

# MACCLESFIELD MODEL RAILWAY GROUP

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## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

**SHOW  
REPORT  
INSIDE**

*PLUS*

**A.G.M.  
SUMMARY**

*PLUS*

**MUCH  
MUCH  
MORE!**



**APRIL 2017  
ISSUE 45**

## CONTENTS

### REGULAR FEATURES

Editorial	3
Over to You	10
The Last Word	14

### FEATURE ARTICLES

Congratulations to William Chester	4
A 'WD' Locomotive, John Sinton and Diggle	5
Annual Exhibition Report	6
Macc Model Railway Show .... A View from Germany	8
Is It Art Or Criminal Damage?	13

### THE FUNNIES

Leap of Faith	9
Flat Spot?	9
The Ride Could be Smoother!	9
Now If You'd Used 'Peco' Rail Joiners ....	9
So Much For Cheap Chinese Recycled Plastic!	9
Some Kits Have No Interior Detail	9

### INFORMATION

A.G.M. Report	12
Club Contacts and Web Addresses.	14
Articles, Please	14

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All article text and photographs are by the authors except for images for "The Funnies" which are drawn from the internet and are, with our apologies, original source unknown.

Should we, inadvertently, have infringed your copyright please accept our apologies, let us know and we will publish an appropriate acknowledgement and apology in the next available issue.

### IT'S UP TO YOU

This Newsletter relies for its content on material supplied by its readers and no-one else. It does not 'pick up' on articles in other publications, it does not syndicate and it tries to reflect no-one's views and opinions other than those of its readers.

You can help to maintain that integrity by 'keeping in touch' .... let us know what you think, what you are doing with your hobby. If you have any ideas about how this Newsletter could be improved, what you like or don't like about it, then please contact the Newsletter either through "Over to You" or to the Editor direct at.....

## THE NEWSLETTER

### YOUR TEAM (so far)

Editor	Mike Hebblethwaite
Research (internet trawling!)	Mike Hebblethwaite
The fun bits	Mike Hebblethwaite
	Alek Adamski

If you would like to join the team and set up a regular (or even occasional!) feature, please contact the Editor. At the moment this Newsletter is too much a "one man band"! All contributions are welcome.

### CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter now has its own e-mail contact address, which is :-

**"MMRG-NewsLetter@hotmail.com"**

We hope we will have a very full 'in-tray' each month!

Any ideas about what we should include, any contributions you may wish to make about yourself and your interests, any news, recommended hobby outlets or just a general "Hi" to fellow readers would be very welcome.

It's your Newsletter! Use it.

### NEWSLETTER POLICY

This Newsletter is freely distributed to regular subscribers and is available to download through *Macclesfield Model Railway Group's* web site. Some of our information is derived from the internet and we try to acknowledge sources where ever we can. However, it is not always possible to trace original sources with the limited facilities that we have and apologise unreservedly in advance for any oversight.

As a reader/recipient of this Newsletter, you are free to distribute it amongst your friends and family, other clubs and societies to which you may belong or use any part of it to promote and further interest in railway modelling.

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### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

Our policy, at present, is that this publication will carry no commercial advertising. It is a Newsletter! However, should you wish to place an "advertising article" concerning a new product, an up-grade to an existing product or a more general "of benefit/interest to railway modellers" article, please contact "The Editor" via e-mail initially. It is understood that such features do not carry the endorsement of MMRG unless specified.

### AND FINALLY

This Newsletter is produced for and on behalf of Macclesfield Model Railway Group as part of their 'constitutional' obligation to promote and support the hobby of railway modelling. MMRG, under it's own rules, is obliged to pursue 'educational' opportunities within the hobby and this Newsletter is proud to play its part.

No price can be placed on the value of 'education', which is why this Newsletter is, and always will be, free.

**"MMRG-NewsLetter@hotmail.com"**

## EDITORIAL

Phew! What a busy month it's been .... and a very successful one for the Club.

Of course, the major event during March was the Club's annual exhibition, and what an event it proved to be. A full report appears on page 6 so, without giving too much away, all I'm going to say is that the weekend saw records tumble one after the other!

The Club's A.G.M. also took place on Friday 24th March and, again, there is a report on page 12.

It is very tempting, around the time of A.G.M.s, to look back and reflect on the previous year and we often forget that it is also a time to look forward. Things are changing rapidly for the Club and there are very good grounds for viewing the future with a good deal of optimism .....

As you may have noticed, our Club website has undergone something of a long overdue overhaul in recent months and is now much more C21! Much of the information from the 'old' site is still there but has been re-vamped and there are several new features. Of interest to at least some of you may be the expected arrival of an 'archive' feature which will, amongst other things, feature past articles from this Newsletter.

