

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Between the Lines

7 8 9 10 11 12

**SUMMER
2023**

ADMIT ONE to Platform

NOT VALID ON TRAINS

Issued subject to the Bye-Laws, Notices
Regulations and Conditions of the Railway

1 2 3 4 5 6



Contents (key articles)

Club Torque	Page 3
Chairman's Ramblings	Page 4
Caption Competition / Forthcoming Events	Page 5
Chesterfield Group model exhibition—Day trip by bus	Page 6
Tribute to John Baxter	Page 8
Do Not Touch !	Page 16
Club Uniform	Page 17

From the Editors Cab Window

A majority of this newsletter contains a full tribute to our late member John Baxter. Because of this I have put back my next article on Tumil St James along with the next article on DCC, which was to be on installing a DCC Bus . These will appear in a future newsletter. Our tribute to John is far more important.

In the tribute to John Baxter I have reprinted the eulogy given at his funeral, verbatim. I think it fair to say that many of us knew little of the private life of John, and the eulogy makes for interesting reading in that it tells us a lot about the John we didn't know.

By the time you read this newsletter we will be on the final lap in getting ready for our exhibition at Roade in August.

Colin



Roade Exhibition 2023 — IMPORTANT

Unlike previous years, at this years exhibition, club members will NOT receive a FREE lunch. Please bring your own or you can purchase food from the vendor outside. FREE hot drinks will be available.

Club Membership

We are nearing that time again when club memberships are up for renewal. Those who pay by standing order, you do not have to do anything (except make sure there is money in your account), as your member will renew automatically. For the remainder of the membership I will be round to see you nearer the time for your renewal.

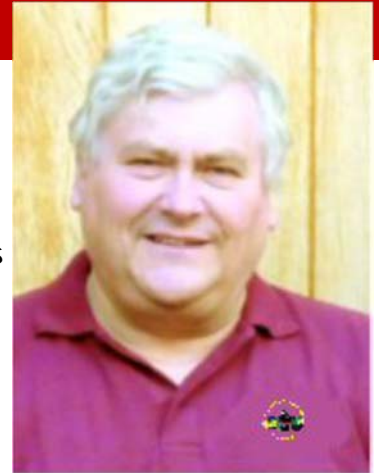
Notice is hereby given that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB
will be held on
Thursday 12th October 2023
at 20:00
at Hardingstone Village Hall.

Any items for the **Any Other Business** section of the meeting please send to Richard Deacon by Friday 29th September 2023.

Richard's email address is *rjd156@btinternet.com*

Please note there will be NO modelling activities or layouts out on this evening.

Chairman's Ramblings



As I sit here in my workshop this evening (Sat July 29th) after a great day on Kidderminster station concourse on the Severn Valley Railway, running my gauge 1 steam loco Galatea, I am now cheerfully putting together my ramblings on current club matters and where it is going in the future.

I have been pleasantly surprised with the efforts of our members to get stalled projects restarted, and even some more new projects created.

Thanks go to everyone involved with the Kings Thorpe 0 gauge layout that we are currently working on so we can exhibit it at our show in August. I was amazed how different it now looks compared to how it was when we restarted the renovations. Also, it now incorporates a lot of the new technology that I am sure will be of great interest to the people who visit our show.

The junior track that we took to the St Matthews Summer Fete recently worked well and with additional scenic items also looked very good. Thanks must go to all the junior members for their efforts with this layout. Additionally thanks go to Bill and Ray who took the N gauge Test Track.

Finally, thanks must go to Colin for exhibiting his great new N gauge layout , Tumil St James, on behalf of the club at several local shows.

In other news, we are currently pursuing a possible new venue for the club, where we would be able to work on layouts without having to put them away as we do at present. This new venue would work in conjunction with the Thursday night meetings at the hall in Hardingstone rather than to replace them, and these plans are hopefully in the final stages of negotiation at present, however it may still crash and burn like other ones have done in the past. I will let you know if we have been successful or not and details on what to expect from it. As soon as I know so will you all.

I am really looking forward to our show next month which I hope will be even better than last years. Thanks must go to Craig as exhibition manager for all his hard work and also to all the members whose efforts are really appreciated so far, and will be appreciated again on the day of the show.

