

### ***Layouts*** – (LC = Layout Coordinator)

- 1. Ashtown (N) – LC Martin Lockwood.** As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Ashtown team (minus Bob who had a prior commitment but who contributed his thoughts earlier) met to discuss what could be done to speed development of the layout to achieve completion by April 2018. The main points agreed were to rewire for DCC and to replace the storage boards at either end with a single traverser behind the scenic boards. So since the meeting, the station board has been rewired to install a bus (the other boards were rewired earlier this year when the track layout of the factory board was changed and are OK for DCC), a redundant crossover removed and new fold-up legs attached. Two new end baseboards to take the track behind the scenic boards have been constructed and attached to the layout, and track and wiring is complete on one. A new control panel for changing the points only has been constructed and attached to the rear of the factory board and is working. Also, a lighting gantry has been installed which is also working. The plan to the end of the year is to complete and install the new storage boards and thoroughly test all the trackwork across the whole layout and complete scenic work such as ballasting, roads/pavements, station platforms and grass. Thereafter, the focus will be on town planning for the two large boards and the construction of houses, factories, shops and railway buildings, to that plan. Graham has spent some time erecting two shelves to store rubbish on now that the CHPR boards have been disposed of. Because we are kind, we are allowing Greg to also store some Newton rubbish there.
- 2. Newton Wharf (N) – LC Greg Deacon/Ian Dodds.** The current workload has been concentrated around making sure that this is a working layout so it has involved testing all of the routes round the circuit with the loco provided by the club and testing the servo operated points. In the main the track works well apart from one or two problem points which will need attention. The next phase is to continue landscaping by building more buildings. I am not skilled enough to spec build models so will have to rely on Metcalfe kits.
- 3. Phoenix Park (OO) – LC Jeff Bamford/Pete Marshall.** Phoenix Park continues to make progress albeit slowly, switching from DCC to DC is easily done with the switches installed by Barry, Ballasting is currently in progress, wiring has been installed for point control, although some modification is required should the baseboards need to be separated. Perspex protection to the front and sides has been fixed so that the ideal height for leaning on is discouraged. Controllers have been installed at strategic places around the layout as well as a DCC controller. It has been discovered that one or two of the siding are only wired for dc but Barry and Tony will soon have that sorted. The top village is in place but not fixed and baseboard edge protection is in place. A second part of the village is being worked on by Mark and will soon be fitted, in the mean time the layout is always available to anyone wishing to test or do any running, i.e. play trains - just be aware ballasting is in progress.
- 4. Soarston Lower Level (DCC OO) – LC Jim Duckworth/Ian Dodds.** I (Jim) am still working on the scenery. It is slowly taking shape so that you can see what the layout represents. At the moment I am adding a stream to go under the road bridge which will connect the lower and upper level to road traffic. Keeping my fingers crossed that it will be advanced enough to be able to take it to Cotgrave next April.
- 5. Top Valley Goods and Rise Park Station (N) – LC Les Richardson.** Work is continuing on the scenery with a view to having the layout ready for the next stage by Christmas. The War Memorial is finished and installed. The road behind it is now completed with Belisha beacons on the crossing and speed limit signs in place. At the far end the security fence to the building site is complete and the gates have been added. The fence along the road here is also almost done and more shrubbery has been added to the triangular piece in front of the building site. At the very front Bob has finished building a brass stable block and this has been bedded in with a track leading to it. We have a lot of people to source and add here and there across the layout, and the job of giving them characters with back stories is only just beginning.

6. **Victoria Road MPD (00) - LC Bill Mossop.** Victoria Road is nearly complete for exhibition .The station is complete and the road bridge is in position. A few of the houses are yet to be refurbished. Hope to start trial runs of all locos for the layout in the near future.

**OTHER:**

- **Obituary Chris Burch** Many of the club would know the Revd. Canon J. Christopher Burch (Chris Burch) of Syston club, who passed away suddenly on Sunday 6th November. He was a good friend to the club, bringing layouts to our shows which always provided entertainment, particularly for children. He was a very proficient layout operator, and a member of the team for Furtwangen Ost and Hawthorn Dene. One of the nicest people you could hope to meet, he will be sadly missed.



