

Trains On-line

THE Internet magazine for all 4mm / foot railway modellers

ISSUE: 9

DECEMBER 2004

Warley show visitors top 18,000 to break record



Taking a breather: A group of modellers take a break alongside the 2004 show's centrepiece exhibit, the Ffestinog Railways prototype double Fairlie locomotive, Livingston Thomas.

Scots ready for Modelrail 2005

AN HISTORIC section and a special children's area will be included at the 2005 Modelrail Scotland show, being held in Glasgow in February.

The event, which showcases the layouts of members of the Association of Model Railway Societies in Scotland (AMRSS), runs from February 25-27.

Among the dozen or so '00' layouts being exhibited by member clubs are three featuring the pre-nationalisation period, Barnhill Camp (Perth & District MRC), Carnocharn (Renfrewshire

MRC) and Newlandsfield to Becklesbrae (Weir Pumps MRC).

Ten guest layouts, including a number from south of the border will also be on display.

Also attending the event being held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), will be a number of Scottish railway societies.

ATTENDANCE at this year's National Model Railway show broke all previous records, with more than 18,400 people visiting the two-day event.

The event, held at the NEC, Birmingham and organised by the Warley Model Railway Club, featured more than 70 layouts and a wide range of specialist exhibitors.

"This year proved to be a real stunner and we have had a great deal of positive feedback from visitors", said the club's Marketing Manager, John Seward.

A dedicated 'junior modelling' corner proved to be a great success, he said, with 420 children completing a model over the weekend.

He added that the show's mix of quality layouts, specialist societies and traders continued to give visitors exceptional value for money.

Although the show passed off without any major problems, he said, there had been one or two transparent glitches.

Radio communications were interrupted on a number of occasions by someone transmitting on the same frequency.

Emergencies

"The lame brains that do this do not realise the trouble this can cause", said John.

"If security operations are hampered in this way, tracking down lost children or dealing with medical emergencies can be compromised".

Next year's NEC show will take place over the weekend of December 3-4.

Inside...

KINWARDINE Wharf, an essay in 009, is this month's featured layout and can be found on pages 5-7.

There is an update on the latest models on pages 3 and 4, while our regular club news can be found on page 14.

Some of the best 00 layouts on show at the NEC can be seen on page 15.

AND as a special Christmas treat we publish the first in a series of railway prints for you to print and frame.

NRM photos available online

THE National Railway Museum's collection of photographs may soon be available online to modellers.

The Science and Society Picture Library in London, working in partnership with CreateOnline Ltd, is to offer online the museum's outstanding collection of railway images as prints.

The web site contains images of railway networks in the UK and abroad, including famous locomotives, stations and vintage railway posters.

Many of the images have not been

published before and will be available to buy for the first time.

To celebrate the launch of the site a dedicated railways poster gallery has been created and more than 10,000 images are currently available, with more soon to be added.

This is the first phase of a scheme to put the entire NRM archive of 1.4 million images online and the web site can be accessed via: www.scienceandsocietyprints.com.

News in brief...

ILFORD and West Essex Model Railway Club is forming a Hornby Dublo 3-rail section and work is already under way on the first layout.

EXHIBITION manager for the Worthing Model Railway Club's autumn 2005 show is Mike Edwards, who can be contacted on 01903 764294.

KEIGHLEY MRC is to hold an open day on December 30 and is inviting adults and children to bring along their Christmas locos.

The club is making its layouts available for visitors to run their latest stock or to make use of their 20ft diameter test track with every scale from N to G.

SOLDERING is a pain, but some of the 'angst' can be avoided with a little expert tuition.

The Model Railway Club and the Association of Larger Scale Modellers are providing just that courtesy of a one-day course.

The event takes place on February 19, but places are limited. Check out their website for details.

WINNER of Hornby's October 2004 website competition was Paul Harrison, of Preston, who received a 'spanking' new A4 for his on-line efforts.

A total of 1,524 people entered the competition, of whom 1,242 provided the correct answer.

4mm Welsh perfection



A view across the station yard on the 00 gauge layout *Rhyd-y-Clafdy*, which proved very popular with visitors at the Warley MRC's annual NEC exhibition over the weekend of December 4-5. Exceptionally fine detail and a convincing backscene showed just how good modelling can be in 4mm/foot scale. The layout will be featured in a future edition of *Trains On-line Magazine*.

'Lost railway' is found in disused shed

A 'lost railway' in a garden shed was recently found by *Trains On-line* reader Jenny Hodge, of Ealing, West London.

She contacted the magazine after discovering the model railway in an unused shed at the bottom of her garden.

"We think it must have belonged to the old man who lived here before us, who was 92 when he died," she explained.

The tracks run all the way round the shed and there are lots of little stations and other items around it, she said.

