

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT

# NEWSLETTER

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Between the Lines



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## From the Editors Desk

Autumn is here and sadly with it the nights are drawing in. By the time you get this newsletter the clocks will have gone back.

Event wise we have now completed all of our event commitments for 2023/2024.

Overall its been another busy year. This newsletter includes some reports with piccies of some of our past events, that have not been included in previous newsletter editions, due to space constraints or chronologically had not happened. The Corby exhibition I will include in the next newsletter as technically the two layouts we took were not club owned but we did fly the flag for the club.

2024 marks the 55th anniversary of the Club's founding in 1969. It does not seem possible that 5 years have passed since we had our 50th anniversary dinner at the Brompton Halt. Sadly we have lost a number of our members since then but on the upside we have gained a greater number of new members, and I'm please to say that these a majority of these have been younger members.

Colin



The Club is pleased to welcome the following new member(s):

**Jacob Morton (Junior)**



## CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Club's Christmas Dinner will take place on Wednesday 11th December at the Queen Eleanor. A menu can be viewed at

<https://www.hungryhorse.co.uk/pubs/northamptonshire/queen-eleanor/christmas/festive-menu>

On this page select Festive Menu. You can bring your spouse or partner. If you would like to go then please let Stephen Lloyd know. His email address is

*[Stephen.LLOYD@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Stephen.LLOYD@networkrail.co.uk)*

## Membership Renewals

I'm pleased to see that most members have now renewed their memberships and with the new increased fee, which unfortunately we have had to implement.

However you will note that I stated above, 'most'. This means that not all have yet applied the increase to their payments. Those that have not done so are all members paying by monthly standing order. Will those members please make sure your monthly amounts are increased from £5 pcm to £6 pcm. During November I will be either be having a discreet word in your ear, or sending you a written reminder or both.

Colin

Treasurer

# Chairman's Ramblings

Dear All,

Yet again this November 5<sup>th</sup> finds me at my keyboard again, typing away listening to the fireworks, and hoping to find that you are all still enjoying being current members of this club, and are enjoying the benefits. Also, I am hoping you are all well, and hope you are also in good spirits.

It is nearly the end of 2024 and Christmas will be with us soon. Is it just me, but do the years seem to be getting shorter and shorter? As it only seems that last week it was Spring and I was looking forward to a great Summer.



I am pleased to say we are still meeting at Hardingstone Village Hall, and hopefully this year and the next will be a little less fraught for the hall committee with financial problems.

May I also take this opportunity again to thank all the members who have given their time to club matters and projects, without whom this club would not be where it is today.

Unfortunately, at the moment there are currently no plans for exhibitions for our two main layouts Kingsthorpe and Castle Station, but hopefully we can possibly find some for next year. At the moment spending on both layouts is now very little, as most of the required exhibition improvements and modifications have now been completed.

Good news is that we have just started work on a new club junior layout project, and along with the new N gauge layout currently being built by Ray and Bill. Hopefully these will represent the club at our show in Roade next year.

The N gauge test track is currently being upgraded by Colin our treasurer and is being replaced by a temporary one instead.

The main demonstration layout is still in regular use each week, and still keeps on going, even though it will need some upgrading and servicing over the next few months, as there are some track and connection problems developing on it. ( Volunteers required please)

It is nice to see many new faces at the club and I hope you are all enjoying the Thursday evenings. Please let us know if you are pleased with the way the club runs, or let us know if we can improve it in any way.



We are currently about to ask you if you would like to join us for our usual Christmas meal at the Queen Eleanor pub, and also if you wish to attend, for your choice of menu. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for further details.

Also, next month the Corby club will be putting on their annual light show which some of us attended last year, and we were all made very welcome on the night.

Finally, please remember to have a great time and have fun on club nights, enjoy the hobby, and to remember the famous words of Bill and Ted in their great movie

" Party on dudes!"

## *Les Pace*

Chairman NDMRC



Bob and Jon receive tuition in soldering from John W at a weekly club night meet on the 5th September 2024.

