

Between the Lines

Newsletter



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From the Editors Cab Window

Welcome to the Autumn 2021 edition of Between the Lines.

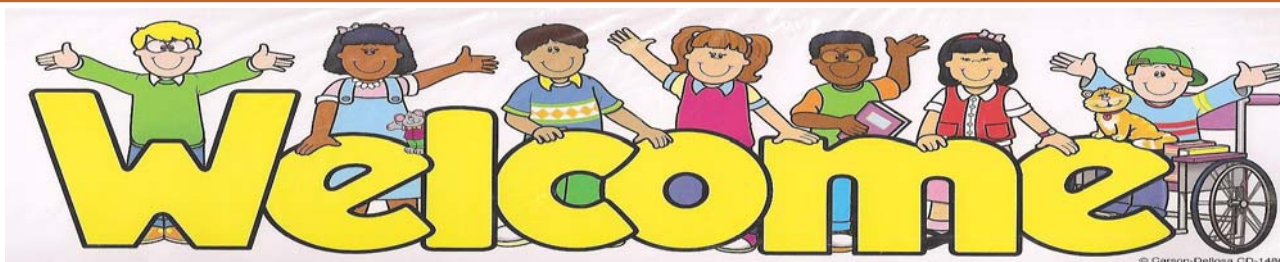
For the second consecutive newsletter we not only have one, but two items of sad news. Firstly we have lost Jim McMaster and then shortly after Jim's death we were informed of Kevin Gibson's death.



On a brighter note we have also had some new members join us. Please see below.

Colin

Club Torque



The Club is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Andrew Banyard Andy Chapman Ron Hedges

Steve Hollingsworth Kenneth Sharp Paul Smith

Chairman's Ramblings

Dear Members

As usual I am writing this in my workshop, and the weather has certainly taken a turn for the worse, it is dark and raining. The summer does now seem a long way away, but let's hope the rest of the year is not too bad. It certainly has been a difficult year or two, but hopefully we can see a possible end to the current situation, or at least an easing of it. It is great to see members, who I have not seen for quite a while, returning to the club, and I want to wish them all the best for the future.



Today I have been busy fitting lights to my class 31, and have also spent some time in the garage fitting more new plugs to the Demo track with help from Paul Morgan. Hopefully all these small amendments will make the track more reliable.

Regarding the recent AGM, I want to apologise to you all, especially Richard for ignoring the written agenda. I promise at the next one I will do better and try to stick to the script. Also I want to really thank you all for your support, and I really did appreciate your attendance at the meeting. A lot of positive things were discussed at the meeting, and hopefully we can move forward with the plans for all the layouts in the coming months, and also enjoy more trips to exhibitions as a club.

The Castle Station model exhibit I am pleased to say is now in place in a shop unit below the main concourse at Castle Station. It is due to open at around 10am on the 6th November and I do hope some of you can come along to support us. If you do then can you possibly wear your club shirt. So far I have received two parking tickets at the station, even though we had officially signed in to the car park, as we were setting up the exhibit.

I am pleased to see the junior track is now up and running every week and members are really making good use of it. The N gauge layout St James and the test track that were donated to us by Jim's family are now back with us after collection from Towcester, and are available to anyone wanting to run their N gauge stock.

Hopefully work will restart on Kingsthorpe O gauge layout shortly, and work on the new ends and fiddle yard for Castle station and Four oaks will also commence.

With all this work in the pipeline it looks like a busy time ahead!

I want to thank all the current committee members for their support in the past year, also to John Walker for his sales efforts that have raised extra funds for the club.

Finally, I was very pleased that I was able to hand over running the exhibition this year to Craig who did a wonderful job and made the club a great profit.

Best wishes

Les Pace

Chairman NDMRC

Club Night Refreshments

The Club stopped providing biscuits as part of our evening refreshments some ago as we ended up spending over £300 per year on them.