A 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' account have also been added and 'Facebook', undoubtedly, played a huge part in publicising our annual show. It also has a vital role to play in not only maintaining, but raising the public profile of the Club. It's interesting to note that there have been more contacts made with the Club, more enquiries made about it and more requests for help with problems following the introduction of our 'Facebook' page. It is a 'social facility' that we are certain to be using more and more.

You will find links to the Club's website, 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' as well as the Newsletter on page 14 as well as other useful contact information. This information section will be a permanent inclusion within the pages of this Newsletter, so you'll always have it readily to hand.

What else is on the horizon?

There have long been rumblings of organising a trip for Club members and Newsletter readers to Hamburg to visit 'Miniatur Wunderland'. This is likely to be a 3 or 4 day trip to allow enough time to visit the exhibition (which is vast!) and allow for some exploration of Hamburg itself. If you are interested, please contact me via the Newsletter. We haven't any dates in mind just yet but as soon as we have, you'll be the first to know!

Some space has now been cleared in the Clubroom and more will become available in the next few months to allow us to start building more new layouts. There are already plans for a new 'TT' layout, thought is being given to an '009' layout (nothing definite yet) and we have decided following the success of our £1 raffle '00' layout that we should build another. We already have enough track for this project and some stock.

Of course we couldn't ignore 'N' gaugers. We have a great little layout that was donated to us and it is in some need of a dose of TLC. Our aim is to use it to promote our next show and for it to feature in it. Unfortunately it was never designed to be readily portable so work needs to be done to make it more 'robust'. Does this sound like your kind of project?

We are also likely to be building a brand new 'N' gauge layout once "Macc Central" has moved to its new home with Alek Adamski. Yes, that Alek of 'whacky wagons' fame. He is extremely keen to continue with this project and moving "Macc Central" to its new location will allow Alek to have more and easier access to the layout. I'm hoping that Alek will provide up-dates from time to time to show everyone what progress is being made ..... there's already an experimental guide wire system being tested for 'moving traffic' on some of the existing roads!

Again, if you are interested in joining in with any of these projects, please let me know via the Newsletter. Better still, why not call in at the Club if you can and see for yourself what's happening? You're sure of a welcome and, if we can find the kettle, a cup of tea or coffee. A small group of us also 'retire' to the Dolphin for a pint at the end of the evening and you are more than welcome to join us. The Club meets between 7.30 and 10.00 p.m. on Monday and Friday evenings. If you are 'popping in', please give us a call for directions as we can be quite difficult to find first time round!

Great and very welcome though it is to have a growing membership that is becoming increasingly active within the Club, what is even more impressive is the support the Club is receiving from members of our local community. The Club has been the grateful recipient of a significant quantity of donated model railway items over the last twelve months. These donations have included locomotives, rolling stock, track and accessories and almost all have been in first class condition. Some items were used to build the "£1 raffle layout" and some have already been earmarked for use in building and stocking our next "£1 raffle" project. More items have found their way onto the Club's "00" layout (Sutton Hilltop) which, incidentally, has been invited to take part in its first 'exhibition outing' to Bakewell in the summer.

However, many more of the donated items were offered for sale on the Club's secondhand stall at our own exhibition in early March ..... and this year the stall smashed all previous records as a fund-raiser for the Club. The generosity of those making the donations was not only overwhelming, they have done much to secure the future for Macclesfield Model Railway Group.

Such donations do not just create a debt of immense gratitude, they bring also a responsibility to promote and support the hobby of railway modelling throughout our community. The Club is keenly aware that it should help others within the hobby to achieve the maximum possible enjoyment from the hobby by helping with problem solving (at whatever level), ideas, skill enhancements, examples of good practice ..... the list is almost endless!

If you have any ideas or suggestions as to how the Club might best help and support others, then please get in touch. Your contribution could well be of great importance and assistance to a fellow railway modeller.....and that may be the most valued donation you could make to our hobby.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAM CHESTER

Mike Hebblethwaite

As many of you who came along to the show will know, "Sutton Central" featured as a raffle prize on our Club stand and tickets were snapped up throughout the weekend.

At the end of the show, the winning ticket was picked out by Udo Pfannkuche (our guest from Wuppertal, Germany) and the phone call was duly made to William. He couldn't have been more pleased!

As a local lad, he was able to "hot-foot it" back to the show to collect his prize without any further delay ..... Now, there's keen!

"Sutton Central" was presented to William by Steve Nixon who sold the winning ticket ..... we think he sold the winning ticket, he'd sold most of them!

William is a Newsletter reader so, hopefully, he'll let us know how he gets on with his 'new' layout.

Congratulations, William, from all at Macclesfield Model Railway Group and we hope you get a lot of enjoyment from your prize.



