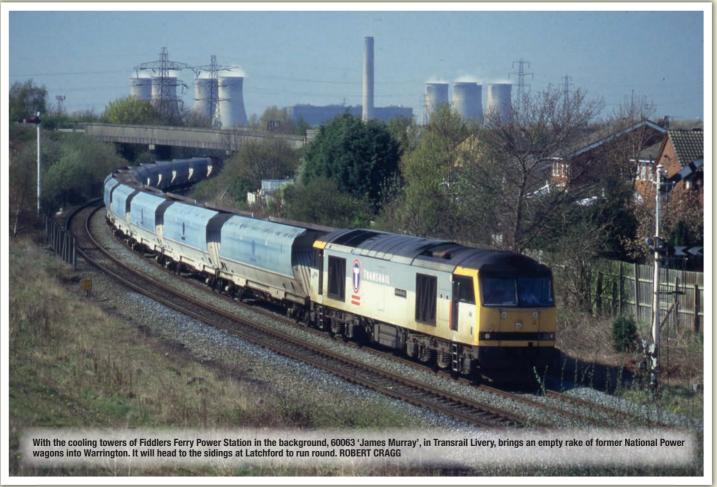
A new but short-lived Freightliner flow began in late 2016 and continued into early 2017, coal being taken from the stockpile at the closed Ferrybridge Power Station, rather than freshly imported fuel. The flows from Avonmouth or Portbury resumed in the autumn of 2017. Today, rakes of disused, rusting and graffitied HTA bogie coal hoppers in EWS colours fill Warrington's Walton Old Yard, parts of Walton MSC Sidings and parts of Arpley Yard. Freightliner's stored Polishbuilt HHAs can be seen at various locations around the country, notably York and Guide Bridge. Some are being recycled into other types of wagon, especially for stone traffic.

With Government policy being to end the use of fossil fuels in the generation of electricity, on environmental grounds, there has been a very rapid rundown in the use of coal. Traffic to Fiddlers Ferry from Liverpool ceased in spring 2015, and with it the involvement of DB Schenker, and from both Scotland and Ellesmere Port with Freightliner later the same year. At the time of writing – November 2019 - it is not known whether any more trains will run to Fiddlers Ferry or whether the power station will simply run down its stockpile of coal.

Motive Power - Early Years

Over the years, coal trains to Fiddlers Ferry have seen a variety of motive power: Classes 20, 37, 47, 50, 56, 59/2, 60, 66 and 70 have all been recorded on so-called MGR workings. Fiddlers Ferry was designed from the outset to use the MGR principle so any locos used had





to be fitted with Slow Speed Control (ssc).

In the early years traffic was dominated by Crewe-based 47/3s fitted with the necessary slow-speed controls. For a time in the 1970s, between May 1974, when WCML electrification was complete, and May 1976, when all the class had been transferred to the WR, it was not unusual though to see a Class 50 on this traffic, as can be seen in one of the accompanying photographs. Coal from Yorkshire was initially routed via the Woodhead route with Class 76 traction into the Manchester area where a ssc-fitted '47' would take over. Closure of this route resulted in Class 56 haulage via the Diggle and Chat Moss lines.

In the mid 1980s Toton based pairs of Class 20s arrived in number to take over the local workings from the '47/3s'. Their use allowed the increase in length of the HAA trains to 45 wagons from the previous 30. Thus two trains could carry the same load as the three trains needed previously. The '20s' had a low traction motor gear ratio

which permitted continuous full power at low speed. Class 47 was a mixed traffic design which had suffered main generator burnouts in the early days of MGR operation because it could not apply full power continuously at low speed. Moreover, Class 20 has sanding gear, whilst the Class 47 does not, and two '20s' have eight axles and offer better adhesion than the six under a '47'.

Pairs of '56s' were used out of Liverpool docks during the early 1990s when the Olive Mount Junction chord was closed.
Class 60 arrived in early 1991 with 60015 and 60016 out-stationed at Springs Branch depot, Wigan, for crew training. Work in earnest for the class did not begin until June of that year and from then on the Class 20s were partially ousted from the local circuit. Trains in and out of the colliery were topand-tailed, quite often with a 60 and two Class 20s in charge. Ironically, Bickershaw Colliery closed in March 1992, so the reign of Class 60 was short. They would be back... but hauling imported coal.



47231 enters Chester station with a MGR train from Point of Ayr to Fiddlers Ferry Power station on the 19th November 1985. PETER COOLE

Motive Power - Later Years

Inevitably, the ubiquitous Class 66 took over most of the workings to Fiddlers Ferry from all around the country. However, they did not have things all their own way as they were found inadequate on trains out of Liverpool Docks unless rail conditions were perfect. For a short while, Class 59/2 took over some trains - all five of the sub-class being seen in the area - but in autumn 2011 Class 60 took over the Liverpool Bulk Terminal to Fiddlers Ferry trains, lasting until the very end.

Freightliner workings to and from Scotland had a spell of Class 70 haulage before settling down to a solid diet of Class 66 until the end of such traffic. The same company also had charge of the traffic from Ellesmere Port to Fiddlers Ferry; these were solid Class 70 workings right up to the end.

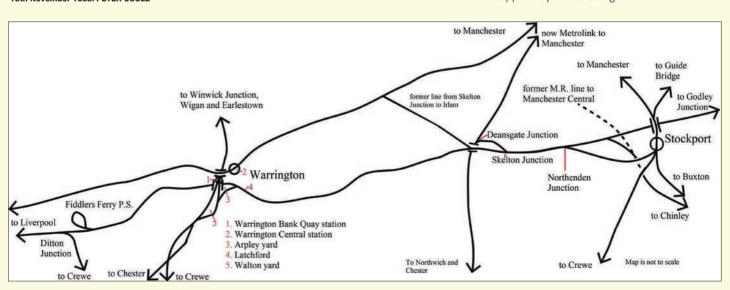
These three flows of coal all came to an end during 2015, the Liverpool trains being the first to succumb, followed by the Ellesmere Port workings and ending with the Scottish ones.

Since 2015, a limited flow of coal has come either from Avonmouth Docks or Portbury Docks, both in the Bristol area. Running only in the autumn and winter and worked by Freightliner, Class 70 was initially to be seen on these trains but Class 66 soon gained a monopoly. Annoyingly for the enthusiast, the loaded trains ran mainly in the small hours and were difficult, if not impossible, to photograph. Return workings of empties were more camera-friendly.

Finally, a slightly erratic flow was from Redcar Bulk Terminal to Fiddlers Ferry, again only during autumn and winter. For the first year only, as noted earlier, GBRf had charge of these trains but Freightliner then took over.

The railway freight scene, both locally and nationwide, has certainly been the poorer for the virtual ending of coal traffic. Given the environmental issues with which we are all faced, their loss is probably a necessity and represents the end of a fascinating era of railway history.

Note: additional information has been supplied by David Clough.





Focus on Warrington: The forgotten route between Liverpool and Manchester

David Clough looks at freight traffic over a once busy line in the North West.

ention railway connections between Liverpool and Manchester and the original 1830 route across Chat Moss will inevitably be the first brought to mind. Pushed to identify an alternative, the Cheshire Lines Committee Railway (CLC), built in the 1870s via Warrington, would come to mind. There was, of course, a third connection. Unlike the other two, this was built piecemeal by different companies.

The route can be considered to have linked the port of Garston on the River Mersey to the south of Liverpool with Godley Junction on the Woodhead route near Hyde, Greater Manchester, a distance of some 35 miles. It passed through Widnes, Warrington, rural north Cheshire, Manchester's southern suburbs and the north side of Stockport before climbing into the Pennine foothills.

Construction was piecemeal, effectively by three companies and was open throughout by 1866. The route's significance can be judged from it having junctions with nine other railways and this facilitated the potential for train movements north and south as well as along all or part of its own west to east general alignment. In the Manchester area,

many traffic flows traversed the line for short distances and inevitably waxed and waned during the modern traction era. Charting the history of all these movements, and Manchester Division trip workings to several depots and private sidings, goes beyond the scope of this feature, which concentrates on the traffic that traversed all or the majority of its length.

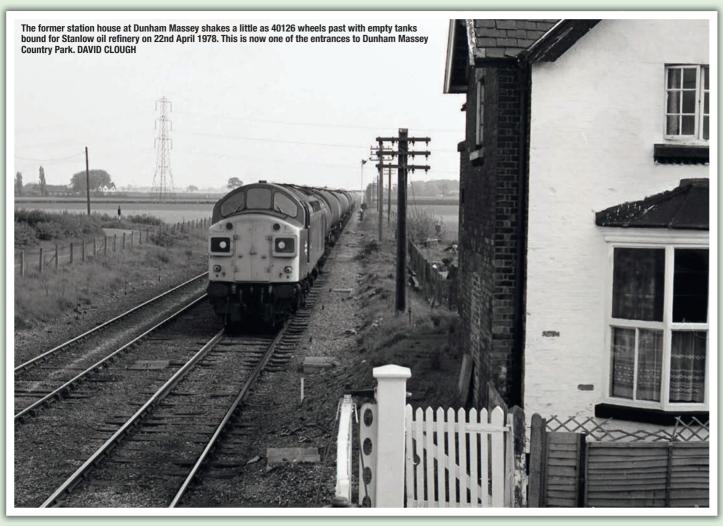
Dealing first with passenger traffic, this was never significant and was, essentially, local in nature. The service pattern was mixed, some trains running through between Liverpool Lime Street and Manchester London Road (now Piccadilly), whilst others served only part of the route, starting or finishing at Warrington Bank Quay's low level platforms. All were withdrawn on 10th September 1962. Summer Saturday trains bound for North Wales from east of the Pennines, however, passed this way as far as Warrington, where they turned south towards Chester.

Freight traffic

There were several key junctions for freight movements. Ditton Junction, between

Garston and Widnes, was an interface with the Liverpool section of the West Coast Main Line (WCML) and grew in consequence. Widnes developed into a significant town on the north bank of the Mersey. A trailing junction at Warrington Arpley gave access from the West Coast Main Line (WCML), Chester as well as from Birkenhead docks which was reached via Ellesmere Port. Skelton Junction in South Manchester was a confluence of three lines, notably one heading for Northwich and Chester. From Northenden Junction, trains could curve round to join the Manchester branch of the WCML just south of Stockport Edgeley. Traffic from the Midland Railway routes from Derby and the Hope Valley came in at Cheadle Junction. Finally, at Apethorne Junction, Woodley, trains could head for Guide Bridge in East Manchester.

Coal was always the principal cargo moved and almost all came over the Woodhead route to Godley Junction. By the 1970s, coal for export through Garston came this way from Nottinghamshire pits and was marshalled at Toton or sometimes Mansfield. The bizarre decision made as part of the





40168's headcode denotes that this Widnes to Earles Sidings cement empties was a special on 8th June 1974, rather than being timetabled. Note the spelling of Fiddlers with a single 'd'. DAVID CLOUGH

1955 Modernisation Plan to continue to build unbraked mineral wagons meant these trains had to pin down, and then pick up hand-operated brakes when descending from Godley Junction to Stockport. In the BR diesel era the working timetable timed trains for Class 47 haulage, though Derby Type 2s and Class 40 were booked for some duties.

Fiddlers Ferry Power Station was built between Warrington and Widnes in 1971 and 16 paths were provided for coal shipments from either Wath or Rotherwood in South Yorkshire. Unlike the Garston services, which changed from electric to diesel at Godley Junction, those bound for Fiddlers Ferry were formed of air braked HAA merry-go-round hoppers and were staged in Mottram Yard. Here, the pair of Class 76 electrics would give way to a Crewe-based Class 47 fitted for slow speed operation.

Coal was not the only cargo that came from east of the Pennines. Steel traffic plied between Scunthorpe and Monks Hall steelworks, which was between Arpley and Fiddlers Ferry. Scrap steel from Tinsley Yard was worked to Edge Hill for onward transfer to Liverpool docks and a service linked Hull to Widnes. In later years, tank traffic from the Sheffield area for BOC at Ditton also came through Arpley.

Earles Sidings in the Hope Valley sent block cement to Widnes that had Class 40 haulage. Wagonload traffic from yards, such as Dewsnap near Guide Bridge, went to Warrington Arpley, Birkenhead and Edge Hill, Liverpool.

The end as a through route

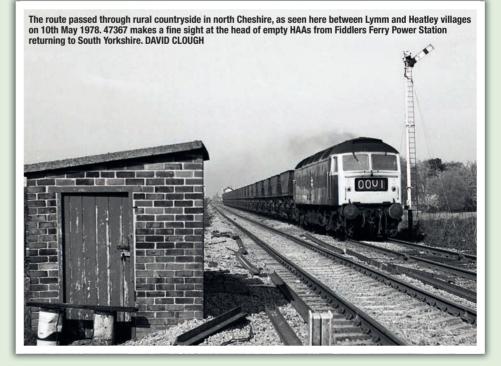
In 1980, the section of the line from Cheadle Junction to Stockport Portwood closed because of the state of Lancashire Hill tunnel and the line ceased to be a through route. Woodhead's closure the following year brought a further rerouting of the trans-Pennine workings. In 1985, the bridge across the Manchester ship Canal at Latchford in east Warrington needed repairs that were deemed too costly in relation to the traffic using the line and this now became the eastern extent.

Latchford had been the run round point for trains, notably those bound for Fiddlers Ferry, from the WCML and the Chester direction for nearly two decades before it became the end of the line. Declining traffic and diversion of what did survive to other lines meant that Fiddlers Ferry Power Station was to become the only significant user between Warrington and Ditton. Coal export through Garston and railborne freight in the once busy Widnes area ended. Monks Hall steelworks closed in 1986 and the site is now a housing development.