"It is all covered in dust, but we wondered if anyone would be interested in it.

"I imagine that there is someone out there that might want to have a look at it," added

Jenny.

Following advice from the editor, Jenny checked with the son of the old man to see what he wanted to do about the layout,

However, he was happy to leave it all at the house.

"I think he probably took all the trains earlier, but I have spoken to an enthusiast in Greenford who is interested and asked for some pictures," she said.

Meanwhile, the layout continues to gather dust, but Jenny has promised to keep us posted!

Three layouts set for March debut

A VARIED and interesting collection of layouts and trade stands is promised at the North Downs Railway Circle's Spring exhibition—plus a number of layout debuts.

The event, which is being held on Saturday March 19 at St. Peters Church Hall, Woodmansterne, Surrey, will see the first appearances of the group's Hogsmill Light Railway, Nant (00) and the much enlarged Bryn Allyn and Rhydy Mwyn (00).

Andrew Walters will be bringing his OOn9 narrow gauge layout North Downs Light Railway, while Egham and Staines are bringing several 'micro' layouts.

Children

Exhibition manager Stuart Robinson said that special attention was being given to providing an attraction for children.

The show would feature three 'drive it yourself' layouts, including Derby Arms (Thomas the Tank Engine).

Proceeds from the event will go to St. Peters, Woodmansterne.

BINGHAM Model Railway Club has moved to new purpose built clubrooms at Owlthorpe, 4 miles south of Bingham.

The club is hoping the move will enable it to progress work on its new 00 gauge layout and a P4 scale competition layout for the 2005/6 season.

It is also hoped that the move will spark off an influx of new members interested in modelling in all scales.

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MODEL NEWS



Anniversary wagon range is extended

Barry and Penarth Model Railway Club, as part of its 25th Anniversary celebrations, commissioned a series of local private owner wagons from Dapol.

These are limited editions and a special 25th Anniversary numbered certificate has been produced for each wagon.

Three new wagons are now in stock—Barry Coal Company, Davies Brothers of Crumlin (below) and Leadbeter of Newport and Cardiff (top).

These are available to non-club members at £6.75 each plus post and packing.

Authentic

These wagons depict authentic liveries recorded in the official Gloucester wagon archives.

However, due to the limitations of the moulds available to Dapol, the wagons are not correct. In particular, the underframe should be



Above: Llanharry covered lime wagon number 37 has been added to the special range of anniversary wagons produced for the club.

wooden, instead of steel. Also where appropriate, the ironwork on the body should be painted black.

The club has also taken delivery of a second edition of the original Llanharry covered Lime Wagon.

This time the wagon

carries the number 37. A very small number of the original wagons (number 33) are still available for sale.

Full details of the current wagons and those issued earlier can be found on the club's web site: <http://mrc.murky.net/wagons.shtml>



Pete is show's star attraction

Leamington and Warwick Model Railway Society has a special attraction lined up for its show in the New Year.

Pete Waterman (of musical and railway fame) will be displaying items and photographs from his 7mm scale model of Leamington Spa (c.1950s).

He is hoping his visit to the area will give a boost to his research and welcomes information, photographs, contacts, etc, relating to the period.

The show, which is being held at Myton School, Myton Road, Warwick on January 22-23, will feature about a dozen layouts.

These will include two of the club's own, the P4 layout Clarendon and Measham (N).

Budding train drivers will have the opportunity of testing their skills with UK Train Sim, who will be setting up their three giant screen display using Microsoft Train Simulator.

Editor's space...

A QUICK glance in the shops leaves you in no doubt that Christmas is nearly here and with its arrival—we all hope—will be a new loco or coach to add to the collection.

And, while some of the predicted hot favourites, have failed to appear, there are a number of newcomers just asking to be included on the 'Santa' list.

Among these are sure to be the new arrivals from Bachmann, the K3s and the 'Jinty', and the superb Gresley coaches from Hornby—the blood/custard variants being ideal running mates for the K3.

As a break from the 'norm' on the review pages I have included two train sets and during the course of 2005 I aim to use them as a basis for a small layout.

Details are a bit sketchy at the moment, but it will be based on a GWR/Western region terminus that has no great claim to fame, other than being on a curve, which is crucial if the whole is to fit on a 4ft by 3ft board!

Progress is likely to be slow (very slow) as work will have to be fitted in around the magazine's needs and the ongoing demands of two web sites.

Watch out for progress reports...

I MADE my first visit to the Warley show in many years the other week, and I have to say I was astonished at how big it has grown, making even Hall 1 at the NEC look small.

As a 4mm modeller I concentrated my attention on that gauge, but I did sneak a look, or two, at some of the bigger stuff and was surprised how good it is these days.

If you only have time to visit one show a year then make sure the dates for next year's NEC bash are in your diary (December 3 and 4).

