



**Ashtown (N) – LC Martin Lockwood.** The last newsletter entry for Ashtown didn't appear, so this covers everything that has happened since the beginning of March. The layout appeared at the club's show in April as a work-in-progress and as a result of that, we generated a list of fixes and improvements that needed to be made which have now been completed. These included the following:-

- Provide a latching system for the traverser. At the show, it was found that the traverser was a bit too free-running resulting in the tracks becoming too easily miss-aligned, with the obvious result. Gareth has installed a bolt either side of the traverser table which slides into a series of whatever the things are called that bolts slide into, so any of the 12 tracks firmly align with any of the entry and exit tracks.
- During the exhibition, the bay platform siding lost power which was found to be due to a dodgy bit of soldering – this has been fixed.
- Derailments. Some locos and rolling stock regularly derailed in certain places around the layout (mercifully, mostly off-scene). This has been dealt with by either a bit of fettling or by adding check rails.
- Shorts (not the things you wear). A feature of the NCE system is that when a short occurs and a Power Cab unit is being used as a slave to another Power Cab, the reboot is fraught, so a cut-off has been installed which prevents the Power Cabs being affected thus not requiring a reboot.
- Cab console. A stop-gap measure was used to hook the NCE units into the layout wiring. Whilst this worked fine it wasn't ideal, so some units have been constructed to interface the controllers with the layout and provide somewhere to put the handsets down.

It hasn't all been fault fixing, we've been playing trains too (to ensure that the fixes above are OK, of course). And Bob and Martin have been building. Bob has finished-off the retaining walls around the station area and is busy making the platform canopies and waiting rooms. Martin, meantime, has made 3 low-relief houses (from Petite Properties and Arch Laser) to finish-off the street opposite the station.

The plan is to start exhibiting Ashtown as a complete layout from next year and to that end, all exhibitions within a 1-hour or so travelling time have been identified.

Ongoing, then, the following tasks are being undertaken.

- Finish the platform canopies and buildings
- finish the road, pavement and fix the low-relief buildings on Station Street
- Backscene
- Signalling (following John Cotton's advice)
- finish the station building, steps and forecourt
- Front right hand bit of the layout - bus garage and the slope.
- Detailing with figures, street furniture, road markings, road vehicles etc.
- Weathering/toning down

**Newton Wharf (previously Yeaton) (N) – LC Greg Deacon, Ian Dodds, George Hartfield.**

The layout still seems to be pretty robust with the club loco running successfully round all sections of the track on most club nights whilst pulling a string of 5 or 6 coaches. George bought Jim's ICE and runs that running too along with the club loco. Having two trains running at the same time looks good on the layout so we must find a way to obtain another loco. If anybody has a cheap N-scale diesel to sell I might be interested! The one problem we do have at the moment is that the retaining wall along the back of the Layout has blistered away from the banking to which it is stuck, presumably because the glue was unevenly spread - not sure what the solution is?

**Burch Green (OO)** - Progress with track-laying has been painstaking if very slow. Graham is contributing a building to the backscene and Les won another low relief structure in the raffle at Weston Super Mare show.

**Phoenix Park (OO) – LC Jeff Bamford/Pete Marshall.** Not a lot to add but much entertainment is to be had in running sessions especially 9fs hauling many 13ton and 21ton mineral wagons. The occasional diesel has also been noted hauling many more wagons than anyone could expect on a layout at home which does help justify being a club member with access to a nice big layout.

**Soarston Lower Level (DCC OO) – LC Jim Duckworth.** Nothing to report.

**Rise Park (N) – LC Les Richardson.** The layout went out to Loughborough show at the start of September and was very well received by the punters. Operationally it proved once again that it is unforgiving, small errors too quickly causing major problems. Alf & Geoff have added an extra feed which, hopefully, will cure a voltage drop affecting northbound trains leaving the station. The layout will be erected again at Christmas to make sure trains are run, allocated correct positions in the fiddle yard and then boxed up in the right order. This should reduce the problem solving needed at the start of Doncaster show which is our next outing.

**Croft Spa.** Les has spent a lot of hours in the last few weeks planting 2mm scale plants in the 14 gardens that back onto Croft Spa station. The cricket field that takes up the central part of the scenery is mostly done. The cricket match has stopped as the ball has



been lost. The picture shows three fielders furling round in the hedge bottom, watched on by a herd of curious cows. A figure from Alice in Wonderland (Lewis Carroll) was the son of the vicar of Croft Spa) is looking on in the distance. The white rabbit has the missing ball in his hands. Is this made him late for his appointment with the Queen of Hearts?

**Hawthorne Dene** A box of paperwork has arrived from Warley to be read and learned by heart by Les, Geoff, Bob and Simon before the show. The good news is that we aren't at Tamworth for overnight accommodation. The bad news is we are about the same distance in the direction of Worcester.

## **OTHER:-**

- **Our Show** -There is a supply of fliers in the clubroom. If you are visiting ANY model railway show or similar attraction please take a number and put them out at that show- there is usually a table for such things. PLEASE don't assume that others will do it. We currently have 14 layouts booked. The latest list is on the clubroom wall together with the likely amount each will cost us. Note that the biggest- a Roundy-Roundy in OO gauge, will cost us something in the region of £350 as it needs a big van (bigger than a Luton) with a tail lift, and these don't come cheap. As a reference, this is what we would need to charge if Rise Park were ever to go to a show. Please make sure that the 5th to 7th of April are kept clear in your diaries as we will need every available member. We will need 8 to man layouts, 4 to handle sales and raffle and 2 more on the door, with spares to swap over and other members to chat to the public and assist as required. Remember the show needs to make at least £600 profit each year to keep membership fees at their current rate (**gospel according to Saint Treasurer**)

## Diary Dates - Please give Graham details 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.

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2018</b> |   |
| Oct 20      | Hinkley, <b>Tremawn</b>   |
| Oct 27      | Woodthorpe, Nottingham, <b>No Place</b>                           |
| Nov 17-18   | Retford, <b>Boghampton</b>  |
| Nov 24-25   | Warley, <b>Hawthorn Dene</b>                                      |
|             |   |
| <b>2019</b> |   |
| Feb 9/10    | Doncaster, <b>Rise Park</b>                                       |
| Feb 16/17   | Sileby, <b>Croft Spa</b> (See pictures above)                     |
| Mar 1/2     | Mansfield, <b>No Place</b>  |
| Mar 30      | Weeley (Clacton on Sea), Essex N gauge show, <b>Hawthorn Dene</b> |
| Apr 6/7     | <b>Our Exhibition, Cotgrave</b>                                   |
| Jun 1       | Sleaford, <b>No Place</b>   |
| Nov 16/17   | Shoeburyness, <b>Boghampton</b>                                   |
|             |   |
| <b>2020</b> |   |
| Feb 8/9     | Doncaster, <b>No Place</b>  |
| Feb 15      | Milton Keynes, <b>Hawthorn Dene</b>                               |
| April 4/5   | <b>Our Exhibition, Cotgrave</b>                                   |
| Nov         | Spalding, <b>Hawthorn Dene</b>                                    |