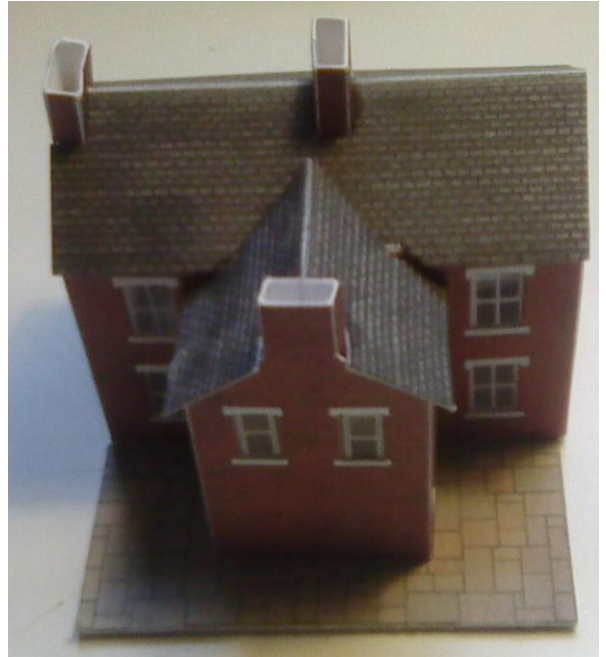


Layouts – (LC = Layout Coordinator)

1. Ashtown (N) – LC Martin Lockwood. Track is now laid on the RH end board, and the wiring has commenced. The traverser is still under construction at Martin's home, where some disruptions have slowed progress. Elsewhere, Bob is adjusting the platform edges that already exist (so the 9F doesn't lose its' cylinders every time it passes) and adding the missing pieces – which is most of them, actually; in addition to which, he has also ballasted the tracks around the station area. Gareth has planted the signal box he made some time ago and ballasted/ground-covered around it. He has also completed ballasting and painting the works siding (including re-seating one of the uncoupling magnets so that it actually causes trucks to uncouple). Fencing along the trackside has started in the works area and some random bits of factory junk like broken pallets/barrels/oil-drums added.

As you see, Graham is building houses from a kit to add to the layout. Bob is also building another of the same kit, but his is more advanced so Graham is struggling to catch up!

The plan (aspiration) for the next month is to complete the woodwork on the traverser and start to integrate with the existing baseboards, continue, maybe complete, the platforms, continue with the scenic bits and pieces as well as constructing some of the many buildings required



2. Newton Wharf (N) – LC Greg Deacon/Ian Dodds. Now that the track is working reasonably well I am keen to ensure that it stays that way by running trains on it fairly regularly but, enjoyable as that is, it stops me from doing what I should be doing, i.e. making more building. It is a fairly large layout so there is a need for many more buildings - more houses and a couple of factories. So it would be really nice if other members would occasionally run "N" gauge trains round the circuit??? I am not very happy with the back-scene as I made a bit of a bodge fitting it so would welcome suggestions as to how to improve it. Other than that it is plod on with buildings.

3. Phoenix Park (OO) – LC Jeff Bamford/Pete Marshall. No progress worthy of reporting probably due to festive season.

4. Soarston Lower Level (DCC OO) – LC Jim Duckworth/Ian Dodds. Due to family illness and New Year holidays, I have missed a few weeks working on the layout. I am catching up on some of the work now, still on the scenery, but unfortunately it will not be advanced enough to take to our Cotgrave exhibition this year.

5. Rise Park (N) – LC Les Richardson. Most of the scenery is now complete except for the Market Place. We have had time off for good behaviour at the end of December so not a lot else done.

6. Victoria Road MPD (OO) - LC Bill Mossop. With the Layout now just about completed, trial runs of all the operation of loco's and rolling stock have begun. The first outing for the Layout will be the Sibley Exhibition February 18/19. Testing transportation and setting up are also taking place.

