

Winter 2020 Newsletter



Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2020 and a Happy New Year to everyone!

We have the first – I hope of many – missives from our Australian correspondent, Barry Keens, who some of you will remember was with us until recently when he returned to Perth.

Barry, thank you for keeping in touch.

(AMRA WA – stands for Australian Model Railway Association, Western Australia.)

AMRA WA Layouts and Club rooms

Here in Perth we have 3 shunting puzzles and 3 U-Drive layouts used in club rooms and at exhibitions. These are well used at club rooms and exhibitions. We ask for a donation of a gold coin, \$1 or \$2 at exhibitions which we give to charity. Picture attached is of Inglenook Sidings in "0" Scale.

In addition 12 other layouts are operational in the club rooms with 5 in storage and 2 under construction. We cater for N, OO, HO, O and larger including steam in a garden layout. Layout area is 500m², meeting room, library and admin cover 144m², workshop 72m², and storage 72m² with a garden of 250m².



We have 270+ members, and growing, and lease the land from the Shire Council on renewable 10 year leases at a cost of approx \$1000pa. Total market value of building is \$1.25 million including a 30 bay car park. God only knows what our layouts and other property are worth but we insure for \$250,000.

Annual membership is \$40 with a \$2 donation to attend a meeting. We hold 1 exhibition each year which attracts 10,000+ and 1 public club room meeting as well. There are other model railway clubs in Perth and elsewhere but many people also belong to us as well.

The club rooms are now 30 years old, with 2 extensions from the original 12 X 24m building I built in 1989. It is an unusual building as it has no windows, to keep out damaging sunlight, and is solar powered for daytime use, 2 days a week, and on the other days we get paid for the electricity we generate.

Hope this is of some interest to you and don't forget all BMRC members will be welcomed at any time.

Cheers

Barry

Bingham Road

At the time of writing there is some discussion as to what to call the new layout. Bingham Road was chosen to start with as we had to call it something! However it seems to be morphing into somewhere around the south of Nottingham so it seems to be coming around to something like Wilford! As to progress, the fiddle yard is complete, all points are electrified and all work on a 'pull out' touch panel – well done Dave and Rodger for that.

The front of the layout is slowly, board by board taking shape, one end is now fully fitted with point motors and again discussion is taking place as to the best method of controlling the points and the turntable on the visible section of the layout. Brian is in the process of designing and building the road bridge that will connect to the Bachmann station buildings. There is a long stretch of platform that it seems will be 'building free' but I'm sure we can fit something on there, even it is simply a loo or a platform name board!

BMRC Juniors

We now have a flourishing junior section, Supervised by Jim Ross, the youngsters have started building their own layout in the clubroom. Plans were approved before Christmas and progress is now noticeable. Well done Guys.

David Page has dug out some historic pictures of the club which are reproduced below. They are from the "Bingham Diary" dated April 2006 and the same newspaper dated May 2008. Don't they look young!

Train club opens up its tracks

By Paul Ainsworth

A MODEL railway club is giving people the chance to try their hand at driving trains and see a variety of hand-made railway layouts at their open day this weekend.

It will be Bingham Model Railway Club's first open day in 12 years.

Bingham Model Railway Club was formed 20 years ago for train enthusiasts to test and build their own locomotives, build railway layouts and share knowledge with fellow enthusiasts.

Members also attend model railway exhibitions across the UK.

Visitors to the open day will see model trains running along different layouts at Church House, East Street, Bingham between 10am-4pm on Sunday.

The club will showcase a range of railway layouts, with Cope Crossing taking centre stage.

This layout took members two years to build and measures 20ft by 5ft.

Members will send along the track a sequence of trains that may have run through Bingham from the 1920s to the present day.

Bingham Model Railway Club was formed in December 1985 when meetings were held at Church House.

It later moved to premises at Bingham Market Square before moving to the current headquarters in Outhorpe around 18 months ago.

The premise needed a lot of repair work costing around £1,000 and members are trying to raise money for further improvements.

Some of the money raised at the open day will be used to pay for a refurbishment.

At the moment there are around 20 members but they are always looking for more.

Members come from across the region including Bingham, West Bridgford, Adcockton, Basingham and West Bridgford.