The AGM will be held after the exhibition and we will need to possibly discuss the possibility of raising the membership fees. Please think about this and please let us know your thoughts on this at the meeting.

Finally, thanks to all the members for making sure that the hall is left as clean as we found it on a Thursday evening.

Best wishes

Les Pace

Chairman N&DMRC

Caption Competition



We had one caption submitted.

"My prayer mat appears to have shrunk in the wash"

Forthcoming Events

N&DMRC—Annual Exhibition

12th August 2023

This is the Clubs own exhibition. We will need help on the day for this event. To get involved please speak to Craig who is our exhibition manager. You can also email him on

craig.dawkins60@gmail.com

Rushden Historical Transport Trust—Model Weekend

16th/17th September 2023

We have been invited to take the Demonstration Layout to this event. We will need members to help us with running trains as well as setting up and dismantling. A form will be available by the signing in sheet to register your self.

Chesterfield Group Model Exhibition - Day Trip By Bus

by Roger Whiffin



On Saturday 10th June this year I decided to visit the Peak Model Rail Exhibition.

I decided to go by bus. More like a 25 hrs Le Mans rather than a marathon Make full use your bus passes everyone - ding, ding.

My first bus of the day 06:40 Kingsthorpe shops - X7 - Leicester (Haymarket) 2nd - 0810 Leicester (St Margarets) - Skylink - Derby 3rd - 0950 Derby - Bakewell - TransPeak

It was a really nice exhibition, saw several old friends and got some info that I wanted. Hope to see them again at Loughborough. All layouts were ones that I had not seen before - so a big plus for going that far out.

I did not knowingly see any Bakewell tarts, but there was a shop advertising them. [Ed—Had you have seen a Bakewell Tart, would you have

remembered her name?).

Going home - same route but in reverse. I just missed the TransPeak to Derby that I wanted so had to waste an hour as a tourist.

I eventually got off at Kingsthorpe 19:30 or so, with a rather tiring walk back home from the Kingsthorpe shops.

The exhibition was situated in the heart of the Peak District of Derbyshire at Bakewell. This is a busy town with a variety of shops and cafes. The Peak Exhibition is held at the Agricultural Business Centre which is a modern purpose built venue, a short distance from the town centre.

The Peak Rail people were there. This link below gives greater detail of future plans.

<https://www.therailwayhub.co.uk/64587/the-many-peaks-of-peak-rail/>

To Bakewell and beyond?

Phase 1: Realistic plans are afoot for the extension of the present running line north to the site of the second Rowsley station in the village. A 99-year lease is about to be signed with the council on the currently disused trackbed to the A6 road. Rowsley station will have to be rebuilt.

Phase 2: From Rowsley, matters start to get difficult because the biggest obstacle immediately north is the missing A6 road bridge. If the Great Central can do it, so can Peak Rail. Rowsley viaduct over the River Derwent will need restoring, along with the trackbed. A halt could be built at Haddon, benefiting the hall and railway combined (provided the duke does not object!)

Phase 3: Restoring Haddon Tunnel and Coombes Road viaduct to their former uses, then relaying track into the station site and restoring that to its former use. As with any extension, it depends on the necessary finance being raised – but how about a share issue to get this railway into Bakewell, tantalisingly close to Monsal Dale? However, the ambition to complete the reopening of the railway through the Peak District National Park to Buxton remains alive.

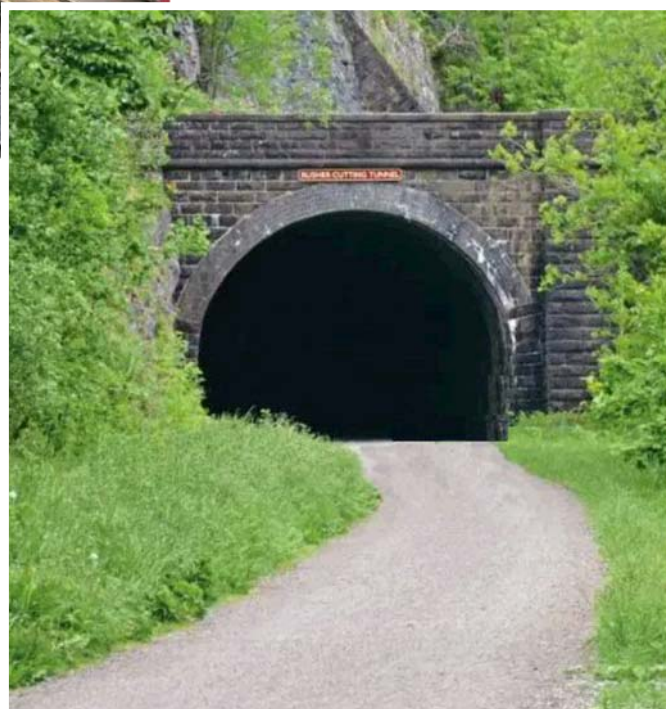
Not to be held back, Peak Rail is currently in discussions with various commercial interests, together with the relevant national and local authorities, about the possibilities of reopening the Matlock-Buxton line as a freight diversionary route.



