

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT

# NEWSLETTER

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Between the Lines

12 11 10 9 8 7

## New Year 2024

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



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## From the Editors Desk

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024.

There is another article on the N gauge layout Tumil St James. I did state in the last newsletter that some track changes had taken place.

I have also included in this issue an article on my trip to Plymouth last year.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, all members are welcome to contribute articles.

If the rank and file members don't contribute then you are going to get the same type of articles each issue on the same type of topics.

Last year four members contributed to the newsletter, namely myself, Les Pace, Alan Owen and Roger Whiffin. That equates to 12% of the membership. Articles from a few more members would be appreciated. These can be on your own layouts, railway related places you visit, things you are making for your layout, purchases of railway items and your review of them etc etc.

Colin

# Club Torque



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

## TOMBOLA

It has been decided that at our next Roade exhibition in July, we are NOT going to have a tombola.

Unfortunately many items we received for the tombola last year were not in a good enough condition to be given as prizes.

We will be doing the raffle as usual. So nearer the time we will be asking members to sell raffle tickets on the clubs behalf.



Northampton & District Model Railway Club

### Exhibition Draw

- 1st Prize - £100 Cash
- 2nd Prize - Annual membership to Bachmann Collectors Club
- 3rd Prize - £20 Gift Voucher provided by Sainsbury's
- 4th Prize - £20 Gift Voucher provided by Keths Model Railways
- 5th Prize - OO Gauge Track laying kit provided by Mawson Models

The draw will take place on Saturday 12th August 2023 at 3.00pm.

Promoter: Craig Dawkins, 45 James Close, Northampton, NN5 4DY  
Registered under the Gambling Act 2005 with West Northamptonshire Council, Licence No. 510479  
Printed by www.rafticketsonline.co.uk

**Ticket Price £1.00**

## Club Night Catering

The old chestnut of dirty cups and half drunken drinks is rearing its head again. Will members who partake in a beverage please take your used cup/mug to the kitchen and wash it up when you have finished with it please.



The biscuits you enjoy on a Thursday are donated by members. The club is grateful to those members who donate biscuits. If you can donate a packet monthly that will be very much appreciated.



# Chairman's Ramblings

Dear All,

As I sit here bashing away at my computer on this cold January evening I am thinking about the way this hobby seems to be evolving, or even possibly imploding at the moment.

We are now only about three weeks into the new year, and already we have two major events that have occurred in the hobby, and they both seem to reflect the change in the current financial situation and also the social demographics, that are affecting all of us at the moment.



Firstly there was the news that Hattons, who are a major supplier of model railways, were closing after many years of trading. They stated that rising costs and a fall off of demand from customers had made them decide to close down while they still had some funds left in the business.

I think they must be congratulated for doing the gentlemanly thing in this situation, rather than leave it until the time they would need to close owing money to everyone, like a lot of companies do.

Then on the heels of this came the news that Warley model railway show was to be the last one.

This however was not a financial decision as the show was quite financially successful last year, but rather that the organisers of the show were now an ageing group, and no one younger seemed to want to carry on putting on the show in the future.

Also there have been rumours that another major supplier may be heading the same way, but this has not been qualified so far, so we will have to wait to see if this is true.

**BAD NEWS OVER, AND NOW FOR SOME HOPEFULLY BETTER NEWS.**

Since we started meeting again on Thursday evenings after Christmas I am pleased to see a lot of new faces at the club and I hope you will enjoy your time with us.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you at any time, by waking and chatting to any of the committee members ( including me) you may see sleeping around the hall at any time!

I am sorry to say there is still no news about the possible new venue we were offered by someone last year. I was in discussions with this person for many weeks but he seems to have disappeared completely and no longer answers any of my messages. So I can only await to see if he ever contacts us again in the future, but I will not be holding my breath on this one.

We are currently working on two layouts. One is the new N gauge layout, which is at the track laying stage and seems to be coming along nicely. The other is the reworking of Castle Station into an oval, rather than the existing end to end configuration.

Both projects we hope will become layouts that will be available for exhibitions when completed.

I am glad to say that more members are staying behind at the end of the running sessions to help put away the layouts at the end of the evening, and this is much appreciated.

However we will be keeping an eye on this situation in the future.

Hope you all have a great 2024 and I look forward to seeing you in the future.

I am off now to have a well earned drink and get on with my new layout.

A picture of it is below.

Best wishes

*Les Pace*

Chairman NDMRC



## Brain Teaser

**Count every "F" in the following text:**

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT  
OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH  
THE EXPERIENCE  
OF YEARS.....

How many did you count?

Answer on page 11.

