

# ***PARALLEL LINES***

**The newsletter of the South Dublin Model Railway Club**

**Issue 11 — April 2015**



Attention to detail - a view of the late John Byrne's Middlehurst layout, winner of the Best Small Layout at the North Down Model Railway Exhibition 2014.  
(photo: M. Adamson)

## **Inside this Issue:**

- Editorial
- John Byrne 1947 - 2015
- Foxrock 1939-1948 - Part 2 - by Ultan & Conor Kennedy
- Exhibition Reports
- Model Rail Events Diary 2015
- Club News
- Scraps from the Board Table

## EDITORIAL

2015 is an important year for the club. It is 40 years since a small group of like minded model enthusiasts got together and started meeting to discuss their hobby. I wonder did they realise then that that group would grow into a club with over 30 members and with its own dedicated club house.

There will be a number of events to mark the year which will include our bi-annual model rail exhibition in Blackrock College in October. The first event of the year is a trip to the Downpatrick and County Down Railway on May 16th; details are in the Club News section of the newsletter.

The year has got off to a good start for the club on the exhibition circuit. At the first two shows attended the club has recieved three awards; more in the Exhibition Reports section.

Unfortunately, a former member and renowned railway modeller, John Byrne, passed away in January. We have a tribute to him by David Wynne. On his passing he left two layouts to the club as well as books and DVD's on railway matters.

Also in this issue is the second part of the article by Conor and Ultan Kennedy on times past at Foxrock station. This part of the article concentrates on the rolling stock to be seen at the station.

In this important year for the club the Board would like to see as many members as possible get involved in helping out whether it is with some organising, helping build or operate layouts or something else no matter how big or small. Talk to any Board member.

As usual please remember that the newsletter is for all members of the club and any input is welcome whether it is an article or a single photo. If you have any suggestions or have anything you wish to be included in the magazine whether it is about railways in general, modelling, your own layout or anything else of interest to members please contact me in the club or at the following e-mail or simply send your material to me at this e-mail: [madamson59@gmail.com](mailto:madamson59@gmail.com).

Enjoy this issue.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. O'Brien'.

Editor

# JOHN BYRNE - 21 February 1947 - 8 January 2015

By David Wynne

John Byrne was the consummate modeller and a transport enthusiast in every sense of the word. He built models of trains, boats and planes. Some of his boat models even graced the windows of shipping companies in Dublin.

He worked with BHS before coming to Ireland to work for Toys International, in their Rathfarnham Shop, Toyland, which was a mecca for modellers on Friday nights, for Hobby Crafts in Sackville Place, with the late Matt Norton, and as the Hornby Representative for Ireland before moving to the Retail Training section of FAS.

I got to know John during his time in Rathfarnham and in Hobby Crafts. He was a very enthusiastic modeller who was always willing to share ideas and guidance with his customers. During his time with Hobby Crafts, we worked together on a pair of baseboards, representing Victoria Bridge and Hampton Road Station on the Severn Valley Railway, which fronted the Hobby Crafts Stand at exhibitions.



David and John at Cultra

However, John will probably be best remembered for the 'OO' scale model of Carlow Station which he built during his time with Hornby Hobbies, and which was subsequently put on display in Carlow museum.

He managed the staging of two exhibitions in aid of Cheeverstown house, during the time his late son, Dessie, was cared for there.

Dessie's death coincided with John's move to the Retail Training section of FAS and his temporary withdrawal from the world of model railway exhibitions. However, following a visit to Cultra with me in 2007, he built several new British outline 'N' Gauge layouts which appeared at shows all over Ireland in recent years.

John was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2011, and despite a successful operation, continued to suffer from its effects in the last two years, up to his death on 8<sup>th</sup> January this year.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, children Sharon, Aidan, and Lynette and grandchildren Connor, Karl, Emma and Cillian.

He was a good friend. May he rest in peace.



John on the footplate of Maedbh, Cultra.



Two of John Byrne's layouts: Detail from Haydon Road, above and a view of Maxwell Lane, below.  
(photos: M Adamson)



# CÚIRT AN COMHÉIL FOXROCK

## **Period 1939 – 1948 (and a bit later to the mid fifties) - Part 2 - The Locos.**

By Ultan & Conor Kennedy

Loco livery was Dark Grey. Crew carried a large wad of cotton waste for cleaning.

Class C2. 4-4-2 Tank Locos Nos. 455 (Last Loco built at Grand Canal St.) & 456 (Built Beyer Peacock.) 455 once carried the name King George V. No 456 was slightly different in appearance. Both were handsome and fairly lively.