Crowds made viewing difficult at times on the Saturday, but when I visited on Sunday afternoon there wasn't a problem.

I am grateful for all the help offered me by Warley club members and the layout operators who posed stock for pictures for the magazine.

It is nice to know that the spirit of comradeship that modelling generates can survive the rigours of such a challenging environment....

MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL! — Ed.



Looking every inch the workhorse, the Bachmann K3 appears to be an attractively finished model...if you are quick you can buy one!

Bachmann K3s reach shops for Christmas

Bachmann's optimism seems to have paid off with several of their new models—including a splendid version of the LNER K3 in BR livery—reaching the shops in time for the seasonal 'spendfest'.

It now seems unlikely that the Collett Hall class

been ruled out.

However, the much delayed LMS 0-6-0 'Jinty' tank has finally arrived (in one version at least) and its sister

variant is on the way.

Meanwhile, the wagon range of Wales-based Dapol continues to grow.

Four new wagons were added at the end of November (see pictures right).

An NCB hopper, a 7-plank wagon and a Sheepbridge ore wagon will be added to the range at the end of the month.

Hornby's LNER Teak liveried Gresley coaches can now be found in five variants in the shops along with the BR blood and custard versions.



Bachmann's 3F Jinty 47354 (above), finished in BR Black (E/Emblem) is now available. The Bullied BRCW semi-open brake third (pictured below) completes the trio of new Southern coaches from Comet.



Dapol's latest additions to its range of 00 wagons include: A British Steel 21T hopper wagon (top), a seven plank open with plastic coal load (above) and an NCB ore wagon (below).



Layout of the month – KINWARDINE WHARF



Above: A view across the station complex on Kinwardine Wharf. **Left:** Taking a break the driver sits astride this unusual loco's motor! **Below:** Passengers waiting for their train pass the time admiring the neatly turned out loco.



Fictional scene has authentic look to it...

PERFECTION in miniature is how one viewer described Kinwardine Wharf and with good reason, for this small layout is a little gem.

There is an air of authenticity about it that belies its origins, as you will search long and hard to find it on any railway map...and without success.

It is the result of pure modeller's licence, though some of its structures do have a place in the real world.

The bonded warehouse, for instance, is based on one that still stands in Stourbridge in the West Midlands and the townscape is reminiscent of Welsh border towns, such as Ludlow.

Like most fictional railways, Kinwardine Wharf has a plausible history; as the

eastern terminus of the Vaenol Tramway it was built to link the village of Maesgog in Montgomeryshire with the Shropshire Union Canal at Kinwardine.

As was common with such railways built in the boom years of the mid-1800s it fell into decline after the First World War and was closed on the outbreak of war in 1939.

Its builder, Charles Insley, has set the scene in the 1920s after the introduction of diesel and petrol engined vehicles aimed

Continued Page 6...

Layout of the month – KINWARDINE WHARF



at giving the line a boost, and before the drabness of decline overwhelmed it

The 009 track layout is simple and is fed from a cassette fiddle yard system designed by his wife, Elizabeth, who also built a number of the wagons.

"It is supposed to give the feel of being on the Welsh borders in a town adjacent to the Shropshire Union Canal," said Elizabeth.

Planned well in

advance, the boards for Kinwardine were laid in 2001, but the arrival of their son, Alex, and a house move almost led to it being abandoned.

"Charlie was on the point of giving up last Christmas, even though many of the buildings were finished, but since February work on it just exploded," explained Elizabeth.

Fortunately, his renewed enthusiasm for the project saw track and pointwork

quickly laid, and work continued at such a rapid pace that it was ready to exhibit in July.

It has visited several shows since then, including this month's Warley Exhibition and the Soar Valley MRC show in Loughborough in September.

The layout is something of a family effort, for the buildings were made by Charles father, Richard, who

Continued Page 7...

Above: Neat and tidy...Kinwardine Station
Below: Cameo scenes can add greatly to the overall impact of a layout and there is much in this allotment view to interest the viewer.



Left: The bonded warehouse and wharf are a hive of activity as narrow boats laden with coal are unloaded onto the wharfside.



Layout of the month



built them in stages, sometimes completing one in a day. The station building, however, is Charles' work.

A wide range of stock is used at shows (Charles has several narrow gauge layouts) and it is rotated throughout the day.

There is a complete absence of ready to run vehicles, all being either scratch-built or kit-bashed. The narrow boats are based on Langley resin bodies, or are built from kits.

Above: Taking a break between turns, this delightful blue saddle tank loco is typical of many that could have been found between the wars on Welsh narrow gauge lines.

Although essentially complete, Kincardine is not finished, and much work was carried out between the Loughborough show and its display at the NEC.

