

Trains On-line

THE Internet magazine for all 4mm / foot railway modellers

ISSUE: 13

MAY/JUNE 2005

Bachmann is upbeat on its new locos for 2005

Inside this issue...

THERE is a full round-up of club news on pages 12 and 13, including details of Barry and Penarth MRC's recent trip to Germany.

The featured Layout of the Month is Wells Green TMD, an exercise in modern image modelling.

Prototype Profiles takes a two-page look at the Class 56 heavy haulage locomotives.

This month's Review section, which can be found on pages 8-9, includes reviews of some of the latest railway and modelling books.

• The regular model review pages have been held over until the July issue.

TOOLING for all of Bachmann's promised 2005 models is well advanced, with the Ivatt Class 4 and Class 57 scheduled for release in late summer/early autumn.



Hornby's new 08

THE latest addition to Hornby's range of modern image locomotives, an all new replacement for its ageing Class 08 shunter, is now available in the shops in late 1950s' BR green livery as 3256.

It features extensive detail, sprung buffers, cab interior detail, NEM couplings and is DCC ready.

Glasgow club told to 'quit' factory

WEIR Pumps Model Railway Club has been made homeless after receiving a notice to quit Weir Pumps Engineering factory premises in the Cathcart area of Glasgow.

Although the club ceased to exist on June 3, members will continue their hobby under a new name—Glasgow Model Railway and Tramway Group.

Secretary Andy Russell

said that at present the club had no premises to hold its meetings, but talks were taking place to secure a new home.

The group's e-mail and contact numbers remain unchanged.

The Standard 9F is progressing well, says the company, with test moulds and running chassis due early next month (July).

The Fairburn tank locomotive is now in the tool room.

Tooling for the revised Collett 57XX pannier tank is now finished and the model, which will fit on the Blue Riband 8750 chassis, will benefit from an improved cab and bunker.

Work on the Class 108 DMU is also well advanced; the model will feature bi-directional lights and two styles of roof and will be DCC ready.

In addition the Pullman coaches will be going into production in the next month or so and will feature fibre optic lighting.

No change...

OFFICERS and committee members of the DEMU (Diesel and Electric Modellers United), were all re-elected unopposed at the group's annual meeting, which was held after the DEMU Showcase event at Burton on Trent on June 4.

EM group notch up 50 years

THE EM Gauge Society marked its 50th anniversary on May 15 with a special expoEM in Milton Keynes.

The society invited back a number of "Best Layout" winners from previous events and supplemented them with some of the finest 18.2 and 18.83 layouts on the exhibition circuit today.

These included Chris Lamacraft's Ashburton (18.2mm), Geoff Kent's Blakeney (18.2mm) Phil Eames' diesel and electric layout, Calcutta Sidings (18.2), and Steve Hall's Halifax Kings Cross (18.83mm).

The event also featured the final showing of the South Hants MRC's Midsomer Norton, an 18.83mm gauge layout, which recreates the atmosphere of the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway.

The society was formed in 1955 with the aim of encouraging modellers and OO manufacturers to adopt the gauge of 18mm (subsequently 18.2).

News briefs...

COLCHESTER and District Model Railway Club open day was held at the Orpen Hall, West Bergholt on Sunday 3rd April 2005.

The club's annual exhibition takes place October 29-30 at the Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester.

Three EM/P4 and five 4mm/00 layouts have been confirmed.

They include Belsay (LNER), Maiden Lane (ECML), Saxby (BR-ER) and Warmington (modern image).

CRAWLEY MRS held its annual meeting on Friday May 20.

BRIGHTON Model Railway Club's annual exhibition has a new venue.

This year's show will be held on November 12-13 at the Patcham Community Centre and Library.

Confirmed layouts include Thornbury Hill (00) and Kiln Road (00).

CHATHAM and District MRC's 2005 show takes place June 11-12 at No 5 Slip, Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent.

FOLKESTONE, Hythe and District MRC is to hold an exhibition over the weekend of October 8-9 at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone.

Layouts booked to attend include Buxton, Chagford South Western, Etton and Peak Quarry.

ERITH MRS has fixed the dates for its next three shows: Bexley (in association with Bexley Model Centre) September 24-25, Wilmington in October and Dartford (Temple Hill) January 28-29, 2006.

DEMU showcases layouts at Burton

A SHOWCASE event for modellers and enthusiasts of the Post-modernisation era of British rail was staged in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, on June 4.