## A 'WD' Locomotive, John Sinton, and Diggle.

Ken Ratcliffe

I took these two photographs about sixty years apart. Having had a good reception for Bob Seaton's superb Meccano model of the LBSC Baltic loco at the recent MMRG Exhibition, I'm enclosing a photo taken at a club meeting in 2016 of models by another Meccano enthusiast, John Sinton,



featuring a Fairburn 2-6-4T and a WD 2-8-0. I must apologise for the fact that the photo is not pin-sharp – it was not one of my best days. However, the models themselves capture incredibly well the proportions and character of the locomotives, never easy, given the constraints of the parts available, especially when the models are compact, and to a smaller scale than is easiest for depicting particular vehicles, especially steam locomotives, where Meccano modellers usually have a pretty good idea what they should look like.

Then I trawled through some of my older photographs and among my earliest shots, next to the one of the double-headed Jubilees, after I had acquired a 35mm camera with the proceeds from selling my much loved Hornby Dublo trains, I found the second photograph, the black-and-white picture, taken in about 1954-5. I scanned the negative at maximum resolution for my scanner – but couldn't get rid of the deterioration markings, not being a Photoshop user. I managed to get a fine example of 'Newton's Rings' in the area where they show the most – in the steam exhaust. This was probably due to careless drying of the film.



Nevertheless, the photo shows the simple lines of the WD (i.e. War

Department) loco, and just how well John captured its lines and proportions. The engines were a development, for austerity war use, of the Stanier 8F 2-8-0, without the trimmings, and using cheap materials, and simplified construction. Built in enormous numbers, and sent to war zones in the early 1940s, they were seen as disposable, and were not expected to last long, being designed for heavy use by unskilled footplate men in hostile conditions. However, they proved more robust than expected, and at the end of the war, many of those that had been sent abroad were repatriated, and found prolonged use by the UK railway companies, and later BR. Examples lasted well into the 1960s, well remembered for their clanking, and no doubt rough-riding and uncomfortable cabs as far as the loco men were concerned.

The engine in the photo is 90187. It is approaching Diggle towards the end of the climb from Stalybridge on the busiest trans-Pennine route between Manchester and the Huddersfield/Leeds area. It will shortly reach Standedge Tunnel at the summit of the line, but, since Diggle was a busy junction with freight yards, the train might pause there and be remarshalled. For a fairly isolated place, Diggle could be very noisy at times. The fireman on this train will be looking forward to a breather after the long climb, though he clearly had things under control as the safety valves are blowing.

Diggle was the junction of the two parallel lines coming up from Stalybridge. The original line, via Mossley and Greenfield, consists of the two tracks on the right. This is the line that survives. In 1885 the LNWR built the Micklehurst Loop line which left the original immediately on leaving Stalybridge, and simply went up the other side of the Tame valley, never being more than half a mile from the Greenfield line. This effectively made a quadruple main line for the route, but this Micklehurst Loop was mainly used for freight, especially since it didn't serve Greenfield which was a junction for the line to Oldham, and where a surprising number of Liverpool-Manchester-Leeds-Hull/Newcastle passenger express trains called. There were stations on the Loop line, but these closed as early as 1916. The line itself closed in the 1960s, leaving the older route, the two tracks on the right, to carry all the traffic, and it is now slated for electrification. The goods train in the photo has just emerged from Butterhouse Tunnel which passes under the hillside partly hidden by the exhaust. The 'main' lines, curving away to the right, have skirted the hill by a shallow cutting from Saddleworth station, and viaduct. Both sets of tracks in the photo are in bullhead rail.

Alongside the line is the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, frozen and disused. It has recently reopened and narrow boats can now pass through the Standedge canal tunnel. The wharf visible is (had been) serving Dobcross Loom Works, on the right – still there, but not making looms any more. The factory also had a siding from the railway. I spent a few weeks earning some holiday money resealing the panes of glass on its roofs as I lived just a short walk away. When I look at the photo, I can still feel the cold of such days.

# ANNUAL EXHIBITION REPORT

Mike Hebblethwaite

Putting the Members' Stall next to 'Sweets of Yesteryear' was not the best of planning! That chocolate coated cinder toffee was to die for and as for trying to speak whilst eating it ..... impossible! It's a good job that what we had on



*Yours truly trying to look serious with a mouthful of cinder toffee!*

the stall was so good the stock almost sold itself! To say that the stall had its best year EVER would be an understatement. We not only had great items for sale, we also had a huge number of them.....and there's even a few left over to 'kick start' next year's stall! Last year the stall was able to raise a record breaking £400 for the Club. This year we have more that doubled that amount thanks to the generosity of all who donated the bulk of our 'stock'. Many thanks doesn't seem enough for such overwhelming support.