Measuring a meagre five feet by 18 inches, it folds up into a box and while other exhibitors at the NEC

struggled to dismantle and pack their layouts, the Insley's loaded Kincardine onto a trolley and transported it back to the car park on the courtesy bus!

• *Kincardine Wharf will be appearing at the Moulton (Northants) show in March and at Stourbridge in April.*



Above: General merchandise is transferred between boat and wharf.

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Bachmann duo are ideal starter sets for modellers

WITH Christmas only days away it seemed an ideal time to take a look at two of the most recent train sets, 'The Coaler' and 'Local Suburban', both from Bachmann.

Most (if not all) railway modellers start their hobbies with a train set, either purchased for a child, or for themselves.

And for those already versed in the hobby, it can be a surprisingly economical way to buy locos and stock.

In the case of the freight set, the purchase price worked out slightly cheaper than buying the individual items, (with the track and controller as a bonus!).

The pannier tank in late GWR livery, two wagons and a 'Toad' brake van are all in the catalogue and require no comment.

A simple circuit of track and an electric controller are provided (not a battery powered one as was so often

standard fare in trainsets).

Given a suitable flat surface one can start playing trains 'out of the box'.

The suburban set, is slightly more expensive and includes a Collet 56XX 0-6-2 tank engine in unlined BR green livery with a later version of the crest.

Coaches

Two Collett main line coaches are provided, though it is debateable if such coaches were regularly found on suburban services in the blood/custard period.

Given that Bachmann has some perfectly suitable BR suburban coaches in its range they would have made a better choice.

Still, it is nice to have a pair of Collets in this

early BR colour scheme, as they do not yet appear to be generally available.

The brake coach, however, is the only one of the pair that is accurate, the composite (pictured below) is simply a 're-badged' Collet Third.

Like its goods counterpart, the suburban set features a generous oval of track, but also boasts a siding.

The mains powered controller completes the set.

Again, the contents have been available in the Bachmann catalogue over the years and are of the standard you would expect.

Modestly priced, either of these 'Western' based sets would make a good entry into the hobby.

All you need is timber, plywood, glue, etc, and you're away....



Above: The Coaler set (30-010) unpacked to show its contents. The controller comes complete with a 'plug in' mains transformer.



Above: The Suburban set (30-015), pictured still in its tight fitting foam packaging.



Below: The Collett Composite, one of two former GWR main line coaches included in the suburban set looks surprisingly good in its blood and custard livery.



BR 'Crab' looks the part in its working coat of grime...

It is easy to overlook the age of this Bachmann model, which is undoubtedly one of the best locos to come from the Leicestershire based company.

In its weathered state and early BR livery it certainly looks the part and brings to mind fond memories of these mixed traffic locos.

It's Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway pedigree (engineered by Hughes, plus a bit of Fowler) was evident when the class entered service and is successfully translated into model form.

The valve gear is among the best to be found on any 00 gauge model and the overall attention to detail is commendable (just check out the cab detail and the rivets on the tender).

However, the separate coal rails proved fiddly to attach and coupling the loco to the tender was a real test of patience...and once achieved proved impossible to reverse!

Livery details are of the standard expected these days and the makers plate is visible (just) under the grime.

Minor quibbles aside, there is no doubting the quality of this latest 'Crab' incarnation (32-179) and given its distribution in BR days I am sure most modellers could find a reason to have one.



Top: Handsome is as handsome does...the Crab's looks are accurately captured in this fine model. **Above:** A close up of the superbly rendered valve gear.



Left: A classic rear view shot shows of the heavy duty lines of the 2-6-0, while the cab and footplate area (above) has a truly authentic look. All that's needed is a suitably grimy crew to complete the scene.



West coast power crisis led to development of Class 50...

OCCASIONALLY a class of locomotive strikes a chord with railway enthusiasts. The Kings and Castles, Duchesses, A3s and A4s of the steam era certainly did and in more recent times it has been the Deltic, Warship and Western diesel locomotives.

The Class 50s, which survived in main line use until the early 1990s, look destined to join that elite group with preservationist groups ensuring that a fair number survive in working order.

Remarkably, around a third of the 50 locomotives built retains a tenuous hold on life—a fact that author **David Clough** highlights as being 'too many' for the resources available.

A recognised expert on railway performance, the author has been closely involved with the Class 50s from the start and, as a member the main Class 50 preservation society, is well equipped to chronicle its history.

Drawing on his own records and photographic archives, and those of others, he has produced what must be regarded as the definitive history of the class.

The 50s owe the existence to the motive power crisis that developed in the late sixties on the as yet non-electrified

West Coast line north of Crew.