Class F1. 2-4-2 Tank Locos Nos. 435, 436 (built Grand Canal Street.) Regular performers on Harcourt Street line.

Class I3. 0-6-2 Tank Locos Nos. 670 – 674. (built Inchicore.) “The Locos with the yellow numbers” Number painted large on tank side. Side tanks were all welded but 673 had riveted tanks.

Class B4. 4-6-0 Tank Locos. No460 (built Beyer Peacock.) On loan from the Cork Bandon & South Coast Section. This was one of the “Bandon Tanks” fast & strong with yellow numbers painted on the side tanks. They had a small bunker and the last pair of driving wheels under the cab – must have been awkward, lever reversing.

Class G2. 2-4-0 Tender Locos. These were the most frequently seen. Light weight but superheated after rebuilding they came from the MGWR. Trains were light weight – often three six wheelers and one bogie coach, all of timber construction.

Class D14. 4-4-0 Tender Locos. No.86 was handsome with large driving wheels and low tender (and was joined later by No.89 )

Class J15. Tender Locos. Both round top and Belpaire boilers. I once saw a J15 0-6-0 Loco with oven doors on the smoke box and a small boiler. Many smoke box doors were fastened with two lever clasps. Some engines reappeared from workshops with central wheel on the smoke box door and a series of dog clasps around the edge to improve draughting. Later some engines (457) were fitted with two taper pipes pointing downwards at the sides to assist smoke box cleaning. Since described as “sleeper burners”.

Class D4. 4-4-0 Tender Locos. More modern design of 4-4-0 had large boiler and a large mechanical oiler on running plate operated by a small arm connected to an outside crank. The bogie had outside frames. Front view very impressive – only used on the Rosslare Express which included a dining car with clerestory roof and six wheel bogies. Destination boards were carried at roof edge, lettered in Irish and English – cream letters on black boards.

I have since seen the large numbers on Locos described as white but my recollection is clear as seeing yellow numbers. Perhaps they started life as white but became cream with age.

Cleaning was done by wiping with cotton waste and, it was said, with "Petroleum Jelly". Porters regularly cleaned carriage handles in this way and a recently cleaned handle could give you an oily hand.

When the CIE livery of green was adopted in place of GSR maroon, carriage handles were chrome plated. I remember thinking that they did not look right on six wheel coaches. Not possible to modernise them anyway. During the war years some six wheelers had their windows covered in blue to comply with blackout regulations – awful in day time.

Drumm Trains had their own style. Sets A and B had large windows which gave a wonderful panorama view of the Three Rock mountain from line passing Stillorgan reservoir – big fields and an isolated farmhouse called Blackthorns Dairy. Fence posts along the line were made from old sleepers and accompanied by telephone poles with china insulators carrying a large number of wires. Drumm Trains could be distinguished by small things, one of the first had a vertical handle beside the door reachable from the ground, the other had normal small handle. The second pair (Sets C&D) had similar windows to the so called "Steel Coaches", seats did not match the spacing of these windows and windows were smaller. The first class saloons had curtains making the windows even smaller.

Most coaches had beautiful framed sepia prints of photographs by Mason of Irish landscapes. Some six wheel coaches still had gas lighting – a leaking roof could mean water collecting in the glass bowl below the mantle, which swayed gently with the movement – difficult to read the "Herald" or the "Mail".



Loco 436 heading up winter morning commuter service, Bray to Harcourt Street  
(photo: Ultan Kennedy. Collection: Sean Kennedy)

CÚIRT AN COIRNÉIL  
FOXROCK

## EXHIBITION REPORTS

### **Wexford Model Rail Show,**

The 5th and 6th of April, Easter weekend, saw the start of the exhibition season with this show. The club exhibited the late John Byrne's layout, Haydon Road, and was rewarded by winning the Best N Gauge Layout award. Alex Wright, pictured below, accepted the award on behalf of the club.



(photo: D Wynne)

### **North Down Model Rail Show, Bangor**

A week later the club was at the other end of the island of Ireland for this exhibition. Two club layouts were on show at the exhibition on 11th and 12th April. The newly renovated Belturbet layout drew a lot of attention and won the award for the Best Scenic Layout. The very portable T-Trak layout was also on show and it too won an award; Best Small Layout. The club was represented by, among others, Joe Keegan, Dougal McFarlane, Gerry Kennedy, Paul Reynolds and Sven Rosvall.