This was a truly record breaking year, and not just for the Members' stand. Attendances at this years' show were approximately 34% up on last year's and is the highest number of visitors we've had for at least 10 years! Taken against a background of *falling attendances* nationally, this was a remarkable achievement! The numbers of families visiting was also noticeably greater, so much so that Steve Nixon was worried he might run out of kiddies' footstools. These were a new feature for the show and proved to be incredibly popular. Another record to be beaten ..... one of the stools was signed out for **5.5 hours!**

.....And just what did those children spend so much time watching? Suffice it to say that poor old 'Thomas' on the Happy Valley layout has a set of very badly worn wheels!

A random poll on the door identified visitors from far and wide including Chesterfield, Llandudno, Nottingham, Preston, Sheffield, the West Midlands and even London!

How do we account for the increased number of visitors and the wide area they came from? In truth, we can't. We can, however, point to some new ways in which we have advertised the show.

This is our first year where we have been able to link our own Club website to Facebook and Twitter and those links have been well used.

There have been many occasions where posts on the Club's Facebook page have been re-posted onto individuals' Facebook pages and similarly, many individuals have created their own posts that have been reposted by others. So what? I can only give you the example of my own experience (no doubt we'll be able to gather more information as we analyse our Club's accounts). One of the items I posted was reposted 40 times and I know of two individuals who had the same post reposted between 20 and 30 times. Where it was reposted to after that goodness only knows. Potentially it could reach into the thousands! And mine was certainly not the only effort being made!

There was certainly strong evidence that a much higher profile had been created for the show than ever before and public awareness was far greater.

Our local paper, the Macclesfield Express, also played a major part with their excellent article **on page 2** (!) and did much to promote the 'family friendliness' of the show. Again, it did much to raise both the profile of the show and public awareness.

But what of the show itself?



Of course, the Members' Stand wasn't the only trader .....

Dave Fenton (MegaPoints Controllers) was at the show and, as the photo above shows, received his fair share of 'stick' from other exhibitors ..... "Bet your system can't do this!" followed by, "And if it can, how many units would you want?" .... he takes it all in his stride!

Other traders came from Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Northumberland.

The list of counties represented by exhibitors is no less impressive with model railways coming from Cheshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, West Midlands, Yorkshire, Leicestershire, County Durham, Hertfordshire, Dorset and, of course, Wuppertal in Germany!

A small show with national and, this year, international reaches!

We couldn't have a show report without mentioning the catering! That it is well renowned on the exhibition 'circuit' as being amongst the very best would be something of an understatement. Not only was the sheer



*Quiet? Of course it's quiet. It's lunch time on Sunday. Catering, on the other hand, was packed! The roast chicken Sunday lunch was definitely not to be missed!*

impressive, quality was of the highest standard, too. Not surprisingly, catering did a 'roaring trade'!

Traditionally, all exhibitors are invited to join together for a meal and a 'thank you' pint at 'The Brock' and this year there was a gathering of around 24, the remainder seeking refreshment at hostelrys in the town centre with several opting for the real ale selection at The Waters Green Tavern. Suffice it to say that some memories of the Saturday evening were not so clear on Sunday morning!

And speaking of free pints, there were more than a few collected by volunteers (sadly, only one each!) who had helped set up the show on Friday evening! A very small but well earned thank you to all those who so willingly gave up their time. It would seem that we broke all records in the time taken to both set up the exhibition on Friday and pack it all away on Sunday. A huge thank you to all involved. Without your help, the exhibition would have been hard work to say the least! From a personal point of view, I was amazed to find that I had left the exhibition when almost everything had been 'dismantled' (just one trade stand remaining) and packed away,



*Sutton Hill - MMRG's '00' layout .....before dismantling!!*

took the Club layout back to the clubroom and then the trailer back to Leek, returned to Macc for a well earned pint with Udo in The Dolphin and was home by 9.00.p.m.. I wasn't expecting to be home until at least 10.30!

Was the show a success? Yes, and resoundingly so. It was a show that saw so many records not just broken, but 'smashed'! Attendances up. Door takings up. Young visitor numbers up. Members' sales up..... and a straw poll amongst visitors as they left the show indicated that both exhibits and traders were better than expected and that was with 'the bar set high' given the high quality of previous shows!

No show report would be complete without a huge thank you to Tytherington High School who have hosted and supported our shows for the past 11 years. Without such a good venue, its easy access and car parking, MMRG would not have been able to establish this annual exhibition so firmly in so many visitors' calendars .... and not just locally! MMRG has grown to think of the school as its second home .... and with very good reason.

Nor would it be complete without a thank you to all exhibitors, traders, club members, volunteers and all those involved in the 'back room' whose contribution can be so easily overlooked.

A special thanks must also go to all our visitors, both local and from far and wide, who made this a truly record breaking show.