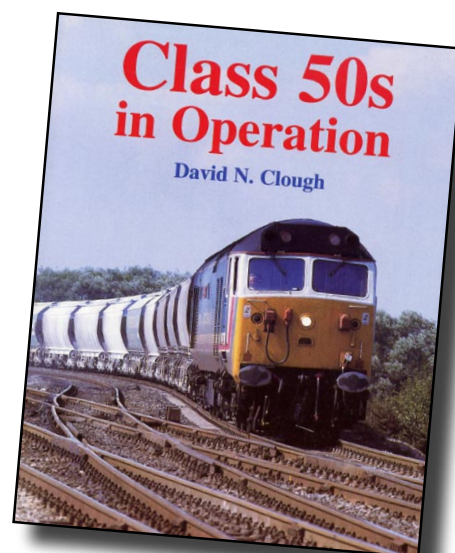
The first was introduced in 1967 and for the next seven years, until the completion of electrification through to Glasgow, they dominated the route to the north.

Displaced by the electrics they found new use on the Western Region as replacements for the hydraulics, and subsequently saw out their later years on the West Country services out of Waterloo.

This book chronicles their history from gestation through to withdrawal and contains pictures of each member of the class in various guises and there is an appendix at the rear of the book that gives a history of each member of the class, including its eventual fate.

There is a chapter on the locos in private ownership and a potted history of the 'Portuguese Class 50s', which a great deal in common with their UK cousins.

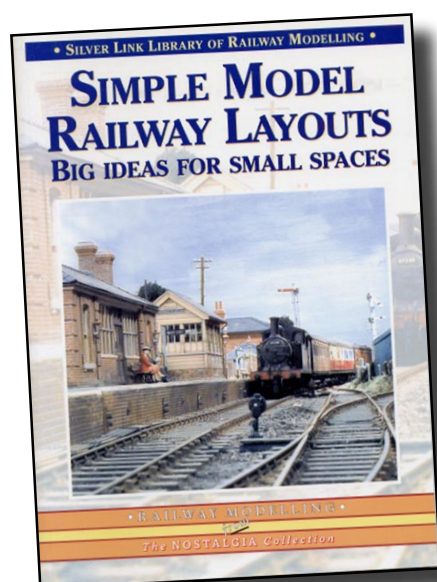
If you are a fan of the 50s, or



interested in BR diesel development, then it is likely you will not be put off by the £20 price tag. The absence of colour photographs, however, is disappointing.

Class 50s in Operation, Ian Allan, ISBN: 0-7110-2971-7.

Simple layouts book gets timely makeover



Silver Link through its Nostalgia Collection is steadily adding to its library of railway modelling books, and Simple Model Railway Layouts is the latest in the range.

Strictly speaking, having first been published in 1987, it is not a new book, but this 2004 version has been thoroughly revised and re-illustrated and limits itself to presenting ideas for small, fairly simple layouts that are inexpensive to construct and easy to house.

Each chapter is self-contained and features a layout design idea, including not only the obligatory 00 gauge branch line terminus, but also suggestions for an N gauge American layout and railway preservation centre.

The first two chapters are devoted to a look at basic baseboard construction and track laying and experienced modellers

will probably skip these.

The book isn't credited to any particular person and consequently has a 'committee' feel to it—no doubt each 'gauge expert' wrote a chapter.

Good books on modelling—any kind of modelling—are hard to find and while the technically challenged modeller or novice might find the book helpful, those modellers beyond the elementary stage would be advised to look elsewhere.

Despite the excellent photographs, and the generally good advice it contains, this £16.99 small format book is hard to recommend to anyone other than those wanting to make the step up from train set to something better.

Simple Model Railway Layouts-Big Ideas for Small Spaces, Silver Link Publishing. ISBN: 1-85794-226-4.

Scotland's grandeur captured when steam ruled the rails...

EVERY once in a while one comes across a book that is of such worth that its price tag becomes irrelevant. Scottish Steam featuring the impeccable photo works of the late W.J. Verden Andersen is one such book and even at £30 it is still a good buy.

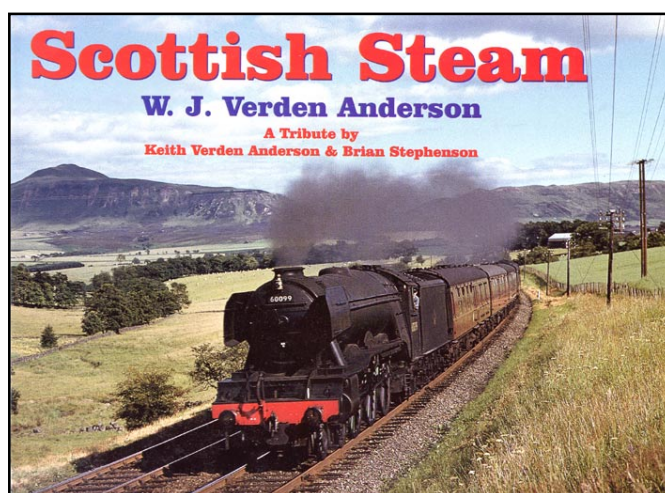
Andersen was one of the most famous recorders of steam operation in Scotland and over the years his images graced the pages of many books and magazine pages to critical acclaim.

