

# NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Between the Lines



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## From the Editors Desk

We have nearly reached the end of the year again and this is the last newsletter for 2024.

You'll see on page 3 the dates for our last club meet of 2024 and the January date when we meet again in the new year.

This newsletter will see the last of my articles on the places visited while on holiday in Devon in July, these being Oakhampton and Dawlish.

Just managed to get some pictures of our Christmas Dinner in this edition thanks to Cliff who took some pictures.

That just leaves me to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas, and I hope you all get some nice railway goodies.

Colin





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

**Alex Hills (junior member)**  
**Stephen Garner**

# CHRISTMAS BREAK

2024 / 2025

We will meet for the last time in 2024  
at Hardingstone on Thursday 19th  
December. We will reconvene on  
Thursday 2nd January 2025

The Committee would like to wish all our  
Club members and newsletter readers a  
very Happy Christmas and New Year.





# Chairman's Ramblings



Dear All,

As I sit here in a cold December in my workshop putting together this rambling I would like to wish Seasons greetings to all you members out there in model railway world, as I like to call it, and here's hoping that Santa has a few goodies in his sack for you all this year.



We are probably about to have, or have just had our Christmas meal at the Queen Eleanor pub and it is nice to see that we have a large number of members, and their partners and families attending the event this year.

We are still a little worried about the future of our club at the hall as its financial struggle is still one that will have to be monitored closely in the next year or so. Hopefully the increased membership numbers and increase in the Thursday evening club rental charge will allow the financial situation at the hall to be less problematic.

At the hall currently, we are working on two layouts and the N Gauge test track, and the two layouts will hopefully both be appearing at our show in July. The Junior track is being worked on every other week so that we can get a chance to run our trains as well. The N gauge is coming along nicely thanks to Bill and Ray. The N gauge test track refurb is being handled by Colin, our illustrious treasurer.

If you want to get involved with any of these club projects then please feel free to let any of us know. Please do not be a shrinking violet and not say anything!

Lately, we have noticed that the shed appears to have a small leak in the far left corner so please do not store anything there that could be damaged by water. Hopefully this will be a short term problem, as the shed is in fairly good condition other than in that small area.

As you may have noticed we have a new group using the hall on a Thursday evening, and so far no problems with parking, even though the car park is rather small.

Just to let you know we have recently upgraded our web site NDMRC.ORG with the kind assistance of Colin, and please feel free to have a look, and give us your comments.

Hope you all have a great time at this festive season in 2024 and have a safe prosperous 2025.



*Les Pace*

# Christmas Dinner

[All photos Cliff Simpson]

On Wednesday 11th December the club held its Christmas Dinner at the Queen Eleanor. Here are some pictures that Cliff took of us all.

Thanks to Stephen for organising this festive event.

Some of the pictures, if we want them to, do lend themselves for some caption competitions.









# Visiting the Re-Opened Oakhampton Station

by Colin Tarry

Continuing my visits from our annual holiday earlier this year to Devon, this time its Oakhampton station. The station was closed in 1972. Then from 1997 until 2019 it saw occasional mainline services and heritage rail tours. The station was then fully re-opened in November 2021.

To get to Oakhampton we got a train from Paignton to Exeter St Davids. From Exeter we took a class 150 DMU.



Above the train that took us to Oakhampton.

Right—the station nameboards have been recreated from their Southern Railway origins.