Modelling room gets makeover

RENOVATION of Barry and Penarth MRC's new modelling room is nearing completion, it was reported at the club's annual meeting on May 3.

The facility is much appreciated by members and the chairman intends to open it on some Saturdays to enable members to share their expertise, particularly in kit building.

David Temple, Bernard Davies and Mike Rimes were re-elected unopposed as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

An election was held for the other four committee places and John Chivers, Simon Evans, Vanessa Howells and Nick Rees were elected.

Brian Clarke was re-elected Honorary Auditor and Howard Jupp agreed to continue as librarian.

The chairman thanked Mike Curtis and Alan Gifford for their service on the previous committee.

The committee was thanked for its effective stewardship of the club's resources.

The exhibition at the Town Hall, Burton, was organised by DEMU (Diesel and Electric Modellers United) and featured more than ten layouts.

These included Chessington Chalk Lane (EM, SR third rail) and Widnes Vine Yard (00, North West, present day).

Also on show were four entries for the 2005 DEMU 'Small Layout Competition', the brief for which was to design, build and exhibit a layout featuring electrification within a total area of 750 sq. inches.

The winner was James Makin with his 00 gauge layout Wells Green TMD (see Layout of the Month, pages 5-7).

The event also featured a number of modelling demonstrations and

displays, including one commemorating 50 years of the BR Modernisation Plan.

Around two dozen traders supported the event, which next year will be expanded to two days.

Showcase manager Alan Monk said the show proved to be 'an excellent fun day out for anyone interested in D and E modelling' and that it had been better than the previous year's.

Autumn exhibition

FOLKESTONE, Hythe and District MRC is to hold an exhibition over the weekend of October 8-9 at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone. Layouts booked to attend include Buxton, Chagford South Western, Etton and Peak Quarry.

Open day success

BASSETLAW (North Notts) Railway Society's club room open days—organised in association with Retford's Charter Day celebrations and held on May 1 and 2—attracted around 250 visitors.

The event, which is held once every two years, featured the club's '00' gauge model railway Idleforde Junction, together with a display of local railway photographs.

Other exhibits included a Tri-ang TT layout, Thomas the Tank Engine and Old Castle Lane.

The next open days will be held in May 2007.

Clubs' layouts on show

FIVE clubs were planning to hold 'open days' during May and June.

Weymouth MR held its event at Upwey and Broadway Memorial Hall, Upwey, Weymouth on May 21.

Four club layouts were in operation, along with a number of demonstrations.

Entry was free, though a donation to charity was requested.

Hazel Grove and District MRS was due to open its doors to visitors on June 4.

Free entry

Entry to the club's premises at Hazel Grove Methodist Church, Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport Cheshire was free.

There was an invitation to 'bring your own stock' from Preston and District MRS, who were operating layouts in a range of gauges on June 5.

Sudbury MRC stages its annual open day on June 12 at Long Melford Village Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk.

Enfield Town MRC is charging £2 for entry to their open day, but expects to have around a dozen layouts in operation.

The June 25 event takes place at St Paul's Centre, Enfield, Middlesex.

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MODEL NEWS



The latest version of Bachmann's Jubilee class to reach the shops is 45697 'Achilles' with 4,000 gallon tender and in weathered late BR green livery.

Dapol's new wagons on schedule for July

DAPOL recently released new photographs of its forthcoming milk tank and nine-plank wagons.

The six-wheeled tank is on schedule for release at the end of July and will carry United Dairies livery.

Other planned versions will include Express Dairies (September), IMS (November) and West Park Dairy (December).

The first release of the nine-plank in BR grey will be available at the end of August, with Gas, Light & Coke (October) and Charringtons (November) to follow.

This new nine-plank wagon will also be included within the range for special commissions.



Dapol has begun initial spraying of its six wheel milk tanker (above) and its nine plank wagon (below).



Reader's plea for information

JIM Corbett, of Warrington, Cheshire, has written to Trains On-line with the following plea for information:

I am very interested in the class 08 and 09 diesel shunters and I am wondering if you there are any videos available of them in operation?

Also, I am trying to find out what happened to 11 diesel shunters that worked Arpley sidings in the 60s and 70s. I lost track of them when they were renumbered.

The original numbers are 12070-12075-12076-12078-12100-12102-3834-3835-3836-3837 and 3851 (I have been told that 3851 became 08684).

What happened to them and where did they go to?

Any help would be very much appreciated and I can be contacted on jimcorbett336@hotmail.com.

Please get in touch with Jim by e-mail (and Trains On-line) if you can help.

