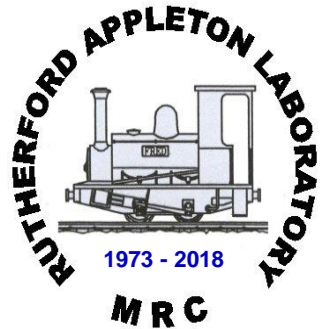


# Model Railway Club Annual Report 2018 – 2019

## 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year



Since last years Rec Soc AGM, the RAL Model Railway club have attended the following exhibitions, and club reports for each of the exhibitions attended can be seen from page 2 onwards.

- June 2018                Steventon (Oxford Narrow Gauge Group)
- October 2018        Newbury
- November 2018    High Wycombe

From attending these exhibitions (and exhibitions during 2017), the club have received potential exhibition invite enquiries from exhibition managers to exhibit one of our four narrow gauge club layouts at the following venues:-

Didcot, Reading, Newbury, Taunton, Burton On Trent, Stafford, Bressingham, Fareham, Mere & Basingstoke.

Exhibition invites that have so far been confirmed and accepted are :-

Burton On Trent (June 2019)  
Didcot (October 2019)  
Taunton (October 2020)

The model railway club celebrates 45 years of existence this year, having been set up in March 1973 and was one of the earliest Rec Soc clubs to be set up on site when the sites name was “Rutherford Laboratory”.

It has been a busy year attending exhibitions. Fortunately, the exhibitions attended have been fairly local (without the need for early morning starts). Our newest layout (Sams’s Creek) has proved popular and has been exhibited at three exhibitions during 2018, with two further outings planed this year (Burton On Trent in June and Didcot in October). We also had an article on the layout published in the November 2018 issue of “Continental Modeller” magazine.

The model Railway Club members celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the model railway club by enjoying a club day out at the Lynton & Barnstable Railway, attending the September 2018 Steam Gala event (see attached report).

## Steventon (Oxford Narrow Gauge Group) Exhibition Report (23/06/18)



This event was very much a “Home show” for us, being just down the road from the laboratory. Travelling times to exhibitions can vary from 20 minutes to 2 ½ hours. The enjoyable part of operating a layout locally, is talking to members of the public or exhibition managers from other clubs, as well as catching up with old acquaintances and friends from RAL or the model railway fraternity.

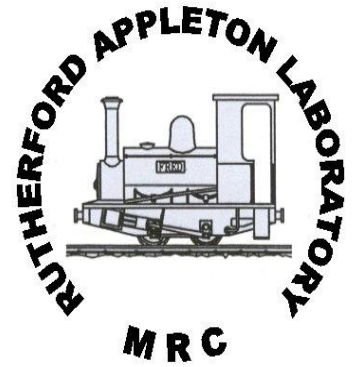
We took our newest and Australian themed narrow gauge layout (Sam’s Creek) to this exhibition. This was the new layout’s second outing to a local model railway exhibition, and again proved popular with both the general public and narrow gauge railway modeller’s from other clubs.

Whilst the “Sam’s Creek” layout was being exhibited at the exhibition in Steventon, it was photographed by the editor of the monthly magazine “Continental Modeller” (see Fig 1). The photographs were used later in the year (along with a “Sam’s Creek” layout description, written by club member’s) for a ten page article which appeared in the November 2018 edition of the “Continental Modeller” magazine. This publicity is good for our model railway club, as well as the Laboratory and the Rec Soc who we also represent at exhibitions we attend with a layout.



Fig 1

## **RAL Model Railway Club 2018 Annual Outing**



Our model railway club trip this year was an outing to a mile long section of the resurrected Lynton & Barnstable Railway (September Steam Gala) in North Devon. The main attraction at this gala being the double heading of two new build replica narrow gauge steam locomotives (see Fig 2 below).

Loco 762 "LYN" belongs to the Lynton & Barnstable Railway, whilst loco 190 "LYD" had been brought to North Devon from the Ffestiniog Railway (where the loco had been built in their Boston Lodge workshops). Both locos are replica builds of steam locomotives that originally operated on the Lynton and Barnstable railway before its closure in 1935.

After an early start from home we had a three hour drive to Blackmoor Gate (where a free park and ride bus service was provided to the Gala being held at Woody Bay station. The long drive was worthwhile as we had a most enjoyable day at the gala, and the two loco's double heading did not disappoint. We stopped and talked to quite a few friends and colleagues who had also made the long trip to the gala. At the current / temporary terminus at Paracombe, there is a gap between the hills which affords a view across to the coast of South Wales. The Lynton & Barnstable Railway and local businesses should benefit from the proposed reinstatement of additional and substantial length of the original trackbed (time and money currently being the only drawback).

