

Trains On-line

THE Internet magazine for all 4mm / foot railway modellers

ISSUE : 1

October/November 2003

Hornby releases new BR Western Prairies...

HORNBY continues to breathe new life into its venerable prairie tank engine, first introduced as part of the old Airfix / GMR catalogue.

C.B.Collett's 61XX series of 2-6-2T tank engine is a direct development from Churchward's previous commuter tank engine designs.

Introduced in 1931 Collett's big Prairies remained in service until the mid/late 1950s and handled the heavy suburban traffic in and around London.

Powerful Class

With the introduction of diesel multiple units (DMUs) on commuter services a number of these deceptively powerful class of locomotives were transferred to the Birmingham area and in their twilight years could also be seen on freight working.

This fine Hornby model has superb detail, much of which is individually hand fitted during manufacture and is resplendent in the late period lined BR Green livery, which so suited the class.

The model is also available in Great Western livery of the late 20s, early 30s period. Both variants are powered by Hornby's standard Type HP motor.



Hornby's most recent BR version of the 61XX

...but still no sign of its 'baby brother' from Bachmann

Bachmann's long awaited 'small' Prairies, based on the Great Western Railways popular 45XX series may be in the shops for Christmas.

Originally slated for delivery at the end of July 2003, GWR modellers were left scouring

the Internet and modelling magazines throughout the summer for a hint of when they would hit the shops.

However, it now seems likely that the Bachmann 45XX locos (32-125, 32-126 and 32-127) and the Class 37/4 Diesels (32-378, 32-

379 and 32-380), will be delivered in November.

Sets for OO are being prepared at present and most should be available for mid-November.

Versions of the updated LNER A1 Pacific are already available in shops and on the Internet.

What's on other pages....

- ◆ **An in depth look at Hornby's new steam powered loco—page 3**
- ◆ **Layout of the month: pictures—page 4**
- ◆ **BR Standards: A look at what's available—page 2**
- ◆ **News from the clubs scene—page 10**

Bachmann is tops when it comes to BR Standards



HORNBY WORKHORSE (1): Riddles' 9F massive freight locomotives were the unsung heroes of the railway—ironic then that enthusiasts only came to love them when they were doomed.

There were five different tender types used across the range of the 9F's.

This particular 9F (R2248), presented in the more characteristic 'weathered colouring' associated with this Class, was partnered with a BRIF tender with had a water capacity of 5.625 gallons and carried seven tons of coal.

A ringfield motor located in the tender with pickups off eight of the ten drive wheels to endure smooth running a slow speeds.

Manufactured to Hornby Super Detail standard the running number may vary from model to model.

HORNBY WORKHORSE (2): The J94 'Austerity Class' saddle tank engines were conceived and built originally for the War Department in the Second World War, entering service in 1943.

Examples continued to be built for owners such as the Coal Board up to 1962.

It is presented here in early BR black freight livery (R2326).

The model has a Type 7 motor and sprung buffers.



THERE is no doubting that when it comes to modelling British Rail's Standard locomotives, Bachmann has an edge in today's ready to run market.

With a selection of ready-to-run (r-t-r) models that include one of the first true standards, the War Department 2-10-0 freight loco, and several of the classic Riddles range of the Fifties, modellers are positively spoiled for choice.

These currently include:

- Class 4MT 4-6-0
- WD 2-8-0
- Class 4MT 2-6-4 tank
- Class 5MT 4-6-0

All are available in a variety of liveries and are modelled to a very high standard, especially the more recent additions to the range.

With the exception of the Class 4MT 4-6-0, which has its origins in the Mainline model of the class, all are brand new designs.

Not to be outdone Hornby also have BR designed steam locos in their range, though two of these are based on much earlier models..

However, the re-tooled super detailed versions of old favourites the 9F and Britannia Class locos, are much improved over their earlier brothers and have the benefit of motors in the body..

The range currently includes:

- WD J94 0-6-0 tank
- Class 9F 2-10-0
- Class 7MT 4-6-2 Pacific (Britannia)

If BR rebuilds are taken into account the popular Merchant Navy and West Country/ Battle of Britain Class Pacifics can also be included. And, to stretch a point, LMS 8Fs were also built as a 'standard' WD design.