We now operate whereby we ask our members to donate a packet of biscuits now and then to have with our beverages.



If you would like to donate a packet of biscuits, then please give them to Michael who will organise their distribution. If you just place them on the kitchen worktop then the club gannets will swoop in and they will be gone in 10 seconds.

Richard Austin

Just to let you all know, as a couple of members have enquired of Richard whereabouts; Richard has temporarily suspended his club membership due to additional medical conditions that have occurred during lockdown, but he has stated that they are nothing to do with Covid.

James McMaster 1953–2021

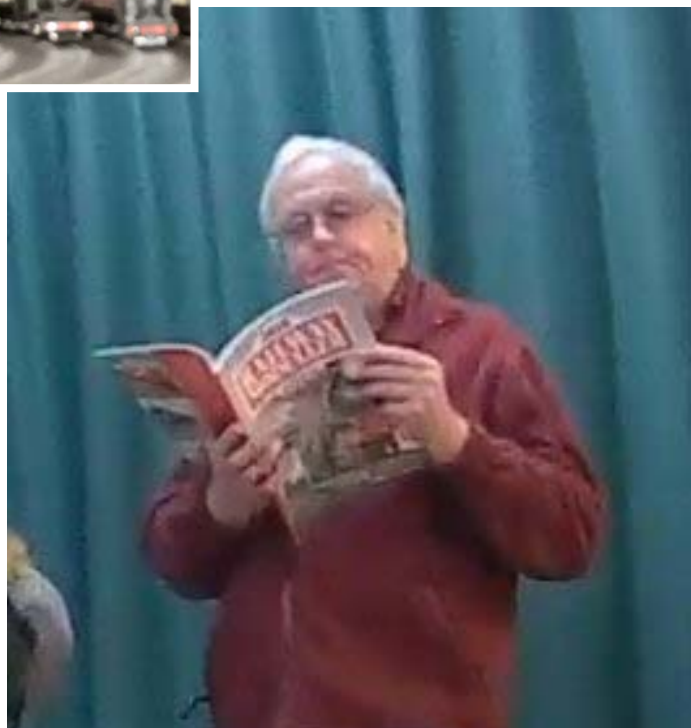
The Club is very saddened at the loss of yet another of our members; James McMaster—known to us all as Jim. Jim died in the Midland Care Home in Wellingborough on 10th July 2021. This page and the following pages will be a tribute to Jim both in pictures and in words.

Jim was a very active member of our Club. He brought his N gauge test track to club nights which gave an opportunity for those members who modelled in N gauge to run their trains (as the Club did not have its own N gauge setup). Thanks to the kind generosity of Jim's family, they have donated his test track to the club. Jim's legacy to us is that our N gauge modellers can once again run their trains.



A group photo
including Jim (centre)
taken at a club night
on 10th November
2017

Jim catching up on his
reading or more like
deciding what he is going
to buy next. This photo
was taken at club on the
4th January 2019.





[left] Jim chilling out and watching the trains go by.
[Photo taken on 4th Jan 2019.



[left] Jim exhibiting the N gauge layout he was renovating for the club. At this time it didn't have an official name, but in Jim's memory this layout will be called St James. The photo was take at our exhibition at Cogenhoe in August 2016.

Some photos showing the side of Jim we didn't see at Club. Very much a family man, seen here on the occasion of the marriages of his two daughters.



Jim with Jenny



Jim with Laura

EULOGY

[Ed—Jim's eulogy has been printed in full as it makes a very interesting read into his life; much of which I feel we didn't get to know from him at Club)

(as read at Jim's funeral by his wife Linda)

Firstly we would like to thank you all for coming today to remember Jim who sadly passed away in his sleep on 10th July after a relatively short illness.

Jim was affectionately known by many names; James, Jimmy, Jimothy, Grindad, Fruit winder Grandad, Lance Corporal McMaster and Zulu 20, to name just a few, but to me, and Laura, he was Dad.