Today, the most frequent use of the surviving Ditton Junction to Latchford railway is for light engine movements between the DB Cargo UK depot at Warrington and Ditton Foundry Lane or the Jaguar plant at Halewood. Ditton Foundry Lane comprises the AHC sidings used by







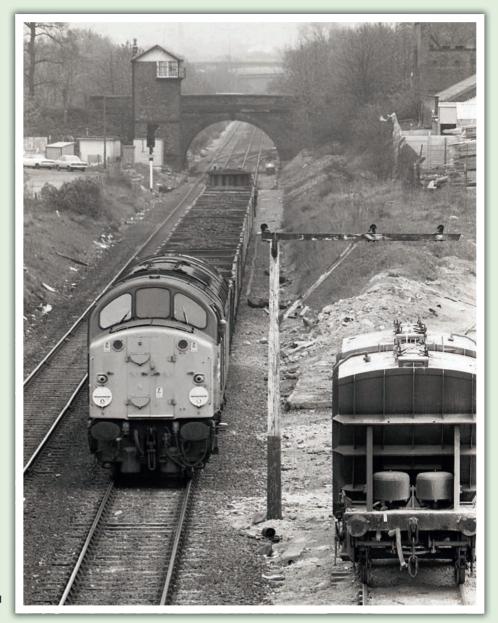
Eddie Stobart and until recently generated a daily service to Dollands Moor. After reversal at Latchford, the train stabled at Arpley but now runs direct via Runcorn to join the WCML at Weaver Junction. This leaves the occasional Halewood Jaguar to Arpley as the only train to operate eastbound along the whole of the surviving part of the Liverpool to Manchester freight route.

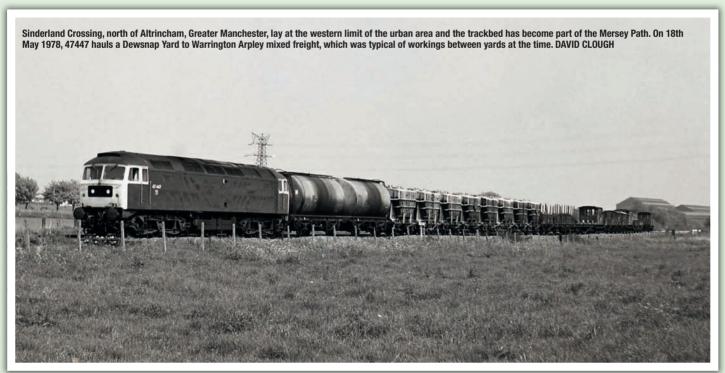
The owners of Fiddlers Ferry Power Station cut generation to a seasonal, standby basis several years ago. Deliveries from Avonmouth and Portbury in the Bristol area and Hunterston on the Clyde have yet to restart in 2019. The only cargo going in has been a not-quite weekly delivery of limestone from Tunstead, whilst the outbound has also been not quite weekly and, whatever it is, has been taken to New Biggin on the S&C. In any event, complete closure of the power station is scheduled for March 2020.

The only positive development concerns the 3½ miles between Skelton and Northenden Junctions, which now carries the Manchester to Northwich and Chester passenger service, as well as freights that cannot pass through Manchester Victoria because they are unable to climb Miles Platting bank. Workings such as the biomass from Liverpool Bulk Terminal to Drax and refuse from Knowsley to Wilton have to take a very circuitous journey via Northwich to reach the east side of Manchester in consequence.

According to Network Rail, semaphore signalling has gone but the signalboxes at Litton Mill and Monks Crossings and at the junction into the power station survive.

(RIGHT) 40015 trundles its unfitted coal train from Toton to Garston through the site of Northenden station, Cheshire on 22nd April 1980. A cement plant occupied the former goods yard, whilst Northenden Junction signal box is in the background. DAVID CLOUGH



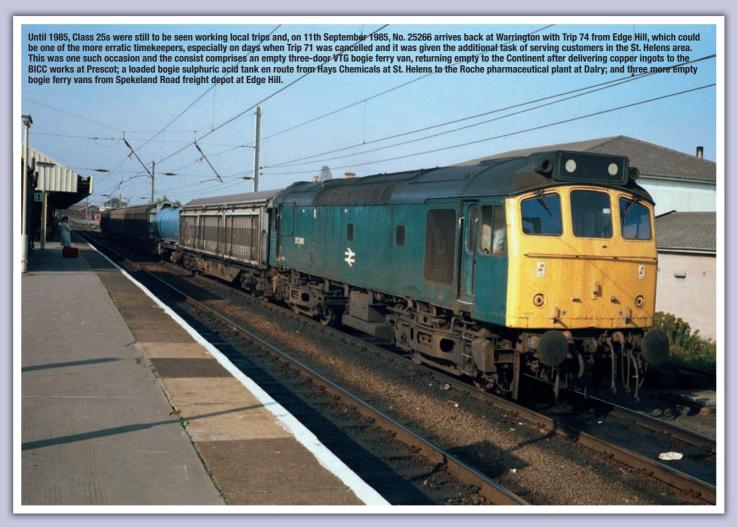




This view at Heaton Mersey in north Stockport includes the River Mersey and the abutments of the former Midland Railway viaduct that carried the Manchester Central to New Mills South Junction route across the valley. 47228 and its load of coal for Fiddlers Ferry Power Station from South Yorkshire approach Cheadle Junction on 24th April 1980. Heaton Mersey shed was on land out of shot to the rear of the train. DAVID CLOUGH

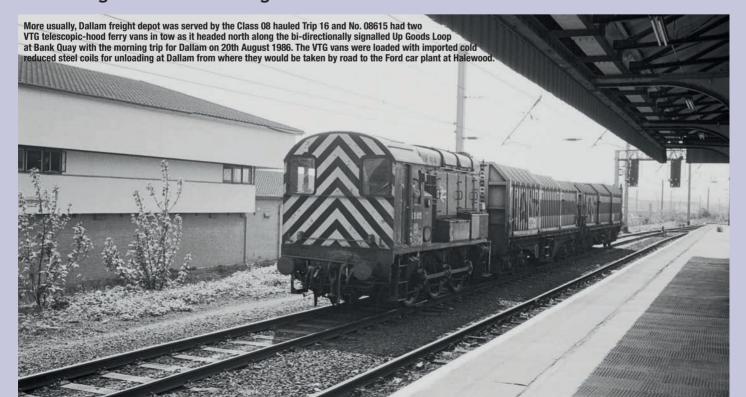


In the early hours of 10th August 1974, several wagons in the Earles Sidings to Widnes cement train, hauled by 24085, derailed after Warrington Bank Quay near Crosfields crossing signal box and caused damage to the track. The signalman, train crew and some permanent way staff watch intently as 25149 and 25048 bring the Tunstead to Widnes loaded limestone hoppers wrong line past the scene. Meanwhile, others pose for the camera. DAVID CLOUGH



Focus on Warrington: Warrington Trips

David Ratcliffe remembers that, for the railfreight enthusiast, Warrington was something of a mecca during the 1980s.



ot only was the activity in Arpley and Walton Old Junction yards easily visible from Slutchers Lane, but an hour or two spent on Bank Quay station would usually be repaid with an interesting selection of local and long-distance freight workings.

The two yards at Warrington were classed as a Speedlink Network Hub and as such acted as the originating and terminating points for up to 20 daily trip workings, or 'feeder services' in Speedlink parlance. These connected with the air-braked trunk services that ran from Warrington to other hub yards at Bescot, Mossend, Severn Tunnel Junction, Tinsley, Whitemoor and Willesden, making Warrington a hive of freight activity for much of the day.

With wagonload marshalling for much of the north west and North Wales concentrated at Warrington, some of the feeder services ran to outlying locations, such as Buxton and Llandudno Junction, whereas others served customers in and around Manchester, Merseyside and the Wirral. By their nature, many trips would only 'run as required' and back in the 1980s they might often appear hours early or late, although traffic patterns were fairly consistent and, even without recourse to TOPS, a knowledge of wagon types and their traffics helped identify the different workings.

Unfortunately the demise of Speedlink in July 1991 brought an end to Warrington's heyday as a marshalling centre, although, to this day, it remains an important freight location with Arpley Yard still home to DB's operations in the area and the location of a locomotive fuelling point and wagon repair depot.

(BELOW) In 1982 the freight depot at Warrington Central was closed and replaced by a smaller facility at Warrington Dallam, situated a mile north of Bank Quay station alongside the WCML. Dallam was also sometimes served by Trip 71, as on 28th August 1986 when Class 20 No. 20187 was photographed heading back from Dallam to Arpley with two empty three-door VTG ferry vans which had arrived at Dallam the previous day loaded with cases of wine.



A Class 47 would often also be seen working 6F84, the 15:42 feeder service from Blackburn to Arpley, seen here arriving at Warrington behind No. 47317 on 29 August 1986. Immediately behind the locomotive were two Railease PCAs carry sulphate-resistant cement from the Ribblesdale Cement Co. at Clitheroe, while the rest of the train comprised a raft of bogie ferry vans on their way back to the Continent after delivering chipboard to the PG Fogarty distribution depot at Blackburn.





(ABOVE) In addition to serving Dallam, Trip 16 also worked as required between Arpley Yard and various locations. These included NCL. Crosfields, and Lever Bros. private sidings at Bank Quay, the British Steel Works at Monks Hall, **Arpley C&W Sidings, and Ferrous Castings and Lion Emulsions who** were both located on the Latchford Old Line. Home of the famous 'Persil' washing powder the Lever Brothers works, situated immediately next to Bank Quay station, would receive an almost daily delivery of sodium tripolyphosphate (STPP) which arrived from the Albright & Wilson chemical plant at Corkickle in PCA wagons painted in Lever Bros. distinctive purple livery. Class 08 No. 08939 propels four loaded PCA into the Lever Bros. private siding at Bank Quay on 5th September 1984.

In 1986 Class 20s took over many of the local trips at Warrington and, on 29th August, No. 20151 heads north with Trip 71 which, in addition to covering the St. Helens area, also handled traffic for the US Army storage depot at Burtonwood. Although less than five miles from Warrington, the rail access to the storage depot was from the Warrington Central to Liverpool line and consequently this trip involved a somewhat circuitous journey, running via Earlestown West Junction, Huyton, Edge Hill, where it would reverse, Hunt's Cross and Widnes





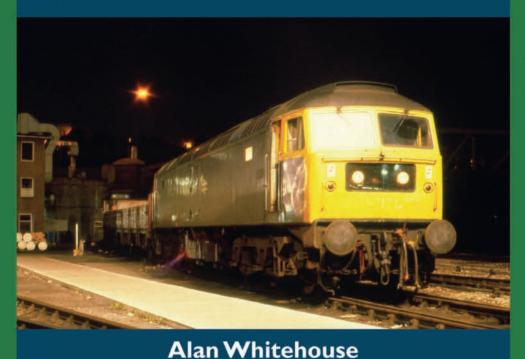
Trip 62 which served Gathurst, Newton-le-Willows, Ashton-in-Makerfield and Wigan Springs Branch is seen arriving back at Warrington behind Class 20s Nos. 20142 and 20077 on 11th September 1985. The train comprised two BR air-braked vans, TOPS code VAA, carrying commercial explosives from the ICI siding at Gathurst, situated on the Wigan to Southport line, with one VAA destined for Callerton (Tyneside) and the other for Wednesbury (West Midlands). Two former BR ferry vans acting as barrier wagons flanked the pair of VAAs.

Trip workings arriving at Warrington from the south could not normally be observed from Bank Quay but, on 15th April 1987, engineering work closed the direct access into the yards from Acton Grange Junction and consequently Class 47 No. 47197, working Trip 66 from Northwich, had continued north to the station. After running round its train, which comprised a pair of Tiger Rail PCA's loaded with soda ash en route from ICI Winnington Works at Northwich to the Rockware Glass factory at Barnby Dun, it is pictured waiting for a path to cross the main line in order to enter Arpley Yard via the Up Helsby line.



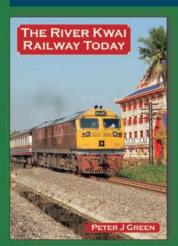
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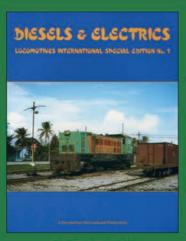


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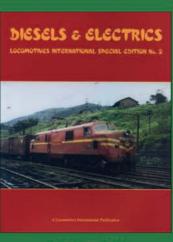
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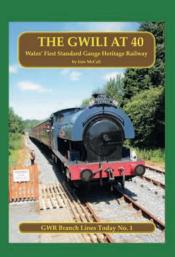
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Roaming around London

J. Crosse remembers the days of shed bashes in the 1970s with a visit to London depots from the North East.

he mid nineteen seventies probably saw the heyday of the long distance diesel shed bashing trips by coach. The apathy of spotters following the end of steam had faded, the 'blue' era was at its height and health and safety restrictions on visits had not started to rear their heads. As long as you had the money to pay for the necessary permits then all was well.

On 2nd June 1975 a coach thus set off around a series of pickup points in the North East of England to collect some forty number crunchers for a full day in London. Being June, most of the pickups could be made in daylight as this was an overnight bash with a 10 p.m. start at Newcastle. A meander took us via Sunderland, Hartlepool and Stockton to Darlington for the final call before setting off for an almost non-stop run down the A1 giving the Bedford coach a sound thrashing en-route.

Most slept or dosed fitfully as the night wore on but with an early dawn only those who had been on the beer prior to boarding the coach, where alcohol was banned, stayed asleep until the first call.

Even then it was a rude awakening with a 5 a.m. start at Paddington. Quite what the few members of the public who were around at this hour made of a troop of number takers suddenly descending on the station has not

been recorded. The call did not take long with just four locos to be seen: 'Western' No. 1070 plus Nos. 31412, 47230 and 50012.

The plan was to do a circuit of the main London terminals followed by another circuit of the sheds selected for the day's bashing. For a change Marylebone had been chosen instead of King's Cross and St. Pancras; no doubt the thinking being that King's Cross would only produce what was seen in Newcastle anyway, whereas Marylebone DMUs were highly unlikely to reach the North East. We must have visited the depot at Marylebone as no fewer than thirty-six unit numbers were noted. Such was the advanced state of the author's collection that only two were cops. A Class 08 also resided at the depot.