True, there are some gaps, but it is now possible for the modeller to build up a convincing stud of post-war built BR locomotives—the gaps can easily be filled by kit building, or r.t.r. loco bashing.

Hornby brings real whiff of steam to 4mm...

Miniature Mallard sets a new 'record' for steam

HORNBY have broken new ground with their latest venture into OO modelling ... a working model of A4 Mallard that runs on real steam !

The loco was officially launched at the Goodwood Revival meeting on Friday 5 September by railway enthusiast and pop impresario, Pete Waterman.

The locomotive is powered by a mini immersion heater located in the tender and is heated by a safe low voltage current passed along the track by the remote regulator.

This low voltage boils the water, which in turn creates the steam pressure. Being simple to operate, after a small amount of practice, the

by the EDITOR

driver can obtain approximately 25-30 minutes of running before the locomotive needs topping up with water.

The engine also produces realistic steam sounds from pumping pistons to the engine whistle, coupled with the unmistakable nostalgic smells of steam and hot engine oil.

Simon Kohler, Hornby's Marketing Manager, told

Trains On-line the new Live Steam locomotive was a superb achievement.

"What was once supposedly an impossible dream is now a living reality," he said, "and it opens up all sorts of possibilities for the development of model railways. The future is steam, the future is Hornby!"

The Mallard box set includes everything the user needs to operate their own Live Steam locomotive, including controller box, transformer and track.

Editor's space...

WELCOME to the first edition of **Trains On-line** magazine.

This exciting new venture, from Page Design Online, is written by enthusiasts for enthusiasts...of all ages and abilities.

Given the current limitations in download speeds the magazine will initially be around 20 pages a month, but for this 'start-up' issue we have kept the size down to 12 pages.

During the next few months TOL will be building up a stock of features and photographs, and welcomes any contributions readers might like to make.

The editor will also be out and about visiting shows, so don't be surprised if you see him snapping away at those layouts that take his fancy.

We will be introducing a classified advertising section soon so that readers can get rid of stock they no longer require, or buy those long deleted items.

Like the magazine, the web site will gradually be expanded over the coming months and will cover a wide range of topics.

It is, therefore, important for readers to keep checking the site, as we aim to keep it as up to date as possible.

We hope to have completed work on the site's design by the New Year, but in the meantime we hope readers will bear with us

Once the format is established we are sure YOU will regard it as THE premier web site for railway modellers



Peppercorn A1 pacific 60130 'Kestrel' seen on Wolverhampton MRC's Stoke Summit layout in September.

LAYOUT OF THE MONTH

Ashbourne Midland



ASHBOURNE Midland is one of those layouts that has a ring of authenticity about it—even though it is completely fictitious!

The illusion is, in part, due to the fact that the buildings at the station end of the layout are based on ones that a visitor to Ashbourne might recognise.

It is set in the 1950s and based on the notion that the Midland Railway extended the Wirksworth branch into Ashbourne, terminating very close to

LEFT: A general view of the goods yard.
BELOW: Ex-LMS 4F hauls its brake van out of the yard as it prepares to make up the next freight for sorting at Derby.



the town centre. Hikers, cyclists and families make up the passenger traffic, while limestone quarries and farms provide the freight.

The EM gauge trackwork is all hand made, whilst the wagons, coaches and locomotives are made from kits with some modifications.

The layout, which was built over a ten-year period, is co-operatively owned by David Lenton, Tony Franc and Mark Ratcliffe (*the Linton MRC*).

It measures 17ft by 2ft wide and features a replica of the local sewage works, though without the aroma (we should be grateful for small mercies!).

The sewage works is an addition to the original three boards and took three or four years to complete, says David.

The threesome got together 25 years ago after they met while attending a modellers evening class and so far have built three layouts.

Membership of the 'society' may be limited, but there seems to be no limit to the skills, dedication, or enthusiasm of this trio. They are an example to us all!



ABOVE: Former LMS 4F awaits the right of way to leave the goods yard with its train of open wagons.

BELOW: The bus prepares to leave Ashbourne station forecourt after picking up its passengers of the recently arrived local.



ASHBOURNE MIDLAND



ABOVE: Having run round its coaches Ivatt 2-6-2 tank 41280 prepares to leave for Derby.
BELOW: BR liveried 4F simmers in the platform before resuming shunting in the goods yard.