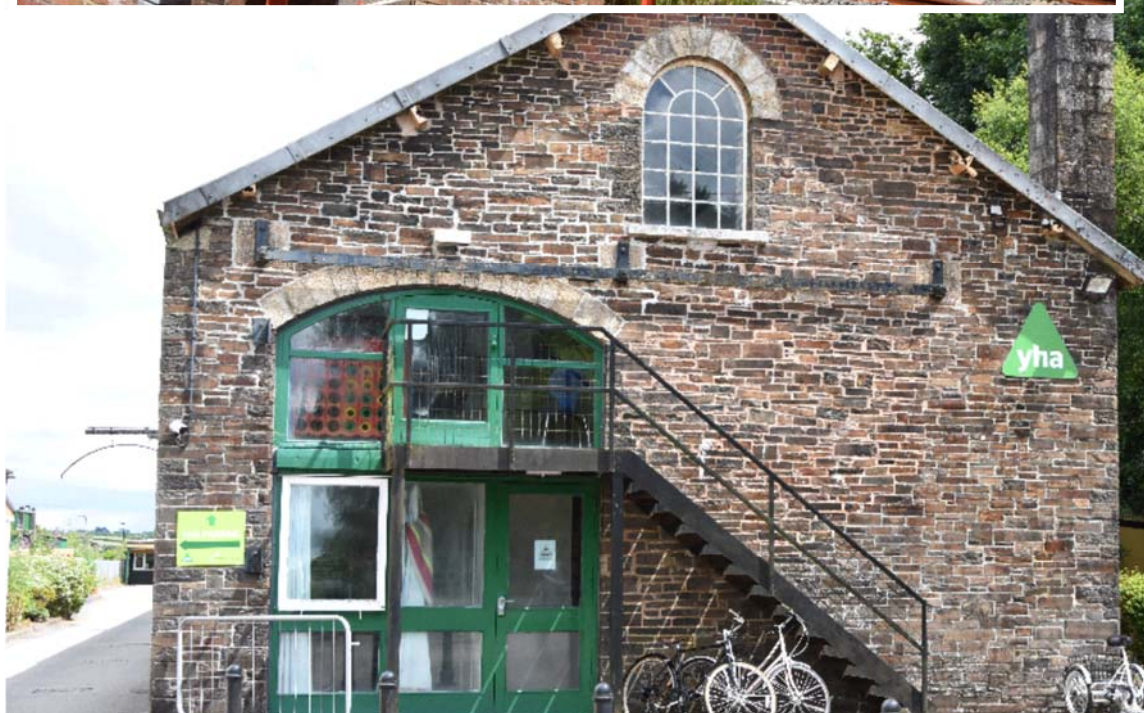
The outside of the station building where you would enter the station. On the right of the picture can be seen the signal box which at the time of our visit housed a model railway. Below—a front view of the signal box as viewed from the platform.







Left- a view of the footbridge. We could not use this as it was under repair.



This is the old goods shed now used a hostel by the Youth Hostel Association



Left- a view looking toward Exeter. Note on the right hand platform the extension canopy added by the Southern Railway in their classic concrete style.



# Dawlish - New Sea Defences

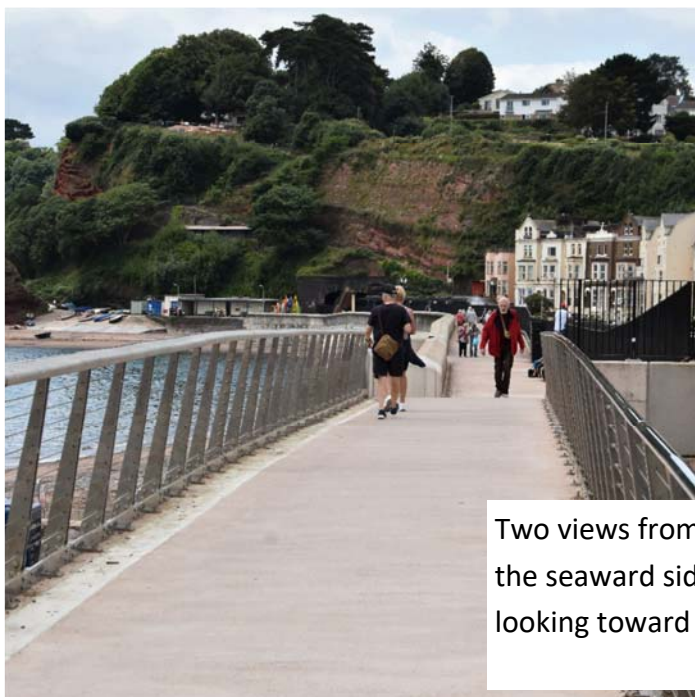
by Colin Tarry

Many of us will remember the storms that lashed the coast around Dawlish back in 2014 that destroyed the track, washing ballast away and so on. After the storm was over the famous "Orange Army" moved in to repair the damage. Their fix was only temporary. A more permanent solution was needed and work started on a new sea defence programme around the station area in 2019.



On our holiday earlier this year to Devon, we decided to take a trip to Dawlish and have a look at the new sea defences around the station that were opened in May 2023. Here are some pictures I took of the new defences on July 17th .

This is the station and new footbridge taken from the side facing the sea.

