

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT

# NEWSLETTER

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Between the Lines



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## From the Editors Desk

Spring is almost here at last. Lets hope we get Spring weather as well.

In this issue we have an article by Keith on 3D printing. From memory I don't think we have ever had an article on this technology in the newsletter before, so I hope you will find this interesting.

I was going to continue in this newsletter with some pictures of Tumil St James, but space has not permitted me to do so. I might bore you next month.

In the next issue I will have an article on LCC for DCC. If you don't know what that is then all will be revealed next issue.

Colin

# Club Torque



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

**Stephen Baker**

## Road Exhibition 2024

Our Road exhibition will take place on Saturday 20th July 2024. The club has a large quantity of advertising flyers for distribution. We would be grateful if members can take a supply with them and place them for the public to take one at any suitable events you attend.

## Club First Aid Kit

The club's first aid kit has been upgraded to more suit the needs of the club. The kit provided by Hardingsstone Village Hall is too basic.

The club kit is now in a proper HSE approved case with handle.

Included in the kit now is:

- An eye bath and eye wash.
- Needles and tweezers to deal with splinters
- Burns cream

As the club uses power tools, hand tools and soldering irons then we need to cater for any injuries arising from their use. We should also take this kit with us when we go to events.

The accident book is also in this box now.

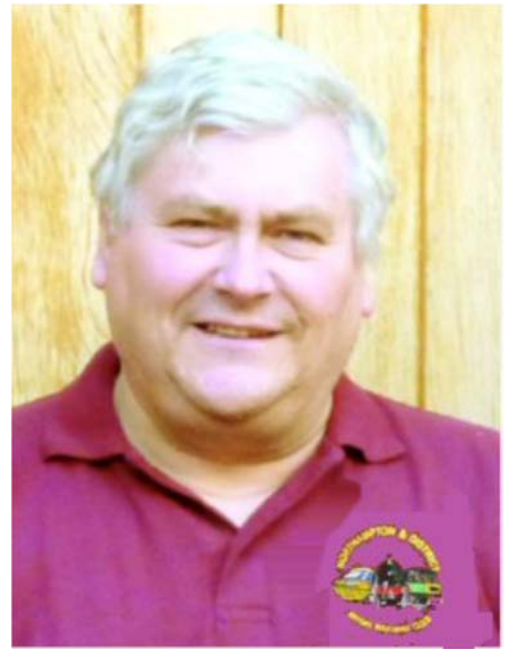


# Chairman's Ramblings

Hello there you fellow club members, railway enthusiasts and modellers.

As I sit here on a rather cold March evening typing away at this poor attempt at keeping you awake, I am really looking forward to the warm , and possibly even hot weather that hopefully will replace the current conditions.

May I welcome the new members that have joined recently, and remind you and existing members that if there is anything the club can do to assist you, then please do not hesitate to ask.



I am glad to say that the club have been invited out and about to several shows this year, and also we are hoping to organise some local club visits again to see what they are up to.

The Castle Station layout will be at our show in July and the Kingsthorpe layout is due to be shown this year at Kempston, and at the Soar Valley Model Railway Club exhibition in August at Loughborough, along with Tumil St James.

Also we have been invited back to the regular show we do at the St Matthew's Church on the 6th July.

We are currently getting on quite well with the modification of Castle Station into an oval rather than an end to end layout, which hopefully will make it easier and more fun to operate and Kingsthorpe will also need to be checked out soon to see if the operation needs any repair or upgrades.

Kingsthorpe was well received at the shows it went to last year , and a lot of interest was shown in the new technology that it uses. It was great fun to be able to move around and operate the locos and the points using our phones.

I was asked at the weekend whether we were intending to do an open day this year, and I will be bringing this matter up at the next committee meeting for discussion. Maybe we could invite other local clubs to join us on the day.



Some members are currently considering upgrading the track on the N gauge layout to improve the running. Other members are continuing building a new N gauge club layout and it seems to be coming along nicely.

Now for the elephant in the room.

I am currently upgrading the wiring on the 0 gauge track on the demonstration layout so that hopefully the sound cutting out on the locos can be cured.

Sorry if at some time in the future this upgrade causes any running problems that may occur during this important work. From time to time the track engineers will need to take possession of the permanent way. As they always say about real railway upgrades, when things go wrong !

I hope we all have a great year, and finally I do hope that some time in the future we may find a permanent home for the club that we do not have to share.

I can always dream!!!

*Les Pace*

Chairman NDMRC

## Club Insurance

Just a reminder about your membership of the Northampton & District Model Railway Club and the insurance cover.

Firstly and unfortunately any members of the club who are aged under 16 years old or are 80 years old or older, are NOT covered by the clubs insurance for accidents and personal liability. We have tried to get cover but no underwriter offers this facility, that offers club insurance. However, having said this, these members WILL be covered if negligence can be proved.