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Battle of the gauges ...or just keeping on the right track?

BRUNEL wasn't the only one forced to face 'a battle of the gauges' for 4mm modelers have been having a bit of a ding-dong for years over which gauge is the best.

We aren't talking about the merits of 7ft and a bit, versus 4ft 8in and a bit—no it is really small fry by comparison.

Lets face it, is it really worth going to war over a few millimetres...

So what are we talking about here?

OO gauge track is set at 16.5mm between the rails, a historical accident that has left most 4mm railway modellers using off-the-shelf stock cursed with a compromise they have grown to live with (if not love).

Of course not everyone is content with compromise so it is hardly surprising a number of new gauges grew up to cater for those wanting their trains running on track that looked a bit more like the real thing.

Correct sleeper spacing, in scale with the stock, points that had scale live frogs, and so on...

The early pioneers were regarded with a degree of scepticism, disbelief and, occasionally, hostility.

They were in the vanguard of the battle for better stand-

The Editor takes a light-hearted look at the issue of scale...

ards that led (eventually) to not only finer scale mass produced stock, but also the driving up of standards across the whole modelling field.

First of the 'upstarts' was Eighteen Millimetre (EM), which subsequently grew to a more accurate 18.2mm, though, it seems, not accurate enough for some.

The proponent, the EM Gauge Society, which was founded in 1955, still caters for the needs of modelers and there are many EM gauge layouts on the exhibition circuit.

Next came Protofour (P4) and in 1969 the P4 Society, champions of the 18.83mm gauge—the most accurate of the lot!

Of course things didn't go smoothly and in 1975 the Scalefour society split off from the P4 Society.

They went there separate ways until 1987, when the P4 Society merged into the Scalefour Society.

Oddly enough, there is also an American OO gauge of 19mm! Nuff said?

News in Brief

HORNBY has placed 30 service sheets on-line giving modellers an exploded diagram and a list of spare parts for each locomotive covered.

Both steam and diesel locomotives are included and more service sheets will be added as they become available.

NEXT year's annual Bristol Model Railway Exhibition is to be held April 30-May 2 at the Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill, Thornbury, Bristol.

Among the layouts expected to attend are: Westford (4mm/16.5mm finescale), Whitchurch Canonicorum & Dovington Camp (OO gauge), Riverside Freight Yard (OO) and Upperhill (OO).

DAPOL is holding a massive clearance sale on October 25 & 26 at its Llangollen Exhibition Centre.

The clearout of items of rolling stock used on the layouts, as well as scenic materials, results from the firm's planned move to Gledrid in the new year.

Sealed bids are also being invited on certain of the layouts. Closing date for bids is November 1.

WITH the imminent demise of the Thumpers, Video 125's latest Driver's Eye View featuring the Uckfield to Oxted line continuing on to East Croydon, is particularly apt.

This video, the Uckfield Thumper, features a class 205 DEMU built in 1957 and now one of the oldest trains on the network.

HELJAN's latest 47s have reached the shops. They are 47 829 (Police livery), 47 851 (Heritage BR green), 47 840 (Heritage BR blue) and 47 847 in BR blue with Large Logo.

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REVIEWS...REVIEWS...REVIEWS...REVIEWS

British Railways Past and Present (37): South Wales-Part 3

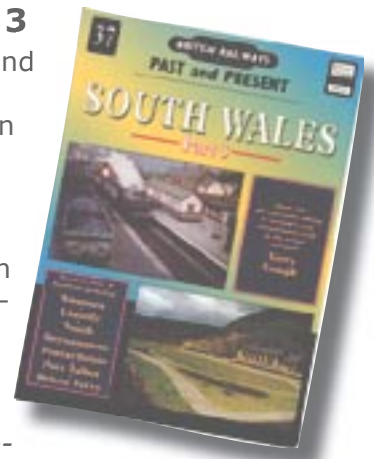
This *Nostalgia Collection* series of books has much to interest the modeller and has over the years covered most of the British Isles. The review volume completes the coverage of South Wales lines and concentrates on West Glamorgan and the Brecknock and Camarthen county boundaries.