OTHER:-

- **Our April Exhibition:-**

1. We have 17 Layouts for the show.
2. Anyone going out to a show in the next two months PLEASE take a wodge of leaflets.
3. Notices have been placed in RM, CM, BRM, MR and HM.
4. We are looking for stewards on the two days, and particularly to give a hand on Friday evening up to 8pm.
5. Any recommendations for cheap but good guest houses close to Cotgrave Welfare?
6. Volunteers wanted to deliver fliers house-to-house in Radcliffe on Trent and Keyworth, as well as Cotgrave. This will involve a couple of hours on a Sat or Sun (or both) shortly before Easter.
7. Any ideas as to who we can tap for a programme ad will be much appreciated- even better if you are able to sell one. £30 for a quarter page, which also includes the ad being repeated on our website, and a link to their website if they have one....

- **Graham's Railway Memories 1961, Horden Co Durham:-** We had telephones on a loop covering locations in our area, and each unit had a 'call code'. By calling the codes for more than 1 unit, you could even have a conference call. Each point had a list of the codes, but Station Master Polly never knew about the 'special code' that wasn't in the list but everybody else knew. Horden Signal Box was about five minutes walk from the office – the secret Code meant "Polly approaching Box for inspection – get your girlfriend out"! A gentleman called Joe Levy was the signaller at Hart box. Signallers worked hard at times, but also had long periods of inactivity. These periods were often spent calculating their pay to the penny, and I was responsible for the key information that went to payroll. One day, I noticed that Joe had been called out for a special train on a Sunday and his timesheet showed a booked time of 3hrs 3mins. Up to 3hrs was paid as 4hrs at time & three quarter – a 7 hour call, but the extra three minutes gained him 8 hrs pay - a 14 hour call. His train register book, showing all the times for the special train, matched his claim. However, he got the lower amount after Polly looked at the Train Register books at the adjacent boxes and found that the train travelled at 20mph approaching his box and 140 afterwards! Joe didn't argue because he knew that falsifying train register entries could carry a prison sentence.



Diary Dates – *Please give Graham details of events of railway interest for the Diary.*

RCTS Nottingham meetings are held at The New Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham NG1 4EZ. Both Society members and non-members are very welcome to attend their meetings.

2017	
Jan 24	RCTS 1400 Afternoon meeting Swindon Works - The Golden Years (1880 - 1924) Rev Canon Brian Arman
Feb 14	RCTS 1930 Developments on the Welsh Highland and Festiniog Railways , Peter Johnson
Feb 18/19	Sileby Show – No Place, Victoria Road MPD
Feb 26	Trowell Show - Boghampton
Feb 28	RCTS 1400 Afternoon meeting The amusing exploits of having the best job in the world as chief Engineer at NRM Richard Gibbon OBE
Mar 4/5	Leamington & Warwick MRS Anual Model Railway Exhibition, Leamington College Hawthorn Dene
Mar 14	RCTS 1930 Railways in a Cornish Landscape Part 3 - Stephen Gay
Mar 28	RCTS 1930 Steam and the Clerical Life - Rev David Fulger
April 22/23	Our Exhibition at Cotgrave Welfare.
April 25	RCTS 1930 Bristol to Didcot - Richard Binding
April 28 - 30	Bristol Model Railway Exhibition. Hawthorn Dene
June 3	Sleaford Model railway Exhibition, Osbournby No Place
June 16-18	GCR Model railway Event provisionally Rise Park
July 29/30	GCR Ruddington Model Railway Show Boghampton, Hawthorn Dene
Sep 2/3	Soar Valley Show, Loughborough. Hawthorn Dene, Whatton Parva
Oct 14/15	Peterborough Hawthorn Dene
Nov	Warley, National Exhibition Centre Whatton Parva
Dec 2/3	The Manchester Model Railway Society Christmas Show . Hawthorn Dene
2018	
Nov	Warley, National Exhibition Centre Hawthorn Dene