**Layouts reports**

These were issued to everyone in June when we should have had our annual meeting, and not much has changed, except to say that since we have re-opened the club work has restarted across the board within the ‘Layout Bubbles’.

**Belgrave Rd,** co-ordinator James Barclay

This has had a good year, with members old and new learning how to operate it and taking in it out to exhibitions. Some additional scenic work has been carried out, a new signal box build by Adrian has been added on the raised ‘Midland Line’ which ran past the rear of the Great Northern parcels depot, and the scrap yard has been reworked and finished off with new retaining wall fixed to the rear of the front control panel. The layout has been taken out and successfully demonstrated at three exhibitions:

Loughborough 31st August bank holiday weekend.

Alton 1st – 2nd February, where it won ‘overall best in show’. (See cup in cabinet)

Basingstoke 14th – 15th March. The last exhibition before lockdown occurred!

An excellent video of the Alton show can be found on *U-tube* that shows Belgrave Road in action.

Belgrave Road has proved to be a superb advert for the Abingdon Club, but thanks and a special mention must be made to James Barclay for his careful van driving that got it there and back in one piece!

**Bishop’s Hill,** co-ordinator Martin Hill

Bill Marnane writes:

Work has continued with most of the main track laid and the fiddle yard started. This has been an excellent ‘learning curve for some of our less experienced members who have been ably guided by Martin Hill and Colin Bishop. Flexi-track laying, soldering and ballasting have been just some of the skills learnt as well as humour and patience.

The priority now is to complete the track laying and begin test running. With all of the track laid there will be work for many hands with ballasting and track painting required. A major project to be tackled is the construction of the curved viaduct. All of the points laid, or to be laid, have PECO Point Motors fitted and wired. Taking all of the wires to a control panel(s) will be a major exercise.

There is still much to be done!

**Carlisle Canal,** co-ordinator Eric Young

This is a new 00 gauge layout started in 2019. It has been progressing well with all the track including the roundhouse turntable now in place. It is a DCC layout and the electronics are being done by Harry Fielding, with the turntable electronics built and fitted by Fraser Clarke. The basic design of the layout and baseboard construction was completed by Eric Young and Chris Maycock is responsible for the superb laser cut detailing of the main building’s walls and windows.

**Didcot ‘A’ power station**

James Barclay writes;

Since the last AGM I have taken over looking after Didcot A and with thanks to Dominic and Marilla Hardisty, parts of the scenic boards have been replaced and some cosmetic work has been carried out on one of the other boards. The end transport plates have also been replaced with new wider ones, thanks to Peter making them easier to carry. It has also had some minor track work done thanks to Eric. I would also like to say thanks to Steve Crook for his work on maintaining the Didcot stock, also to Adam and Peter B for loaning us some locos for the Didcot show and finally to Steve Bedding for the layout plan he drew up for me on his computer, I haven’t forgotten the tea. Didcot A has been to our show at Didcot and it should have been out to the Watford show in May, but due to the current situation the show was cancelled, hopefully it will be going to Folkstone in October 20, if the situation improves and I believe it might become an annual fixture at our Didcot show. There’s has been no news re when or if it’s going to its originally planned final home at the Didcot Rail Centre. The layout is the only place you can now see the chimney and cooling towers of the power station and it still smokes more than a WW2 destroyer, but I am working on that. I would also like to put a call out for any member who has N gauge stock of the correct period who would be prepared to loan us some locomotives for shows, it would be a great help.

**East Dock**

This was originally Allan Goodes’ beautifully crafted EM gauge layout which was left to the club when he passed away. It has proved to be a real attraction when taken out to exhibitions and has been out twice this past year:

Didcot railway Centre 13/14th July

Loughborough 31st August bank holiday weekend.

**Edgehome Quarry**

This is another beautifully built layout that we have fallen heir to and like ‘East Dock it is proving to be a popular at exhibitions:

Tring and District 28th September

Risborough and District 22nd February

Our thanks goes to Brian Denton who has adopted and looks after this layout. Another positive advert for the Abingdon Club.

**Lego Layout**

One privately built layout which really must have a mention in this report is the *Lego Railways* layout built by Dominic and his family. This is growing in size every time we see it and it really is a huge draw for the children and their parents that attend our exhibitions.

*Lego* has proved to be the greatest attraction to the youngest of children and also adults since the *Meccano set*. It has a massive cult following across the world and we should be very pleased to have the opportunity to have such a ground breaking layout available to us for our shows. **Thank you Dominic, Marilla and Xavier!**

**Not 4mm group,** co-ordinator Steve Bedding

##### Mike Taylor writes;

##### A decision was made that we need to get one of our layouts completed, so as 3 Points was the most advanced we have devoted all our efforts on the O gauge layout. At present most of the buildings all the back of the layout have been designed and are now being constructed, there is a gap but planning permission has been granted for a pub!

Track testing and fettling has been completed and the design for underboard uncouplers has been completed. Point rodding has now been completed, and under board uncoupler installation are well advanced along with the associated wiring. It was hoped that the layout would have been completed this year but with the lockdown we will have to hope that 2021 will be the year.

Whilst most effort was put into the 7mm layout some landscaping on the 2mm layout has been started with foam hill-scapes started. The aim will be to return to working on 3 Bridges as work is finalised on 3 Points.

**Pentre Road,** co-ordinator Andy McMillan

The electrics have now been completed and a successful running (proving day) was held early in the year. Currently it is the scenic work that is taking place with the station platforms and new buildings now in place. An awful lot of plaster bandage and chicken wire is now being used for the ground work.

**Sodor Island**

Thomas and his friends are always popular with young families (and Grandparents) at our shows. In the past year in preparation for the *Abrail* show, the electrics have been overhauled and the Locomotives given a good clean and checked over. As always it made a successful appearance at the Didcot show last October.