Past views are mainly from the BR era, which author **Terry Gough** matches with more recent images of the same spot.

The book paints a picture of an area that has suffered considerable decline in its branch services...some sections of trackbed being buried beneath dual carriageways, with little to show a busy railway once passed by.

This slim volume makes an essential companion to the earlier volumes and has much to offer the modeller and railway historian.

British Railways Past and Present: South Wales Part 3, Past and Present Publishing Ltd. ISBN 1 85895 162 3. Price: £15.99



Introducing TRAX: Wiring the Layout

The mystical art of wiring model railways has defied the efforts of many a modeller and good texts on how to do it have been thin on the ground. And not without reason...it can be fiendishly complicated on a large layout.!

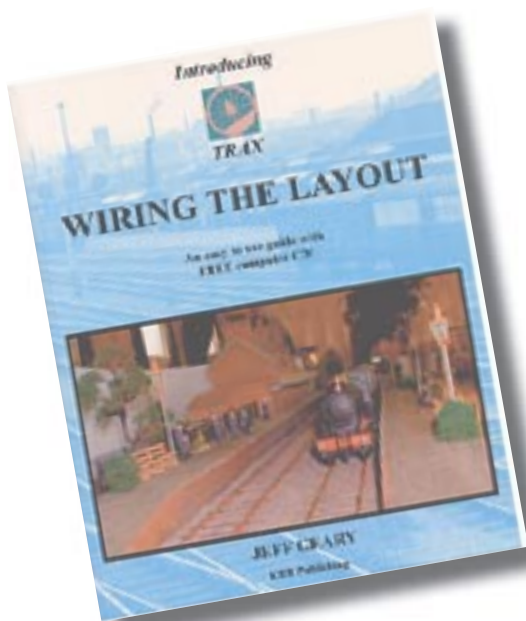
This book, written by **Jeff Geary**, a man who knows his capacitors from his resistors, aims to make life easier, but apart from covering some of the basics—including an explanation of what electricity is—it is not an easy read.

Nor is it an ideal starter for those new to the subject. It contains some pretty advanced (by the average modeller's standards) electrical circuits for the DIY enthusiast, but for those making their own track and points it might be an essential read.

Accompanying the book on CD ROM is the computer programme TRAX, which enables you to create a virtual model of your layout and test its electrics.

The learning curve to use it is not too steep, but beware there is no *undo* or *go back* facility so it best to keep saving after each action you take. That way you won't have to keep starting again!

Introducing TRAX: Wiring the Layout, KRB Publications. ISBN 0 9542035 5 0: Price £14.99



An Illustrated History of Southern Coaches

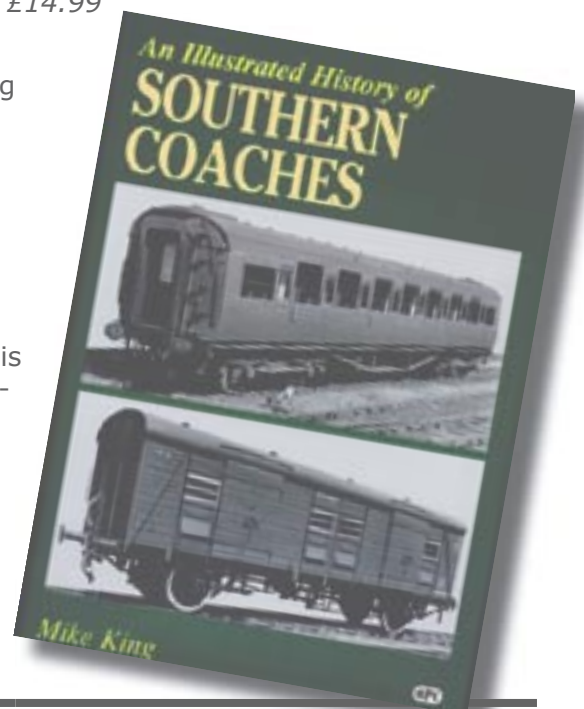
This book looks set to become a classic in the Oxford Publishing tradition and benefits from being well written, beautifully illustrated and thoroughly researched.

Author Mike King is well known for his love of all things Southern and this book covers the full range of passenger and non-passenger carriage stock produced for the SR.