# A Visit to the South Devon Railway

by Colin Tarry

Whilst on our annual holiday to Devon in July, we visited the South Devon Railway.

We caught the train from Paignton to Totnes changing at Newton Abbott.

The South Devon Railway is situated about 3/4 mile walk from Totnes mainline station, joining their station at Totnes Riverside.

On arrival at Totnes Riverside we decided to have a coffee first then visit the Rare Breeds Animal Farm. The first train didn't depart until 11:30 so we had



Pannier tank no 6412 at Totnes Riverside. Inset—one of the pigmy goats

[Photos Colin Tarry]

plenty of time to kill—about 90 min.



After visiting the Rare Breeds Animal Farm and talking to the pigmy goats, it was time to board the train.

Our loco for the day was ex GWR pannier tank no 6412. We departed on time at 11:30 and meandered down to Buckfastleigh hugging the River Dart most of the way.

At Buckfastleigh you can no longer access the locomotive works. I expect Health & Safety has intervened. At least Express Models still have their model shop there and some goodies were purchased.





With a telephoto lens on I did manage to get a shot on shed of this class 25 being restored. I found two class 25's on the SDR . Neither had visible numbers so I am presuming this is 25185 (D7535) as its listed as being in blue and currently not operational.

Pannier tank no 6412 awaiting departure from Buckfastleigh.

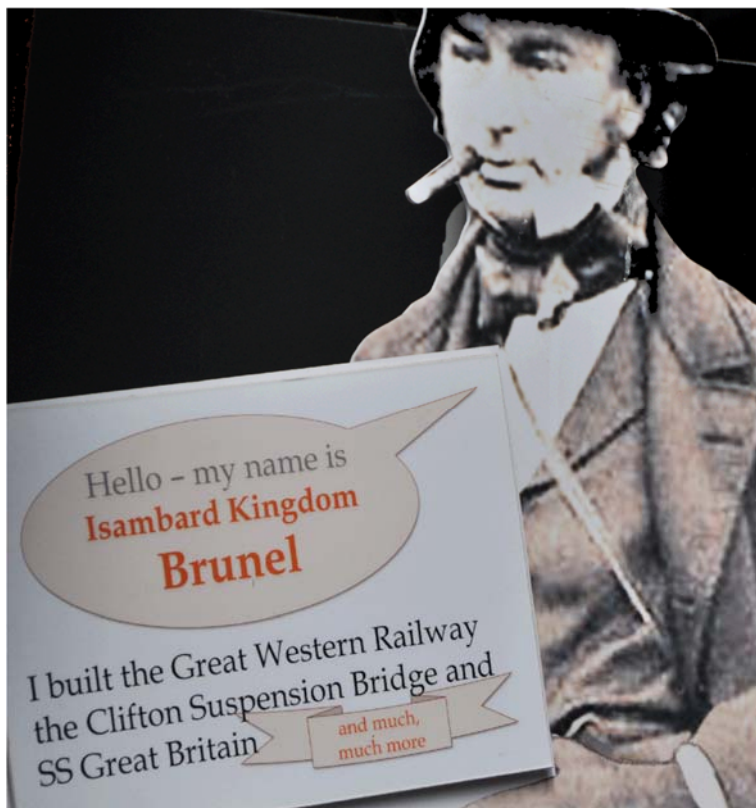


Class 04 diesel mechanical shunter no D2271 doing some shunting at Buckfastleigh.

[Photos Colin Tarry]



A couple of items from the Buckfastleigh museum...



In the museum I found this anomaly..  
I'm sorry IKB , but you didn't build the GWR—the navvies did.

There used to be a similar sign at the Great Western Society at Didcot making the same claim. I notice from a visit there this year that the sign has gone. They probably got told about that.

[Photos Colin Tarry]



The wording on the plaque is self explanatory, However if you want to look a little deeper into it , you come up with this:

This is plaque no 1023.of 3000 made. 1023 is the number of a Western Diesel Hydraulic which is now part of the national collection at York.– D1023 Western Fusilier.