Jim was born and brought up in Carlisle, Cumbria, second child to Thomas and Ethel and brother to Maureen, Tommy and Terry. He was a very happy child, although always a bit shy but he liked to do things his own way. He was a caring and loving person and would help everyone when he could. He would often turn up at home with an injured animal that friends or neighbours would bring to him that he would nurture back to health. He was at his happiest in his own company riding around on his bike, and he enjoyed being a member of St Johns Ambulance and The Boys Brigade.

Jim wasn't very academic, but enjoyed school, his first being Inglewood, followed by Harraby Secondary School. Upon leaving, due to his shy nature, his Mam encouraged him to take an apprenticeship at an Engineering Company close to where she worked, which he did and enjoyed it, however little did his parents know that he had signed up to join the Army at the local Army Recruitment Office – they only found out when the Recruitment Officer turned up on their doorstep to go through the paperwork and confirm that he had been accepted. This started his journey of his life away from Carlisle.

Jim joined the Royal Engineers and became a Junior Leader in Dover, Kent – he never liked to worry his Mam and Dad as to where he would be travelling to, but would just say "I'm going away but will be back soon and not to worry!" He served two tours in Northern Ireland, several postings to Germany and the Oman, along with postings in the UK. Ironically Jim's last posting was back to Dover where he ran the stables at Old Park Barracks teaching Junior Leaders to ride. He loved this job and was always very happy in all weathers tending the horses – some of these horses, but most were named after alcoholic

we are not sure whether he had anything to do with the naming of spirits; Brandy, Whisky, Vodka and Djinn! During this time, he successfully completed an Assistant Riding Instructors qualification, which he was immensely proud of, together with writing a book on "The management of vermin" – sadly this was never published nor did it come in useful when years later we had a mouse in the house and he was adamant that they didn't like cheese and several days later the mouse was still nibbling through everything – reluctantly Jim placed a lump of cheese in the trap and the next day the mouse was no more!!

It was in Dover that Jim and I met and we married in 1981 and have two daughters; Jenny and Laura – Jim had completed 12 years' service in the army and then applied to join the Prison Service. This meant a move to Daventry where he worked for 2 years at Onley Prison – working some very long hours as a Prison Officer. However, his love of animals wouldn't go away and two years later Jim applied and was successful in becoming a Dog Handler, which meant a further transfer to Winson Green Prison in Birmingham. We moved to Cannock, Staffordshire an ideal location with Cannock Chase on the doorstep where the dogs could be exercised and the girls learnt to ride their bikes. We lived here for 15 years and with his job and the girls growing up, it was a busy time especially with all the hobbies the girls had. This may surprise some of you that Jim and I learnt to dance and we were members of a sequence dance team that performed at the Aquarius Ballroom in Hednesford on a couple of occasions ... cha cha charring and waltzing around !!

Jim was never allowed to forget his unique way of decorating – having being left to hang several rolls of expensive wallpaper in the bedroom, only to be told by me on my return that he had hung the paper upside down and the flowers were all growing the wrong way!! He would have been quite happy to leave it that way, but reluctantly re-papered at great cost! We never really had wallpaper again after this!

Jim's 40th birthday was celebrated with a large party of family and friends – at this point, he wasn't really into collecting anything, so as a surprise present we organized an opportunity for him to spend the day at West Midlands Railway where he could learn all about his beloved trains and have the experience of driving a steam train – this was an experience he said he would never forget and he thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Whilst he had a love of trains, he was also very proud when he purchased a brand new Skoda Favorite, much to the disgust of both Jenny and Laura who wouldn't allow Dad to drop them off, or pick them up anywhere near the school as it was too embarrassing for them! It wasn't deemed cool at the time. Much to his horror, his Skoda badge was stolen from the car and he had to order a new one which was probably worth more than the car!!

Unfortunately the dog section at Winson Green was closed in 1997 and Jim was transferred to Woodhill Prison in Milton Keynes and we moved and settled in Towcester.

