

CAMERA



The Newsletter of the Chiltern Model Railway Association

No. 15

May 2014

Modellers Day July 12th 2014

This year the Modellers Day looks as good as ever before. If you have not attended one of our meetings or events before, then this is one that you should try. Every year that we have held the day, modellers from across the membership of the CMRA say that it is a day worth going to, and that they enjoy the atmosphere, the lectures and the buffet. There are no barriers to stop you getting too close to be able to talk to a demonstrator or even to stop people from talking to you whilst you show what you can do! The day is not an exhibition, not a scale forum or trade show. It is made up mainly by you the members of clubs/associations that are members of the Association coming along for the day to show "how you do it!". Other members can learn from you, at the same time you may well find, that somebody else can show you a different way of doing what you do.

The list of invited speakers this year includes Jacqui Perratt talking on the subject of hedges, Barry Cotman on Austrian railways, Tony Hill on scenic, Michael Watts on "how to design a model railway so as to maintain the enthusiasm and motivation to complete the modelling work" and John Noorani on the subject of block signalling on railways.

Invited demonstrators include Cat Gibbs with her figure painting, Jacqui Perratt - trees, Jerry Freestone - card building, John Lloyd - ballasting and grasses, Rob Bishop and co from Waveney MRC.

Invited traders include Kevin Dickerson Coastal DCC, John Dutfield and Plus Daughters.

As is usual there will be a veritable feast of a buffet for you to partake, that is if you come and join us for our "Modellers Day" on the 12th July at Parmiters School, Watford, Hertfordshire. Cost of the event is £10.00 per head, this by the way is subsidised by the Association.

We intend to have a second hand stall at the event so if you have any items that you would like to try and sell then bring them along. Please provide a list of your items and clearly mark the item with your name and club.

Do try to come along for the day, if this is your first time I can assure you that you will enjoy the day as so many have enjoyed it in the past. It is a day for you to show us what you do.

John Doyland Chairman

Change of password for accessing the web site.

At the end of March the old user name and password will cease to be available to use for accessing the members side of our web site. Your rep or designated member should have received the club/association unique code and user name to access the site.

If you have not received this then please get in touch with me by e-mail and I will make sure that you receive a copy of your access code.

John Doyland Chairman

john.doyland@ntlworld.com

**2014
MODELLERS
DAY**

**Saturday 12th July
PARMITERS SCHOOL**
High Elms Lane, Watford, WD25 0UU
10.00—17.00

**Talks from invited Guest Speakers
2nd hand stand, trade representation
and demonstrations**
(Full list to be published in June of speakers and invited demonstrators)

Tea and Coffee, Buffet lunch provided

Tickets for the event are now on sale and available from either
David Crossley, 6 Cylers Thicket, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 9RS
or John Doyland 119 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 0EJ

Tickets are priced at £10.00
The event is subsidised by the CMRA
Modellers Day is for members of clubs and societies who belong to the CMRA

Forthcoming CMRA Events

2014		
12th July	Modellers Day	Parmiters School
2015		
10 Jan}		
11 Jan}	Exhibition	St. Albans.

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Copy for future issues to be sent to the above addresses.

Deadline for the next issue : 21st October 2014

A message from the Board of CMRA Ltd

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors was given the remit to review the ways in which the Chiltern Model Railway Association organises and conducts its business.

Since then your Board has looked at a number of other similar organisations, both here and abroad, and spent many hours debating the alternatives. Throughout this process, the key factors have been,

How can we

- 1 relate more closely to the members
- 2 give greater benefit to members and individuals and
- 3 increase opportunities for involvement

We are pleased to say we now have a clearer vision of how we feel the Association should develop over the next few years and the enhanced communication processes required. We are now working through the fine detail, as well as picking up on some unfinished business from when the Limited company was formed, and because of this it would be inappropriate to go into further detail at this stage.

It is our intention to publish the final proposals in a future edition of CaMeRA later in the year, with a view to seeking the approval to the changes by the Association members at the 2014 Annual General Meeting with the proposals being implemented as soon as possible thereafter.

IS IT WORTH IT?