\* The Brocklehurst Arms

MMRG Newsletter readers recommend :-  
 "THE MODEL CENTRE"  
 Hill Farm, Beck Hole, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 5LF  
 01947 899125  
["www.themodelcentre.com"](http://www.themodelcentre.com)

## MACC MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

### .....A VIEW FROM GERMANY

**Udo Pfannkuche**

The first thing I realised as I travelled to Macclesfield was that I had broken with a long maintained habit..... I drank 'Newcastle Brown Ale' instead of 'Guinness' on the ferry! The taste was very different, but the effect was the same!

And the second realisation? I have long believed that Germany has too many traffic cones on our roads and autobahns, but Great Britain wins the "Traffic Cone Award"! I lost count at 265,366 cones along the M62!! I wish I had shares in the British manufacturer!

Compared to many other shows I have attended during the last 25 years, this one in Macclesfield was well organized. The catering was very good and varied and the food was excellent. I have never had such good meals at model railway shows.



*Doesn't he just love 'playing trains'!*

I found the mix of completely different model railroad layouts very interesting and attractive for every kind of railroad modeller. Even the families and family members without any affinity to our hobby were

surprised and astounded by the huge variety of how we modellers portray our environment. I was asked many questions about some of the details and techniques I used on my layout and I found many of the spectators to be deeply interested in what we all displayed. Even young children were attracted to some features of our model railways and stood there patiently watching the movements.

In my view the exhibition really was a success. During some hours of both days the halls were full of visitors which promises a rather good signal for our wonderful hobby.

On my way back home I was faced with something strange. I approached a Dutch truck on the M62 and read on its backside "Van Loo". Since my brain was still immersed in the English language I thought, "What the hell has a van to do with a loo or vice versa?" Then it dawned on me..... It was simply the name of the Dutch haulage company!

These are my impressions and thoughts about this perfectly organised and well attended Macclesfield model railroad show, to which I am very grateful to have been invited.

My best wishes for the club's future and the welfare of all its members,



*Udo's coal tippler hard at work ..... a working and fascinating feature of his layout*

**LEAP OF FAITH**



It's not that following the rails entails a 'leap of faith' so much as the belief that a piece of string will stop a train!!

**FLAT SPOT?**



**THE RIDE COULD BE SMOOTHER!**



**NOW, IF YOU'D USED PECO RAIL JOINERS.....**



**SO MUCH FOR CHEAP CHINESE RECYCLED PLASTIC!**



**SOME KITS HAVE NO INTERIOR DETAIL!**



**MMRG Newsletter readers recommend :-**

**“CHESHIRE MODELS”**

**37, Sunderland Street, Macclesfield**

**01625 511646**

**[www.cheshiremods.org.uk](http://www.cheshiremods.org.uk)**

## OVER TO YOU

MMRG Newsletter

The Editor

Hey Mike,

*Just wanted to let you and all the guys that put in such really hard work for the show that all your efforts paid off! It was fantastic! It was a first-time visit for me, but I'll be looking out for your Facebook ads next year.*

*I didn't know that a show this good was virtually on my doorstep.*

Keith Altmann

Buxton

-----

To the Newsletter Editor

Thank you to the Macclesfield Model Railway Club for putting on such an excellent show. I visit many all over the northwest and your's ranks well up the 'top ten'.

I don't know where you got your caterers from, but they are the best by a country mile.

"Choochheyes"

-----

Hi Mike,

*One of the best model railway exhibitions in our part of the world and the model railways you show are always amongst the best in the country. I know you are only a small club, but how do you 'think' and 'deliver' so big?*

*That guy from Germany with the working coal tipper ..... I know Germans are well known for their attention to detail, but that guy takes it way beyond! Where did you find him? How did you get him here? He's an inspiration!. And, boy, can he talk!*

Highest regards

Dave Clutton

-----

The Editor

Newsletter

Dear sir,

None of my family has ever been to a model railway exhibition before but we thought we'd give this one a try. What an eye-opener! My only experience of 'model railways' was a Hornby train set given to me for Christmas aged about 10. It didn't last long! I very quickly got fed up with

it just going round and round. I never imagined that you could turn a train set into the fantastic displays you had on show.

My wife was impressed by the incredibly real scenery, my youngest son (3) by the Brio and my eldest son (6) was difficult to drag away from Thomas the Tank Engine! I was difficult to drag away from everything!

Thanks also for the thought you have given to the smaller visitors with the provision of steps .. my sons had a really great view of your trains and loved it.

I loved the fact that you could grab a coffee and bacon butty. Having two children you do feel the need for a bit of refreshment part way through and we were able to keep an eye on our youngest at the Brio at the same time!

If Thomas is there, we will definitely see you next year.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Mycroft

p.s. I got this address from the Club website. I hope it's the right one.