At the soulless concrete edifice of Euston, twelve representatives of Classes 85, 86 and 87 were to be seen along with three Class 310s (as they have since become known) and a Watford unit. Liverpool Street was next on the agenda. Classes 31 and 37 lurked in the train sheds here: Nos. 31010, 31151, 31212, 31213, 37044 and 37263 along with nine units from various classes were seen and I had another cop in the book.

And now for all those northern lads it was time for Southern Electrics; it was not to be a day for large numbers of locos. Waterloo

was, as they say today, our final station stop. The clock had ticked on to 7 a.m. and the station was alive with units, twenty-two being noted in our allocated fifteen minutes. Also concealed within were Nos. 09017, 33010, 73107 and 74007 so for those on a first visit to SR territory they had one of each of the 'local' classes.

Southern Region shunters were noted for their difficulty in finding them; visiting the home depot would rarely produce more then 20% of the allocation, so visits to stabling points were necessary. Whilst the majority of the party were busy checking numbers, raiding the bait box (Ed. North of England word for lunch box) or trying to catch up on the missed sleep, there was frantic activity in the front seat. This was because yours truly was struggling with the London A-Z Atlas whilst taking bus numbers (a secondary hobby) and trying to keep the coach heading in the right direction, which in London is no easy task. What often escaped the passengers' appreciation was the fact that we were on a coach, and what looked like a good way on the map was no use for a coach. In fact the only safe way was to use the roads marked as bus routes as far as possible. Whilst routes to depots were well documented, finding the right bridge or road to view a stabling point from was another matter.

Nevertheless, Bricklayers Arms stabling point was duly found with its three residents, Nos. 08378, 08653, 08756 followed by, at New Cross Gate, No. 08837.

For a place with depot status, Hither Green was quite disappointing with just twelve occupants: two each of Classes 08 and 09, five of Class 33 (with no Hastings line 'Slim Jims') and three Class 73s. It was definitely 'bash the Southern' day as next up was Tennison Road. Three more '08s' were present along with one '09', five Class 33s including 33206 and two Class 73s. In fact there were almost as many locos as at the main depot. Also present were a number of EMUs but even in those days spotters in EMU sheds were a definite, "No, no".

The final SR call of the day was to Stewarts Lane. No fewer than nine Class 73s were on shed including one of only two loco cops for me: No. 73101. Other residents were Nos. 09005, 33025 and 74009 whilst visible amongst the EMUs were two of the parcels units Nos. 68002 and 68003.

'Navigator's nightmare time' then set in with a vengeance as a cross central London course had to be set as we were off to Willesden. We nearly got a full house of electric classes with just Class 84 missing. Nos. 81011, 82008, 83005, 85022 and 85036 were complemented by nine Class 86s and no fewer than seven Class 87s. Willesden's shunters were as elusive as those on the Southern with just Nos. 08010, 08234 and 08943 at home, with No. 25222 completing the residents.

There was deep joy for North East fans at Old Oak Common with some real engines at last, but of course the hydraulic era was nearly over. 'Westerns' were represented by Nos.1021, 1048 and 1059 whilst 'Hymeks' present were Nos. 7011, 7017, 7018, 7028, 7029 and 7093. 'Hymek' replacements, in the shape of nine Class 31s, were to be seen along with ten Class 47s, all of Western Region origin. Old Oak was more shunter friendly, with no fewer than nine of its allocation at home. The real head turners were what, ten years later, would be seen as commonplace; No. 50037 and the first HST set formed of Nos. 43001, 41000, 41001, 40500, 41002, 42000, 42001, 42002, 40000 and 43000.

DMU fans then came in for a lot of walking as Cricklewood depot followed as our next visit. The only sightings of Class 45s were made here, with five members present.

Nine Class 25s and Nos. 31420, 31421 and 31422 made up the mainline complement along with six Class 08s. The sixty DMUs brought a smile to some (yes, I got one cop) and sore feet to others.

Quite why Finsbury Park was on the agenda is lost in the mists of time but I guess it was for the '08s' again. Four of these were amongst the other residents of Classes 31, 40, 47 and 55 types. (The '40s' were No. 40085 and former Scottish example No. 40165).

Time rolled on relentlessly; trying to take a short cut to avoid the North Circular Road



Hymek No. 7028 had already been withdrawn at Old Oak by the time this picture was taken in 1975 and the few remaining members of this class did not have long to live. COLOUR-RAIL.COM



In the murky depths of Waterloo station, Class 74 No. 74008 was to be found on the night train to Weymouth. The '74' seen on our visit had arrived with a balancing working from the south. COLOUR-RAIL.COM

saved nothing, with the coach getting stuck down a side road with cars parked on both sides!

However, Stratford was reached eventually for a feast of traction. No. 03164 turned out to be the only representative of its type recorded. The '08' men had a field day with thirteen at home. A stranger was No. 46044, presumably in the works, with the balance of the motive power being made up of Class 31s, 37s and 47s. The latter were, in the main, immaculate as Stratford was noted for the turn out of those used

on the Norwich service. Amongst the '31s' were a number of the 31/0 variety which were all allocated to the depot, but not the one I required to complete the class. Also on the depot were a few of the unique diesel hydraulic DMUs which were only ever allocated to Stratford. In total 85 numbers were taken here.

Our final port of call was a depot that was frequently omitted from London itineraries, Ripple Lane. Nos. 08409, 08482, 08554, 31001, 31017(deep joy as this was the elusive one), 31135, 37039, 37043, 37132.

37259, 37266, 37268, 47114, 47115, 47117, 47121, 47144 and 47334 were out stabled here. This was quite a sizeable chunk of Stratford's allocation and was well worth the visit.

For most of the passengers that was it and it was off to sleep, to dream of those cops. But at the front end the navigator, who had by this time been awake for nearly 36 hours, still had a job to do; get the coach back to the A1. Only then could he join the land of nod and, in his case, dream of an itinerary for the next trip.





Despite the early hour of the trip's station visits, each terminal station was hosting a number of locomotives, with Liverpool Street having three Class 37s present. On a day in May 1975 two such occupants were Nos. 37261 and 37035. COLOUR-RAIL.COM



For those from the North East, every electric loco cop was vital and Willesden in those days would provide a good number on a Sunday. Tucked away inside in October 1974 were Nos. 86209, 86211 and 87035. COLOUR-RAIL.COM



Class 73s were hard to come by on shed visits. No doubt on Sundays a fair number of them were employed on PW duties. Here No. 73120 rumbles through Clapham Junction. COLOUR-RAIL.COM





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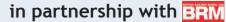
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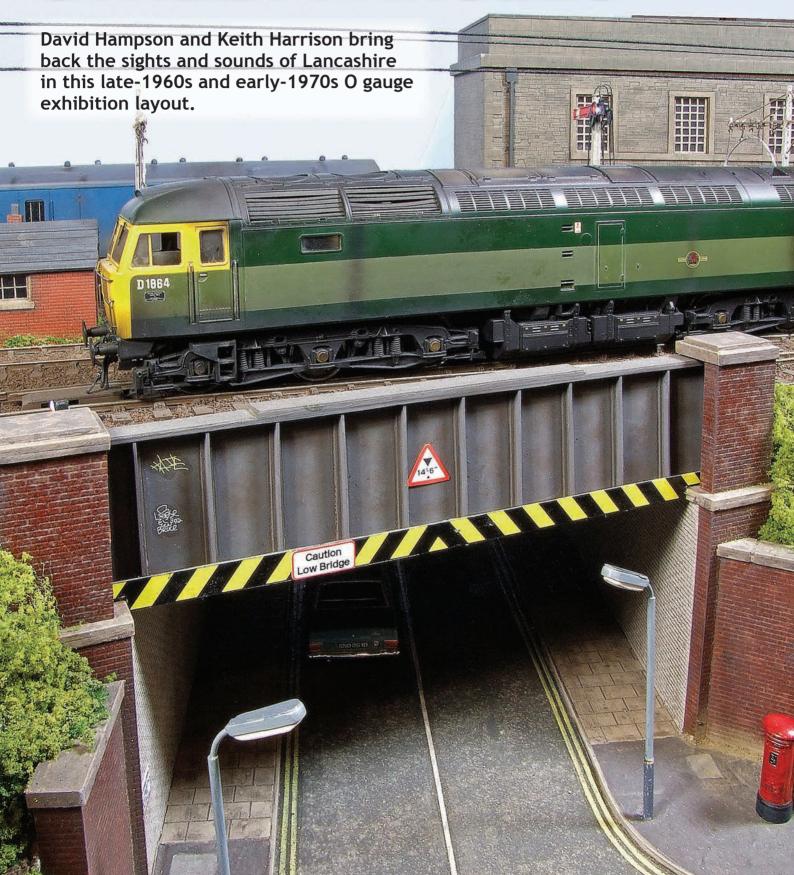
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OLDHAM KING STREET PARCELS



o many people, 7mm scale has a physical presence that gives layouts a great feeling of authenticity. O gauge can capture the bulk and 'heaviness' of the real thing in a way that is difficult to achieve in smaller scales. It is also possible in O gauge to add small details more easily to increase realism. Sharp eyed readers will have spotted the pigeons on the overbridges, but what about the mess they made on the road below?

Of course, one of the down sides of modelling in O gauge is that everything takes up much more space, so expectations as to what can fit on a layout have to be scaled down.

'Oldham King Street Parcels' depicts a small, fictitious parcels operation with the end of a small station handling local passenger traffic. However, viewers are often surprised at how much will fit in to a layout of 22' by 3'.

Although the layout is fictitious, it contains many elements from the Oldham area. Oldham King Street station does now exist, though it looks nothing like the model - the first real King Street station opened much more recently - in 2014 as part of the Manchester Metrolink extension to Oldham town centre.

The parcels shed, or more correctly 'Parcels Concentration Depot', was scratch-built along with all the other buildings on the layout. It is representative of typical buildings of the Oldham area, but does not represent an actual location. The station building is closely based on the long-gone Clegg Street station, with its booking office above track level.

Parcels were an important local traffic in the late-1960s and early-1970s because a number of mail order catalogue companies operated in the Oldham area, having taken over redundant cotton mills to establish warehouses. The parcels trains are short (a maximum of eight vans) compared to their length in reality, but the intensive nature of the operation means that the layout often looks full and the shed is rarely empty.

The platforms contain a number of BRUTE trolleys ready to load or unload the vans. As is typical of the time, the parcels stock is heavily weathered, with dirty or faded paintwork being the norm. A wide and sometimes eclectic range of stock can be seen, from standard BR types to ex-LMS or LNER designs.

Passenger traffic does not amount to 12-coach main line trains, but then these were the exception on the Oldham Loop, often only seen during holiday weeks or for football specials. Instead, the passengers are conveyed in two-car multiple units, which were







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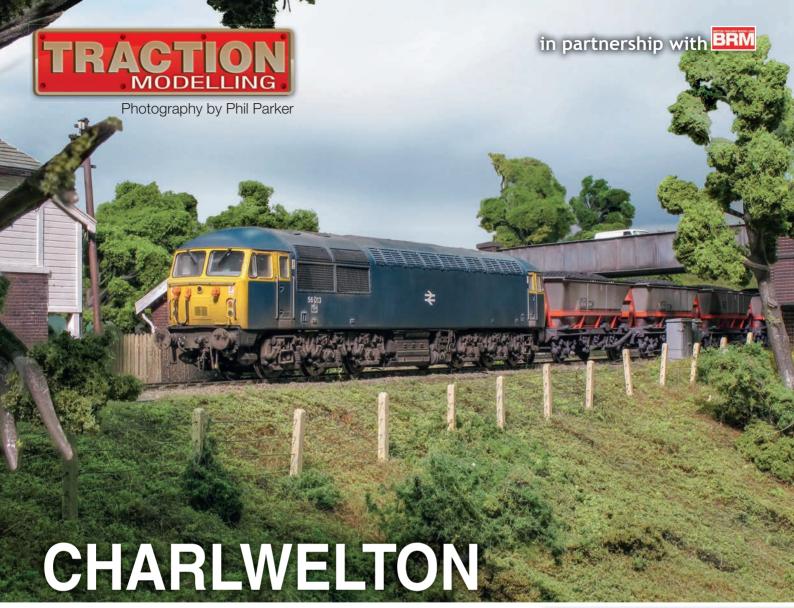
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The reinvention of this OO layout saw the CBM Diesel Group say farewell to steam and hello to diesel

harwelton was originally built by the Wolverhampton Model Railway Club and was exhibited as '50/60s steam. During construction, club members made several site visits to take photos and measurements of the remaining structures and anything else that they thought might be useful. The layout was exhibited by the club for several years before being put up for sale.

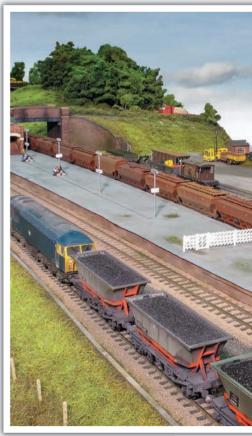
After being purchased by the CBM Diesel Group, a group of like-minded friends who all model BR Blue in the 1980s, it was decided that keeping the layout as a steam-era layout wasn't really possible. Work began on refurbishing the scenery, converting to digital control, making new control panels to enable the layout to be operated at both ends, researching and running prototypical length trains, plus solving any other problems that might appear as the other work progressed.

As an 18-road fiddle yard, rolling stock was always a worry for the group. A mixture of working timetables from the '50s and other possible traffic flows are used and now there is a variety of flows that range from steels, cement, grain, Freightliners to rail tours, DMU stoppers and even DMU replacements, with more being added as and when new items roll of the bench.

Locos are all detailed, weathered and DCC sound-fitted. Most have been renumbered and some are re-sprayed, using reference photos to create a realistic-looking loco.