# Royal Albert Bridge—Saltash

by Colin Tarry

Whilst still on our annual holiday to Devon, we visited Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge over the River Tamar at Saltash.

We caught the train from Paignton to Saltash changing at Newton Abbott and Plymouth.

I have been over the Royal Albert Bridge before but never actually stopped in Saltash to study the bridge. This was something on my 'Bucket List' to do before I actually kick the bucket.

Alighting from the train at Saltash we made our way down to the river. Here we thought we can look at the bridge and also get some lunch. The only pub down there said "No Food" and the community building there only served cakes and confectionary. To get into the town of Saltash was a walk up very steep gradients. We started to do this and gave up. Too much like hard work. So it was study the bridge and move on for lunch.

Looking up at the Royal Albert Bridge from ground level is awe-inspiring. The size of the stone pillars are colossal.



The Royal Albert Bridge as viewed from Saltash railway station.

[Photo Colin Tarry]

When you think this structure was built in the days of the pick, shovel and wheelbarrow and has stood here since 1859, it's a true testament to its designer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his team of navvies.



The Royal Albert railway bridge crosses the River Tamar at its narrowest point of 1,100 feet, here at Saltash allowing sufficient height for sailing ships to pass underneath. This was a requirement of the admiralty.

There were two main difficulties to overcome. First, the creation of the pier in the middle of the river, which Brunel solved by designing a great cylinder to be floated into position and to act as a coffer dam. This pillar had to be sunk until it found the rock on the river bed. The second was the raising of the main spans. These were built on the Devon foreshore and floated into position. The Cornwall pier was erected first and jacked up three feet at a time to enable the brickwork on the landward pier and ironwork on the central pier to be erected beneath.

A statue of IKB at ground level at Saltash, and the bridge from Saltash at ground level.

The first train crossed the bridge on 11th April 1859.

It was officially opened by HRH Prince Albert on 2nd May 1859.

Brunel didn't attend the opening due to ill health, but crossed the bridge two days later in an open wagon.

After Brunel's premature death on 15 September 1859 the directors of the Cornwall Railway Company decided to make the bridge a memorial to him by adding the words *I.K. BRUNEL, ENGINEER, 1859* in large metal letters on either end of the bridge .



[Photos Colin Tarry]