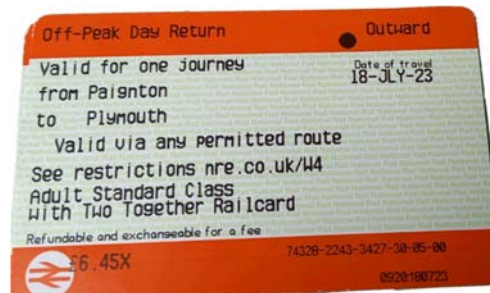


# A Trip to Plymouth

by Colin Tarry

Last summer whilst on our annual holiday to Devon, we visited Plymouth. This we did by rail from Paignton to Plymouth (formerly Plymouth North Road), via Newton Abbot.

The route into Plymouth takes you by the TMD at Plymouth Laira. The former and last home of the Western diesel hydraulics.



The entrance to the station formerly known as Plymouth North Road.



Looking east towards London Paddington



Looking west towards Cornwall





Whilst exploring Plymouth, I found this building in a street near the harbour in the Barbican.

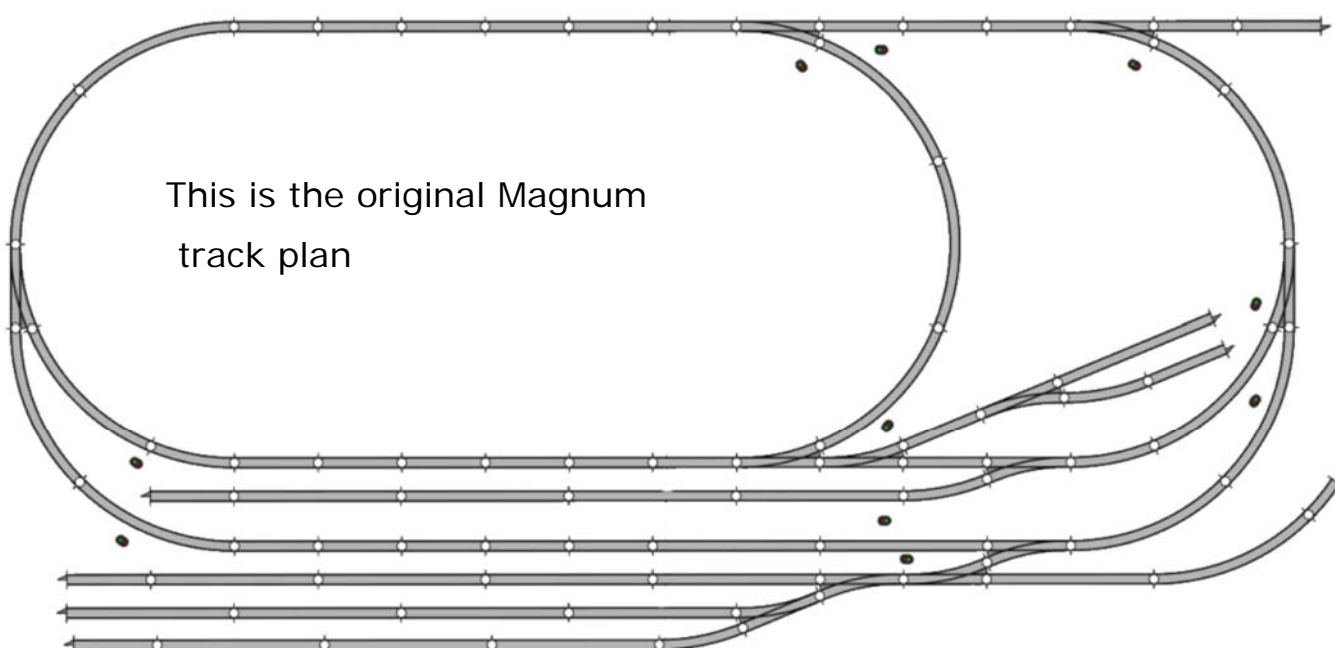
The **London and South Western Railway (LSWR)** existed from 1838 until the 1922 grouping. Its network extended to Dorchester and Weymouth, to Salisbury, Exeter and Plymouth, and to Padstow, Ilfracombe and Bude. It built a network of routes in Hampshire, Surrey and Berkshire, including Portsmouth and Reading.

The LSWR obtained running powers over the South Devon and Launceston Railway, giving it access to Plymouth over that line.