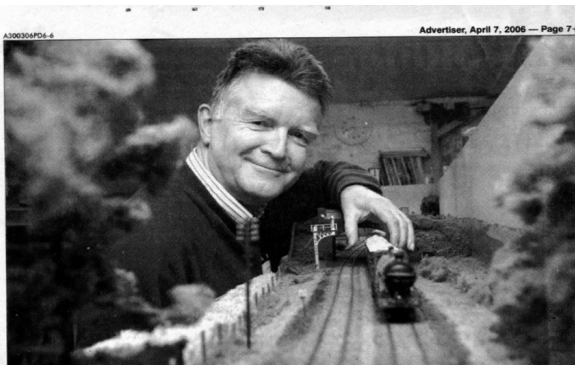
Different

The chairman, Mr David Page (60) of Porchester Road, Bingham, a senior train conductor, said people will be able to learn about the different trains that could have run through Bingham the club a year after it was formed.

He became interested in trains at the age of eight when his mother took him to get his haircut in Badcliffe and he used to watch the trains go past.

He got a railway track in the late 1950s and then started going around the country train spotting in the 1960s.

He said: "I really like the camaraderie with all the people that attend the group and



THE chairman of Bingham Model Railway, Mr Dave Page, demonstrates one of the layouts.

I enjoy taking the trains to exhibitions.

"It's just a joy to belong to this club and getting involved in such a number of layouts."

Mr Graham Dean (67) of Grove Road, Bingham, the open day organiser, has worked in the train industry for around 34 years.

Mr Dean, who was one of the first model railway club members, said his family had always worked on railways and he was involved with one of the first computer systems that calculated the number of trains needed to operate a service.

He said: "There is a really good social side to this club and people here have an enormous amount of knowledge."

Mr Stan Clough (64) of Main Street, Adcockton, the club

secretary, said he enjoyed constructing the model locomotives from kits and learning about different trains.

He said: "I like the educational side of the group and it is important to keep the history in the forefront, so people know what the trains used to look like."

Heritage

"We need to maintain our heritage and it is great to see youngsters learning about the trains and older fellows looking at the ones they used to watch go past themselves."

Mr John Wain (60) of Nursery Road, Bingham, said many of the members have specialist skills and he comes along to the meetings to learn from them.

He said the model railways were a hobby he could share with his grandchildren.

He said: "I was deprived as a child because I never had a model railway. I have grandchildren and I thought they could help me with it."

"This is also something to do socially. I really enjoy going to the exhibition to see all the other railway layouts."

A teacher at Rushcliffe Comprehensive School, Mr Chris Drifford (52) the treasurer, came across the model railway club at an exhibition in the 1980s and has been a member ever since.

He attends meetings with his son, Alex.

Mr Drifford said: "It definitely helps me to relax after work and it is something that

I will definitely spend more time on after my teaching."

Alex (16) a Rushcliffe Comprehensive School pupil, said his father got him interested in trains and he started going to meetings about five years ago.

Alex, who wants to be a train driver, prefers to make his own trains from a kit and create his own unique trains by converting models.

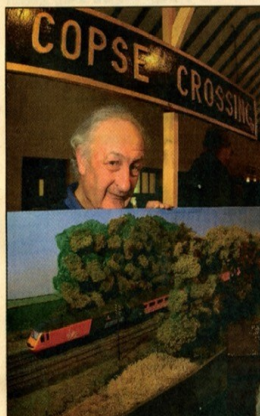
He said: "It has evolved from playing with trains as a kid to getting into specific modelling when I was older."

"It is a really friendly atmosphere here and it is a good place to work on your trains if you haven't got enough space at home."

BINGHAM DIARY, May 2008



Having a go at driving a train at Bingham Model Railway Club's open weekend are, from left - Malcolm Batchelor, Rory Batchelor, brothers Veen, Sorcha and Mackenzie Ross and David Page. Photo: 7053K01



RIGHT: Trevor Webster, of Whetton, gets to grips with some model making. Photo: 7053K06

Photos by Gerry Wright

Denis Astle working trains on Bingham Model Railway Club's award-winning Cope Crossing layout. Photo: 7053K03

... and not forgetting the tea ladies

Ladies from Bingham Parish Church provided the refreshments. They are, from left - Jenny Price, Mary Russell, Molly Douglas and June Saxton. They were also joined by churchwarden Birgit Dean, who is not in the picture. Photo: 7053K08



BINGHAM DIARY, May 2008



Controlling the fiddle yard on the club's award-winning Cope Crossing layout are, from left - Chris Trafford, club secretary Stan Clough and Dave Happs. Photo: 7053K07

Hundreds turn out to town model railway club's open day

HUNDREDS of visitors from four counties travelled to Whetton at the weekend for Bingham Model Railway Club's Open Weekend.