Charwelton Station in Northamptonshire sadly closed in the '60s after the decision was taken to abolish the line. After closure and with the lines lifted, the station buildings were demolished and the island platform remained overgrown till the main road was lowered and realigned, resulting in the station overbridge being demolished to improve the access into the village itself.

There isn't really anything left today to say that the railway ever ran through this point. Some of the other railway infrastructure has managed to survive. Part of the loading dock, which is now covered in trees, along with some signal post bases and a couple of the back road over bridges. The old station and yard area is currently being developed into the Catesby Aero Research Facility and Science Park. The track bed leading up to Catesby Tunnel has been cleared and converted into an access road with the tunnel itself being converted into a state-of-the-art road vehicle wind testing tunnel to enable two miles of controlled atmosphere. A novel use I'm sure you will agree!











Words: Howard Smith & Photography: Tony Wright



Hornby Ruston & Hornsby 48DS

indly sent on-loan from Hornby HQ were samples of its new 48DS in John Dewar & Sons white and red (R3705) and Army green as No. 802 (R3706). Between 1936 and 1969, 189 standard gauge locomotives were constructed at Ruston & Hornsby's Boultham Works to evolving diagrams, until sales dwindled.

On test, the duo performed admirably around the first radius curves of our office layout. The slow-speed capability of the locomotive was exceptional, no-doubt assisted by the small diameter of the wheels. A compact three-pole motor powers both axles via miniature gears, and its torque, combined with the weight of the locomotive, is sufficient to haul 15 wagons with ease more than enough for the typical one or two wagons that the prototypes would handle.

Being one of the final ten 48DS locomotives constructed, entering service in 1961, No. 458957 has a strengthened buffer beam with extra side supports. Hornby has factored in this variation on this version only, changing the chassis detail accordingly. The prototype worked at John Dewar & Sons' Inveralmond distillery from new until its closure in 1994 and is currently preserved on the Caledonian Railway. One of two closedcab variants to be offered in this first batch from Hornby, the model measures just 54mm in length - for reference, that's 27mm less than the 'Conflat' wagon supplied. It's a small effort has been made on the cab, which locomotive indeed and its 21mm wheelbase makes it more than capable of negotiating the locomotives had three forward and three tight radius curves of whatever trackplan it might encounter.

The wheels accurately have four drilled

holes, yet the flanges appear overscale. The wheels are to RP25 standards, the smaller wheel diameter merely playing tricks on the eye. The cosmetic axleboxes are well captured, while side steps are integral with the die-cast chassis. Four separately-fitted lifting eyes further elevate the detail. I appreciate the bar protruding through the chassis sides for hand cranking - detail that shows the design engineers have closely studied prototype information.

Bonnet louvre, hinge, grille and radiator filler cap detail is admirable and a similar includes interior lever detail. The 7.5T reverse gears. Gear change was operated by a lever with no foot action necessary - each gear had its own clutch. Directional change





was operated by another lever in the cab, operating sliding dog clutches in the gearbox, with power to the axles via chains. Three levers are represented inside the cab, though these are mostly obscured with the roof in place. Should you wish to install a driver, simply pull the cab roof away and secure into place.

A representation of the electric lights at the front and rear of the locomotive is good to see, the silver-painted lenses of these items being simple to upgrade for more discerning modellers, perhaps with a clear lens, or an LED for more ambitious modellers. A six-pin decoder socket is installed, access to which is by removing four screws to the underside of the chassis. A small light modification would be an ideal weekend project for DCC modellers.

Decoration on both samples is to a high

overall standard, the location of the wasp stripes on the John Dewar & Sons sample matches photographs of the prototype, though the mask used to spray the steps and axle boxes black has resulted in a little overspray to the sides and guard irons. It still doesn't detract from what is my favourite livery from this batch and can be hidden with a little weathering, if deemed necessary.

It's the perfect candidate for industrial modellers who are seeking a new locomotive addition to handle the odd wagon around a site. From private permanent-way contractors to civil engineers, brewers, steel works, collieries, wood importers, creosote works, docks and today a regular site on heritage railways, there's ample opportunity to justify a 48DS on your layout. And if not, make an excuse - it's an excellent model rendition of these wonderful little locomotives. Full marks

Manufacturer: Hornby Plc **CATALOGUE REFS:**

Ruston & Hornsby 48DS and flatbed

wagon

No. 269595 (R3704)

John Dewar & Sons (R3705)

Army No. 802 (R3706)

Longmorn Distillery Queen Anne (R3707)

RRP: £79.99

Gauge/scale: 16.5mm gauge, 1:76

scale OO

Era: 4 to 8

Company/Operator: Various Private

Owners / BR

Weight: 76g + 21g wagon

Body: Plastic Chassis: Die-cast

metal

Couplings: NEM bar and clip, with



TRACTION MODELLING

Review: Sonic Models VEA Vanwide



he upgrade of British Rail's revenueearning fleet of wagons throughout the 1970s was progressive and many newer long-wheelbase designs were introduced with improved suspension for faster, more reliable freight flows. The majority of customers could accommodate these wagons. Ministry of Defence (MoD) sites, however, were often confined with internal railways, which had always been shunted by compact locomotives of 0-4-0 and 0-6-0 designs. The previous 12T vans were ideally suited to the tight radii. However, their aging design, restrictive speed limit and aging vacuum-braking wasn't suited to the modernisation of freight flows. The solution was found in the renovation of 550 of these wagons, which received an upgraded suspension, roller bearing axle boxes. Oleo hydraulic buffers, air-braking and screw couplings. The refurbishment took place between 1977 and 1983, with the revitalised fleet lasting in regular traffic flows until the early-1990s. A number were retained by civil engineers after MoD use.

A new Chinese manufacturer, Sonic Models, has entered the British market with the release of its first model of the VEA munitions van in N gauge. Distributed and assisted by Revolution Trains, the manufacturer is leading with the premise that

this is to be the first of numerous models in N and OO gauge. Promising times ahead for modellers, perhaps?

We've seen a sample from each of its three liveries, these being BR maroon, BR Railfreight red/grey and Railfreight Distribution grey/yellow. Each of the liveries are offered with a choice of running numbers, bringing the total number of wagon variants to 13 - an impressive figure for this initial release. Some wagons have specific data and hazard diamonds, in some cases depicting those that had torn off - information provided using archive photography by Paul Bartlett.

Tooling-wise, all wagons are identical, but detail abounds. Under-frame detail is exceptional with particular attention given to the brake gear.

The finesse of the 'V' hangers is worthy of note – incredible and yet everything feels solid, and components aren't falling off the moment the box is opened. Extended Oleo buffers are accurately modelled and when combined with the couplings included, the ensemble offers visual qualities to rival efforts in OO gauge.

Authenticity of the liveries is very effective and a clear effort has been made to place warning labels, TOPS and data panels in their correct position. The liveries scale well, the

yellow ends on the Railfreight example being a prime example of good colour coverage as it meets with the grey on the sides of the wagon.

Picked out in white across all three samples is a moulded impression of the lamp irons.

Words: Howard Smith Photography: Tony Wright

Manufacturer: Sonic Models
CATALOGUE REFS:

(NVEA-005B) VEA Vanwide RFD Grey/Yellow 230498

(NVEA-001E) VEA Vanwide BR Railfreight Maroon 230049 (NVEA-002B) VEA Vanwide Railfreight Red/Grey 230063

RRP: £19.95 each

Gauge/scale: 9mm gauge, 1:148

scale N **Era:** 7/8

Company/Operator: British Rail

Weight: 9g

Body and chassis: Plastic Wheel Profile: RP25

Couplings: NEM-mounted Rapido





Heljan releases Class 47 update

he Danish manufacturer has released first images of its longawaited O gauge Class 47, which replaces the first version launched more than a decade ago. This first sample is far from being the finished article, with a number of improvements set to be made before production starts.

Pictured is Version 3b, a later locomotive with high intensity headlight, ETH equipment and with the boiler tanks removed. Version 2 will cover the 1960s/70s locomotive with glazed headcode panels and steam heating boilers, meanwhile Version 3a is a later no-heat variant with headlights.

Heljan expects to release these models in late-2020.



Hornby launches app for model railway control



ornby is reviving this brand name and bringing 'Hammand & Morgan' well into the 21st century, though surprisingly not with a DCC control system. Its HM 6000 is a clever piece of circuitry, which allows you to control up to eight circuits, points and accessories via your IOS or Android 'phone or tablet using its free-to-download app. Connection is via Bluetooth, and the app has separate inertia and deceleration controls, too.

This is an entry-level solution that Hornby has devised for those that are new to model railways, or don't want the expense of buying a DCC control unit and an expensive decoder for every locomotive. The system is being offered at an unbeatable value-for-money price point (under £30) that's likely to leave many questioning if DCC control is still worth the cost of conversion.

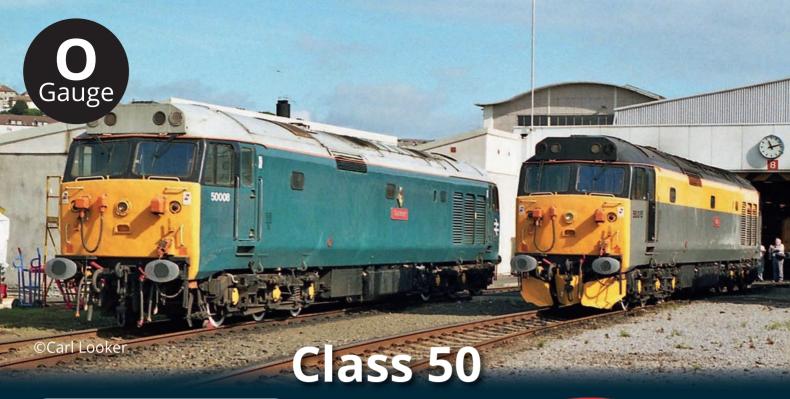
The advantage of control from your smartphone means that sounds can be played through the speakers of your device. You can also control your layout accessories using the layout trackplan design tool, if desired.

Hornby to produce APT in OO for 2020

wing to the collapse of DJModels, who was to produce models of an APT in OO gauge, Hornby has filled a market gap with train packs of the prototype in 5- (R3873) and 7-car (R3874) guises. Models of the Non-Driving Motor (NDM) vehicle 49004 (R3948) are to be made available separately, too, priced at £39.99. The manufacturer was keen to stress that these models are being designed in-house by Margate's design team (now its largest for many years) and have no connection with previous possible iterations.

Prices start at £394.99 for the 5-car pack to £484.99 for the 7-car pack. Additional two-car packs of TS, TRBS, TU and TF coaches are to be made available for the end of the year with an RRP of £89.99.





Features

- LED directional headlights
- Dual 5-pole motor
- Detailed cab interior
- Screwlink couplings
- Heavy diecast chassis
- Designed for sound installation

Produced by: **HELJAN**

IN STOCK NOW Order yours online:

www.hattons.co.uk/hel50

4020 BR blue - unnumbered

4021 BR large logo blue - unnumbered

4022 Original Network Southeast livery - unnumbered4023 Revised Network Southeast livery - unnumbered

4024 50007 "Sir Edward Elgar" in GWR green

4025 50149 "Defiance" in BR Railfreight general sector triple grey

4028 50049 "Defiance" in GB Railfreight livery - Ltd Edition

Exclusive to Hattons:

4026 50008 "Thunderer" in BR Laira blue

4027 50015 "Valiant" in BR civil engineers 'Dutch' grey and yellow (Both models are in 1990s Railtour Condition)







Features

- Rotating roof fans
- LED directional headlights
- Dual 5-pole motor
- Detailed cab interior
- Screwlink couplings
- Heavy diecast chassis
- Designed for sound

Produced by: **HELIAN**

IN STOCK NOW Order yours online:

www.hattons.co.uk/hel374

General Release (£509.15 each):

3740 BR green - unnumbered
3741 BR large logo blue - unnumbered
3742 Intercity Mainline livery - unnumbered
3743 EWS maroon and gold - unnumbered
3744 Regional Railways livery - unnumbered

3745 Railfreight triple grey - unnumbered

Exclusive to Hattons (£549 each):

3750 37401 "Mary Queen of Scots" in BR large logo blue with yellow headcode boxes

37408 "Loch Rannoch" in BR large logo blue with black headcode boxes





Class 37/4: from £509.15



Finding 'Rodney'

Elliot Hopewell continues his series of articles looking back at his days as a railway enthusiast.

've mentioned in a previous article how my father embraced the Family Railcard in the late 1970s, and early 1980s. This enthusiasm for train travel blossomed for me as well, and built a warm and happy period for me during my late junior and senior school days.

Let me take you back to July 1981. We have broken up for the school summer holidays, the first Friday of a lengthy seven weeks of freedom from school. This was the pattern we followed for the next four years.

It's seven p.m., and we are assembled on the old platform 7 at Lincoln Central Station. We have waved goodbye to Auntie Ann who kindly gave us all a lift to Lincoln and, with suitcases full to bursting, we board the local DMU to Sheffield. At Sheffield, Dad arranges for the suitcases to be kept at the left luggage office; indeed he has already sent one on to our destination. We have two to three hours to kill before we board the overnight service to despatch us to Par, then Truro, and finally Falmouth the next morning, so we walk the short distance to Berni's restaurant.

Coming back to the station in the dark

we patiently await the arrival of our train, and suddenly it arrives and pulls into the far platform against the stone wall, creating a chaotic sound. The loco is a big Class 46 and has come from Leeds or Newcastle. We get on, stow our luggage and collapse into our pre booked seats.

The chatter of the track drifts me off into a dreamy, happy sleep. I awake at three a.m. Looking around me everyone in the carriage seems asleep, arms at unnatural angles, heads lolling as if they have all been shot. We are at Temple Meads, Dad is outside sneaking a Bensons, and after a lengthy stop we continue. Sleep overcomes me again until we reach Exeter. The rabbits are busy along the lineside here, jumping and playing with each other. A little drizzle comes down onto the window as we head further west and finally we arrive at Truro, ready for breakfast at the local Wimpy.