One of our club members has scratch built an O-16.5mm NG scale model of loco 762 "LYN" (see Fig 3 below). So our outing to the L & B gala was an opportunity to take pictures of the replica loco and compare / ensure details on the scale model were as representational as possible.



**Fig 2**

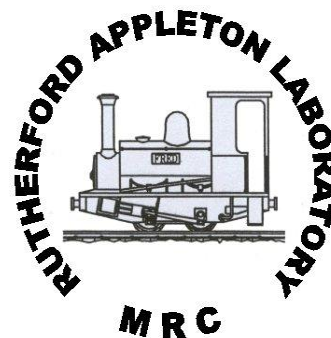


**Fig 3**



## Newbury MRC

### Exhibition Report (27/10/18)



**Fig 4**

The Newbury exhibition was another fairly local venue for us to attend this year, and one we have not attended for a few years. We took our largest Narrow Gauge layout "St Brayden" to this exhibition and it was well received by model railway enthusiasts and the general public. We picked up a trophy for the best layout in the exhibition (Fig 4 shows us having just been presented with the best in exhibition trophy).

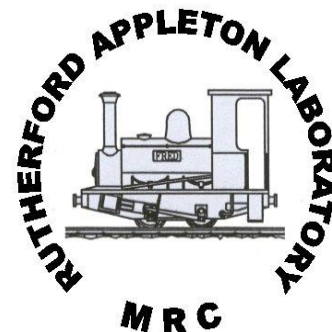
The St Brayden layout features a sequence where loaded ore tippler wagons arrive at the harbour side (front of layout) and the wagons discharge their load into the hold of an awaiting Puffer boat. This sequence is always popular with visitors, especially children who are invited to use the controls at the front of the layout to discharge the wagon loads into the Puffer boat.



**Fig 5**

Fig 5 shows a club member (Brian) showing a young lad how to operate the wagon tippler mechanism. Youngsters like this lad are potentially the next generation of railway modellers. We had an enjoyable day at the Newbury exhibition having picked up an award and also met up with old acquaintances who used to work at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, as well as catching up with fellow railway modellers we have known for years. Whilst at the exhibition we picked up some potential exhibition invites to attend with one of our narrow gauge layouts (Mere, Basingstoke, as well as Newbury in 2020 with a different layout).

## High Wycombe MRC Exhibition Report (06/11/18)



We took our new layout "Sams Creek" on its third exhibition outing during 2018 to the High Wycombe exhibition. Fig 6 below shows the layout having been set up and waiting for the exhibition to open to the general public.



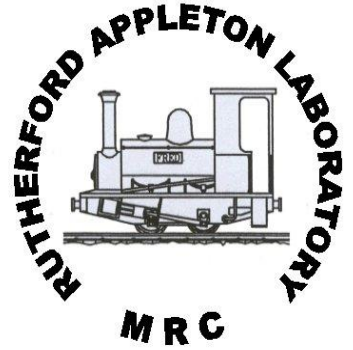
**Fig 6**

We had an enjoyable day exhibiting the new layout at the High Wycombe exhibition. Our previous attendances (with a club layout) at this exhibition and venue were back in 2012 and again in 2014.

The new layout ran well all day and attracted attention from exhibition managers. We received two potential invites for the layout to attend exhibitions in Didcot (October 2019) and Reading (2020).

We often get asked at exhibitions (by members of the general public) about the work of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, or how our model railway club was formed.

# **Model Railway Club Annual Report 2016 - 2017**



The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Model Railway Club would like to thank the reporting of our layouts at various exhibitions over the past twelve month period by exhibition club hosts, visitors, newspaper reporters and magazine editors. We would also like to thank persons who have enjoyed our layouts at the various exhibitions and posted photographs with complimentary captions on web pages or put video clips of our various club layouts on Youtube.

The Model Railway Club would also like to thank the Rec Soc for supporting our attendance at various exhibitions over the last twelve month period.

When taking our layouts to exhibitions, we not only help our club to maintain and exhibit our high standards of modeling, we also represent both the Rec Soc and the Laboratory. Exhibition visitors are interested to know about our model railway club, as well as the purpose of RAL and our association with the Rec Soc.

The club is always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the club, please contact:-

Dennis Abbley (MRC Club Chairman)

Email: [dabbley@btinternet.com](mailto:dabbley@btinternet.com)

31/03/19