- **Graham Dean** - My son Richard was born February 1964 and we took him in his pram to visit his Grandparents at Scarborough and Hull. I took a return free railway pass Horden to Hull and we travelled to Hull via Whitby and Scarborough. On the train a Ticket Inspector told me I was “out of route” and I told him I wasn’t – via York to Hull was much the fastest but via Scarborough was the shortest! Expecting such trouble, I had checked before travel – so he excused me. Not surprisingly the Whitby/Scarborough line closed in 1965.
- **Hawthorn Dene (Les Richardson) When the layout was being built a deal of help with details** was provided online by the Easington diaspora - it is amazing what information can be generated with a blog on RMWeb. Les, Geoff and Jim, together with a school friend of Les from County Durham, took the layout to Newcastle show recently, giving locals a chance to see the thing for real. Many nice things were said, though Les was taken to task by an octogenarian former sea coal trader. The coal sacks on the pushbikes of his pair of sea coal traders are loaded incorrectly!
- **South Notts Show 2017.**
  - 1 We need to have a publicity drive** in two areas that seem to be ignoring us - Radcliffe on Trent and Keyworth. Over the next month can anyone in the area suggest places they might be able to display posters (ie shops they can cajole into displaying a poster free).
  - 2 Programme Ads.** These cost £30 for a quarter page, with their display being repeated on the club website for the whole year up to the following show. If you know any local businesses that might be willing to put £30 our way can you have a chat with Les.
  - 3 Leaflet drops.** We need people to drop leaflets door to door in Cotgrave, Keyworth, Radcliffe and Bingham. We also need anyone going to any local shows to take a small pile of them. Don't stint - there are only about 7500 left to go out....
  - 4 Please reserve the weekend of the show** to help. We will need stewards, and in particular any help on Friday evening up to 8pm will be appreciated.
  - 5 So far confirmed 13 layouts of the 17 we need so** if you know of someone with a SMALL layout in OO or TT please let Les know. Note please that Les won't be at the club from 29th Nov to 8th Dec inclusive due to an eye op.

**Diary Dates** – *Please give Graham details of events of railway interest for the Diary.*

**RCTS Nottingham** meetings are held at The New Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham NG1 4EZ. Both Society members and non-members are very welcome to attend their meetings.

<b>2016</b>	
<b>Dec 8</b>	RCTS 1930 <b>Marylebone out and back</b> - Ken Grainger
<b>Dec 13</b>	RCTS 1930 <b>Members Evening with coffee and mince pies</b>
<b>2017</b>	
Jan 10	RCTS 1930 <b>Steam on the Main Line, Part 2 1991 – 2004</b> Roger Jones
Jan 24	RCTS 1400 <b>Afternoon meeting</b> <b>Swindon Works - The Golden Years (1880 - 1924)</b> Rev Canon Brian Arman
Feb 14	RCTS 1930 <b>Developments on the Welsh Highland and Festiniog Railways</b> , Peter Johnson
Feb 18/19	Sileby Show – No Place
Feb 28	RCTS 1400 <b>Afternoon meeting</b> <b>The amusing exploits of having the best job in the world as chief Engineer at NRM</b> Richard Gibbon OBE
Mar 4/5	Leamington & Warwick MRS Anual Model Railway Exhibition, Leamington College Hawthorn Dene
Mar 14	RCTS 1930 <b>Railways in a Cornish Landscape Part 3</b> - Stephen Gay
Mar 28	RCTS 1930 <b>Steam and the Clerical Life</b> - Rev David Fulger
April 22/23	Our Exhibition at Cotgrave Welfare.
April 25	RCTS 1930 <b>Bristol to Didcot</b> - Richard Binding
April 28 - 30	Bristol Model Railway Exhibition. Hawthorn Dene
June 3	Sleaford Model railway Exhibition, Osbournby No Place
June 16-18	GCR Model railway Event provisionally Rise Park
July 29/30	GCR Ruddington Model Railway Show Boghampton, Hawthorn Dene
Sep 2/3	Darlington MRC
Oct 14/15	Peterborough Hawthorn Dene
Nov	Warley, National Exhibition Centre Whatton Parva
Dec 2/3	The Manchester Model Railway Society Christmas Show . Hawthorn Dene
<b>2018</b>	
Nov	Warley, National Exhibition Centre Hawthorn Dene