Editor's space...

IT IS easy to make the mistake in thinking biggest is best, but where model railway shows are concerned there is a lot to be said for thinking small.

The DEMU Showcase event was a case in point. There the *number* of layouts was irrelevant, for the standard of modelling and operation of the exhibits was of the highest order.

All of them were rich in detail and rewarded those prepared to spend a fair bit of time studying them—something that is often impossible at events with 20 or 30 layouts to see.

And the layouts themselves don't have to be huge (though some were) to hold your attention. Just check out this month's featured layout to see what I mean.

LATER this month I will be heading for Scotland and spending a week in and around Glasgow.

With a bit of luck I will be able to visit some of that city's model railway clubs and take in the Perth show on June 25/26.

As an Englishman it is all too easy to focus on what is near at hand and forget that there is a vibrant modelling scene north of the border. The opportunity to 'snap' a few Scottish inspired layouts and to make new contacts is too good to miss.

THIS is the second combined issue of the year and I hope to revert to a regular monthly publication with the July edition.

Production difficulties arising from ill-health have made it impossible to maintain the web sites and produce the magazine to the standards I would wish.

There is much work to be done on the Archive site, which has been largely untouched for a month. This requires considerable updating and the incorporation of material into the 'empty' sections.

Anyone who would like to contribute photographic material to the Archive, or has news for the magazine, is welcome to drop me a line ... I try to respond within 24-48 hours.

MODEL NEWS



North Eastern newcomers
join Bachmann range....

Above: The latest version of Bachmann's A1 locomotives, 60156 'Great Central', recently arrived in the shops. It features late BR green livery and a rivetted tender.



Left: LNER fans will no doubt welcome the arrival of this new weathered version of the popular J39. Numbered 64960, this 0-6-0 is attached to a 4,200 gallon tender and carries early BR black livery.

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Layout of the month — WELLS GREEN TMD



Taking time out for a chat : Two workers stand deep in conversation as Class 90040 passes slowly through the washing plant at Wells Green TMD.

Burton competition winner is a real masterpiece in miniature



Tight squeeze: Employees cars are parked adjacent to the refuelling point and the train crew's Portakabin.

DESIGNING a layout to fit in no more than 750 square inches would be a tough challenge for an experienced modeller, but Wells Green TMD's creator, James Makin, is only 18 years old.

Even more surprising is the fact that this masterpiece in miniature is his first exhibition layout!

Measuring a mere 62 inches by 11 inches it just scraped under the competition limit set by Diesel and Electrical Modellers United (DEMU) and was judged the winner at this month's Showcase Event at Burton (see news story page 3).

The competition was announced in 2003 and James created his winning 00 gauge entry

on boards originally built for a Southern layout.

"The boards proved to be just the right size to meet the competition requirements and it was inspired by the depot at Crewe," he explained.

Although third-rail electrics are the normal fare near his home in Worthing, James has a passion for overhead powered electrics and visited Birmingham and Crewe to gather reference material for

Continued Page 6...

Layout of the month — WELLS GREEN TMD



Tight squeeze 2: Space is always at a premium at Wells Green, especially when there is a 'full complement' of locos on shed.

Wells Green.

The bulk of the work was carried out during the past six months with the aim of producing a small section of a much larger maintenance facility and featuring a range of AC electric locomotives in a 'grimy, gritty atmosphere'.

"The depot concentrates on undertaking routine maintenance to locos and includes a locomotive washer and a diesel fuelling point enabling a wide variety of motive power to appear," said James.

The structures on the layout are a mixture of scratch built and proprietary models.

The catenary portals are etched brass kits by N Brass Locomotives, while the wires are by Sommerfeldt.

Corrugated plastics and styrene strip were used to create the backscene, which represents typical depot buildings and includes an administration

section with a detailed boardroom interior.

Portakabins from Knightwing's range of buildings were used to construct a small set of offices and another serves as the train crews' mess room (it even includes a pool table!).

A great deal of attention has been paid to the detail on the layout (check out the photographs).

The vehicles, from Busch, Herpa and Wiking, have all been detailed with added tax discs and number plates, while the refuse collection lorry has been repainted, detailed and weathered to represent a Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council vehicle.

The layout's next outing will be at Worthing MRC's show at Boundstone College over the weekend of September 17/18.

More pictures Page 7

James Makin's tiny layout abounds in detail. The work of the graffiti artist is captured (right) on the washing plant wall, while below refuse collectors go about their daily business.