One of my local model railway clubs decided that this year they would change their model railway exhibition from a one day to a two day event. There are reasons both for and against doing this. Some traders will not travel any distance for just a one day show but then if they do turn up for a two day event they need to have sufficient takings to cover a night's accommodation, food and other expenses. These same costs apply for the club

who have to cover both but also the extra hire charges, which can be quite substantial but surprisingly the one that was not as great as I expected was the venue hire! A school sports hall one extra day hire is only £50.00. I wish I could get a rate like this as does probably every other exhibition manager in the country.

So how did things go? Well for the numbers through the door they were up on last year but nowhere near enough to justify all the extra work and costs. Some of the traders did not take enough to cover their costs and may not attend next year if it is two days but will for one. Support stands did not do enough business to make it worthwhile attending for two days. It was noticeable on the Sunday afternoon that some exhibitors (not the railway ones) were starting to pack up more than an hour before the event officially closed. There were still a couple of paying members of the public present who came in about 2.30pm and stayed until closing time at 4.00pm. The exhibitors had plenty of time to talk amongst themselves and walk round to see everything several times over. Sometimes a crowd was made up of traders and exhibitors standing in front of one layout and nobody else to be seen in the room (perhaps I'm being too harsh but it did feel like it at times)!

So the big question: - Is it worth it? The club had excellent sponsorship and support from the local community, adverts in the programme etc., to the extent that the cost of the event was almost covered without opening the doors. Personally I have to say no, I'd have been happier spending a full day in my railway room doing some more modelling on a layout that it was not possible to do at the event. You really do need the paying public through the door to give a feel that what you are doing is worthwhile. Nowadays I find that the closing time is too late in the day at many exhibitions, as people do not stay after 4.30 pm. There are exceptions to the rule but they are few and far between. Remember when the big exhibitions ran over three or even four days (I'm showing my age) but how many do now. Exhibitors travel long distances and look to get home at a reasonable time as we are not getting any younger.

Happy modelling.

Philip Tuer, Cumbrian Railways Association



The Hampton Court MRC's new layout Hamworthy under construction. It's first near complete public showing is scheduled for **TOLWORTH SHOWTRAIN 2015**



**With the Clubs
Hampton Court Model Railway Society - The First Fifty Years**

Hampton Court Model Railway Society is this year celebrating 50 years of continuous activity in the hobby. To mark the occasion, members and their families wined and dined in Sussex, visiting the Bluebell Railway on the occasion of their Model Railway Gala day and afterwards, the Star Inn at East Grinstead.

The train was hauled by a Southern Railway "U" class locomotive in true Southern Style.

At the Star Inn, the group of diners included founder member Bob Blood who has been an inspiration for many Society projects over many years. (he was also the Society's treasurer and CMRA Representative throughout most of this period).

The first step in the formation of the Society was the placing of a card in the window of Price's Model Shop on the bridge at Teddington. A general meeting was held on May the second 1963 at Percy Road School in Hampton and the Hampton and District Model Railway Society was formed.

At least one meeting was held later that year at the Royal British Legion in Teddington. From the 31st October that year, all meetings were held at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Teddington and the name was changed to the Hampton, Teddington and District Model Railway Society

In 1967 the Society moved to the former Station Master's flat at Hampton Court Station.

Once again the name was changed, this time to the Hampton Court Model Railway Society, the name which we have kept ever since.

Three layouts were constructed whilst the Society was at Hampton Court Station, the largest of which was very firmly fixed to the fabric of the building!

The rooms at Hampton Court Station were used for eleven years until a severe ceiling fall in 1978 destroyed a large section of the main club layout and forced British Rail to give us notice!

A new home was found at All Saints Church Hall in Weston Green. The meeting night was changed to Sunday in order to fit in with Church arrangements. We have always held meetings on Sunday evenings since then. The branch section of the old club layout was salvaged, refurbished and renamed Hampton Magna. Thus was born the Society's first exhibition layout.

The Society has taken Hampton Magna and it's successor layouts in OO, EM, OO9 and 2mm Finescale to numerous exhibitions since then.

New Government regulations (and a flood!) caused the Church Hall to be taken out of use at Easter 1992 and once again we were looking for a permanent home. From March 1993 we started meeting at the Hersham Village Hall.

Hersham did not prove to be a wholly satisfactory home however, as the storage facilities were prone to damp and had a restricted headroom!