(as read at Jim's funeral by his daughter Jenny)

During the years in Towcester, Dad supported us both, patiently teaching us to drive and later travelling around the UK to look around Universities. He was always there to carry the boxes up the several flights of stairs at the start and end of each academic year. He wasn't a great one for chatting on the phone but was always there for us when we needed him (particularly when we ran out of money). Whilst he would never actually say it, we know he was proud of us both on our graduation days.

As you can see by the photographs on the order of service, Dad was extremely happy and proud, when we both got married, however was horrified at thought of having to make speeches – having delivered a 1 minute speech at Laura's wedding, she reminded him that he wasn't allowed to make mine any longer – no pressure Dad. Whilst he was a man of few words, his actions often spoke louder.

After retirement Dad's life revolved around his hobbies and more recently his three grandchildren, Erin, Caitlyn and Theo. He loved his model railway collection and would spend hours working on bits of track or testing different models and carriages that had arrived in the post, good old eBay.

He was an active member of Northampton and District Model Railway club for many years and supported the club at exhibitions up and down the country. Along with his love of his model railway, he also enjoyed completing jigsaws (sometimes with the help of Caitlyn, or hindrance) and would spend hours in the kitchen working on them – we have since found spreadsheets galore on his computer as to which ones had been completed or if a piece was missing.

It was just another surprise to us when we opened the wardrobe and were greeted by what looks like 100's of jigsaws – dad always joked that we would have to sort everything out if anything happened to him, so Dad we are sure you are having the last laugh – I'm not even going to start on the CD and DVD collection!

With his fashion sense, wearing his fleece and long sleeves during a heat wave, his leather jacket that always came out on special occasions, his mop of hair that never changed over the years, although it did in colour, his love of cream cakes (but not egg custards) his love of a pint of beer or two and his obsession with crime drama's leading to conspiracy theories, he really was a much loved and special man, but most of all Dad you were the best and we are going to miss you.



A very fitting floral tribute from Jim's daughters to their dad.

Kevin Gibson



Kevin at a Club night on 4th January 2019 with his grandson Leo

Kevin sadly passed away suddenly at home in the early hours of Sunday 25th July 2021.

The editor has contacted Kevin's family for some information about him so we can do a tribute to him, but nothing has been forthcoming.

In view of this we can only place this small mention.

I think for the majority of the membership, all we know about Kevin is that he was a painter and decorator.

**NORTHAMPTON
TRANSPORT COLLECTORS FAIR**

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2021
OPEN 10.30AM - 4PM



NOW AT A NEW VENUE!

**ROADE VILLAGE HALL,
BAILEY BROOKS LANE, ROADE. NN7 2LS**

*All sorts of Transport Collectables –
Buses - Trains - Books - Die Cast Models - Badges - Timetables
Ephemera - Photographs.*

ADMISSION £1.50
(accompanied Children Under 15 Free)

AMPLE CAR PARKING
REFRESHMENTS

For full details and stall bookings contact:
Steve Loveridge, 75 Baker Crescent,
Irchester, Northants NN29 7BA
or Email steve7941@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/grp7941



The Club will be having
a stall at the above
event.

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	£26.00
Polo shirt	Mens	R539M	3XL, 4XL	£29.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£26.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	20,22	£29.00
Polo shirt	Childs	R539B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£26.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£23.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	3XL, 4XL	£31.00
Sweat shirt	Childs	R762B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£30.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£33.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	3XL, 4XL	£35.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£34.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	20,22	£35.00
Fleece	Childs	R870B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£33.00
Cap	Unisex	BC015	One size fits all	£14.00

Club Information

Committee Members

Les Pace (Chair Person)
Richard Deacon (Secretary)
Craig Dawkins (Exhibition Manager)
Cliff Simpson

Colin Tarry (Treasurer)
Michael Castledine

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.