Layout of the month — WELLS GREEN TMD



A Class 66 (above) prepares to leave the depot, while a Virgin Class 47 (below) waits at the refuelling point.



An overview of the depot (right) shows its cramped location, while a railman (below) enjoys a quiet moment on a busy day.



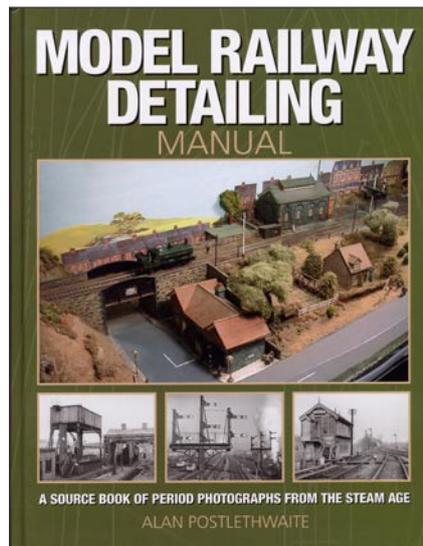
Detailing manual focuses on pictures of sixties scene

BOOKS that set themselves the task of being 'source books' invariably make a rod for their own backs, for it is virtually impossible to produce within the confines of a single volume all that may be required to fulfil that bold definition.

Author **Alan Postlethwaite** has subtitled his book 'A source book of period Photographs from the Steam Age', though its coverage is limited to a period between 1958 and 1967.

As an experienced modeller he is well placed to judge what photographs might be of interest, and has selected more than 300 from his own collection to create a useful library of illustrations.

They are arranged in 70, or so, two page 'mini-chapters' and cover subjects such as Tunnel approaches, Riverside settings, Loading the goods, Country stations and Brick bridges.



As might be expected of the period covered, the age of the subject matter varies from the pre-Grouping era right through to BR and encompasses the

whole range of items that contribute to the railway scene.

Like so many black and white photographs of the sixties they reward careful study and while a handful are of doubtful merit, most have something to offer the modeller and enthusiast.

The range of locations, however, is limited in the main to the southern half of the UK and those seeking inspiration for Scottish, North Western or North Eastern layouts will have look to elsewhere.

Unlike many 'so called' source books this boasts a useful index, a list of references to aid further study and a list of abbreviations.

Although this hardback book has its limitations, it only costs £16.99 and as such can be recommended.

Model Railway Detailing Manual: A Source Book Of Period Photographs From The Age Of Steam, Haynes Publishing, ISBN: 1-84425-201-9.

Signalling way ahead for construction...

NOT a new title but one that has been given a new lease of life, this is the first in a series of books entitled Mainline Modelling from Booklaw Publications.

Author **Mike Nicholson** is a self-confessed 'signal buff' and has been fascinated by signalling for close on fifty years.

Aimed at laying the foundations for a correctly signalled model layout, he takes the reader on a brief tour of how the prototype railway signals trains between boxes.

Having read the first three chapters modellers should be in no doubt about where to place signals and what form they should take. The remainder of the book takes a look at how to research and construct

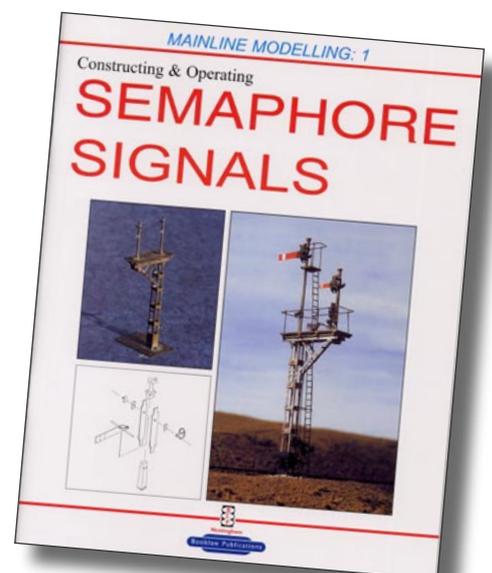
different types of signal.

Profusely illustrated with photographs and line drawings the book contains signalling layout plans and photographs of prototype and model signals.

Where appropriate scale drawings are included, though care is needed when using these as a check with a scale rule reveals many are incorrect!

Books on signalling are not common, but this £9.99 softback can only be given a qualified recommendation and is perhaps more suited to those with considerable scratch building experience.