-----

The Editor,

MMRG Newsletter

Hi Mike,

*Just thought I'd let you know that I came along to your show on Saturday and what a great show it was! I'd allowed myself around an hour to an hour and a half to do the show (it's about my average time at shows of this size) but ended up staying most of the day!*

*I don't think I've ever been to such a friendly show where the exhibitors are prepared to talk so much about their layouts and hobby in general. I was so greatly impressed by the enthusiasm of Dave Fenton, who is probably the world's best salesman, that I ended up investing in his MegaPoints Controller system ..... he convinced me that I really did need it!*

*I've seen the system recommended in your Newsletter and I know that he's a club member but I never knew the system was that good. I've taken two weeks to install it, test it and run it. Fantastic. What a valuable club member you have.*

*The rest of the show was brilliant and is definitely in my diary for next year.*

*See you in twelve months!*

Don Harrington

*p.s. I've been downloading your Newsletter from the internet and it's one of the best newsletters I've ever come across. Keep up the good work.*

Dear Editor,

I don't usually travel far to exhibitions but I was persuaded by a friend to come with him to your exhibition. It was supposed to be a day out with some sightseeing in the Peak District on our way home. The sightseeing didn't happen as we spent so long at your great show!

We spent most of the morning looking and talking and then we had lunch. What a belly buster! Then we went round the exhibition again to have another look at our favourite layouts. We didn't leave until nearly closing time!

Our trip back to Walsall wasn't as pretty as we'd planned but we had a great day out.

Jack Eastman

-----

Thanks Mike

Our six year old is now totally nuts about trains! What have you done? A great show is what you've done and so family friendly.

Roll on next year. He'll be seven by then and YOU can have him for the day!

Many thanks

Joe and Theresa Wilmot

-----

The Editor,

I'm thinking very hard now.

Have I seen a better show? Have I been to a friendlier show? Have I ever eaten so well at a show? Have I ever enjoyed a show so much?

Hmmm!

No to all questions.

Jon (aka 'Steamer')

-----

Hey Mike,

Can your guys come to xxxxxxxxxx and teach our local guys how to put on a show? Ours is crap!

And can **you** come and show our guys how to put together a newsletter? That's crap as well.

(name and location withheld for obvious reasons! I like the compliments..... I think! Ed)

-----

The Editor,

Thanks for a great show.

I liked all the layouts. I liked the variety. I liked the mix of traders. I liked the bacon butties and a good cuppa. I liked the whole show.

I didn't like the walk from the station. It's a long way.

Score - 9.9/10

A1+

\*\*\*\*\*

Best regards

"Stumpy" (that's what they call me now after that walk!)

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# Macclesfield Model Railway Group

supports the development of

# “MegaPoint Controllers”

through the On30 Group

*“Great Show. Congratulations”*

## **A.G.M. REPORT**

**Mike Hebblethwaite**

**Macclesfield Model Railway Group's A.G.M. was held in the Clubroom on Friday 24th March with so many in attendance we ran out of chairs!!**

As is customary, the meeting opened with:-

### **Chairman's Report 2016 - 2017**

We have had an incredibly successful year!!

We have noticeably raised the profile of the club - especially locally. Thanks to Colin Moores we have brought our web site up to the 21st century and have entered the social media forum with a vengeance. Meanwhile, Mike's Newsletter goes from strength to strength and we seem to have an ally in the local newspaper with before & after the Exhibition articles.

The 2016 Exhibition was a great success both financially and from the comments we received from the public and exhibitors. Even this has now been surpassed by the 2017 Exhibition with adult visitor numbers up by about 34% on 2016 and, with about 350 children, we had over 1,600 visitors in all – probably our best attendance at Tytherington! I suspect that our increased local profile is the reason.

In the clubrooms there have been five layouts developed in parallel (three of which exhibited at our exhibition). That's all really great - but we do need to tidy up the mess!

In particular, I want to thank Steve Nixon for all his efforts – especially on Sutton Hilltop (which has now got its first invitation) and to Tony for driving forward Sutton Central (the raffle layout) which was a great success at the Exhibition - both financially and in the interest it generated.

Having taken breath we need to look forward asap and decide such things as:

What layouts are to be developed and by whom?  
What visits we would like to undertake e.g. the Severn Valley; Crewe Locomotive Storage Ltd and how about the Miniatur Wunderland, Hamburg????

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has helped make this the successful year that it has been!

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Following the Chairman's annual summary, the Treasurer reported that the Club has had a good year and this year's show has been particularly good. Of course, the income from our latest show will be reflected in *next year's* figures and do not feature in this year's. However, last year's show was financially successful and has done much to maintain the Club's reasonably healthy finances. Altogether, good news for the Club.