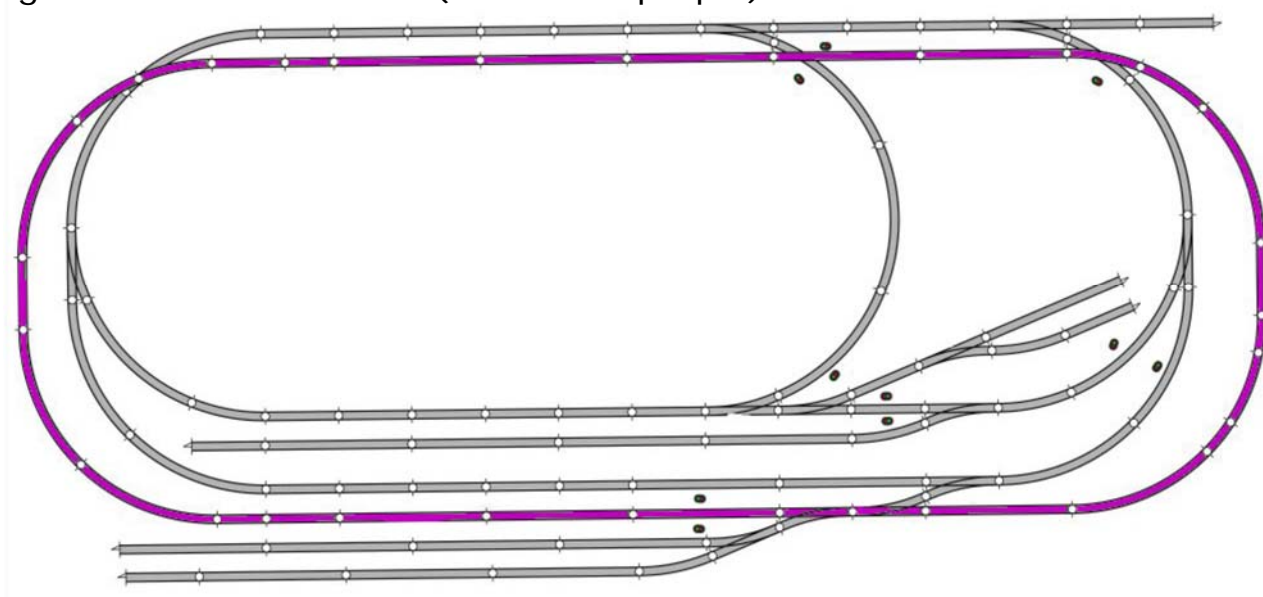


In the last newsletter I mentioned some track changes had taken place on the layout. I'm going to share with you what has changed and why.

Just to recap the original layout built to the Graham Farish Magnum track plan had only one circuit that could be used for continuous running by one train.



Below is what I did initially to give interest by extending two sidings into a high level additional oval (marked in purple)



You will note that access from the original oval to the new high level oval is by a one direction set of points (turnouts). Once on the high level section the only way back was to reverse back through the points from whence the train originally came. You can guess what happens when you try and do that.



The answer to get trains back onto the main oval was to add a new set of points. Below is the work involved in doing that.



First job remove the platforms, cut and lift the track and then scrap away the old ballast.



Next was to place the new points in position and see how best to line them up with the track that wasn't lifted. The baseboard joint was a governing factor here.



Once happy with where the points were going to go, then the connecting tracks were placed in position.



The connecting tracks over the baseboard joints is by the proven method of soldering the track to copper clad sleepers.





The new points in place with connecting tracks in place.

Also the tracks bridging the baseboard joints have been cut with a Dremel.

The first loco to test out the new points was D1005 Western Venturer.

If she couldn't negotiate the points then no other loco would.



Even the Dapol Hall got through the points without coming off. This is no 5999 Wollaton Hall. The loco has its motor in the tender driving through a cardan shaft to the loco. There are also two traction tyres on the rear driving wheels. Everything that can make the loco derail has been built into it— a total recipe for disaster. Well done Dapol!





# Events 2024

## St Matthews Church—Summer Fete

29th June or 6th July (date to be confirmed)

We have again been invited to take a layout or two plus displays, like we have done in previous years, to St Matthews Summer Fete. We need to decide what we want to take.



## N&DMRC Model Railway Club Exhibition

20th July 2024

Our club exhibition will take place at this earlier date in 2024. The venue is still Roade Village Hall. More details nearer the time.

## Soar Valley Model Railway Club Exhibition

17th/18th August 2024

We have booked to attend the above event with the club's Kingsthorpe layout. They have said they do not want the Demonstration layout. The SVMRC exhibition is being held on the weekend of 17th/18th August 2024 at Loughborough Grammar School.

We have indicated to them that we require 8 operators. Nearer the time we will be seeking the names of members who wish to attend. If we get more than 8 on each day then we will need to ration who attends on what day(s).

## Brain Teaser Answer

THERE ARE 6 - The reasoning behind this is that the brain cannot process "OF".

**F** INISHED **F** ILES ARE THE RESULT **O**F YEARS **O**F SCIENTI**F** IC STUDY  
COMBINED WITH  
THE EXPERIENCE **O**F YEARS.....



# 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)  
Craig Dawkins (Exhibition Manager)  
Cliff Simpson      Stephen Lloyd

Colin Tarry (Treasurer)  
Michael Castledine

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

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



Club Night: Thursday

Meeting Time: 19:00—22:00

Venue: Hardingstone Village Hall

High Street, Hardingstone,

Northampton, NN4 6DA

Secretary: tel:      01604 890275

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

## Non Committee Positions

Newsletter Editor - Colin Tarry      email: [wizzo@hymek.net](mailto:wizzo@hymek.net)

Sales Officer      - John Walker      email: [pamjohn38@btinternet.com](mailto: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.