Constructing and Operating Semaphore Signals, Booklaw Publications, ISBN: 1-901945-31-6.



Rich range of industrial steam portrayed in style

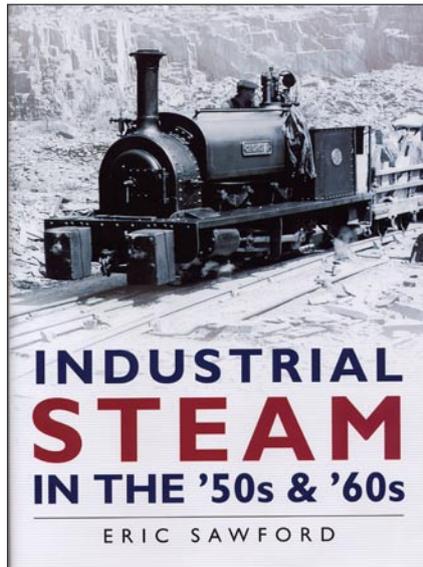
INDUSTRIAL steam locomotives have never enjoyed the same appeal as their main line counterparts, even though it was industry that spawned the use of steam power and continued to use it long after BR had abandoned it.

Yet a rich range of styles, gauges, and locations could be found across the UK and offered the photographer a wide selection of subjects.

Eric Sawford was one of a small band of enthusiasts with an interest in both main line and industrial steam and this collection of black and white photographs illustrates how diverse Britain's industrial railways were.

The majority of the photographs are in classic portrait style, featuring locos at rest rather than straining to move their usually heavy loads, but nonetheless form a valuable record.

Within the books 148 pages can be seen examples of some of Britain's most famous builders including Hunslet, Pecket, Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., Andrew Barclay, Manning



Wardle, and Kitson.

Early examples include a 1877 built Manning Wardle 0-6-0 (number 641) still at work in 1956 and boasting large wooden buffers, small saddle tank and polished safety valve cover.

This classic period piece can now be found preserved on the Bluebell Railway.

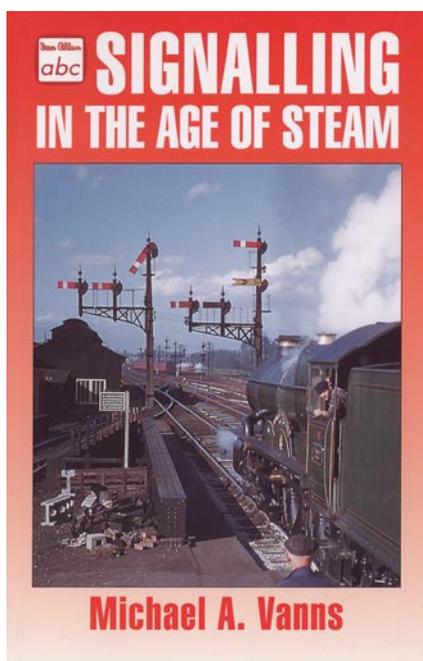
A handful of former BR locomotives eked out their twilight years in industrial service too, and included a 1902 built Caledonian Railway Pug (Corby steelworks)!

The book is arranged into three sections—Four Coupled – Standard Gauge, All the Sixes – Standard Gauge and Other Gauges—with one, or two, pictures to a page. Captions are brief, but adequate.

Modellers with a keen interest in industrial or narrow gauge locations will find this book particularly valuable and the photographs will provide much information on detailing (both locos and the scenery).

However, its £19.99 price tag might make it a tad less appealing to those with more mainstream interests.

Industrial Steam in the '50s & '60s, Sutton Publishing, ISBN: 0-7509-3646-0.



Signalbox secrets revealed

RAILWAY signalling is something of a mystic art for many enthusiasts, whose knowledge is usually limited to observing its operation from afar.

Of course, modernisation of the railway industry has swept away much of the traditional signalling scene, but some conventional signal boxes survive and still control semaphore signals.

This reprint of the classic Ian Allan *abc* provides a simply written history of the traditional methods and mechanisms used to control movements on the railway, including block working, interlocking, lever frames and signals.

Author **Michael Vanns'** traces the evolution of signalling in the UK and does much to dispel the mystery that surrounded the secret world of the steam age signal box and explains how trains were kept running safely.

Fully illustrated with photographs and line drawings the book forms an essential guide to this vital aspect of the railway industry.

At only £8.99 there's no reason not to add it to your library of railway books.

abc Signalling in the Age of Steam, Ian Allan Publishing, ISBN: 0-7110-2350-6.