There followed the election of Committee members and officers of the Club, the results being .....

Chairman	Shaun Horrocks (no change)
Vice chairman	Mike Hebblethwaite (no change)
Secretary	Tom McDonough (no change)
Treasurer	Malcolm Fraser (no change)
Deputy Treasurer	Alan Ashton (new position) *
Newsletter Editor	Mike Hebblethwaite (no change)
Member representatives	Tony Hallatt (no change)
	Steve Nixon (no change)
	Colin Moores (new position)

\* With the announcement by Malcolm that he would be retiring at the end of 2017, Alan Ashton was elected to act as Deputy Treasurer until he takes over fully the role of Treasurer in January 2018.

Finally, a good deal of interest was expressed in proposed trips to:-

- The Severn Valley Railway and a tour 'behind the scenes'
- A tour of Crewe Locomotive Storage Ltd and its workshops
- A trip to Hamburg and 'Miniatur Wunderland'

The newly elected Committee will try to fix dates and make necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

If you think you would like to join in any (or even all!) of these trips, please let us know. You can either e-mail the Club direct or via this Newsletter.

### **MMRG Newsletter readers recommend :-**

**“WALTONS of ALTRINCHAM”**

**30, Stamford St, Altrincham, WA14 1EY**

**0161 928 5940**

**[www.WaltonsModels.co.uk](http://www.WaltonsModels.co.uk)**

### **MMRG Newsletter readers recommend :-**

**“S.M.T.F.” (model shop)**

**Brookside Garden Centre, London Road North,  
Poynton, Cheshire, SK12 1BY**

**01625 850427**

**Great Show!!**

### **MMRG Newsletter readers recommend :-**

**“TRIDENT TRAINS”**

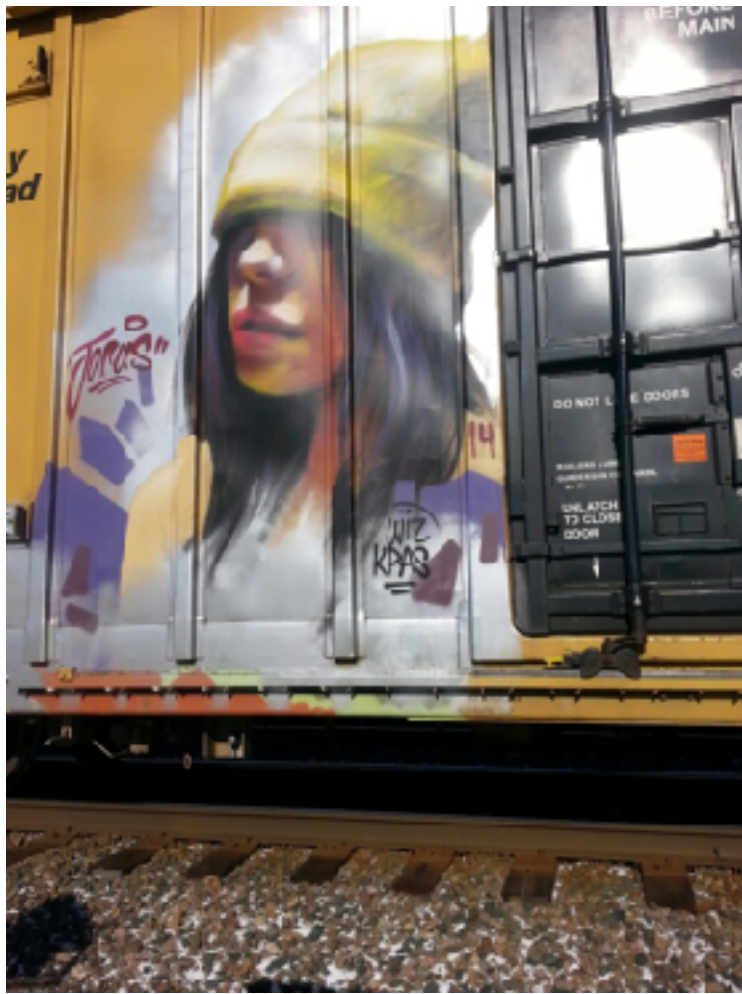
**Unit 10, The Craft Arcade, Dagfields Craft Centre,  
Crewe Road, Walgherton, Nantwich, Cheshire  
CW5 7LG**

**01270 842400**

**[www.tridenttrains.co.uk](http://www.tridenttrains.co.uk)**

# IS IT ART OR CRIMINAL DAMAGE?

Mike Hebblethwaite



It can certainly brighten up the trains, but my guess is that if you have to clean it up, you may not consider your rolling stock or your property's walls to be a suitable 'canvas'!