# Road Exhibition 2024

by Colin Tarry

Photos Cliff Simpson

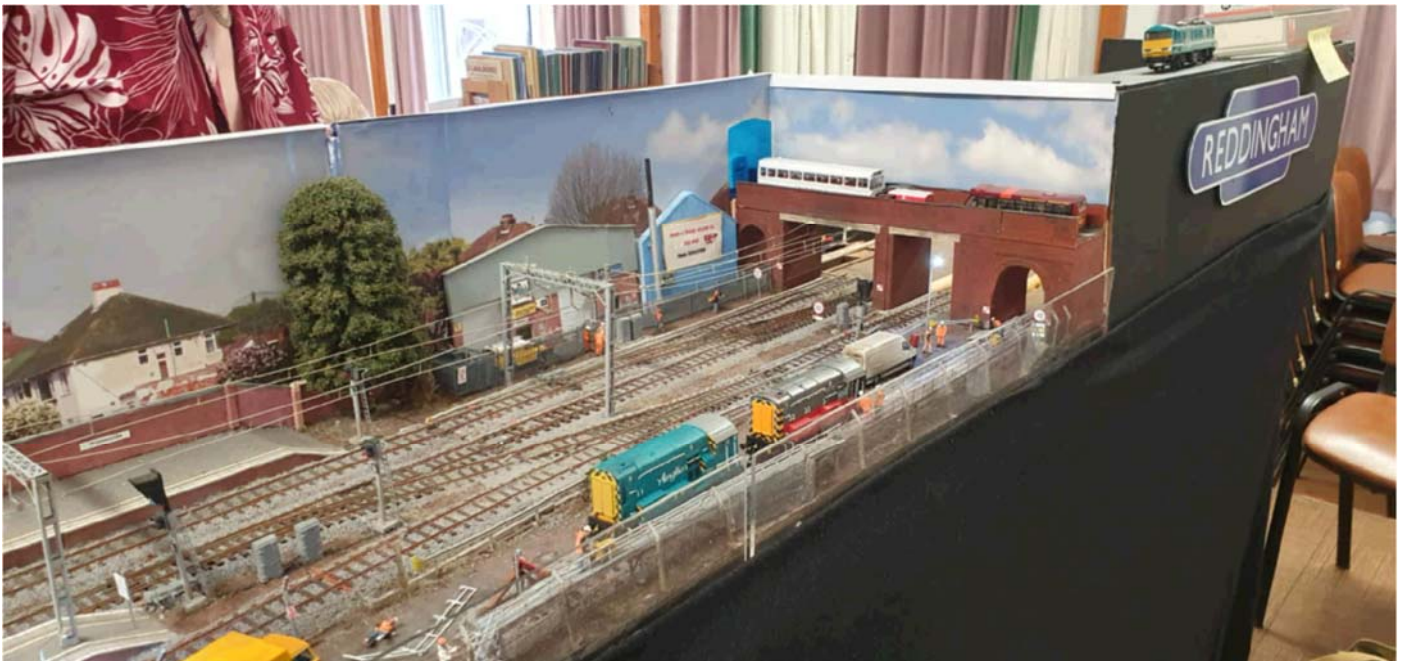
On July 20th the clubs annual exhibition took place at Roade Village Hall.

This was a successful day for the club in terms of layouts and traders attending, the number of visitors we had and also in raising funds for the clubs coffers.

Having the catering done by an external person has made life much easier on this front and also burgers etc are a lot more appetising than sandwiches.

This year, like last, we had some vintage buses attending, one of which was giving rides around the village.

Following are some photos of the day.