Club Scene

ALTON Model Railway Group is to stage its 'Alton Limited' event on Sunday July 17 at Eggars School, Alton. Half a dozen layouts are currently booked to attend along with a number of specialist traders.

The 2004 event, the first held at the Eggars School venue, was the group's biggest and best attended Limited to date. Members are hoping to build on its success.

MEMBERS of Haywoods Permanent Way will be visiting the Leighton Buzzard Railway and the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre on Sunday June 12. The club's biannual show will be held on October 29-30 at Great Haywood Memorial Hall, Great Haywood, near Stafford.

ABINGDON and District MRC members were given a demonstration of scenic modelling by Roy Hickman at their meeting on May 6. An introduction to DCC was planned for their workshop meeting on May 20.

HISTORICAL Model Railway Society (HMRS) members decided at their annual meeting that the joining fee for the society should be abolished.

THE Western Australia Branch of the Australian Model Railway Association staged its annual exhibition on 4th-6th June at the Robinson Pavilion, Showgrounds Exhibition Centre, Claremont, Western Australia.

BOLTON and District Model MRC is to hold its 2005 show at a new larger venue, St. James C of E Secondary School, Lucas Road, Farnworth, Bolton. Layouts currently booked to attend include North Leith (00 Finescale), Portpatrick (00), Ashleigh (EM) and Port Eithrin Railway (4mm Finescale).

THE winners at Bradford MRC's show held at Bradford Cathedral Community College in April were Katamitu (Japanese N gauge) and North Leith (Citadel) (00), which was awarded the Chairman's Cup.

Ipswich Railway Modellers Association's summer exhibition was staged at the Rushmere Resource Centre, Ipswich on Saturday June 4. The club held an open day on April 2.

Iron Mould Lane 'tops' with visitors at Bristol show

BRISTOL East MRC's Iron Mould Lane layout stole the honours—the 'Bristol Buffer' award—at the Bristol Model Railway Exhibition, after visitors deemed it to be the 'best and most entertaining' in the show.

The show, which is held over three-days at Thornbury, near Bristol proved to be a great success.

A spokesman for the organisers, the Association of Model Railway Clubs Wales and West of England, said it hadn't quite been a 'record breaker', but visitor numbers were up on last year.

The one disappointment had been the absence of the Redruth MRC layout Hoar-n-Veor.

This was due to ill-health and the organisers hoped that everyone attending the show would join them in wishing those affected a

speedy return to fitness.

A number of awards are made annually at the show, including the 'Director's Rocket' for outstanding service to the Association, or the exhibition.

Trophy

This was awarded to Dapol Model Railways and was presented by association chairman David Baverstock to Dapol's representative, George Smith.

Barnhill MRC was the runner-up in the Buffer and received the John Williams Plate for its layout Kingsfield.

Other award winners were: Pendon Trophy

(Best 4mm scale model), Shirehampton MRC; Rhondda Cup (Best model in 2mm scale), Thornbury and S. Gloucester MRC; Robert Gilroy Memorial Cup (Best running model on a layout), Millfield, Pauline McKenner; Craftsman of the Year (Best layout from an Association member), Edward Gleed, Thornbury and S. Gloucester MRC; Association Cup (Best layout from an Association member), Hardwick Grange, Cardiff MES; Scaleseven Trophy (best model in 7mm scale) Andre Dodd, Barry and Penarth MRC; Ted Cooper Memorial Trophy (Best scenery on layout), Geoff Drew, North Devon MRC; Westinghouse Trophy (Best line side feature), Andre Dodd, Barry and Penarth MRC; Malvern Cup (Best item of rolling stock up to 0 gauge), Edward Gleed, Thornbury and S. Gloucester MRC; Govette Trophy (Best modified proprietary locomotive), John Chivers, Barry & Penarth MRC.

•The association's next show will be held at Thornbury over the weekend of April 29-May 1, 2006.



Iron Mould Lane, winner of the Bristol Buffer award.

Kent club celebrates 25 years

ASHFORD MRC celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with a two-day model railway exhibition.

The event, held May 7 and 8 at the Stour Centre, Ashford, featured more than 50 stands, with 24 layouts and 22 trade stands.

Among the exhibits were Canalside (00), Groombridge (00), Port Victoria (EM), Tonbridge West Yard (00) and the club's own Penstone Harbour (00/009).

The club also ran its Thomas and Friends layout for younger visitors and mounted a photographic display.