Model railway enthusiasts from Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire had the chance to drive a train for

themselves and see the club's award-winning Cope Crossing layout along with several others, including Manvers Street Goods and Kindersleyplatz in Switzerland.

The event, at Whetton Jubilee Hall, was the third held by the club, and included a variety of trade stands for enthusiasts to

browse.

Club member Graham Dean said: "The event was very successful. The Drive A Train experience was very popular and perhaps we have sown the seeds for future railway modellers."

"Apart from the enjoyment we got from entertaining the public, we were very pleased to receive several inquiries

from prospective new members."

Refreshments were provided by ladies from Bingham Parish Church and proceeds went to the 2009 Church Flower Festival.

The weekend was sponsored by Whetton-based MB Models, Lovejoys Solicitors, of Bingham, and Taylor McGill.



Checking out the trains are, from left - Michael Moore, Peter Hey and Graham Dean. Photo: 7053K02



Thomas Sheard (left) points out a particularly fascinating detail to Joy and Colin Brown at the open weekend at Whetton Jubilee Hall. Photo: 7053K05

To order a photo quote the photo number and send your cheque (payable to Grantham Journal) to: Photo Sales Department, Grantham Journal, 46 High Street, Grantham. Prices: 6x4 £3; 6x4 (4 passport size) £3; 7x5 £4; 9x6 £5; 10x8 £9; 12x8 £11.50; 15x10 £14; 18x12 £16.50.

Newton Folly January Report

It is now about 15 months since we started to build this layout and for the last 9 months or so it has been operational to some extent. The design is mine so I am to blame for that but the build and progress is down to the team of Jerry, George, Tony, Roy and latterly John Cotton and Stephen Hoare. It is particularly gratifying that 2 or 3 juniors regularly run trains on Newton Folly.

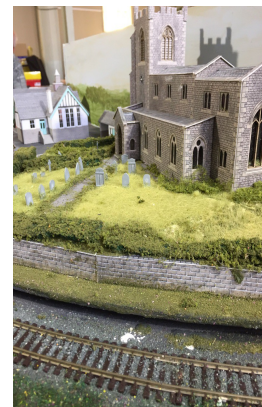
The layout is DC and DCC and I think it is currently the only OO gauge DC facility in the club but it is DC electrics that has caused us by far the most problems. I've often wished we hadn't got involved with DC but there are still club members who might need it so I suppose it is as well we did?



It has been decided to show it at our 2020 exhibition later this year. It is of course a long way off being finished so is being shown as a work in progress layout. This means that the current work focus is on ensuring that it can be dismantled and then reassembled successfully. Along the way some of the joins have been papered over so there is work to be done.



There is lots going on currently to do with landscaping. Lighting in buildings and street lighting is progressing well. Grass is growing all over the place. John is busy vandalising the carefully constructed front yards our row of terrace houses but hopefully is rebuilding the fronts with gardens and more attractive entrances.



I have foolishly been creating railway arches at the back of the layout along the fiddle yard in a misguided attempt to make it an all round layout (the guys disagree with me on this as they require access to the fiddle yard from the operating well and need to keep an eye on stock in the yard against possible light fingered exhibition visitors) - but it has kept me busy for a few weeks.

For the future there is lots to do - signalling, weathering buildings, roads, car parking, people and animals, trees etc. Enough for the rest of 2020 and more.

Greg.

Soarston

We are now working on the high level section of the layout, which sits on 2 separate freestanding baseboards behind the canal and gypsum works. This will consist of a small town terminus station with island platform, engine shed, goods shed and a run-round loop.

The track is all laid on the 2 baseboards, each one 4'7" x 1'5", all track and points have been wired and are working. This week (14 Jan) we cleaned and tested the track with 4 locomotives and were pleased with the results. The only problem now is getting the KD couplings to work over the magnets in the track. Some slight re-alignment may have to be made. Once we can sort these out we can continue track ballasting and painting.

Jim

BMRC Exhibition April 3-4-5 2020

1. All traders and layouts have now had confirmations sent out with setup times and approximate location in the hall. This mailshot has also included a couple of posters and ten more fliers.