The local Falmouth branch train drops us all at a station called The Dell, and we walk the remaining mile, suitcases cutting into our hands to Maen Valley caravan site, our home for the next two weeks.

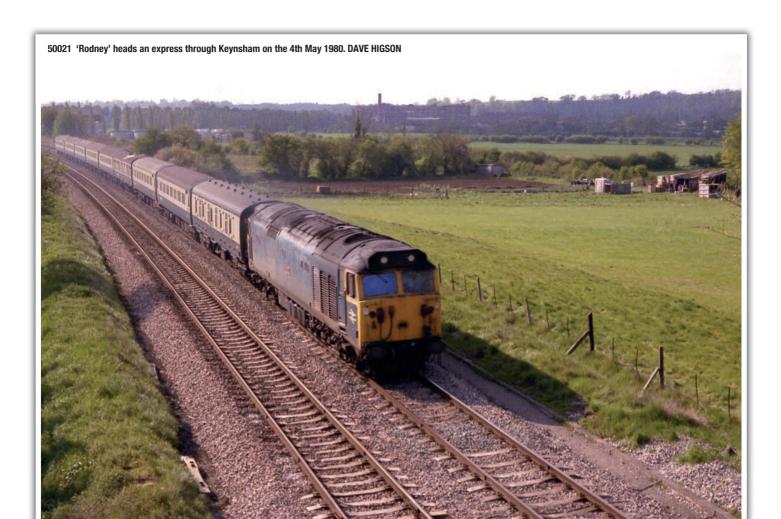
Dad talks to me about the locos and the

attractive Class 50s. Indeed, while waiting at Truro, we see my first one as 'Furious' roars in with another westbound express. I'm hooked and, from this moment onwards, they are associated with my holidays and therefore give me the true feel good factor for my hobby.

Fortnights in Cornwall

The fortnight in Cornwall is broken up with trips along the other branches and along the main line to Plymouth, with a trip around the dockyard to see the warships, as well as to Looe, Newquay and St Ives. On each trip I see a selection of '50s' on this first experience of Cornwall: 'Dauntless', 'Dreadnought', 'Exeter', 'Ajax', 'Lion', 'Invincible', 'Ramilles' and 'Howe'. I saw about twelve on this holiday which is a decent start.

Fast forward another year, and the year after that, and then the fourth year. The only change is the departure point for the overnighter, Nottingham not Sheffield, and we now have suitcases with wheels to make things easier. The routine is the



same, although the final destination differs: Newquay, Porthleven (Penzance) and Lamorna Cove (Penzance again). Another big Class 45 pulls into Nottingham station, and I watch some older boys take a rubbing of the nameplate. The 'Peak' runs around its train, and we settle in. This time we have a six seater compartment and a corridor carriage. My sister and I lounge out and sleep. The loco runs around at Derby and off we go again. The destination is Newquay this time, and I get off with Dad at Bristol, for the hour the train stands. The loco changes here and we get 'Valiant'. This year I stay awake longer, eager to see more '50s', and they come rapidly all holiday, so I can add another fourteen or fifteen to my exercise book.

Back in Lincoln, in about 1983, I learn from a friend that sometimes a '50' comes through with a test train, after overhaul at Doncaster Works. He claimed he'd seen this once, but couldn't identify the loco. Unfortunately I never saw this happen, but would like to know if they did come through Lincoln and ask readers if this ever occurred.

The following two years are similar, with us heading off on the first Friday after the school holiday break up. On one morning in Penzance there are four of the class in the bay awaiting duties....'Eagle', 'Achilles', 'Barham', 'Warspite', and a few days later, four more different locos in the bay platforms at the furthest west station. This time they are 'Collingwood', 'Swiftsure', 'Repulse' and 'Glorious' whilst 'Thunderer' is

also in the station ready to leave with a train.

The last year we only manage a week away but Penzance is again the destination, and by now I've seen about thirty of the class. This holiday I whittle down a few more while enjoying the beach at Marazion. On our last day in Cornwall, 'Monarch' is in the station, but our loco and train back home this year is 45006 'Honourable Artillery Company', resplendent in the sun at the head of our train in Penzance. She comes off at Gloucester. Stopping in Bristol on the way home I see 'Hood', coupled up in the middle roads with 33027 'Earl Mountbatten of Burma'. Both locos looking shiny and bright, paused between duties. 'Hood' was the one '50' I wanted to see, my Grandfather having served on this warship during the Second World War. Thankfully he contracted measles on shore leave and didn't return to the ship before her fateful voyage.

The next year we went on holiday to Scotland and, for a while, I thought I'd get stuck and not see the remaining eight or nine I needed to 'class' them. Some were now being withdrawn, although thankfully I had seen those. A pure chance encounter at Clapham Junction got me another whilst our stopping train to Brighton was standing in the station. 'Courageous' pootled through on a Waterloo bound train. Watching Lincoln City F.C. away at Bristol got me a couple more one Saturday afternoon, and 'Fearless', my penultimate loco, was caught on a day trip to Oxford on a school trip. (Lads being lads,

we went straight to the station instead of admiring the city architecture).

'Rodney' at last

A couple of years pass, and trains become a mothballed experience. Schooling and knuckling down are prevalent in my mind and I have to work hard to get some decent results. Dad's mate Nigel gives him a ring and they arrange a day away at Birmingham. Dad has to cancel but asks me if I want a break from the school work, and go with Nige. I felt like a day out and went along.

Nige was a newish railway enthusiast and was looking to me for advice and knowledge. After a couple of hours standing on the end of the platform, a Class 50 pulls in, but we can't see the number. "How do you know that's a Class 50?" Nige asks.

"Just from the front styling," I reply.
"They are all named after warships, which
is why I like them, and this will be your first
one, so let's take a closer look at her...I've
probably seen her before, I only need the
one to see all the class."

Walking back down the platform, the name and number details come into view, and standing back I smile broadly. "The first one for you Nige, is also the last one for me."





47115 passes through Sandy with a southbound express during rebuilding of the station. At this time all southbound trains were using the Up Slow line as the Up Fast was occupied by maintenance wagons, seen on the right. The picture was taken from the new southbound platform, which was built on the site of the former LNWR station.

Bottleneck removed at Sandy

British Railway's nationalisation was just a few months old when Chris Cole was born in 1948. His father was a life-long railwayman so, inevitably, they travelled virtually everywhere by train. At that time he was based in Peterborough, so Chris grew up to the sights and sounds of the East Coast Main Line (ECML).

e had relatives in Biggleswade, so it was not unusual for us to travel there by the local stopping service. From my aunt's house it was just a short walk to the line, and it was here that I took my first railway photograph. I must have been about ten at the time. My old Box Brownie cost almost £2 of my pocket money, but its basic functions were hardly adequate for action shots. Consequently those blurred, poorly composed pictures of Gresley Pacifics speeding past failed to survive for very long.

The area is now built up, but in the 1950s it was still open countryside, with views towards Sandy Warren. Ironically, I was to return here a few years later. My work brought me to Bedfordshire and I lived in Sandy during the early 1970s. By now the main line expresses were being hauled by Deltics and '47s', and it was locomotives from each of these classes that had already been involved in separate derailments at Sandy.

A week before Christmas 1964, D1521 became the first Class 47 to be involved in a serious accident when it ran off the Up Slow line and completely blocked all four tracks just outside Sandy station. Debris from the crash was temporarily dumped onto the



47428 passes slowly through Sandy with a down express. At this stage only part of the track re-alignment had been completed. Maintenance wagons occupied the Up Fast line. The picture was taken from the new southbound platform, which stands on the site of the former LNWR station. The new single span A603 road bridge was already in place.

All photographs showing the rebuilding of the station were taken on the 26th November 1977



Heading north on the Down Fast line, 47207 passes the site of the former Bedford line flyover. This view is looking south towards Sandy station. The stationary wagons shown in the above pictures can just be seen in the distance.



(ABOVE) 47024 passes through the new southbound platform at Sandy with an express. Maintenance wagons occupied the Up Fast at this time.

adjacent track bed of the Bedford branch. D1521 was subsequently repaired and continued in service as 47001 until 1986. Attempts to preserve it failed and it was finally cut up in 1994.

Five years later, the high summer temperatures of 1969 were having a detrimental effect on continuous welded track. One of several incidents that summer occurred just south of Sandy station on the 23rd of July, when buckled track derailed the down 'Tees-Tyne Pullman', travelling at over 90 mph behind D9015 'Tulyar'. The 'Deltic' remained upright, but ten coaches left the track; fortunately casualties were relatively light.

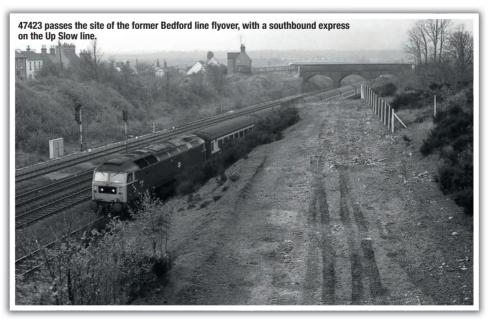
Today the modern ECML dominates the local landscape, but Sandy's early railway history was more complex than now appears on the surface. At about the same time that the Great Northern Railway was surveying its north-south route, a potential cross-country line from Bedford to Cambridge was also being examined, as an extension to the Bedford Railway's line from Bletchley. These early proposals were rejected, so the Great

Northern was the first to arrive at Sandy in 1850. Seven years later William Peel, son of Sir Robert, built a four-mile long branch line across his own land from Sandy to Potton. Its existence was short-lived, however, as the Bedford & Cambridge Railway finally obtained approval for its own route, and immediately absorbed the Potton branch into its scheme, relaying most of it and opening in 1862. Initially four intermediate stations were built between Sandy and Cambridge, plus one more on the Bedford side while another was added later.

From the outset the line was operated by the London and North Western Railway, which absorbed it completely within three years, running five trains each way on weekdays. From Cambridge the line skirted around the south side of Sandy Warren before running parallel to the GNR and entering the station as double track. This part of the station was built and run by the LNWR, adjacent to the earlier GNR station, with which it shared an island platform.

Continuing to Bedford as single track, the line was raised on an embankment, before crossing the ECML diagonally on a lattice girder bridge. A short distance further north, a spur was later built to provide wartime traffic with a direct connection off the ECML onto the Bedford branch, effectively creating a triangular layout. It continued in use until 1961, after which I remember seeing it used as storage sidings for a while. No trace of it remains today, as the whole area has been redeveloped.

In 1938 an LMS articulated diesel-electric unit, comprising 3 cars numbered 80000-80002, was tested on the Oxford-Bedford-Cambridge route. Although curtailed by the war, it was clearly an indication of future developments. The set was later converted to a 2-car formation and used for maintenance purposes on the Manchester to Altrincham 1500V DC line. In 1959 diesel railcars were introduced on most Bedford to Cambridge services.



All photographs taken after the rebuilding of the station were taken on 15th February 1980



55006 'The Fife and Forfar Yeomanry' passes a northbound HST as it speeds through Sandy station, with the 08:05 York to Kings Cross. It is seen from the new southbound platform.



No longer restricted by the bottleneck at Sandy, two HSTs are about to pass at speed on the fast lines. This view is looking south from the new platform.

For many years the widening of the ECML to a continuous four-track layout had been restricted at several locations. Sandy became one of those bottlenecks due to the presence of the Bedford to Cambridge line. Attempts to close that line in 1959 were defeated by strong local opposition, and this seemed to gain unexpected support when it was not listed in the Beeching Report. A year after its publication, however, closure proposals were

approved and the service was withdrawn at the end of 1967.

Most of the track was lifted the following summer, but it remained in place at Sandy until the mid-1970s when the flyover was dismantled and work began to rebuild the station. When I returned in 1977 everything had changed. Although the new track layout was not quite complete, both the LNWR station and the southbound main line

platform had disappeared without trace. In their place was a new southbound platform, leaving space for the two fast lines to pass through unhindered. In contrast to the modern building opposite, the original down platform and buildings remain as the only part of the station I remembered stopping at when I travelled this way half a century ago.

HST set 254 025 speeds south on the Up Fast, at the site of the former Bedford line flyover. The supporting walls of the flyover remain in place, but the old railway embankment beyond has given way to new housing developments and industrial units. The brick built minor road bridge seen in one of the 1977 photographs has been replaced by a single girder span, and new fencing has been erected beside the house, where there was once a level crossing on the Bedford line.





on the 'Old Bangers' Part 2

Mick Humphrys continues his account about working on the first generation of 25kv electric locomotives.

'Pocket Rocket' on the 03:50

Another interesting job I worked as a secondman at Euston occurred on the 6th March 1984 and proved to be one of my last high speed workings on the Class 82s and 83s. The train in question was the 03:50 papers, the 2A23 Euston to Bletchley. This working would often be allocated one of the early AC locomotives. The consist would be two or three Mark 1s made up of one or two NBV paper vans plus a BSK compartment vehicle which provided passenger accommodation as it also run as a staff train, calling at most principal town stations along the route.

The service additionally stopped at Queens Park, Wembley Central and Harrow in the North London suburbs. Heavy eyed with a 02:35 booking on time, and after a late night watching the Thompson Twins at Hammersmith Odeon, I joined Euston relief driver Steve Chandler on the footplate of 83015. Although Steve handled the train in a conservative manner, and myself likewise when returning light engine after disposing of the coaching stock in Bletchley yard, with a powerful 3300 hp locomotive on tap and a very light load of only around 90 tons some quite spectacular 'get aways' could be achieved. Additionally if one was brave enough with the vacuum brake, braking



The final first generation AC electric that the author drove was 85101 (formerly 85006) which is seen here at Warrington at the head of a southbound freight train on 14th June 1990. JOHN DEDMAN

could be last minute with some quite rapid deceleration. Ian Moore, then a relief driver at Euston, recently told me of when working 2A23 he had reached 80mph at Linslade Tunnel after a standing start at Leighton Buzzard. I should, however, add that his power for the day was the pocket rocket 86102 'Robert A Riddles', one of the three 5000hp '86s' which formed the prototype for the '87s'.