German trip leads to a new round of euro-show invites

DORTMUND was great—that was the verdict of Barry and Penarth MRC members after their latest German adventure!

The club has gained an enviable reputation in Europe and this was their third cross-channel foray in as many years.

This year they exhibited the club's 'Tafsil' layout at the five-day show, *Intermodellbau Dortmund*, which was held April 13-17.

The trip went off as planned and has led to a number of fresh invitations to exhibit in Europe in the future.

Driving

With the layout safely loaded on the back seats of a mini-van four members took turns in driving through the night of Monday 11th, with a Dover-Calais ferry crossing in the early hours, and they arrived safely in Dortmund at midday on the Tuesday.

The show's organisers provided the group with two glass display cases, which allowed them to put on a display of some of the 'excess' stock, including a Cambrian Railway 0-6-0 goods loco, in an incomplete condition.

The team also took a computer and displayed a slide show of the 'Tafsil Tanks'. Another innovation on this occasion was a display of leaflets from



preservation lines, which were quickly snapped up by visitors to the stand.

Considerable interest was shown in 'Tafsil' and its stock, and the club received several verbal invitations to shows in Munich, Leiden, Copenhagen and elsewhere.

However, a spokesman for the club said they would have to wait to see how many of them came to fruition over the next few years.

This year's invite came courtesy of the German Association of Model Railways (MOBA - Modellbahnverband in Deutschland e.V.) and was the third the club had received to attend major shows in the country.

Previously the club visited Sinnsheim in March 2004 with Devil's Creek and Stuttgart in November 2002 with Tafsil.

The return journey was made mainly at night, with the team arriving back in Barry on Monday 18th April.



Members of the Barry and Penarth MRC team that visited Germany with Tafsil last month. Photo: Barry and Penarth MRC.

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

New venue for exhibition

WORTHING MRC has switched venues for its 2005 exhibition. This year's show will be held over the weekend of September 17-18 at Boundstone Community College, Sompting, says new exhibition manager Mike Edwards (Tel: 01903 764294).

PROTOTYPE PROFILES ... 7



Class 56 at work...

Hauling a train of fly ash empties, probably bound for Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station an unidentified Class 56 passes the site of the former Midland Railway station at Barrow-upon-Soar on a storm threatened afternoon in May 1983.

Romanian venture proved to be near disaster for class



Sadly, large logo livery versions of the class are under represented in the editor's collection. They include this poor picture of 56036 taken at an open day at Coalville Mantle Lane depot in the spring of 1980.

THE introduction of Britain's first dedicated heavy haulage diesel locomotive—the Class 56—was marred by a series of problems whose origins lay behind the Iron Curtain.

Having won the detail design and build contract for 60 Type 5 locomotives, Brush sub-contracted construction of the first 30 to the Romanian firm Electroputere, of Craiova, the remainder being built by BREL at Doncaster.

The first, 56001, arrived in the UK in August 1976 and over the following 12 months was joined by the remainder.

Unfortunately, although assembled from mainly

British components, the Romanian locos were so badly constructed they all required major work before they were fit to take up their duties.

Ironically, the 'rebuilt' 56s began to enter service at the same time as the first BREL-built locos, which were constructed during late 1976/early 1977—56031 being handed over in May 1977.

Subsequent contracts saw BREL build a total of

105, most at Doncaster (the work's last, 56115, was completed January 1983), with the final 20 being constructed at Crewe.

All BR-built locos had oval buffers and numbers 56056-56135 were built with the large horn box, while 56001-56055 had small horn grilles, lipped buffer beam and inset marker lights.

Built to fill BR's need to move large quantities of coal the class was

PROTOTYPE PROFILES ... 7



soon put to work in the Eastern and London Midland Regions hauling merry-go-round and block coal trains.

A later batch was allocated to the Western Region for aggregate and iron ore haulage.

The first 83 locomotives carried the standard BR blue livery; numbers 84-135 were outshopped in large logo blue livery (grey roof, wrap-round yellow ends and black window surrounds, plus large double-arrow and numbers).

Sectorisation in 1987 saw the introduction of Railfreight's two-tone grey with sub sector logos.

In the run-up to privatisation Loadhaul locos bore the distinctive black, orange and yellow livery, while Transrail added its 'T' logo to the standard grey livery.

Since the absorption of the fleet into EWS stock many 56s have carried maroon/gold livery.