By the Summer of 1995 we had moved to the venue where we hold our annual exhibition, Tolworth Recreation Centre, where we have been made very welcome ever since.

The first Society Open Day was held in the clubrooms in Weston Green in October 1980 and soon afterwards we became involved in the organisation of the Railway Hall for the Sandown Park Model Show with Elmbridge Model Club.

In November 1991 we launched our own annual Model Railway Exhibition, "Tolworth Showtrain". This is now firmly established as one of the region's leading shows and features over 20 high quality layouts from all over the country, well supported by a variety of interesting Trade Stands. This year's show will be on the 8th and 9th of November 2014.

Our members have a diverse range of interests including ready-to-run, kit and scratchbuilding in English, Australian, Continental and American styles and in 2mm, 4mm and 7mm scales, standard and narrow gauge!

Catering for such a wide range of interests is not easy! Over the years, the Society has owned 14 layouts, all of which have been built by the members. We are currently working on five projects ranging from Scottish Narrow Gauge through Summerset & Dorset steam operation to modern Southern region third rail electrics running on track to finescale standards. In addition to the furtherance of the layouts, the Society indulges in numerous other railway related activities: visiting preserved railways, talks, slide shows, the screening of videos including the British Transport Collection, kit building sessions; as well as a friendly natter over a cup of coffee.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Hampton Court Model Railway Society is invited to contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr Paul Goodsall, 38 Arnold Drive, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2GD

email: goodsall@lineone.net, Telephone: 020 8397 8262



Some of the members assemble for a group photograph during the visit to the Bluebell Railway

**Watford & District MRC
Open Day and Running Session.
5th July 2014, 12.00 to 16.00**

The Watford & District Model Railway Club is holding an open day and running session at their clubhouse at the Lincolnfields Centre, Bushey Hall Drive, Bushey, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 2ES.

Everyone is invited so do pop in and visit. A number of layouts will be available for running your stock: the Club's large circular 'OO' layout 'Broadstone', two P4 layouts, 'Callowland' and one other, and the first track area for a new 'O' Gauge layout 'Commercial Road'.

The Club look forward to seeing you (and your stock) for a fun day of playing trains!

Visit the Watford club's website on: www.watfordmrc.org where you can let them know you intend to visit (this helps with planning).

See you there!

**Wight Model Railway Group
Pushing the boat out for biggest ever show.**

Work is progressing well with extensions to two of our club layouts in time to attend our WightRail 2014 show (1st 2nd November). Beaminster has a new Harbour Branch, along with it's move from the Scotland to the South Coast (Scotrail to NSE), with general scenic work being re-done, it has also been converted to dual mode operating (DCC and DC). High Falls logging Company, has also had it's standard gauge line extended over an impressive new timber trestle bridge, as part of an expansion to a new camp (fiddle yard).

Despite the sad loss of two prevalent modellers in the last year (Jack Richards and Ian Hollis) the Wight MRG is pushing ahead with it's largest show, WightRail 2014. With more than twice the floor space then previous years. We have layouts booked to attend from a wide area, and include; Aberdeen Kirkhill T&SMD, Angst-Lesspork, Brockleigh, Dean Hill, Earl's Court, Empingham, Foxley Hill, Hungerford, Khan, Llanmarth (Pant Mawr Yard), Malix, Merstone Junction, Museum of Transport, Naunbrückenbarn, N E Where, Soberton, Umbridge, Walmington on Sea, Wantage Tramway, these are supplemented by a handful of our own layouts and some which have never left the island!

Traders already booked for 2014 include; Ron-lines, Andy Lynch, Smart Models, Pit Stop, Car-lectables, Wessex Wagons, Mainline and Maritime Books, Great Central (Model) Railways, and Penduke Models but we are looking for more traders for this year, (however not predominantly second-hand traders thanks!) so if you feel you have something to offer us please get in touch.

We have already an impressive line up for 2015 as well, but are open to more layouts and traders, if you're interested in a fun weekend on the "sunny" Isle of Wight, please get in touch, after all how many layouts can say that they have exhibited overseas! And of course as members of the CMRA we will pay reasonable travel expenses for exhibits. (And are the only group on the Isle of Wight who do!...)