MP12 course

On November the 5th 1985, along with 10 other secondmen, I reported to the British Railway training centre based in an Art Deco building in Carlow Street in North London to commence my driver training course coded MP12. With a six months' duration, the course was divided into three parts: Part 1 Rules and Regulations; Part 2 Traction Theory; Part 3 Practical Train Handling. I will hopefully expand further in a later article detailing the driver training programme from the TRACTION era but for now just expand a little on Part 2 Traction. The basic traction for the course was to be for the Class 81-87 locomotives and, together with my colleagues, we set about learning the basic systems, the common features, the differences and the unique features of each class of loco. Over the next six weeks we looked at the locomotive from the ground up, being taught by our instructor Mick Jones who tried his best to impart some knowledge to us about the internal workings of the locomotive. I did and have always had a very keen interest in the traction so this part of the course was by far the most interesting.

The ethos of instruction was, correctly, that if you had an understanding and knowledge of how something worked you were more able to put it right should something go wrong! In those days of limited mobile communications the driver was very much on his own when it came to real time fault diagnostics and rectification. Many of the locomotive's electrical systems and pieces of equipment were protect by fuses; indeed the Class 82 had 52 driver changeable fuses! The rupture of each fuse, and more importantly its effect on the locomotive, had to be learnt; this was especially important when the fuse caused the loco to fail in service. Fortunately (told to me by his son Colin, now a driver instructor at Bletchley) a senior instructor driver, Joe Kempster, had some years previously, when the locomotives where brand new, introduced the anagram CAMFAFF as an aid to remembering the more serious 'failure' fuses; details of which are as below:

C = Camshaft
A = Auxiliary Control
M = Main Control
F = Fans & Pump
A = A.P.C
F = F.Z.R
F = F.I.P Class 85 only

Passout

With the theory learnt, the next ten weeks was spent train handling with the majority on the mainline and on the more modern Class 86s and 87s. I did retain most of what I had learnt on the older classes which was just as well as on my examination or 'pass out' traction theory day the footplate inspector conducting the exam, Jim Wolfe, decided to make use of a Class 85 sitting on the stops of platform 15 at Euston. Walking around the locomotive and through the interior Jim asked me to identify, it seemed, every last nut 'n' bolt, I must have proved OK as his smile definitely grew as he pointed ever faster to different parts of the locomotive.

First job

By the August of 1985 I was a fully qualified driver and I undertook my first driving turn on the 17th of that month, I have written in the pages of TRACTION before that the first locomotive that I stepped on as a driver that day was 50046 'Ajax'. The following day was a Sunday and the first notch of power I took on my own, and was totally responsible for, was on 87017 ' Iron Duke', working an empty coaching stock (ECS) service from Willesden to Euston. For my ECS return working I took control of 85004, which I was pleased performed without a hitch.

Another working in my first weeks as a driver involved an unusual ECS move. After preparing 85036, I ran it light engine from Willesden Carriage Sidings to Euston and attached onto a set of vacuum brake Pullman stock, which had worked up to the capital on a charter. This was returning to Bounds Green and my leg in charge of its journey involved a quick five mile blast on the down fast line to West London Junction. Here I was routed onto the Acton Lane reception lines which run parallel with the main lines alongside the former 1A steam shed (after being a Freightliner terminal it is now being used for ballast operations). Once clear of the mainline, I was pleased to be joined by a shunter from south west sidings who explained that I was to propel the consist back towards Mitre Bridge Junction and stop once clear of a ground position shunting signal controlled by Willesden Power Signal Box (PSB). With my nerve holding, as this was a completely new move to me, and for which my prior route learning and training had only just about prepared me for, I very cautiously set back under the hand signal guidance of the shunter. I was more than relieved upon stopping at the correct location and then, with the shunter hooking off the 85, I was able to run LE to Sudbury holding sidings.

Filming

Another unusual job I was involved in of an entirely different nature occurred during November 1986 when 82008 was the first locomotive to be fitted with a prototype National Radio Network (NRN) handset. The bosses at BR headquarters had deemed it necessary that a training video was required

to be made and after a couple of drivers a lot senior to me had 'politely' declined to be involved, I was asked. The filming was to be over two days and I was pre-warned that it could be a long couple of days; never one to shy away from overtime I was unperturbed. I was less than happy when given the format and script (compiled by an unknown manager) for the planned scenario. This was to simulate a train failure situation caused by a burst brake pipe, whilst on the Down Fast at Tring Cutting. The filming actually took place at the not very convincing substitute of the South Box holding sidings at Willesden Carriage Sidings (visible from Stonebridge Park station). The initial script contained many procedural and factual errors which I spent some time correcting and putting into a more 'common' realistic language which was more likely to be used. An oversight on my part to this was the term "many thanks" used instead of "thanks, cheers, TA" etc and for some months, and indeed years after, I was greeted by some as 'many thanks Humphrys'.

The scenario involved me, as the driver, contacting the PSB at Watford and advising them of the situation, using the NRN of course. After discussion the unlikely solution of a fitter attending to replace the brake pipe was acted out. This involved numerous usages of the NRN between me and the fitter with him at one point informing me, whilst in his van, that he was five minutes away. How he was going to park his van and reach me in Tring cutting in five minutes was anyone's guess, although he could have abseiled in true James Bond style!

The job did indeed drag on, with the first day taking twelve hours and the second thirteen and a half. On both days the full filming crew, which included an actor playing the fitter's role, bought out most of the stock of the local bakers, I have never seen a group eat so much. The completed video was a success and used nationwide in the training of drivers on the NRN network. The NRN was a new initiative to the railway at the time and, although it had limitations to its use in terms of operation and reliably, did prove its worth. Indeed it remained in use right up to 2012 when it was finally made obsolete by the introduction of present day GSMR (Global Satellite Mobile Communication).

Failed at Leighton Buzzard

NRN would have been useful on Monday June 2nd 1986 when on my very first mainline passenger working, I failed at Ledburn Junction on the Up Fast with 85030 on 1A55. This day started alright with me preparing the '85' in the holding sidings at Sudbury and then running light engine to Euston Down Carriage Shed (Note: This has recently been demolished to make way for HS2). Here I attached to six Mark 1 vacuum braked coaching stock which was to form 5A55 to Bletchley. Departing ten minutes early at 06:13, I had three unofficial stops to make, the first outside the booking on point at Stonebridge Park. This was to pick



82008 was the first locomotive to be fitted with a prototype National Radio Network (NRN) handset, with the aerial being clearly visible above the cab in this view at Euston on April 21st 1987. The author was involved with the production of a training film about the NRN. JOHN DEDMAN

up drivers who had finished their night shifts and were looking for a fast ride home. The next stop was at Watford and then again at Tring so I certainly got a bit of extra braking practice in. The last remaining colleague accompanying me on the footplate was one of my old regular drivers, the late Ron Aldridge.

Ron was a local work only driver and had a slightly nervous disposition, especially when on the mainline, and I vividly remember him becoming increasing agitated as he waited for me to apply the brake. This I purposely left just a little later than normal. Arriving at Bletchley on time at 07:15, a relieved Ron exited the locomotive before I came to a complete stand so I quickly applied power to draw into Bletchley yard. Here a shunter was waiting ready to hook the locomotive off enabling the run round move prior to the departure, a few minutes before 08:00, into Bletchley platform 7.

Departure was right time at 08:01 and, feeling quite important on my first mainline passenger working, I ran into a crowded Leighton Buzzard platform again right time at 08:09. With my happy band of commuters boarding and, although unknown to them at the time, their glum expressions were soon to be justified. Departing with the signal showing a two yellow cautionary aspect, I drew steadily forward past the single yellow and came to a stand at the junction signal number BY 4. This was indeed all as booked as my working timetable, open on the desk, showed my timings from here were booked on the fast line. A short wait ensued, whilst

a speeding class 1 (probably a late running 1A05) passed and sure enough BY4 cleared with a single yellow and the No. 4 route indicator illuminated, routing me onto the up fast

Looking across the desk at the working timetable to check the timings, I started to notch up power. One characteristic of a Class 85 was that when notching up to apply power from a standstill, one had to be careful to avoid overloading as with each notch power increased in quite large amounts. Without such care the small needles on the four ammeters could very quickly move up through the green and yellow sections into the red. Unfortunately trying to multi task was not a good idea and with my concentration temporarily focussed on time instead of power regulation, the locomotive lurched forward and then stalled with a large bang as I overloaded the locomotive. It took me a couple of seconds to register that all the systems on the loco had stopped and silence now filled the air. I then noted that the white line and electric train heat (ETH) light on the locomotive's desk had both extinguished and were replaced by the centre yellow fault light shining brightly. Not yet too perturbed, as a reset would hopefully cure the fault, my feeling of confidence was soon eroded as, after at least the regulation number of two resets, the locomotive remained 'dead'.

I quickly realised that I was blocking three lines of the West Coast Main Line and made my way off the locomotive to contact the signalman via the signal post telephone. A helpful though rather fed up signalman responded to my explanation of my predicament with the suggestion that he had a manned Class 31 at Bletchley that he would despatch via the Up Fast to me now. With assistance summoned I once more boarded my silent locomotive, observed by the ever increasing numbers of passengers whose heads appeared 'tortoise like' out of each available window.

My first course of action was to make my way into the engine room and inspect the fault indication panel (FIP); here the culprit identified itself with number 2 traction motor fault light brightly lit. Remembering that umpteen resets, or at least the regulation 2 had failed to rectify the fault, I inserted my driver's key which unlocked the switch enabling me to isolate the troublesome motor. With fingers crossed I returned to the cab and pressed the pan up/button, only to be met with further silence! Suppressing the rising panic and thoughts of 'why me' etc, I had one more light bulb moment and remembered the often quoted mantra from my not so recent drivers' course, "try a fresh start".

Quickly lowering the pantograph and turning the internal battery switch to off, waiting half a minute or so, then reversing the process, I was rewarded with the 85030 bursting into life. Selecting forward and trying for one notch of power, I was relieved to see the three remaining traction motor indicator needles rise into the green section of the ammeters. This, although it didn't seem like it at the time, had taken nearly 20

minutes or so, the minute hand seems to gather a pace when at a stand! As I made my way back to the signal post telephone to give the signalman the good news I heard the sound of an English Electric diesel engine as a Class 31, my assisting locomotive, drew alongside me on the up fast. I shouted across to the driver, "I've got it going", and then went to tell the signalman that I was good to go.

The signalman was at first slightly reluctant to let me loose on the mainline especially after going to the trouble of arranging assistance, but after some assurances on my part, I was given the signal and routed onto the Up Fast. With the remaining three motors working hard after a thankfully uneventful further journey, I arrived into Euston platform 7 at 09:05 some 25 minute late. The resident maintenance crew formed a greeting party and, after listening to my tale of woe, went to investigate. Having a bit of time until my next working, I waited for the results of their investigation and was somewhat disappointed to be informed that, after re-instating number 2 motor, no fault was found. Muttering that it did not reset earlier I hastily hurried away. My next working, an ECS to Wembley, was with 83015 which I'm pleased to say behaved perfectly.

ECS

My experience with 85030 proved to be both my first and last mainline class 1 passenger job with a Class 81-85 locomotive. Soon after, in March 1987, I was 'promoted' into link 5 at Stonebridge. I then spent the next three years, before my transfer in February 1990 back to Euston, working on the DC

North London lines (Ed. Mick will be relating his experiences here in a future issue of TRACTION). However, on a few occasions I did work ECS between Euston and Wembley with the remaining Class 82s and 83s, namely 82005, 82008, 83009, 83012 and 83015. These locomotives were now restricted to a maximum speed of 40mph and, due to their frequent visits through the carriage wash plants, had acquired a most weathered faded appearance. By early 1989 the Class 82s and 83s had all been withdrawn; my last working was in fact with 83015 on 8th January 1988.

83015 on 8th January 1988. With the introduction of the Driving Van Trailer (DVT) enabling push pull operations, work on the ever deceasing members of the pioneer AC locomotives became rare with just a few Class 81s and 85s remaining. These locomotives were of course not fitted with the necessary Time Divisional Multiplex (TDM) equipment to enable them to work in 'push pull' mode and this, combined with a restriction in speed of 40mph, saw their use very much restricted to local movements only. Locos fitted with TDM equipment could 'speak' to the computer in the DVT.

An exception to this was in times of severe locomotive shortage combined with the initial quite profound problems with Push/Pull workings (such as when the computer on the loco refused to speak to computer on DVT or vice versa) they could once more be pressed into service on the mainline, usually a Birmingham or Wolverhampton working being the shortest distance possible. Although I never did have the opportunity of once again roaring down the mainline, friends and colleagues Pat Baxter and Brain Fielder did. They both tell of a note being

taped onto the desk, signed and dated by the maintenance staff, authorising 'One trip only'. Upon arrival at the North bound destination the sign would be removed only to be replaced with another stating again 'One Trip Only'!

On 31st July 1991, whilst on a ferry turn at Euston, I was given the job of moving the very weathered 85006 (by then numbered 85101) from the buffer stops on platform 3 to the other side of the station. Here I was to stable the locomotive in the holding sidings which was located between the north end of platform 15 and the parcel and motorail sidings (now platforms 16-18). This movement involved departing via the down departure line which, as line X does now, went under the four main lines to cross from right to left. A change of ends was required just to the north of Park Street (the first short tunnel or over-bridge around 3/4 of a mile north of the station), before mainly coasting back south towards to the station. Once the locomotive was secured, with hand brakes on etc, I made my way back to the ferry cabin mess room for another cup of tea. Unknown to me at the time, that short simple move proved to be the last time I stepped onto one of the early generation AC locomotives and, as so often has been the case, another chapter of my railway career finished without any note or ceremony! 85101 was withdrawn in November of the same year, but made it into preservation along with cousins 81002, 82008, 83012 and 84001.