Equally at home with colour or black and white film, this book represents but a small part of the collection inherited by his family on his untimely death in 1989 at the age of 57.

Put together by his son, **Keith**, and photographer **Brian Stephenson**, Scottish Steam is a fitting tribute to the vision and photographic skill that marked his work out from that of others.

Living in Eastern Scotland he was well placed to travel throughout the country and over the years amassed a huge pictorial record of Scottish railways in a period of change.

And, for once, the



publishers have not stinted on space—this is a large format book that often uses every inch of page space for a single picture!

Scotland is blessed with an unlimited supply of scenic backdrops, and there are many images that make use of this, but there are ordinary

work-a-day shots too, such as an LMS 4P compound hauling a rake of coal wagons out of Perth or the J35 hauling the daily goods out of Charlestown.

The whole range of railway imagery can be found within this book's pages; moody winter steam, scenic

panoramas, shed and station scenes, and shots of record. All were taken during the period 1950-1967.

Each picture is furnished with a detailed caption and there is an index of locations and locomotive classes at the rear of the book.

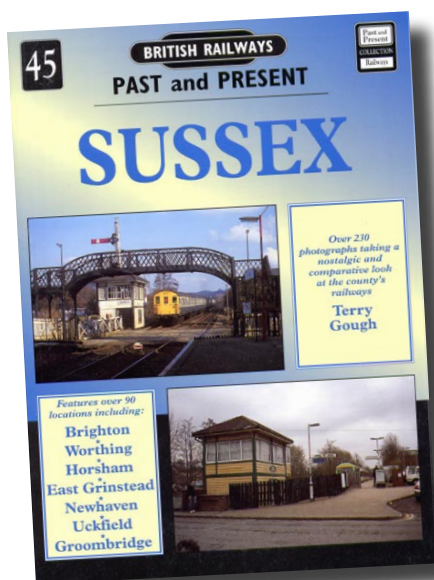
Scotland's railways have always held a fascination, not just because of the grandeur of the settings, but also because of the locos to be found north of the border—some of which worked almost until the very end of steam.

This is one of the best railways titles to be published in 2004 and no-one should let Christmas pass without, at the very least, ensuring it is on their presents list.

Highly recommended.

Scottish Steam a tribute by Keith Verden Andersen and Brian Stephenson, Ian Allan. ISBN:0-7110-2992-X.

Past and Present focuses on Sussex rail network



SUSSEX boasts a complex rail network even by today's standards, but it is but a pale shade of the network that existed before the rationalisation of many of its competing north-south routes.

The omission of so many centres of population from the current network map is all the more ironic when so many of the disused station sites have become housing estates!

The closures have been inconsistent too.

The line between Eridge to Lewes was terminated at Uckfield, which is still served by trains today, while the route from Eridge to Eastbourne was severed completely.

This leaves the Uxbridge resident with a very circuitous route to the resort! Yet the restoration of the short link to Lewes would make such a journey unnecessary.

Author **Terry Gough** highlights the

problem in this Past and Present book, along with others as he takes us on a journey in pictures across the region.

Electrification hasn't reached all parts despite the electrification of the ex-LBSCR lines in the 1930s, and the 230, or so, photographs show the steady transition of stock from the days of steam and early Southern electric units, to today's mix of hi-tech units.

All the major routes are covered, including the main lines to Brighton and Hastings, and the South Coast line and its branches.

As always the pictures present a mixed picture with the past and present scenes often in stark contrast.

At £15.99, however, these small format books are looking a wee bit expensive.

British Railways Past and Present: Sussex, Past and Present Publishing. ISBN: 1-85895-239-5.

Poking into those odd corners can be so rewarding..

Camping coaches, like water troughs and steam locomotive sheds, have long ago passed into memory, but thanks to books like *Odd Corners of the GWR*, we can at least get an idea of how things were.

Author **Kevin Robertson** has brought together a fascinating collection of unpublished photographs that shed new light on the history of 'Gods Wonderful Railway'.

As always with a book of this type, the author was faced with the difficult task of deciding what to leave out rather than what to include.

Fortunately, he has chosen wisely and the book covers a diverse range of activities and subjects, and, through the selective use of text and pictures, he reveals a slice of life that has passed into history.

A glance at the contents list will tempt you into chapters on stations and yards, trackwork, water troughs, and accidents and automatic train control.

The last mentioned is an especially rewarding read. The list of 1899 accidents at the beginning of the chapter shows just how frequent accidents were in those early years, though few, fortunately, ended with serious consequences for passengers.