The pictures are complemented by a range of 4mm/ft scale drawings, which are ideal for those wishing to scratch build a particular vehicle or super detail an existing model. However, this book is not simply a collection of pictures, but a well written history of the various phases of coach building undertaken by the company.

There are chapters devoted to the Maunsell years (1926-37), the impact of Bullied, liveries and much, much more. This isn't a cheap book, but it makes an excellent companion to previous OPC books on GWR coaches.

An Illustrated History of Southern Coaches, OPC. ISBN 0 86093 570 1. Price: £35



Club Scene

THE **South Devon Model Railway Society** held their annual open day on September 28 at the Church House, Abbotskerwell, near Newton Abbot.

The society's two new layouts, which are in the early stages of construction were on display for the first time and demonstrated how layouts can be constructed. A number of other layouts were on display, and several demonstrations were staged.

AN open day was held at the **Gainsborough Model Railway Society** club rooms in Florence Terrace, Gainsborough, on Saturday October 19.

Although not a 4mm layout (it is O gauge), the sheer size of this East Coast Main Line inspired creation can't fail to impress. Covering 2,500 sq feet and run strictly to prototype it needs ten operators.

THE **Association of Shrewsbury Railway Modellers** is aiming to tell you 'all you need to know about railway modelling' at their annual open day at the Morris Hall, Bellstone, near Shrewsbury.

The event, on Saturday October 25, will feature a full range of demonstrations, a loco test track for visitors to use and experienced modellers will be on hand to offer friendly advice.

Leicester Railway Society's meeting on October 21 will feature a talk by the well known railway photographer Hugh Ballantyne entitled LMS Cavalcade from 0F to 7P.

The event is being held at The Cricketers, Grace Road, Leicester at 19.45 hours.

Preston and District Model Railway Society has a new home at Unit 12, Aqueduct Mill, Aqueduct Street, Preston, Lancashire.

Soar Valley MRC's shows proves a hit

A BLEND of sizes, scales and styles made this year's Soar Valley MRC exhibition one of the best the club has staged, writes *Trains On-line* editor, Eric Flavell.

Two of the biggest layouts on the exhibition circuit—Wolverhampton MRC's large 'tailchaser' **Stoke Summit** and the equally impressive **Halston Junction** from the Quinborne and Halesowen Association of Railway Modellers—attracted a devoted following during the two-day event.

Impressed

Hardly surprising, as viewing these large layouts in action it was almost possible to believe one was watching the real thing again!

The smaller 4mm/foot layouts had much to commend them too, and I was particularly impressed with **Ashbourne Midland** (this month's featured layout) and **Maidens Dale** (which will

be featured in a later edition of *Trains On-line* magazine).

Strachan's trackplan was designed for maximum train movement and consequently featured lots of shunting.

This layout was largely kit built and demonstrated just what can be achieved in a comparatively small space.

Other 4mm/ft models on display included Eric Stocker's OO gauge **Stockshed** and George Woodcock's OO gauge **Pensbridge** a fictitious location based in the West Midlands and featuring a terminus served by 'Bubble car' DMUs

The event also featured a number of modelling displays and was well supported by traders.



The sun shines on Maidens Dale as a two-car DMU and single unit pass after depositing their passengers. This layout represents a fictional location on the Midland Region of BR set in the 1950s. Track here is Peco code 100 with electric pencil point operation.



ABOVE: An unidentified Gresley A4 coasts around the curve on Wolverhampton MRC's Stoke Summit layout, while a heavy freight (above right) eases past the signal box.

RIGHT: A view across the allotments on the Halston Junction layout. In the distance a local train approaches the station. The layout is inspired by BR Midland and Eastern Region practice.

BELOW: A panoramic view across Strachan station as an 08 prepares to leave the platform with the stock of a recently arrived passenger train. Strachan is a typical terminus set west of Glasgow in the 1970s when BR blue ruled the rails.



TRAINS ON-LINE GUIDE TO EXHIBITIONS

OCTOBER

17, 18 & 19 (Fri, Sat & Sun)

Annual Model Railway Exhibition 2003 presented by Blackburn and East Lancashire MRS. King George's Hall, Northgate, Blackburn Lancashire.