Secondly for members aged between 16 and 79, you will only be covered if your membership is up to date i.e. your membership fee has been paid to cover the next period of your membership. The current rules of the club do not state that any grace is given in that a member has xx number of days in which to renew their membership. The main group of members who will be continually covered are those who pay by standing order or a scheduled funds transfer. Details of the clubs insurance policy can be found in the Club Handbook.



# N Gauge—New Build

As I'm sure all our members know, there is a new N gauge layout being built. We have to just call it New Build for now, as it has not got a name yet.

The layout baseboard and frame was a bespoke design and build from a third party. From the photos below can be seen some of the stages in its build.



[Left]

Bill applies the adhesive to the baseboard ready to receive the cork.

[Inset]

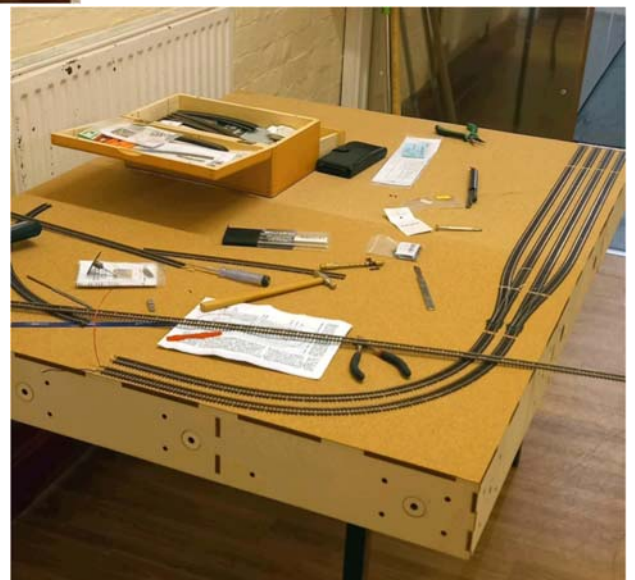
The cork had been laid and glued to the baseboard. Once dry the cork will be trimmed.

Pictures taken on 27/4/23

[All Photos Colin Tarry]



A month on from April pictures, the track is starting to go down. Those involved in this project are Bill, Ray and Paul S.





# Castle Station Fiddle Yard

by Colin Tarry

In addition to a new N gauge layout being built, the clubs Northampton Castle Station layout is being changed from an End2End layout to a "RoundyRoundy" design. This will make its operation a lot easier and more flexible.

The club has a number of baseboards from a previous layout that formed a fiddle yard. These boards are now being adapted to form a fiddle yard for use with the Castle Station layout.

A few additional boards are having to be built to join the existing Castle Station baseboard to the fiddle yard baseboards.



Roy (left) and Geoff (right) apply a coat of black paint to two of the newly constructed baseboards. This is obviously very interesting due to the number of spectators they have attracted.

[photo Colin Tarry]



Here is a picture of the fiddle yard when it was attached to the former Greenford layout. This was taken when the club was based at Kingsthorpe.

Photo date 29/4/2015

[photo Colin Tarry]

# 3D Printing — the dark art or is it ?

by Keith Gilham

Hello all this is my first attempt at writing an article for anything so hopefully you'll find it interesting and a little inspiring.

Early Last year I was watching one of the numerous YouTube videos on my phone whilst "on break" and I came across a chap using a **Creality Ender 2 Pro** 3D printing machine, long story short he was saying they had a sale on at the time and for a beginner machine it was the kiddie to get, I was really lucky as it was indeed on sale but they also had a discount on it so I picked it up for less than £99.

When it arrived it did sit in the back room for months as I suddenly had a drop in confidence about my skills towards using the thing.

But once again on one of my very few "T breaks" at work I came across a chap on YouTube building a class 13 from a couple of old Hornby 08's, intrigued about the class I'd never heard of or seen in the many years of "abducted trainspotting with my dad" I did some googling and some research, I had a couple of scrappers that fell off the back of eBay as they were cheap so I emailed the firm he suggested for the kit, unfortunately I had no response from them which at the time did disappoint me, that's when I thought hang on, I can do that on my printer.



After unpacking the 3D Pro, it's a box of bolts and plastic parts which was pretty simple to put together as it comes with its own little pack of tools to do so, all the electrical connections are clearly marked and are a simple well built push fit connector so far so good... I'm happy with the look of it and I'm getting a little anxious to try it.. well that's where you need to read the instructions more, leveling the bed I found was a nightmare having to move the built plate access to its corners while ensuring the needle was just about scratching it and the paper could move freely is a lie lol I think it took me longer leveling the bed with each of the 4 winders in the corners than anything... (plenty of choice words).



The machine though is very easy to use, simple dial and push to select from a menu thats again extremely easy to navigate.