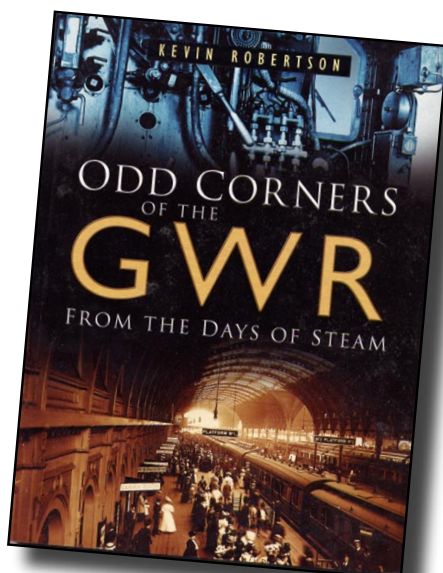
Not so for the driver of the through train from Birmingham to Henley-in-Arden (old station).

Having failed to stop his train as it ran down the 1 in 55 gradient, both he and his fireman jumped clear of the runaway as it passed though the platform.

The locomotive, two coaches and its passengers, continued through the stop blocks ending up in a field beyond the railway and four feet below rail level!

The passengers were shaken but uninjured.

The driver was not so lucky as his claim the 'rails were greasy' was dismissed and he was held to blame. Fined a loss of pay for six days and loss of bonus he



no doubt subsequently took great care to test his brakes well in advance of the need to use them.

The text of the book is littered with such anecdotal stories and is the richer for it.

The photographs—all in black and white—range from staged safety shots, shed scenes and crash scenes to the more esoteric vehicles that once roamed the Western rails.

These include a collection of views depicting the rather 'Heath Robinson' looking weed-killing train, the innovative petrol railcar of 1912, and a series showing the evolution of the Camping Coach.

At only £12.99 it is an excellent choice for whiling away the winter nights and luxuriating in the nostalgia of the moment. Recommended.

Odd Corners of the GWR from the Days of Steam, Sutton Publishing. ISBN: 0-7509-3458-1

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Club Scene

OFFICERS and committee members of the **Stafford Railway Circle** were elected without change at the club's annual meeting on Friday 19 November. Subscriptions were increased 'slightly'.

Revised arrangements for clubrooms opening will be in operation over the Christmas period. They will remain closed on Fridays 24 and 31 December, but will be open on Tuesday 28 December.

Normal opening resumes on Tuesday 4 January, 2005.

HUDDERSFIELD Railway Modellers 'Thomas' layout raised £120 at their 2004 exhibition held over the weekend of October 30-31. The money was donated to the Martin House Hospice.

HAYWOODS Permanent Way have awarded honorary life membership to Mike and Audrey Flavell in recognition of their continued support for the society by presenting regular and entertaining 16mm film shows.

The certificate was presented by club chairman Martyn Bourne.

FOR the second year running **Barking and District MRS** has been invited to exhibit a layout at the Festival of British Railway Modelling.

The society plans to take its 0-gauge layout *Marshwood* to the event, which is being held in Doncaster over the weekend of 12-13 February, 2005.

The club has confirmed that it will be holding an exhibition at the Sydney Russell School on March 19, 2005.

WEYMOUTH MRA has advised that it will be staging an exhibition in conjunction with Dorset County Museum over Easter 2005.

The event, which will be held at the museum, will feature a number of quality model railway layouts, preservation society stands, and static displays, together portraying the history of railways in the county.

MEMBERS of the **Twickenham and District MRC** have new clubrooms at Kerswell Hall, Wills Crescent, Hounslow. They feature level access with no stairs, a tea bar and on-site car parking.

Peak exhibition plans tinged with sadness

PLANNING for the 2005 Peak Exhibition is well under way, say the organisers, Wingfield Railway Group.

So far 12 layouts have been confirmed for the event, which is being held on June 11 and 12.

However, the event will be tinged with sadness, for a long time supporter of the group, Mike Baggs, died in October after a short illness.

A regular exhibitor at exhibitions staged by the group, Mike had plans to debut a new layout at the show and this will not now be shown.

A spokesperson for the group said: "He was a valued supporter of the Group attending exhibitions for many years with a variety of interesting layouts.

"These usually had a humorous theme, which always entertained both the serious modeller and visitors. He will be sadly missed".

The group is hoping to have 15 layouts on display including Wingfield Junction (00), Wintertown (00), Bogs Lane (00) and Kirkby

on Furness (Finescale 00).

A number of traders will also be present.

Golden expo

THE expoEM 2005 exhibition at Bletchley Leisure centre in May will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the EM Gauge Society.

The organisers hope to bring together many of the previous "Best Layout at Show" prize winners for the event.