The winning of three awards at the first two shows of the year is a great achievement for the club. It is a credit to all those who prepared the layouts and those who assembled and operated them at the exhibitions,



Presenting the award - Joe Keegan, Chairman, receiving the award for the Best Scenic Layout at the North Down Model Rail Show dinner and, below, Michael O'Connor receiving the award for the Best Small Layout (T-Trak) at the same event.(photos: D Wynne)



## MODEL RAIL EVENTS DIARY 2015 - David Wynne

Date: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Event: SDMRC Visit to Downpatrick and Co Down  
Railway, Downpatrick, Co Down

Date: Friday & Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015  
Event: First Bangor Model Railway Club Exhibition  
Where: First Bangor Presbyterian Church Halls, Main  
Street, Bangor Co. Down  
Times: Friday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Date: Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Event: South Dublin Toy & Train Sale  
Where: Stillorgan Park Hotel  
Times: Sunday 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Date: Friday & Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Event: Cooke Centenary Model Railway Club  
Exhibition  
Where: Cooke Presbyterian Church Halls, Ormeau  
Road, Belfast  
Times: Friday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Date: Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2015  
Event: Ulster Model Railway Club Exhibition  
Where: Carrickfergus Civic Centre, Antrim St.  
Carrickfergus, BT38 7DG  
Times: Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm;  
Sunday, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Date: Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Event: The International N Gauge Show  
Where: Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way,  
Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN  
Times: Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm;  
Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Date: Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Event: South Dublin Toy & Train Sale  
Where: Stillorgan Park Hotel  
Times: Sunday 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Date: Saturday September 2015  
Event: Erne Model Railway Club Exhibition  
Where: St. Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen, Co  
Fermanagh  
Times: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Date: Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
Event: Collectables Fair  
Where: Carlton Dublin Airport Hotel, Old Airport  
Road, Cloghran, Co Dublin.  
Times: Sunday 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

## MODEL RAIL EVENTS DIARY 2015 - continued

**Date:** Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
**Event:** South Dublin Model Railway Club Exhibition  
**Where:** Blackrock College, Blackrock, Co. Dublin  
**Times:** 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Date:** Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
**Event:** South Dublin Toy & Train Sale  
**Where:** Stillorgan Park Hotel  
**Times:** Sunday 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

**Date:** Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2015  
**Event:** Modellbau Sud & I-N-G-A-NET Convention  
**Where:** Stuttgart Messe, 70629 Stuttgart, Germany  
**Times:** 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Date:** Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
**Event:** Warley National Model Railway Exhibition  
**Where:** National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham  
**Times:** 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Date:** Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
**Event:** Collectables Fair  
**Where:** Carlton Dublin Airport Hotel, Old Airport Road, Cloghran, Co Dublin.  
**Times:** Sunday 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

Note the events highlighted in yellow above - these are club events marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the club.



The new buildings on the lower level of Westport. (photo: M Adamson)

## CLUB NEWS

### 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Club.



The Club has organised a day trip to the Downpatrick and County Down Railway on Saturday 16th May. The trip is open to members and their families.

A coach has been hired, and will leave the Club at 08:30 am and cars may be left in the grounds for the day. The cost of the trip will be €20.00 per person. A stop will be made at one of the service areas on the way up for refreshments, and at the Carrickdale Hotel on the way back for dinner, neither of which is included in the above price.

Sandwiches and other refreshments will be available near to the station, or you can bring a packed lunch.

If you are interested in travelling please contact David Wynne by email at [djwynne6@gmail.com](mailto:djwynne6@gmail.com), or by phone on 0872478378 or in person.

As you are no doubt already aware there will be a meal for all members and guests on the weekend of our bi-annual exhibition in October, in the Stillorgan Park Hotel. The club will also be publishing a souvenir booklet to coincide with the exhibition.

If you have any tales to tell, or photos, of times past in the club please do not hesitate to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and submit an article (no matter how small) to the editor.

**Library.** There are now in excess of 1,300 books in the library. The recent John Byrne bequest has contributed both books and DVDs on railways.

## SCRAPS FROM THE BOARD TABLE



**Club Layouts.** The Neuen N gauge layout has not been reassembled since it was on the exhibition circuit last year due to damaged track. It is hoped to relay the damaged sections of track and have the layout operational in the next few weeks.

The station building on the lower level of the Westport layout has been replaced and other new buildings added to improve the look of the layout.

**Club House Improvements.** We are all familiar with the unequal heating on the first floor and the 10°C difference between the middle and edge of the room in winter! The club has recently installed insulation along the eaves here and it has had a major impact on improving the heating here.

A new, more secure, lock has been installed on the front door. The Board are considering changing the lock on the gate as well.

**Subscriptions.** Following our recent AGM members are reminded that membership subscriptions are now due.

### **House Rules Reminder!**

**Keep the Disabled Parking Space free.**

**Wash your Cups!**

**Club Nights - Before you go home please check that there is a key holding member still present.**