Matlock Station showing the Up platform – used by Network Rail – and Peak Rail's Down platform on the left.

(Photo Richard Johnson)

Rusher Cutting Tunnel: 121 yards (111 m) which is now a cycle path.



John Baxter 1934 — 2023

A Tribute

by Colin Tarry

On 10th May this year we lost a long serving stalwart member of this club—John Baxter.

John was probably our oldest member, who celebrated his 89th birthday on 8th February this year.

John was a very active member right until the end. He enthusiastically supported lots of our events by helping out. He was also very keen in helping with the club layouts when work needed doing. It would be nice if a few more members followed his example.

His funeral was held on Thursday 22nd June 2023 at The Counties Crematorium. The Club was represented by Michael Castledine, Richard Deacon, Les Pace and myself.



The Eulogy as given at his funeral by his nephew Stephen Davis ;

John was the first of two sons for Thomas and Connie Baxter. He was born on 8th February 1934 in Kettering.

He grew up in and around the Kettering and Rothwell area. He attended Wharflands School, Oakham and Kettering Grammar School. John paid the £1 fee to remain a life time member of the Cytringanians the Kettering Grammar School Old Boys group with whom he remained an active member of the alumni his whole life.

As a boy he joined the 10th Kettering Scouts in Fox Patrol and accumulated his badges. He was very passionate about the Scout movement as his father Thomas had progressed to District Commissioner in the Northamptonshire Scout Movement and having met Baden Powell at a 1929 Jamboree.

Through the Grammar School John also took part in amateur dramatics with the Hygram Players. He starred in Twelfth Night as Curio Valentine and The Merry Wives of Windsor as John Robert. He worked backstage on A Hundred Years Old and The Way of the World.

In 1953 John completed his National Service in Gloucestershire in the RAF. In the summers of 1955 and 1956 John went on long road trips to Scandinavia and southern Europe with friends in a VW Beetle. They stopped at the major cities along the route sight seeing and enjoying local hospitality and by his own notes buying a chocolate bar in every European city he visited.

After leaving school John joined Norwich Union insurance before eventually working for SATRA – The Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association in 1970. John performed various management roles within SATRA. He was very proud of the work SATRA did and the research they conducted. John remained loyal to SATRA until he retired in 1993.

During this period, in South Northamptonshire Young Conservative group, John met Elizabeth Watson. They eventually married on 5th September 1964 in Kislingbury Church.

John was devoted to Elizabeth. Together they travelled the world. This was facilitated through the Rose Society of which they were both active members. Through this group they made many friends, not least Ken and Rani who would join them on their adventures abroad. Through the Rose Society they were able to travel to South and North America, Australia, Europe and all across the UK. Both would be involved in judging at these shows across the world. They would also show their own roses. Often they would go to Hampton Court and Chelsea Flower Shows. They were also members of the Amateur Rose Association Committee, John acting as secretary and treasurer through the years.

John carried on this love affair with roses and went on to write and have published an encyclopaedia of Antique Roses, dedicating the book to his beloved Elizabeth. This was a record of all known rose varieties before 1900 cataloguing, type, year, raiser, colour, bloom, growth and scent. It is an impressive piece of work. John was also a Member of the World Federation of Rose Societies. He judged at Los Angeles, Paris, Belfast, Glasgow.