## CLUB CONTACTS AND WEB ADDRESSES

### Newsletter:-

e-mail ["MMRG-NewsLetter@hotmail.com"](mailto:MMRG-NewsLetter@hotmail.com)  
telephone 07761 122126

### Macclesfield Model Railway Group:-

web site ['www.macclesfieldmrg.org.uk'](http://www.macclesfieldmrg.org.uk)  
e-mail ['macclesfieldmodelrailwaygroup@gmail.com'](mailto:macclesfieldmodelrailwaygroup@gmail.com)  
telephone 07796 457978  
07761 122126  
Twitter [www.twitter.com/@MacclesfieldMRG](http://www.twitter.com/@MacclesfieldMRG)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/macclesfieldmrg](http://www.facebook.com/macclesfieldmrg)

If you would like to contact the Newsletter or Macclesfield Model Railway Group for any reason, simply 'click' on the appropriate red link above.

## ARTICLES, PLEASE

### Mike Hebblethwaite

As a reader of this Newsletter you will, no doubt, be aware that it is very much a 'one-man show' in terms of producing the bulk of its content, its compilation, editing and distribution. It is a role I very much enjoy and feel honoured to be entrusted with, but I do need your help.

Apart from next month's lead article, I have no other articles 'in stock' and, so far as I know, none 'in the pipeline'.....and that's where you may be able to help.

I'm looking for articles on any of the following:-

- 1) layouts, track plans, building kits (any type), basic wiring, any one-off projects (loco/stock/building conversions/detailing).
- 2) your own layout. It doesn't matter whether it is basic or a work of art (!). It is always great to see what readers are enjoying about their hobby.
- 3) trips you have made to places of interest, for example heritage/preserved railways, rail fan trips, loco shed tours, model railway exhibitions, swap meets, etc
- 4) rail trips you may have made both in the UK and/or abroad.

I'm not looking for 'pullitzer prize winning' articles ..... a few notes will do. I can then use those notes to produce an article. Photos are always welcome but please, if you can, send them to me in uncompressed .jpeg format

You are subjected to my many and varied outpourings each month about what I think about our hobby, where I think it's going, its failings and successes. But it is not *my* Newsletter, it's *your's!* If you have any thoughts, gripes, future forecasts, etc, about our hobby, then please send them in.

If you do submit anything for publication in this Newsletter and I edit its material content in any way, I will send you a copy for your approval (or otherwise!) **before** it is published.

I do hope you can help.

## THE LAST WORD

Once again, we have had a very successful show and that is, in no small part, down to the fantastic support we have been given by members and non-member volunteers alike, the great work that has been done in 'spreading the word' about the show on the Club's web and Facebook sites, the many people who have 'shared' the event on their own Facebook pages and, of course, the great support we have received from our local newspaper, the 'Macclesfield Express'.

There are 1,001 tasks to be undertaken before we can even open the doors to the public and thanks has to be given to all those that 'beaver away' in the background ..... contacting local newspapers and radio stations, distributing posters and fliers, advertising through magazines and web sites, ordering tables and barriers, booking layouts and traders, allocating power points, checking power extension leads, booking tables and barriers ..... The list goes on and on! Without their tireless efforts there would be no show!

And, of course, without the support of Tytherington High School we wouldn't have a venue to hold the event! We've been holding our exhibitions at the school for the past 11 years and it really does feel like the Club's second home!

.....And for that final 'train' of thought?

At this year's show we had many more younger visitors than in previous years and, judging by the many cries of protest I heard, many were reluctant to leave! That I take as a good sign ..... for the show, if not for the parents!

For some of the very youngest, the Brio wooden train set proved a big hit. For those that were a little older, 'Thomas the Tank Engine and friends were a great attraction ..... but there was also that sense of wonder at so many trains doing so many different things. Some were simply 'whizzing' by, some were shunting and yet more had working accessories such as crossing gates, operating signals and coloured lights. One even featured a cyclist 'pedalling' along the road. There was a huge variety of different types of trains, some big, some small, some long, some short and some were extremely colourful in their modern liveries. All, to the younger viewer, are very eye-catching and a powerful spur to their imaginations. It's no wonder they were reluctant to leave!

If, through this exhibition (and the many others like ours) we have managed to sow the seeds in those young imaginations of railway modelling as a hobby and shown that there is a whole new world to be created beyond the train set, then the future for our hobby is bright.

I have already been contacted by parents who have said they are going to start a model railway project with their children after visiting our show, but their major concern is that they don't know enough about the hobby or its 'technicalities'. No problem! Macclesfield Model Railway Group will help in any way it can to overcome any difficulties or problems ..... we are all of a mind that railway modelling should be fun and the better and more reliably a model railway runs and operates, the more fun it is. We are only an e-mail away! Simply ask for the help/advice/support you need.