2. We need the following club members at the show:

a. A team of four to six on Friday to help with the setup – this needs four persons through from 1pm to 8pm on the Friday, though it doesn't need to be the same people other than me.

b. A team of three or four to cover the door.

c. A team of three or four to cover the sales stand

d. A team of three or four to act as stewards around the hall. This involves wandering round and talking to punters and stallholders, and discouraging pilfering from stands by their presence. It also involves delivering lunches to stands and being available to get tea/coffee for one-person bands (and at times holding the fort while operator or trader visits the restroom)

e. Newton Folly, Ashtown and Cumanavago will all need a team of operators

That makes an ideal total membership turnout at the show of about 23 including the operators. Please don't leave it to someone else

3. We need people to go out and sell programme ads - £30 for a quarter page, £50 for a half page.

We need a volunteer to talk nicely to Bingham Handicentre about sponsoring the show again. I will talk nicely to the Cotgrave businesses who support us but need people to talk to the Bingham area businesses, and also to tackle likely advertisers in

Radcliffe and West Bridgford.

4. We also need people to put up posters and to browbeat local shops, pubs etc to take posters and fliers. Posters are available in the clubroom, and laminated ones for outside display are available- just ask Les if they have run out.
5. We need a team to go round Cotgrave getting septic knuckles putting fliers through house doors.
6. We also need someone to publicise
7. us on the Bingham, Radcliffe and West Bridgford Facebook Community Groups - Les does the Cotgrave Matters group.

Rise Park

An invitation to exhibit at Manchester L&YDCC show was passed on to the Ashtown group as Les was unavailable on that weekend. The invitation has been deferred to 2021 if we are still interested. Otherwise nothing to report. (Ed: Tony is taking Boghampton to this exhibition)

Burch Green

A sky scene has been sourced and fitted. The only problem is that it is four inches short at each end, which will be hidden by judicious planting of foreground objects. Geoff has finished the Petite Properties low relief warehouse and much discussion has taken place regarding the siting of the different buildings along the backscene. The team will raid L Cut Creative and other similar stands at Doncaster show to source walling and bridge parts for the higher level scene at the right hand end of the layout.

NO PLACE

The layout is currently being prepared for Doncaster show, with Kadee couplings on all stock adjusted so they work perfectly, except perhaps for Tony. Meanwhile Les has been trying to do a Colin Gifford with the camera with a much lower level of success.



Hawthorn Dene

Attended the one-day show at Worksop on 18th January. Les had to dash back to Newark for the triangular braces that hold the layout together and this resulted in setting up and putting on stock in 55 minutes before the show opened. Many thanks to Geoff and Rodger for their forbearance and doing a fine job operating. The show organiser has written to tell us we had a lot of positive things said to us at church on Sunday morning.....

Current Diary:		
2020		
February 1-2 nd	South Town	Stafford
February 8-9 th	NO PLACE	Doncaster
February 8-9 th	Ashtown	Doncaster
February 15-16 ^{thh}	Hawthorn Dene	Milton Keynes
February 29-March 1 st	Croft Spa	Newark
February 29-March 1 st	Cumanavago	Newark
March 7-8 th	Croft Spa	Leamington
March 21-22 nd	Hawthorn Dene	Howden (Near Hull)
April 4 th	South Town	Norwich
April 4-5th	BMRC	Cotgrave
May 8-10 th	Croft Spa	Scunthorpe (to be confirmed)
May 16-17 th	Boghampton	Manchester
May 30 th	Croft Spa	Sleaford
July 4-5 th	Croft Spa	Penarth, South Wales
August 22-23 rd	Tremawn	Soar Valley (Loughborough)
August 22-23 rd	NO PLACE	Soar Valley (Loughborough)
September 19 th	South Town	Lichfield
October 10-11 th	Hawthorn Dene	Farnborough Surrey
October 26-27 th	Boghampton	Boston
October 31-November 1 st	Tremawn	Spalding
October 31-November 1 st	Hawthorn Dene	Spalding
November 14-15 th	Boghampton	Shoeburyness
2021		
February	Tremawn	Sileby
February 13-14 th	South Town	Doncaster
February 13-14 th	Croft Spa	Doncaster
March 27-28th	BMRC	Cotgrave
April 3-4 th	Boghampton	Portsmouth Victory
September 25-26 th	South Town	Boston
2022		
April 1st-2nd	BMRC	Cotgrave
October 1st-2 nd	South Town	Fareham

2023		
April 28-30 th	South Town	Bristol