John and Elizabeth also shared a great love of classical music and would often listen to the Northampton Philharmonic Orchestra and attend concerts at Derngate. One infamous night they tried to educate me with Mahler. Suffice to say the symbols kept waking me up! John joined the friends of Northampton Philharmonic Orchestra and carried on attending concerts with friends.

John and Elizabeth also played golf together, members at the St Andrew's Hospital golf course. They both hooked me on to golf organising my first and only lessons at Delapre on a Saturday morning and buying my first Sam Snead junior set of clubs. John and I played a couple of times together at St Andrews. They also played regularly with Ken.

After retiring from SATRA John worked part time at Insurance world from 1995 and met and befriended Sharon and Tony. As it was closely linked to Cars, John loved working at Insurance World in a family business supporting and protecting the local community. He worked in accounts and helped with claims.

Right —Working on the clubs Greenford layout at Kingsthorpe Community centre on 27/10/2010 from left to right are John Walker, Bernard Kelly, Michael Castledine and John Baxter.



Left—On the left John Baxter posing for a club photo with his friend Bernard Kelly on 9/11/2018

Right —Taken on the occasion of the Hardingstone Village Hall Open Day on 26/1/2020. John is at the end , on the right hand side,.





Above—Taken on the clubs outing to the Didcot Railway Centre on 6/8/2011.

On the front row, on far right is John Baxter. Others in the picture from L to R are Richard Deacon, Ralph Morbey, Colin Tarry, Michael Castledine, Les Pace and John Walker.



Above—Taken at the Great Central Railway Model Event on 18/6/2016.
Setting up the clubs N gauge layout are : left John Baxter and right the late Jim McMaster.



Left —John Baxter and Les Pace sort out a wiring problem while the club was exhibiting their Greenford layout at the Milton Keynes model railway exhibition on 18/2/2012

Below—John talks to some young onlookers when the club exhibited its Greenford layout at the Rushden Historical Transport Society model weekend on 4/9/2011.



In Loving Memory of



John Baxter

8th February 1934 - 10th May 2023

The Counties Crematorium
Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 1.15 pm

Conducted by Reverend Jay Phelps



Hymn

The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Scottish Psalter (1650)

Tune: Crimond

Poem

The Rose Beyond The Wall

A rose once grew where all could see,
Sheltered beside a garden wall,
And, as the days passed swiftly by,
It spread its branches, straight and tall.

One day, a beam of light shone through
A crevice that had opened wide,
The rose bent gently toward its warmth,
Then passed beyond to the other side.

Now, you who deeply feel its loss,
Be comforted, the rose blooms there,
Its beauty even greater now,
Nurtured by God's own loving care.



Do Not Touch !

by Colin Tarry

Tumil St James was exhibited in June at the Little Houghton Village Fete and Teddy Bear hunt. This was the second outing for the layout that was originally started by our departed member, Jim McMaster.

From exhibiting this layout at Little Houghton, a major lesson has been learned—parents today can't control their kids. Several youngsters looking around the layout could not keep their hands off it, despite being told by their parents not to touch. Then there are the parents who just let their kids touch and say nothing.

We all know that layouts take "Hours to Make and Seconds to Break". I decided that if parents can't control their kids, then I will take my own action. The layout height has now been increased from 750mm to 1100mm. I'll see how this works on the layouts next outing.

Its unfortunate that one has to take these steps, as the layout was originally at a low height so that youngers can see the trains. As is usual in life, a few have spoiled things for the majority.



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	£20.00
Polo shirt	Mens	R539M	3XL, 4XL	£26.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£20.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	20,22	£26.00
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	£32.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	3XL, 4XL	£38.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£32.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	20,22	£38.00
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)

Richard Deacon (Secretary)

Michael Castledine

Stephen Lloyd

Colin Tarry (Treasurer)

Craig Dawkins (Exhibition Manager)

Cliff Simpson

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

Email: feedback@ndmrc.org

Club Night: Thursday

Meeting Time: 19:30—22:00

Venue: Hardingstone Village Hall

High Street, Hardingstone,
Northampton, NN4 6DA



Secretary: tel: 01604 890275

email: rjd156@btinternet.com

Non Committee Positions

Newsletter Editor - Colin Tarry

email: wizzo@hymek.net

Sales Officer - John Walker

email: pamjohn38@btinternet.com

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 £60 per year, Junior membership £10 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.