18 (Sat)

Model Railway Exhibition presented by Chelmsford & District MRC and the Deltic Preservation Society. King Edward VI Grammar School, Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex

Annual Model Railway Exhibition presented by The Lions Club of Chichester. Main Hall of the Boy's High School, Kingsham Road, Chichester, W. Sussex.

Somerset Model Railway Exhibition presented by St. John's Railway Circle. St. John's Church Hall, Midsomer Norton, Somerset.

40th Anniversary Exhibition presented by Sheffield Model Railway Society. Davy United Social Club, Prince of Wales Road, Sheffield, Yorkshire.

18 & 19 (Sat & Sun)

Dundee Model Railway Club present their annual Railway Exhibition & Hobbies Extravaganza. Caird Hall, City Square, Dundee. Scotland

The 22nd Model Railway Exhibition presented by Kent & East Sussex Railway's Maidstone Area Group. Senacre Technology College, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent.

19th Annual Model Railway Exhibition presented by Uckfield Model Railway Club. Civic Centre, Bell Farm Lane, Uckfield, East Sussex.

25 (Sat)

Railx 2003 Model Railway Exhibition presented by Risborough & District MRC. Civic Centre, Market Square, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Model Railway Exhibition presented by Bushey & District Model Railway Society. Bushey Hall School, London Road, Bushey, Middlesex.

Annual Open Day held by the Association of Shrewsbury Railway Modellers. The Morris Hall, Bellstone, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

25 & 26 (Sat & Sun)

Model Railshow 2003, presented by Beckenham & West Wickham MRC. Langley Park Boy's School, South E. Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.

Cathcart Model Railway Exhibition (Glasgow). The Exhibition Hall, Clarkston Cathcart, Glasgow, Scotland.

Autumn 2003 Model Railway Exhibition presented by Cheltenham Great Western Modellers Group, St. Margaret's Hall, Coniston Road (off Windermere Road), Hatherley, Cheltenham. Gloucs.

2003 Model Railway Exhibition presented by Colchester & District MRC. Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex.

The Haywoods Permanent Way 4th Biannual Railway Show. Great Haywood Memorial Hall, Main Road, Great Haywood, Nr. Stafford.

Cheshire Model Railway Exhibition presented by Hazel Grove & District MRS. Hazel Grove Recreation Centre (next to Hazel Grove High School), Jacksons Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport.

Hinckley Model Railway Show 2003 presented by Hinckley MRC. The Main Hall, St. John Cleveland College, Butt Lane.

Annual Exhibition presented by Leeds Model Railway Society. Leeds Grammar School, Alwoodley Gates, Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 8GS, W. Yorkshire.

Great Western Expo 2003 presented by The Great Western Study Group. Parish Wharf Leisure Centre, Portishead, Bristol.

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Model Railway Show - 'Big trains and little trains' presented by Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Association. Wirksworth Town Hall and Wirksworth Railway Station, (both in Coldwell Street), Wirksworth, Matlock, Derbys.

GWR Preservation Group, Model Railway Exhibition and railway relics display, Coston School, Oldfield Lane, South Greenford, Middx.

NOVEMBER

31 October-2 November (Fri-Sun)

2003 Model Railway Exhibition presented by Merseyside MRS. Pacific Road Arts and Exhibition Centre, Pacific Road, Birkenhead, CH14 1LJ.

1 & 2 (Sat & Sun)

Wolverhampton MRC 2003 Model Railway Exhibition, Pendeford High School, Marsh Lane Fordhouses, Wolverhampton.

The Elizabethan Railway Society, 2003 Model Railway Show, East Kirkby Miners Welfare, Lowmoor Road, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts.

8 & 9 (Sat & Sun)

Barnsley Model Railway Club Exhibition, Kingstone School, Broadway, Barnsley, Yorks.

22 & 23 (Sat & Sunday)

Swindon Model Railway Club, MODRAIL 2003, GreenDown School, Grange Park Way, Grange Park, West Swindon, Wilts.

2004

February 22 (Sun)

Ilkeston Woodside MRC show, Trowell Parish Hall, nr. Ilkeston, Derbys.

June 12 & 13 (Sat & Sun)

Wingfield Railway Group Model Railway Exhibition, Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell, Derbys.