Even if your not exhibiting with us come on over and see the small club that's making big waves on the Isle of Wight, look out for CMRA member club offers for our show, at a later date. Get a car together and see how cheap it can be, to visit the Isle of Wight, or as foot passengers, railcards accepted on all ferry routes (as a through journey) and national bus passes accepted on local buses.

WightRail 2014 is held on the 1st and 2nd of November this year, at the Medina Leisure Centre just on the edge of Newport, with easy access from Hovertravel, Wightlink and Red Funnel Ferries from the mainland.

For more detail please contact, Exhibition Manager, Clifford Reed, 67 St Johns Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
email reedandrail@sky.com

Southampton MRC Relocates.

The Southampton Model Railway Society has recently moved into new clubrooms at Kemps Quay in the Bitterne Manor area of Southampton, beside the River Itchen. We can now

erect all our club layouts at the same time and are able to work on and operate them. We have a designated modelling area with workshop facilities, a library, storage, adequate car-parking and a congenial place to sit and chat. We also have a small kitchenette, toilets – and best of all the rooms are centrally heated! Such a luxury after our previous premises... Members still meet mainly on Wednesdays and Fridays, although the building can be opened any time. Visitors are always welcome. If you happen to be in the Southampton area, do come along to one of our evening meetings between 7 pm and 10 pm. Please contact our Honorary Secretary (Andy Binns) by e-mail: binns.andy@gmail.com beforehand for further information, or via the well-illustrated website at www.southamptonmodelrailwaysociety.wordpress.com.

We are finalising arrangements for the formal opening of our Clubroom by the Mayor of Southampton and other esteemed guests, and will submit a report for the next issue of the CaMeRA newsletter.

**Thetford & District MRC
A Moving Story (But it won't make you cry)**

The Thetford & District Model Railway Society have been lucky enough to secure new premises. We will shortly be moving into one of the ex Science Labs at the Charles Burrell Centre, Staniforth Road, Thetford.

Thetford Town Council took the bold decision to lease the empty school site from Norfolk County Council and have spent the last few weeks cleaning the whole building ready to let it to any interested parties.

The Club took the offer of a room and have chosen the one shown below; it needs a bit of work. We have removed the water taps from three of the sinks and will be removing the gas taps and moving some of the electrical sockets.

This room is heated has good lighting and windows, a far cry from what we are currently using and the site also has a large Hall and Dining area as well as a Sports Hall which could all be hired for a Show (hopefully next year).

Once we have the keys we will be asking if anyone would like to join us. We intend to lay some test tracks, one each for "N", "OO" and "O" gauges and build a new portable "OO" Layout. The plan is to also complete our "N" gauge layout "Shipden" which represents a preserved railway.

As we will have exclusive use of "our room" we hope to hold additional daytime meetings as well as our usual Wednesday night.

For more details please contact me on 01842 765890.
Ian Dixon, Chair TDMRS



A view of part of the new accommodation secured by the Thetford & District MRS

Soggy Tonbridge

You may have noticed that it rained rather a lot over Winter. In fact it chucked it down for a couple of months. Christmas saw it all too much for the River Medway in Tonbridge. It flooded part of the High Street and a couple of central car parks were more suitable to canoes than cars. Through all this the Angel Centre, our exhibition venue, stood dry as a bone despite having the river running past its door.

Our Club premises (aka The Scout Hut) was flooded so, we spent much time over Christmas and New Year assisting in the clean up.

As we progressed to February 15th, our show date, we became almost obsessed with weather forecasts and the height of the Medway. Near the date we agreed that it should go ahead. But made notes of all relevant telephone numbers and thought through a few scenarios, to be prepared as it were. Unfortunately there were a few silly rumours to counter.

One of our Club members was told that our venue was flooded and the show cancelled. Neither being true of course.

Thankfully the exhibition went ahead OK. We lost some exhibitors to their local conditions, but were able to get replacements.

On the day our numbers through the door were down about 20%. That down to the rain in the morning and no main line trains till 11.00 am.

All in all the show went well. Good comments from the paying public and traders and exhibitors happy.

All through this, the Angel Centre had been under threat of being demolished to make way for a Supermarket's expansion plans. Just recently we heard those plans have been cancelled. So we are able to stay in our long-standing exhibition venue, at least for a few years yet.