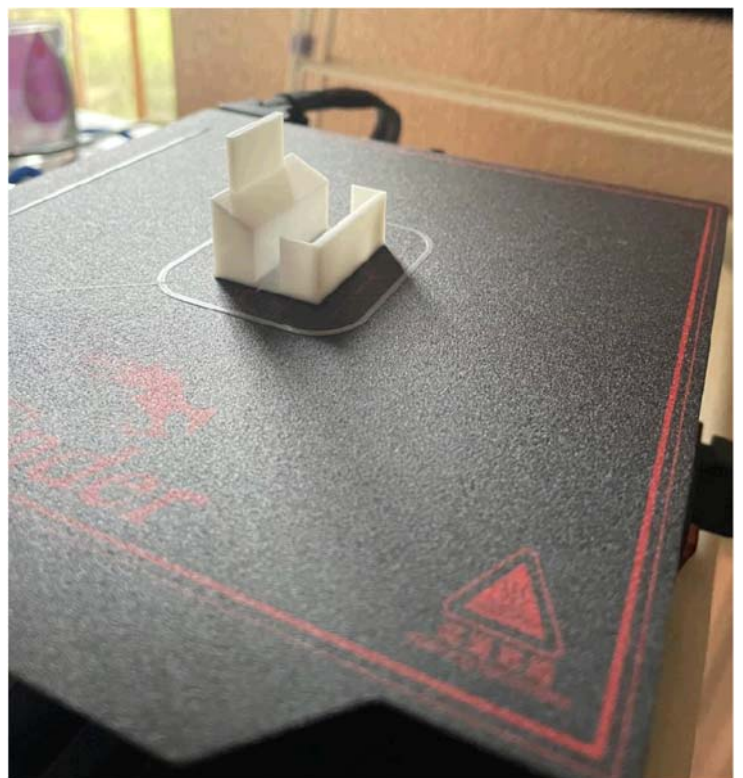
## Onto CAD

CAD is an acronym for Computer Aided Design. This is the software which you use to design items for making or editing a design.

Once again YouTube was my leading inspiration, and I came across **Tinkercad** a free to use online CAD program, you have to register with them which is a simple process and other than an initial confirm your real email and a welcome note I've had no spam or anything from them which is good, now I've always been under the assumption cad programs were for the skilled ha I was wrong I can work it lol..

Looking at pictures (left and below) of the class 13's cut away cab I got to work... it is essentially a cube with a sloped cube and a bit of technical term here but a "sticky up bit" to cover the engine block in Tinkercad you have a few basic shapes and other things in the various menus to start you off with. So I started with a cube and using a steel rule I measured height and width etc on the donor 08 which is a simple click the item your working on in the cad and enter the size in mm on the x y and z coordinates and press enter it resizes lovely.

It did take me a few goes to figure out I could make it all with only a few shapes and print in one compared to my initial thought I'd have to print many shapes.



I had watched many videos of HowTo's on Tinkercad by some serious looking American chap and to be honest they were all going over my head I couldn't for the life of me figure out how to raise and merge items... so after a short break I went back to YouTube searching and found a young girls channel showing her work with the program and within 5 mins I had learned all the basics. I was watching captain boring going through for hours lol

Now I do feel completely competent to use the cad for making things from scratch and with the Ender 2 Pro considering it is one of the budget ranges, it prints really fine.

Once the CAD process is complete and I was happy I just had to download the file to my pc another simple process and double click it to open the Slicer Program which converts and saves the file on a mini SD card that I just slot into the printer, this is one part I'm not keen on for a couple of reasons :

- 1 it tells you how long roughly it will take to print..  
e.g. for the 20ft open container I just made, it takes 2 hours 59 minutes
2. the files names on the display are really hard to navigate if you don't name them individually  
(easy work around but I found out the hard way)

I wish we had this kind of tech when I was growing up with an active layout back at home it really is brilliant.



# Events 2024

## **St Matthews Church—Summer Fete**

6th July 2024

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. The event is open to the public from 13:00 until 16:00.



## **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).

*With the passing of the Exhibit Co-ordinator (Michael Dore) the event is still proceeding as planned.*

## **Kempston & District Model Railway Exhibition**

28th September 2024

We are taking the O gauge layout Kingsthorpe to exhibit here. The venue is : Kempston East Methodist Church, Bedford Road, Kempston, MK42 8DA



# 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	£24.00
Polo shirt	Mens	R539M	3XL, 4XL	£29.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£24.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	20,22	£29.00
Polo shirt	Childs	R539B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£24.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£29.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	3XL, 4XL	£35.00
Sweat shirt	Childs	R762B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£27.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£36.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	3XL, 4XL	£43.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£36.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	20,22	£43.00
Fleece	Childs	R870B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£36.00
Cap	Unisex	BC015	One size fits all	£12.00

These prices are correct as at 1st February 2024. 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 £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.