Class 56 locomotives will always be associated with Merry Go Round trains to the UK's coal fired power stations, either hauling coal to be burnt or carrying away fly ash for disposal. The train of empty fly ash wagons (above) was pictured near Sutton Bonington, Notts, on its way to Ratcliffe-on-Soar power Station. Number 56046 was pictured (below) at Coalville depot in the late 1970s and features the standard BR blue livery of the day, complete with small logo.



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YOUR GUIDE TO 2005 EXHIBITIONS

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

JULY

2 & 3 (Sat & Sun)

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

30 & 31 (Sat & Sun)

Model Railway Exhibition, Lytham St Annes High Technology College, Worsley Road, Ansdell, Lytham St Annes.

AUGUST

6 & 7 (Sat & Sun)

Model Railway Exhibition, Glaslyn Leisure Centre, Porthmadog, Gwynedd.

Waveney Valley MRC Southwold Exhibition, St Felix School, Halesworth Road, Southwold. www.waveneyvalleymrc.150m.com

17 & 18 (Sat & Sun)

Ayr Model Railway Group show, Ayr College.

SEPTEMBER

3 & 4 (Sat & Sun)

Sunderland & District Model Railway Society Exhibition, The Crowtree Leisure Centre, Crowtree Road, Sunderland.

17 & 18 (Sat & Sun)

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

Shipleigh Model Railway Society Exhibition, Baildon Recreation Centre, Green Lane, Shipley. BD17 5JH

24 & 25 (Sat & Sun)

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

Soar Valley Model Railway Clubs 21st annual model railway show, Garendon High School, Thorpe Hill Loughborough, Leicestershire.

OCTOBER

1 & 2 (Sat & Sun)

Iford and West Essex MRC 50th annual exhibition—venue to be arranged.

8 & 9 (Sat & Sun)

Folkestone, Hythe & District MRC exhibition, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone.

15 & 16 (Sat & Sun)

Uckfield Model Railway Club Exhibition, Uckfield Civic Centre Bell Farm Lane, Uckfield, East Sussex. TN22 1AE

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>

Bolton MRS Show, St James C of E Secondary School, Lucas Road, Farnworth, Bolton BL4 9RU.

Beckenham and West Wickham MRC, Langley Park Model Railshow, Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.

28, 29 & 30 (Fri, Sat & Sun)

Merseyside Model Railway Society exhibition, Pacific Road Arts and Exhibition Centre, Birkenhead, Wirral. Contact Bob Powell on 07808938689 or E-mail : bobjmpowell@aol.com

29 & 30 (Sat & Sun)

Colchester & District MRC exhibition, Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester. Web site: www.colchestermrc.org.uk

Weymouth Model Railway Association Exhibition, Wey Valley School, Dorchester Road, Weymouth.

Haywoods Permanent Way show, Great Haywood Memorial Hall, Main Road, Great Haywood, near Stafford.

Huddersfield Railway Modellers exhibition, The Civic Hall, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire.

NOVEMBER

5 (Sat)

High Wycombe & District Model Railway Society, WYCRAIL 05, John Hampden Grammar School, Marlow Road, High Wycombe

12 (Sat)

Solihull Model Railway Circle, 1st Shirley Scout Headquarters (rear of Bank of Ireland) Stratford Road (A34) Shirley, Solihull. Birmingham.

12 & 13 (Sat & Sun)

Hampton Court MRS Tolworth Showtrain, Tolworth Recreation Centre.

Brighton MRC exhibition, Patcham Library and Community Centre, Ladies Mile Road, Patcham, Brighton.

19 (Sat)

Oxford and District MRC Exhibition, Collinwood Road United Reformed Church, Oxford.

19 & 20 (Sat & Sun)

Swindon Model Railway Club Exhibition.

Bassetlaw (North Notts) Railway Society exhibition, Town Hall, Market Square, Retford, Nottinghamshire.

26 & 27 (Sat & Sun)

Falkirk MRC exhibition, Falkirk College.

Shoeburyness MRC Festival of Model Railways & Hobbies Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Garons Park, Southend on Sea.

DECEMBER

3 & 4 (Sat & Sun)

Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, NEC, Birmingham. Web site: www.warley-mrc.org.uk

2006

JANUARY

7 & 8 (Sat & Sun)

Preston & District Model Railway Society Exhibition, University of Central Lancashire, Foster Refectory, Main Building, Fylde Road, Preston, Lancs.

21 & 22 (Sat & Sun)

City of Canterbury MRS exhibition, Kingsmead Leisure Centre, Canterbury, Kent.

Calne Model Railway Show (Bentley MRG).