Ken Alder,
Chairman, TMRC

Three Counties MRC

Work is progressing well on the Society's 7mm, Fine Scale Layout, 'Stanton Road' which has been partially re-wired allowing for both DC and DCC operation. Work is now concentrating on bringing the scenery and remaining buildings up to a state of near completion. Steady progress is also being made on the, as yet un-named, 4mm scale exhibition layout based on Broom Junction, the baseboards for which have been completed and wired for both DC and DCC operation. It is anticipated, at the present rate of progress that the layout should be available for exhibitions by early or mid 2015.

Our quarterly 'open afternoons' remain popular and have resulted in several new members joining us. In addition, the Society's clubroom was recently designated a stopping off 'place of interest' in a road run organised by the local group of 'Model T Ford' owners club. At one point during the afternoon there were over 40 Model T Fords and several other makes of veteran cars parked in the lane outside our club room and 143 visitors inside! It was necessary to set up a one way system in the building in order to avoid a crush and give everyone the opportunity of seeing our layouts in operation.

The event generated an enormous amount of interest with passing motorists and local residents who stopped to see what all the fuss was about. We were also very surprised to discover that there were several railway and model railway enthusiasts amongst them and that we may also have picked up a couple more new members as well.

The event was considered a complete success by the organisers that consideration is being given for a similar event later in the year.

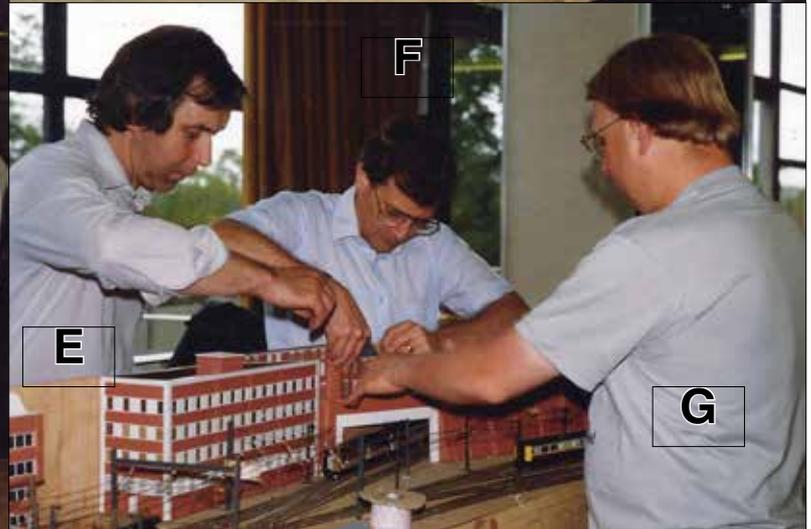
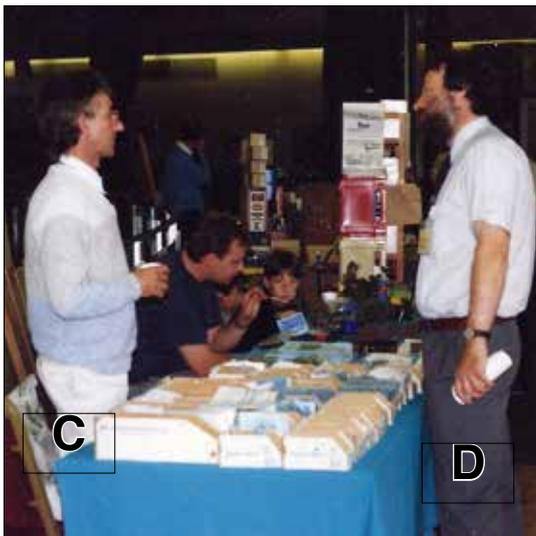
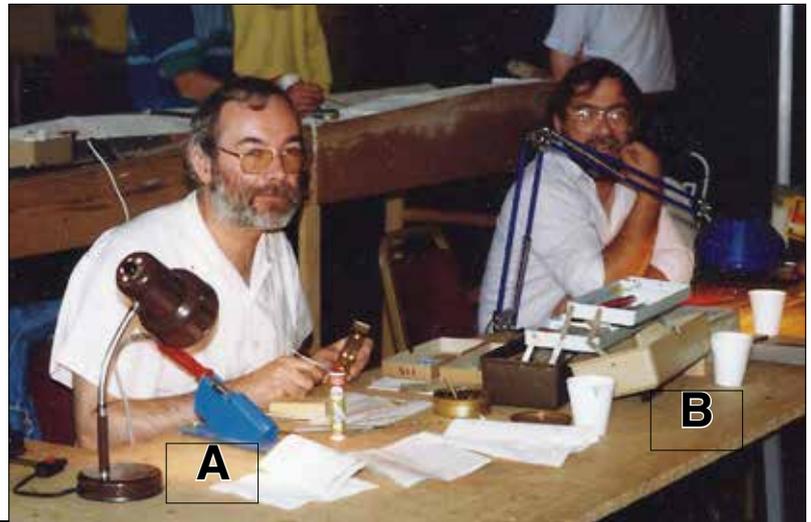
New members are always welcome especially anyone modelling in 2mm and 4mm scales.