Thanks to Patrick Baxter, Brian Fielder, Ian Moore, Mal Service, Brian Shelly, Gavin Wrigley and Darren McNicol for assistance with these articles.



On April 21st 1987 85030 is seen at Euston between duties. JOHN DEDMAN



83012 has brought in another ECS working from Willesden and stands at the buffer stops at Euston on April 21st 1987. JOHN DEDMAN



Book review

or enthusiasts whose interest in railways developed in the 1970s, like your editor, it was a period of intense interest with feelings of excitement for the progress being made modernising the network, being counter-balanced by the serious problems that appeared from all directions.

Richard Harper's book captures the events of those years and tells the story in a highly readable way. As you would expect the book recounts the main themes of the changes that took place in the 1970s. It starts with a look back to the decline that occurred in the 1960s before the growth of Inter-City, which turned around the fortunes of long distance rail travel in Britain even before the introduction of the HSTs. Away from the main lines passenger services, both regional and suburban, varied considerably in quality and this issue is also discussed and how some of the problems were resolved. The changes in the freight side of BR's operation are covered, including the effect of industrial disputes, but above all the writer talks about the success of the modern concepts of block train workings in its various forms. Politics, of course, are never far away when it comes to the railway and the writer highlights the efforts of staff and the various chairmen of the BR board to overcome difficulties, especially around the issue of the "crumbling edge of quality" of service and how this was resolved. One of the books strengths is that it includes contributions from serving and former railwaymen who give a different perspective on the events as seen from the position of staff and management. The text is backed up with an excellent selection of photos, posters and facsimiles of documents.

This book is highly recommended reading for anyone with an interest in modern railway history as it could be argued that the 1970s laid the foundations for the generally successful railway that we have today.

S.Ra

Title: Any colour you like

Author: Richard Harper

Price: £25.00

ISBN: 9781916400115

Publisher:

Richard Harper/Kidderminster Railway Museum;

Readers may like to be reminded of a major event taking place shortly after the publication of this issue. The Midlands Garden Rail Show will take place at the Warwickshire Event Centre near Leamington Spa on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March. Over 30 leading suppliers and 15 layouts and displays covering many gauges will be in attendance.

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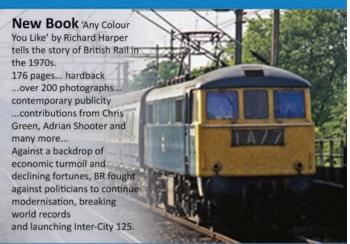
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Currently arriving in East Anglia is a fleet of Stadler bi-mode units (BMUs), of which No 755414 is seen on 2nd October 2019. The unit was working in diesel mode with its pantograph lowered, and had been to Great Yarmouth and back. Greater Anglia is owned by Abellio with backing from Nederlandse Spoorwegen, which probably explains why they chose Stadler units.

All photographs are by the author, Colin Boocock, unless credited otherwise

A brief history of pods:

"..... there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes Chapter 1, part of verse 9)

Colin Boocock muses over the arrival in Britain of Stadler multiple units with power pods inserted between the passenger carriages, and wonders where he has seen this before!

he biblical quotation at the head of this article ("...there is nothing new under the sun") is a reminder that what we believe to be new is not always so. There are in fact many inventions that have popped up in different places, claimed by different people as their own, and sometimes appeared many years apart. The invention of the jet engine is a case in point that is claimed variously by the UK, Germany and Russia.

My thoughts on this matter are prompted by the arrival in this country of new bi-mode Class 755 multiple units for Anglia that come from the Swiss firm Stadler and feature their traction equipment grouped neatly together in what I call 'pods'. Stadler have been producing units with central power pods for a couple of decades at least. I first came across one of their products running as a demonstrator and being used to shuttle visitors to and from a major railway event on the continent. This was a two-car articulated

unit with a central power pod articulated to the neighbouring ends of the passenger carriages. There was no passenger access through the pod.

The Anglia units are all bigger than this demonstrator. Their power pods are each on two bogies, still with the adjacent cars articulated off them. The modern units have full passenger access through the pods using a central corridor. The pods contain on each side of the central corridor the diesel engines and traction alternators as well as the associated cooling radiators, fans and equipment. The traction motors are at the outer ends of the train. Modern power pods have public access through a partially-soundproofed central corridor. Similar multiple units operate in many countries on the continent as Stadler has been very successful in selling them.

So what are the advantages of this arrangement? One, from the passengers' viewpoint, is the relative quietness inside

the passenger vehicles. Conventional DMUs and bi-modes usually have their engines under the floors of the passenger carriages, and this gives rise to inevitable noise, and often some vibration or rattling of fixtures. So grouping the train's noisiest equipment in a separate power vehicle reduces the noise heard by passengers. Aficionados of the UK's HSTs understand this well. It's one feature that makes the HSTs popular (not the only one by far!). Having the power vehicle within the train is an interesting variation. Putting the engines in separate vehicles enables the Stadler units to have lower floors, closer to the levels of the platforms. Articulations between pods and carriages reduces the number of bogies, reduces drag and cuts down the overall weight, all of which are properties of articulation anyway. In addition Stadler's use of relatively small power pods together with highly-rated traction equipment is also a weight-saving measure. I have written in magazines many times



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In a siding at Norwich station stands unit 755417 which is also operated by Greater Anglia. Its central power pod rides on two bogies, which its shares with the passenger cars fore and aft of it. Inside are four diesel alternator sets and their associated cooling groups, two on each side of a central corridor; two radiator grilles are visible on the sides.



Arriva in the Netherlands operates a fleet of Stadler units. Some are DMUs and others EMUs. This is one of the two-car-plus-pod DMUs, of Stadler's class GTW2/6, that work out of Nijmegen . The central power pod rides on a four-wheeled bogie in articulated formation with the adjacent coaches. This one is arriving at Nijmegen on 31st May 2019.





This is an EMU version of the Stadler system, classified GTW2/8, seen arriving at Zwolle on an Arriva Netherlands service from Emmen. The power pod is between the two coaches farthest from the camera. In this type, the pantograph is on the pod unit, whereas on the UK versions the pantographs are on the outer carriage roofs.



There is a prototype for everything! Arriving at Dublin Amiens Street station (now called Connolly) in July 1957 on a suburban service from Howth is Great Northern Railway railcar G, a two-car set with central power pod. The power unit rides on two axles, with the passenger cars articulated off it. This set, together with its twin railcar F, was built in 1938.

before about the advantages of articulation, which also include reduced maintenance costs because of the use of fewer bogies.

Is this really nothing new?

Well, yes, this has been actually done before! Introduced in 1936, a pair of articulated two-car diesel railcar sets was built in Ireland by that country's Great Northern Railway and put to work on suburban and branch line services. Another pair followed two years later in 1938. It was the latter that reminded me where I had seen the principle used on Stadler's Flirt units before. GNR(I) railcars F and G were still running when I first went to Ireland in the mid-1950s. They were based in Dublin and used on the Howth suburban branch line, while the slightly earlier units D and E found work in the north around Newry and Belfast.

The design of railcars F and G had a central power pod carrying two vertical Gardner diesel engines and their associated gearboxes and cooling equipment. The power vehicle had four wheels, each of the two axles being driven by one of the two diesel engines and gearboxes by means of cardan shafts to the final drives on the axles. The passenger saloons were lightweight, roomy vehicles, each with one outer bogie, the inner end riding on the frame of the power vehicle. There was no passenger access through the central power pod. In principle, this was just like the Stadler demonstrator I rode on in the 1990s, though the Irish units did have staff access. Actually, the history goes back even further

than 1938. The earlier railcars D and E were very similar, but each central pod rode on three axles, and the wheels were coupled on the outsides by coupling rods, just like a steam tank engine. So the two Gardner diesel engines drove the outer axles, the coupling rods transferring the drive to the inner axles as well as helping to avoid any wheelslip. In retrospect, this can be seen as overkill, over-provision of drive wheels, and the subsequent move to two driven axles on railcars F and G makes economic sense. But where did this idea originally come from? It actually goes back to 1932. The firm of Walker Bros. of Wigan sold a bogie articulated diesel railcar to the Clougher Valley Railway in Ireland; this the railway duly numbered 1. The railcar was unusual at that time because it had a power bogie at the front with the driving cab, Gardner diesel engine and gearbox all in situ on it. The drive was to one axle, and side coupling rods shared the drive with the other wheelset, just like on a steam locomotive. The passenger saloon vehicle had its own trailing bogie supporting the back of its frame, but the front of the frame was carried on the rear of the power bogie. The whole ensemble was unidirectional. Thus the railcar had to be turned at the end of each journey. No. 1 was short enough to fit on a steam locomotive turntable, so that's what happened at journeys' ends.

The three-feet-gauge Country Donegal Railways further north in Ireland liked what they saw, and purchased a fleet of similar, but larger, railcars from Walkers to enable them to sustain passenger services in the sometimes remote terrain that the CDR served. These were copied when CIÉ dieselised the West Clare Railway in 1953 and bought four of these narrow gauge vehicles for its passenger services.

The Great Northern Railway (Ireland) also bought three such vehicles for 5ft 3in gauge lines, designed on the same principles, for local and suburban passenger services. No. C1 was unidirectional, too, but C2 and C3 were coupled back-to-back with the leading car pulling the rear car dead as a means of two-way working. This is, of course, exactly how the Isle of Man Railway used the two railcars 19 and 20 that it purchased when the County Donegal Railways closed. 19 and 20 ran together as a half-powered pair, usually between Douglas and Peel.

Another 5ft 3in gauge articulated diesel railcar was used on the Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway, its railcar B, introduced in 1947. This also had an end power bogie with cab and traction equipment on board, but there was a driving desk at the other end in the passenger saloon; thus SL&NCR railcar B was the only duodirectional Walker railcar with an end power bogie. Railcar B was bought by the national company Córas Iompair Éireann after the SL&NCR closed in 1957. Numbered 2509 (shades of Gresley's Silver Link!), this vehicle saw over a decade of further use. It was the last of the Walker railcars to operate. It has been retained for eventual preservation. The GNR(I) was most perceptive when it developed this idea in 1936 with two trailing



GNR(I) railcar D was photographed on the Warrenpoint line in Northern Ireland after being taken over by the Ulster Transport Authority and renumbered 101. This unit was withdrawn in 1963 after 27 years use. The power pod rides on three axles that are coupled by side rods, which can be seen clearly in this picture. Colour-Rail



This is the vehicle that started it all! Railcar 10 of the Country Donegal Railways, formerly No. 1 of the Clougher Valley Railway, took the author across the border to Stranorlar, where it is seen resting briefly in summer 1956. The power bogie at the front carries the engine, gearbox, driving cab and controls; the passenger saloon is articulated off it.

vehicles articulated off a central power car; this proved to be the genesis of the central power pod system, which Stadler re-invented six decades later when launching the first of its many 'Flirt' units!

That original railcar of the Clougher Valley Railway has a number of claims to fame. Firstly, it was the earliest articulated diesel railcar to run in the British Isles.

Secondly, when the CVR went bust, the County Donegal Railways bought it in 1940 and numbered it 10 in their fleet; so, apart from a few demonstrators, it was the first diesel railcar to be sold second-hand in the British Isles. And thirdly, it was the first vehicle of any kind to carry the author of this article out of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and into

another country; this was when he crossed the border in CDR railcar No. 10 in 1956 to reach Stranorlar in the Irish Republic! So it's absolutely right that No. 10 is now publicly preserved and sits in the railway hall of the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, which is located alongside the small station of Cultra on the Bangor line out of Belfast. I do so hope that readers agree.



This side view of the power bogie of preserved Walkers CDR railcar No 18, standing at Fintown on the Finn Valley Railway heritage line on 8th May 2011, shows the way the carriage body rests on the rear section of the bogie. It also shows the side coupling rods that transfer the drive from the front axle to the rear one. The rest of the assemblage is a bit like a road bus!

When the two most modern CDR railcars, Nos. 19 and 20, were sold to the Isle of Man Railways, that body operated them in tandem with the leading car towing the rear one dead in either direction. On 31st August 1962, No. 19 faces Douglas while awaiting departure from the western terminus at Peel. These cars still exist, but restoration is very slow, if indeed it is progressing at all; officially they are in store.





Probably the most advanced of the Gardner-Walker railcars is former Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway railcar B, seen waiting at Belcoo in July 1957 for passport and customs formalities to be completed during a border crossing. This car had a second driving position in the rear of the passenger saloon, so did not need turning at journeys' ends. From its introduction in 1947 it shuttled twice daily between Enniskillen and Sligo until the railway closed at the end of September 1957. Since sold to ClÉ and used until 1971, it is now kept as an historical relic and was moved to the Downpatrick Steam Railway in 2005. That group see its restoration as a daunting project in view of serious corrosion, so it is likely to be a long time before we can see this running again.



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40012 is leaving Manchester Piccadilly with the Saturdays only 08:15 to Skegness on 25th August 1984. There were only three more weeks to go for this service with 40086 on September 8th and 40181 on the 15th. 40012 was withdrawn at Crewe Diesel Depot on 8th February 1985 after derailment damage received at Northwich two days earlier. It was moved to Crewe where it was eventually reinstated to become 97407 for use during the Crewe station remodelling scheme. Final withdrawal came on 4th April 1986 at Crewe Diesel Depot with a 9 inch crack in a bogie frame. It was bought by The Class 40 Appeal in June 1988 and now operates on the Midland Railway at Butterley.



Steve Woodhouse remembers the heady days of summer 1984 watching Class 40s at Manchester Piccadilly.

hat better place was there to photograph and make sound recordings of Class 40s than Manchester Piccadilly station? That's what I thought anyway. I wanted that classic engine start up and long periods of idling as they waited to leave the station, either on trains or thrashing out light engine. It was as though the station had been built with the visual and aural delights of '40s' in mind.

During the 1980s I made several visits to record the various workings on summer Saturdays and on Sundays, which were particularly good as the overhead power was always turned off so all trains were diesel hauled, several by Class 40s from nearby Longsight depot. Empty coaching stock workings were the best bet but the 08:35 to Bristol and 11:40 to Gatwick could also produce '40s'. Occasionally, engineering work would take place in the environs of the station which could also require a PW train or two, adding to the interest.