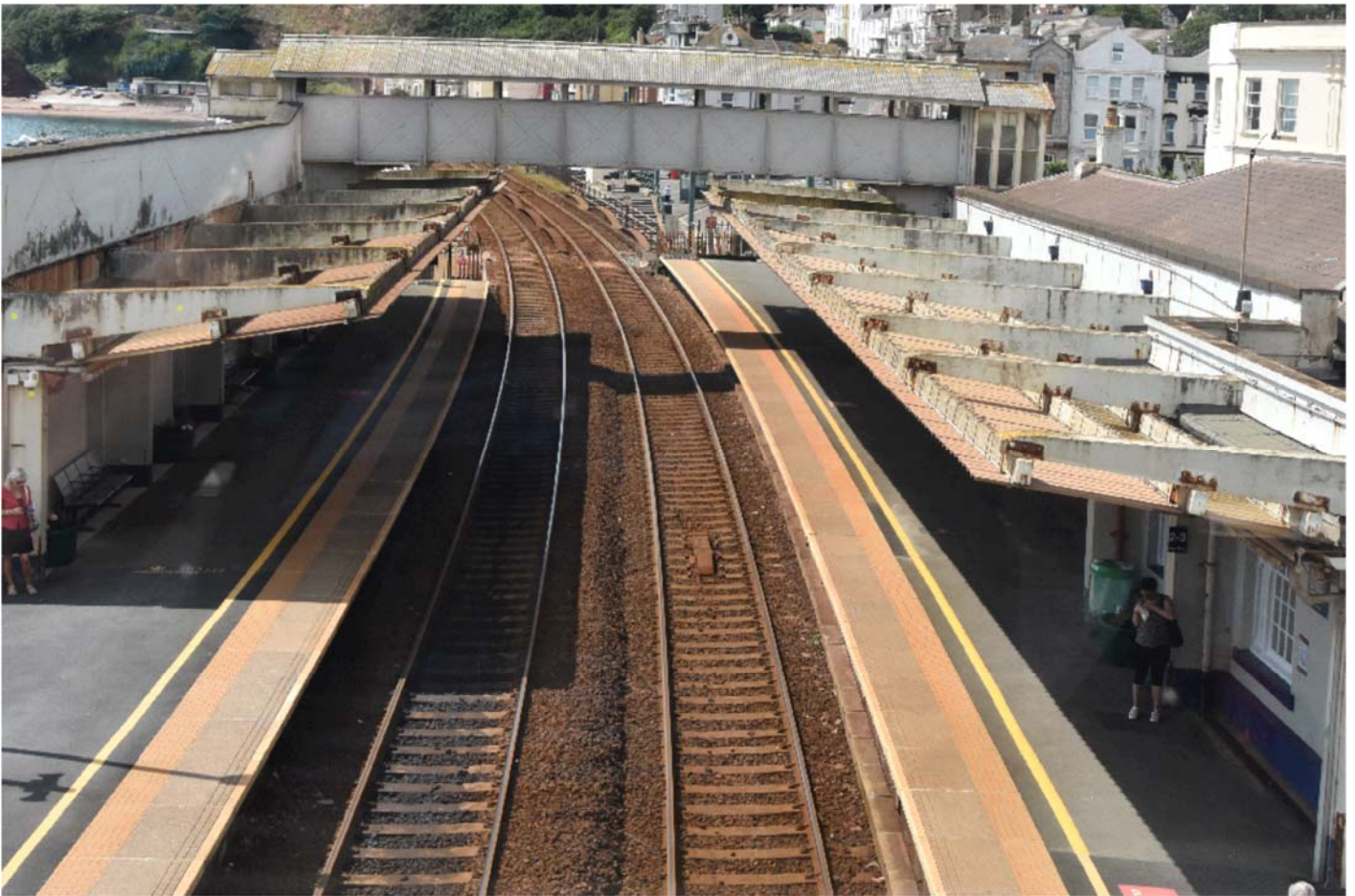


Two views from the west side on the seaward side of the station looking toward Teignmouth





A west bound Hitachi 800 ICE departs Dawlish



A west bound view through Dawlish station taken from the new footbridge. From this view everything looks as it did pre the 2014 storms. You could imagine a Western or Warship arriving any moment. But sadly those halcyon days are long gone .



# Corby Model Railway Exhibition

by Colin Tarry

The Corby Model Railway Society held their exhibition over the weekend of October 5th and 6th. The venue was at the church of St Peter and St Andrew. Although the club didn't take any of its own layouts because of space limitations, myself and Les took our own layouts and flew the flag for the club.



Above is my N gauge layout Tumil St James. And I was assisted by John Walker.



Below is Les's layout Westbridge. Les had several helpers, although looking at this photo I'm not sure all of them were up to the job.





# Events 2025

So far for 2025 we have the following events booked in.

## St Matthews Church—Summer Fete

5th July 2025

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

19th July 2025

The venue for our club exhibition will be Roade Village Hall. More details nearer the time.





# 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.