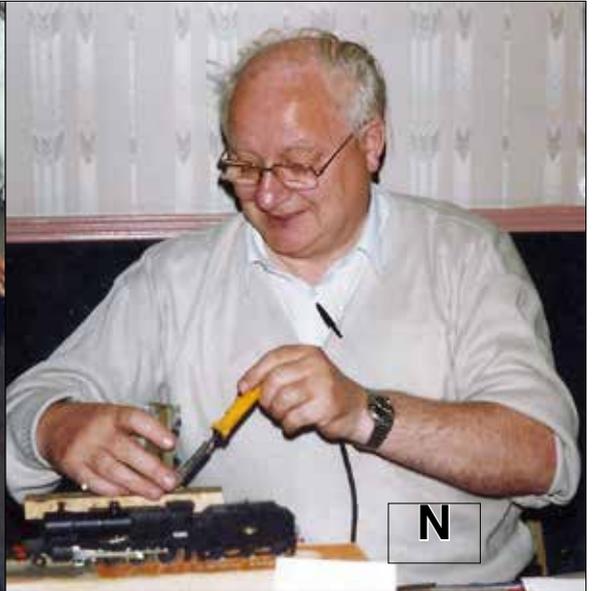
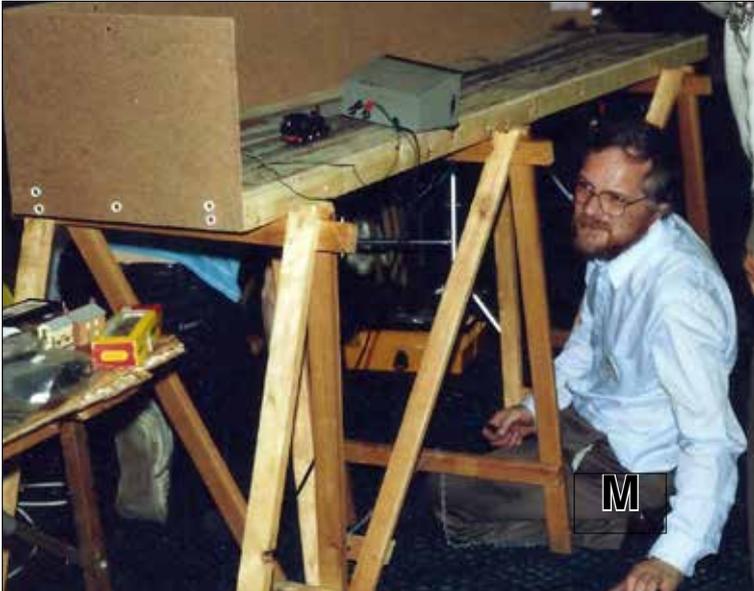
John A. Page
<http://www.threecountiesmrs.org>