Society hosts Swedish locos

THE Western Model Railway Society, Acton, found itself in the limelight recently, when it was featured in the 'Our Club' section of the Ealing Gazette newspaper.

Members were obviously pleased to have the publicity, even if the paper moved the NEC show from Warley to Worley!

The club exhibited its Grunfurter Strasse layout at the national show, so at least members—if not the local reporter—knew

where to go.

In October the clubroom (and permanent layout) was host to a delegation from **Adnals Järnvägsklubb** (AJK), for the operation of their trains in an indoor environment.

All of the trains were models of Swedish prototypes, or others

that would work into Sweden.

AJK is a Farnborough based club, dedicated to modelling Swedish railways in HO.

Although the number of AJK members attending was low the number of locos was high and the event was enjoyed by everyone.

Attention all club secretaries

Trains On-line Magazine **needs** your news, views and details of forthcoming events.

It remains our aim to expand our coverage of events/shows and general society activities.

If you would like your club or society (including those whose primary interests are railway history) and its activities to be featured in the magazine please contact us via the web site contact form, or e-mail the editor direct at the following address:

editor@trainsonlinemagazine.co.uk

Scene at the National show



Southern modellers will have delighted in the detail to be found on Treneglos (above), which is based on the LSWR's 'withered arm'.



Rural Wales provided the inspiration for the excellent GWR layout Rhyd-y-Clafdy, which boasted highly effective backscenes.



Above: Even in the best circles, the great hand in the sky is sometimes needed to right an erring loco. Below: Deep in thought?



A solo Class 20 makes steady progress with train of ballast hoppers on the sixties inspired Gorcott layout, which also featured detailed scenery and a host of cameo scenes throughout its length.



YOUR GUIDE TO 2005 EXHIBITIONS

ALL DATES FOR THIS MONTH CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB SITE

JANUARY

22 & 23 (Sat & Sun)

Leamington and Warwick Model Railway Society exhibition, Myton School, Myton Road, Warwick.

29 & 30 (Sat & Sun)

Pontefract Model Railway Show 2005 New College Pontefract. Further details & directions visit www.nprns.org or Tel 01977 553855

FEBRUARY

12 (Sat)

East Bedfordshire MRC show, Biggleswade, Beds. Further information: <http://www.ebmrs.org.uk/1112.html>

12 & 13 (Sat & Sun)

Festival of British Railway Modelling, Doncaster.

25 to 27 (Fri to Sun)

Model Rail Scotland, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow.

MARCH

5 (Sat)

South Hants Model Railway Club exhibition, Admiral Nelson School, Portsmouth.

12 & 13 (Sat & Sun)

Wyre Forest MRC exhibition, Kidderminster.

19 (Sat)

Woodmansterne Model Railway Exhibition (North Downs Model Railway Circle), St Peters Church Hall, Chipstead Way, Woodmansterne, Surrey. Further details tel: 0208 394 1474 or visit www.ndmrc.com

Barking and District Model Railway Society exhibition, Sydney Russell School, Parsloes Avenue, Barking.

19 & 20 (Sat & Sun)

Nottingham (Bulwell) MRS, East Midlands Model Railway Exhibition.

Epsom and Ewell Model Railway Club exhibition, North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT) Reigate Road, Ewell, Surrey. KT17 3DS.

APRIL

2 & 3 (Sat & Sun)

Crawley Model Railway Society exhibition, Tanbridge House School, Farthings Hill, Guildford Road, Horsham, West Sussex. RH12 1SR.

8, 9 & 10 (Frid, Sat & Sun)

TrainWest, Olympiad Leisure Centre, Chippenham, Wilts.

MAY

14 & 15 (Sat & Sun)

expoEM 2005, Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes.

JUNE

11 & 12 (Sat & Sun)

Wingfield Railway Group exhibition, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

JULY

2 & 3 (Sat & Sun)

Basildon Model Railway Club exhibition. Further details telephone: 01268-411603, 01268-462156, 01375-386512.

SEPTEMBER

17 & 18 (Sat & Sun)

Worthing MRC annual show, Boundstone Community College, Sompting. Further details telephone Mike Edwards on 01903 764294.

24 & 25 (Sat & Sun)

Halifax MRC Exhibition, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax. Details contact Geoff Bridge on 01422 371489.

OCTOBER

22 & 23 (Sat & Sun)

Norbury & South London Transport Club, 70th Anniversary Model Railway & Transport Exhibition, Fairfield Halls, Croydon, Surrey. Details: <http://www.fircroft.clara.net> or <http://www.norbury.club.new.net>

2006

SEPTEMBER

23 & 24 (Sat & Sun)

Halifax MRC Exhibition, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax. Details contact Geoff Bridge on 01422 371489.