On Saturdays the Skegness and Yarmouth trains were good possibilities for '40' action. I struck lucky every time I went, although Class 47s would also often work the trains. During the afternoon the return workings



On August 26th 1984, 40143 worked 1V79, the 08:35 to Bristol as far as Birmingham New Street. It was withdrawn at Crewe Diesel Depot on 22nd January 1985 and moved to Crewe works where it was cut up almost immediately.

of these trains would arrive, as would trains from Hull and Sheffield which, fingers crossed, could also bring results.

Class 40 engine start ups were eagerly awaited and recorded, several drivers being agreeable to give their locos a good thrash off the blocks once the train was clear of the station. It was breathtaking stuff, to be followed by the apparent silence after the wall of sound had ended. I wanted to make the most of what was left. I was not disappointed, as they went out in style, shouting their presence to the rafters and overall roof of Piccadilly station.

These were the last few months of service for the Class 40s and I had no idea at the time that several would be reinstated for the Crewe station remodelling and modernisation scheme. I vividly remember standing on Crewe station and hearing what I thought must be a Class 20 whistling away behind a line of locos only for it to appear as 40060. What a surprise that was as, although they had all been withdrawn by that time, 40060 had been reinstated unbeknown to me, as there was no internet in those days to spread the news.

The only time I have been back since those heady days is on rail tours passing through and then fond memories flood back. Alas that's all they are now.



On September 8th 1984, 40086 is seen waiting to depart with 1E67, the Saturdays only 08:15 to Skegness, complete with commemorative headboard. The boiler is working well as it was a cold wet Manchester day! This was the penultimate working of 1E67. 40086 was withdrawn on January 23rd 1985 and moved to Doncaster Works for cutting up which was completed by the end of February.



It's late evening on September 7th 1984 and 40086 is surrounded by piles of mail bags as it sits after arrival with an inbound mail train. This was bread and butter work for Class 40s. The next day it would work 1E67 to Skegness.



40086 is seen arriving back at Piccadilly with 1M54 Saturdays only13:24 from Skegness. Obviously the loco had performed faultlessly.



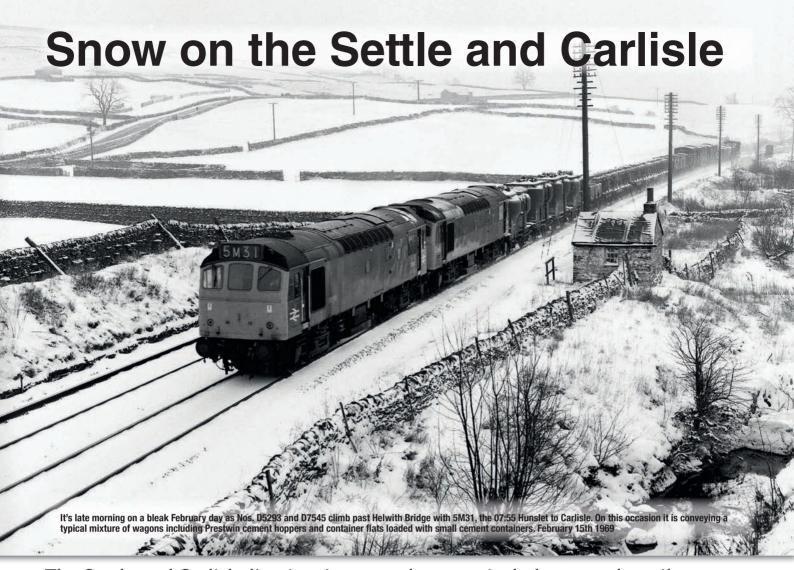
40181 stands in platform one on September 8th 1984 with the four coach 1M39, the 15:48 from Sheffield. I wish I had been on this train as it was passing through Totley tunnel to hear the loco's exhaust. 40181 later went down in history as the last Class 40, and indeed any loco, to work 1E67 on September 15th. 40181 was withdrawn on January 21st 1985 at Carlisle Kingmoor and cut up at Crewe Works.



On September 23rd 1984, 40135 has brought in the empty coaching stock from Longsight for a train to Euston. As it was Sunday, a Class 47/4 with electric train heating would take this as far as Crewe where electric traction would take over.

40135 was withdrawn on January 22nd 1985 from Newton Heath and moved to Healey Mills Yard and then to Doncaster Works where it was taken into departmental stock, renumbered 97406 and reinstated in May 1985. Its final withdrawal came on 16th December 1986. It was then moved via Bescot, Gloucester and Tyseley to Vic Berry's yard Leicester in September 1988 for asbestos removal. It returned to Crewe Diesel Depot by way of Toton and Bescot and was then handed over to the CFPS and renumbered back to 40135 at the East Lancs Railway in Bury.

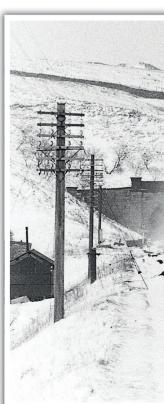




The Settle and Carlisle line in winter can be a magical place to take railway photographs and Gavin Morrison was drawn to it on many occasions.



After a challenging drive across the moors from Ribblesdale, the photographer has arrived in time to see No. D25 at the head of the down 'Thames-Clyde Express' stir up the snow as it approaches Dent station. Dent signal box is still in use although the down refuge siding has been disconnected. Up on the hillside the snow fences, whilst not in the best of condition, are still doing their job of protecting the line from drifting snow. February 15th 1969



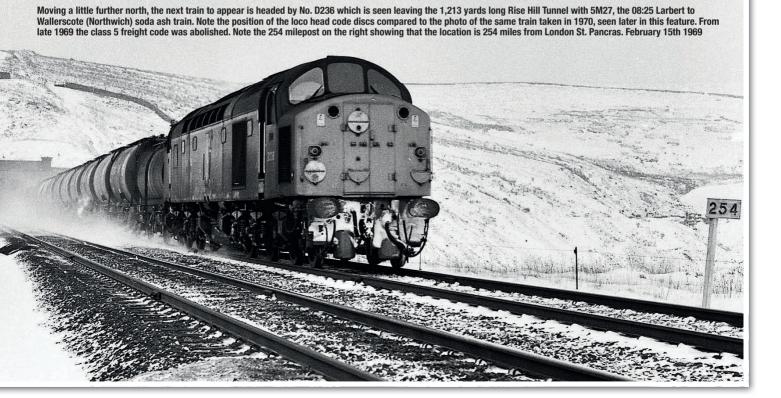


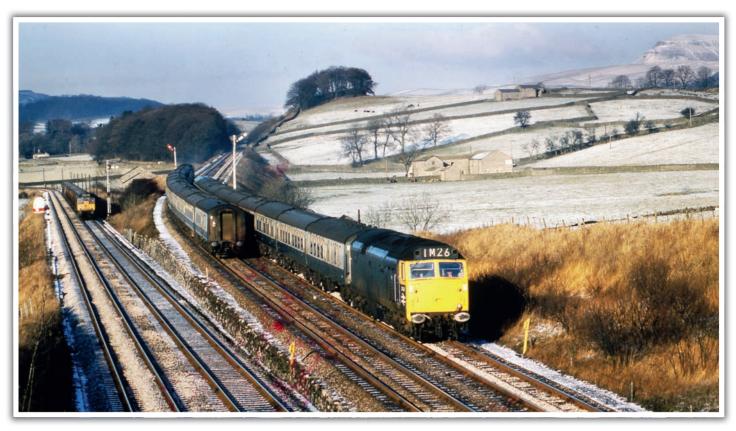


(ABOVE) Having left his car near the station, the photographer has walked along the lineside in time to see No. D5186 passing through Dent cutting with a northbound local freight, in this case 7L81, the Skipton to Carlisle pick up, which is conveying a variety of wagons to and from the various quarries along the line. February 15th 1969



(ABOVE) Shortly before it became dark another northbound freight appeared behind No. D336 which is seen passing through Dent cutting with 7P31, a Preston North Union yard to Carlisle working. Based on working timetable details this train is running very late, perhaps because of weather conditions, as it was scheduled to leave Preston at 22:15. Just visible in the background is a very short freight train headed by D415. This is probably the afternoon Carlisle to Skipton pick up freight which left Carlisle about 13:10. February 15th 1969





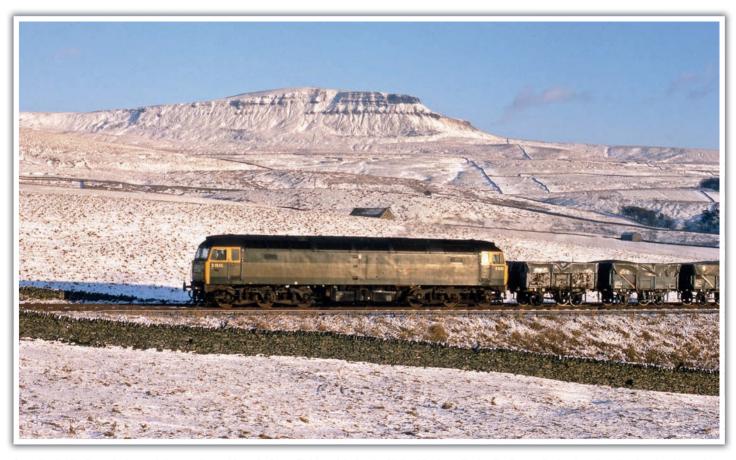
A visit in November 1969 found just a dusting of snow at Settle Junction but more significant amounts have fallen on the hills, with the slopes of Pen-y-ghent visible in the distance. West Coast Main Line diversions were in operation on this weekend and 1M26, a Glasgow to Birmingham express, comes south behind No. D437 whilst the down 'Royal Scot' heads north behind another member of the D400 class. No. D5175 is waiting to come off the Morecambe line with a Heysham Harbour to Hunslet container train with traffic from Ireland. 29th November 1969



D268 runs gently downhill just past Blea Moor signal box with 7M27, the 08:25 Larbert to Wallerscote (Northwich) soda ash train. Note the change in headcode disc position from 1969 photo of the same train as it is now running as a class 7 rather than a class 5 service. 14th February 1970



It's snowing in this view as No. 47540 begins the descent from Ais Gill summit with the 10:45 Euston to Glasgow. which has been diverted off the West Coast Main Line. April 2nd 1983.

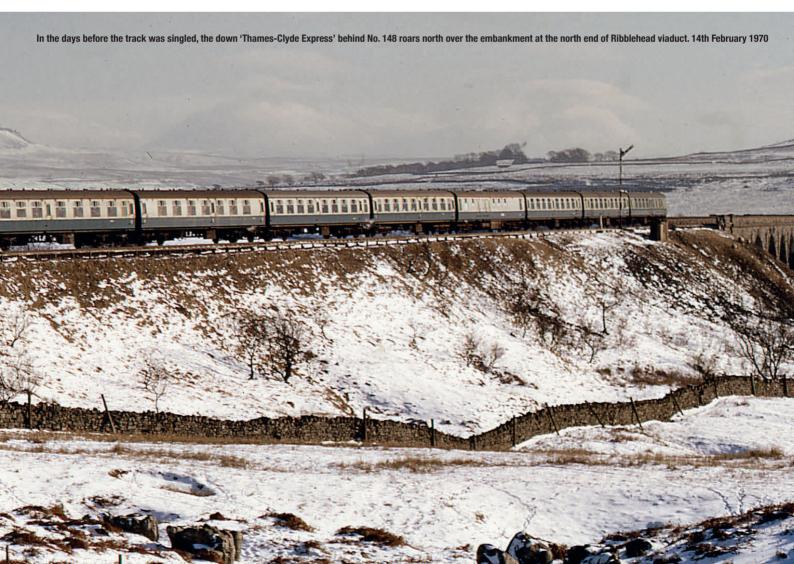


Green liveried No. D1545 had recently been reallocated from the Crewe Division of the London Midland Region to Tinsley. The Eastern Region depot has already painted its trade mark steam era shed code '41A' on the cab side. The Brush Type 4 is seen climbing past Horton-in-Ribblesdale with a freight that includes sheeted mineral wagons and is believed to be the Skipton to Carlisle pick up freight. 29th November 1969









Letters



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TEESSIDE CHEMICAL TRAFFIC



Since TRACTION 255 appeared I've been on the hunt for an interesting photo that I knew I had taken back in 2001 but, as it had been misfiled, it has taken me a while to find. However, I have now tracked it down. It shows a detailed view of the Hazchem warning panel carried on the side of the HCN tanks in the final years of that traffic.

By 2001 the hydrocyanic tank wagons (TRACTION 256 pages 14 and16) that worked from Seal Sands sported an unusually large hazard warning panel on their sides displaying both the symbols for a poison substance and for a flammable liquid. As far as I'm aware, this was the only instance of such a panel containing those two warning symbols side by side. Further emphasising the lethal nature of the cargo that they carried was the small red-painted box, fitted to each tank wagon on top of the side-protection plate, which contained an emergency medical kit in addition to similar kits that were issued to the train driver and guard. According to the 'Pink Pages' these kits were for the use of medical officers attending an incident.

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In fact all chemicals conveyed in tanks wagons were carried in their liquid state, including such chemicals as chlorine and anhydrous ammonia. The tank wagons used to carry them were built with stronger and thicker barrels than those in use, for example, to carry petrol or diesel. They were known as pressurised gas tank wagons but their contents were not being carried in their gaseous state. Chemicals such as chlorine are manufactured under sufficient pressure, and at a sufficiently very low temperature, to be in their liquid state and so can be pumped into the tanks wagons where they remain under pressure and in their liquid form during transit. Otherwise such movements would be both uneconomic and impractical.

DAVID RATCLIFFE

David J. Hayes would like to express his thanks to David Ratcliffe for pointing out this misunderstanding and for clarifying matters

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STEVE HORNER, DROITWICH SPA

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