Competition -

The Way We Were - The 1990 Silver Jubilee of the CMRA

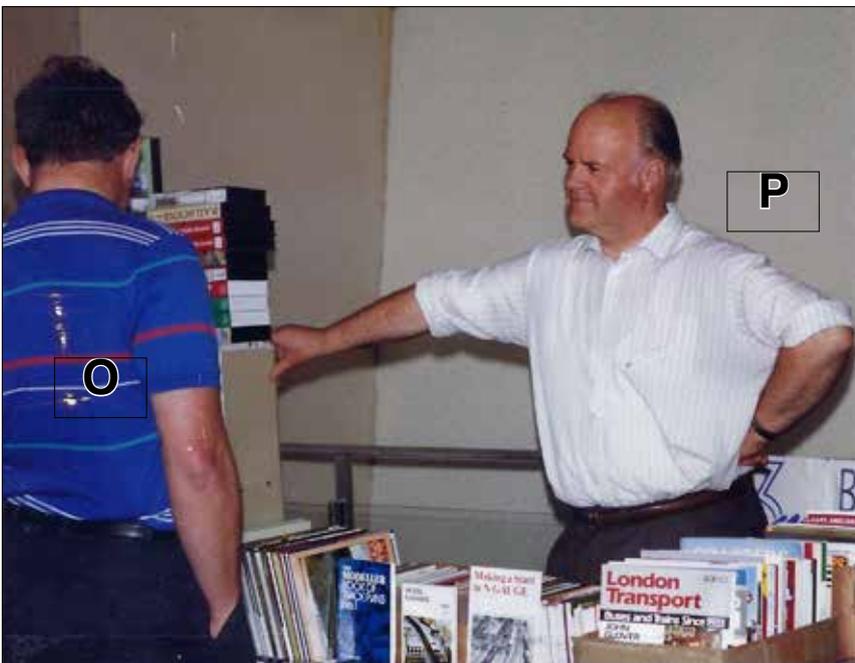
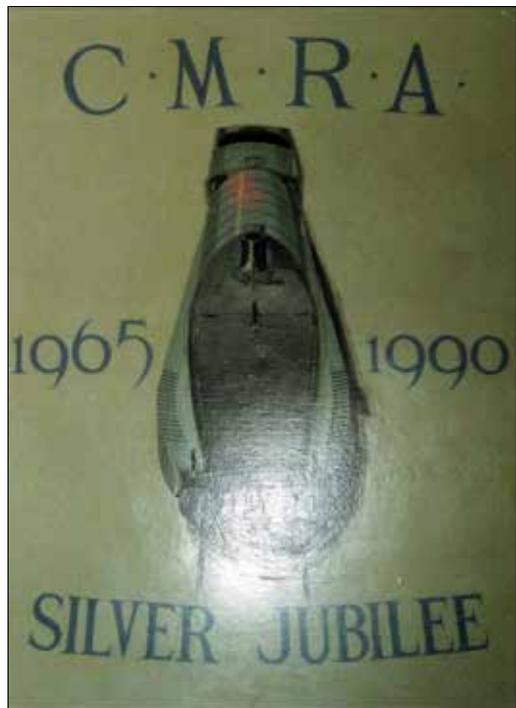




This selection of photographs is from the event celebrating our Silver Jubilee in 1990 - equivalent to a Modellers' Day or TIME! It was held at the Queensway Hall, Dunstable which has since demolished. With this issue we launch a competition, open to all CMRA members, with the winner being the person who identifies the most individuals shown. A lot of people looked much younger, some are not so different and, sadly, a few are no longer with us. A special 'headboard' was produced for the event though we don't know who made or what happened to it. There will be a prize of two free tickets to this year's Modelling Day to be held on Saturday, 12th July 2014 at Parmiters School (see poster on page 1).

Please use the form sent out with this electronic mailing or fill in the form on page 8, scan it and return to the Editor at the address also shown on page 1.

To add a little spice, has anyone got any other photographs of this event and do they have a photograph of Queen's Hall before it met with the wrecking ball?



CMRA Silver Jubilee Competition

Please list the names of the people shown in the photographs on pages 6 and 7 in CaMeRA 15

The person that names all or most of those featured will win two free tickets to this year's Modelling Day to be held on Saturday, 12th July 2014 at Parmitters School.

I identify the follow people in the photographs.

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F
- G
- H
- I
- J
- K
- L
- M
- N
- O
- P

Please send you completed forms either by e-mail to newsletter@cmra.org.uk or by post to Mike Peascod, 104 Durley Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex. HA5 1JH

Name

Club

Address

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Thanks.**