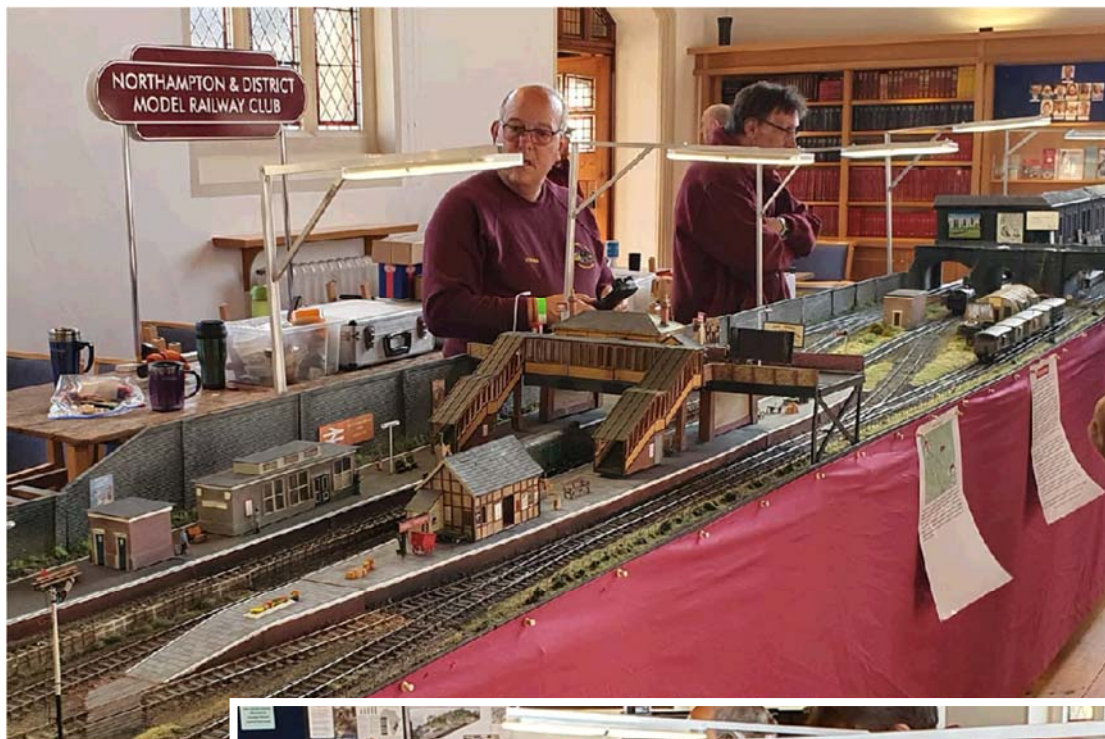




# Kempston Exhibition

*photos* Cliff Simpson

On Saturday 28th September 2024 the club exhibited the O gauge layout Kingsthorpe at the Kempston & District Model Railway Exhibition at Kempston East Methodist Church. Some photos here taken by Cliff.





# Soar Valley MRC Exhibition by Colin Tarry

Over the weekend of August 17th & 18th the club was back at Loughborough Grammar School exhibiting. The Club took the O gauge Kingsthorpe layout and I took my N gauge layout Tumil St James.

Following are some pictures of the Kingsthorpe layout taken by Cliff and Tumil St James taken by me. I also managed to get a picture of Roger.







Unfortunately the exhibition was too much for one of our members.

After his 'Power Nap' he was a new man— but he hid it well.





# Club Uniform

If you wish to, order any items of Club Uniform then please get in touch with Colin Tarry.

In order to help you gauge (pun intended) the size of item(s) you require there is information available in the club folder.

The following items are available:

A price list is also in the club folder.

All body clothing has the club logo on and your name.

The cap only has the club logo.



**Please note that a £5 deposit will be required for EACH item ordered. As these items are personalised, we are unable to give refunds or do exchanges where incorrect sizes have been ordered.**

ITEM	GENDER	PRODUCT No	SIZE	PRICE
Polo shirt	Mens	R539M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£23.00
Polo shirt	Mens	R539M	3XL, 4XL	£28.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£23.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	20,22	£28.00
Polo shirt	Childs	R539B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£19.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£24.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	3XL, 4XL	£32.00
Sweat shirt	Childs	R762B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£23.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£36.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	3XL, 4XL	£40.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£36.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	20,22	£40.00
Fleece	Childs	R870B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£30.00
Cap	Unisex	BC015	One size fits all	£17.00

These prices are correct as at 1st March 2023. These prices are subject to change. When ordering please bear in mind that the cost may be greater than shown here.

# Club Information



## Committee Members

Les Pace (Chair Person)	Colin Tarry (Treasurer)
Richard Deacon (Secretary)	Michael Castledine
Craig Dawkins (Exhibition Manager)	Cliff Simpson      Stephen Lloyd

Web site: <https://ndmrc.org>

Email: [feedback@ndmrc.org](mailto:feedback@ndmrc.org)

Club Night: Thursday

Meeting Time: 19:00—22:00

Venue: Hardingsstone Village Hall, High Street, Hardingsstone,  
Northampton, NN4 6DA



Scan for web site

Secretary: tel:      01604 890275

email: [rjd156@btinternet.com](mailto:rjd156@btinternet.com)

## Non Committee Positions

Newsletter Editor - Colin Tarry	email: <a href="mailto:wizzo@hymek.net">wizzo@hymek.net</a>
Sales Officer - John Walker	email: <a href="mailto:pamjohn38@btinternet.com">pamjohn38@btinternet.com</a>

## Club Membership Rates

Club membership runs from September to August or part of the calendar year, and ALL expire on the last calendar day of August, becoming due for renewal on the first of September.

Adult membership £72 per year, Junior membership £12 per year.

For adult members easy payment terms available. Please enquire.

## **DISCLAIMER**

Any views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Northampton and District Model Railway Club, its Officials or Members unless so stated.