

2018/9 SEASON

Second season
Starting April 2018

Liphook U3A BUILDING A MODEL RAILWAY GROUP

A small, friendly, railway modelling group, under the aegis of Liphook U3A, meeting on 10 afternoons per year. Follow the group leader on his projects or do your own. Benefit from sharing problems and solutions. Have fun

The times and days of sessions given in this leaflet are subject to confirmation, as are the annual membership fees, when joining. The group name may be changed during the coming year to better reflect its activities

Facebook pages-Building a Model Railway Group 2017, Milland Valley Railway-Dioramas
www.liphooku3a.org.uk
model.railways1@liphooku3a.org.uk

2018 Version 3

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

It's about the building of small model railway layouts and dioramas during the course of 10 sessions covering a year. The group gets to decide on which layout, diorama and scale from a limited list, which Tony will build. Members can if they wish concentrate on their own projects. The group's now becoming a daytime model railway group rather than a course, with the emphasis on enjoyment.

For the 2018 season the group leader and the members will carry out construction work both at and between the monthly sessions and bring the work along on the projects as they progress. The group leader will describe the sequence of work on the group project-how it was achieved- with the aid of still photographs & possibly video & what comes next. The progress photos will be on the Facebook pages Building a Model Railway, Milland Valley Dioramas & the website-www.millandvalleyrailway.co.uk Attendees may build their own projects, over the same time scale and bring examples of their progress, but this is not essential; entirely up to the individuals concerned.

The projects when completed will be exhibited, if we can get invites, at local &/or regional model railway shows (up to 50 miles from Liphook) Part of the expenses given by the exhibition organisers will be donated to the *Railway Children* charity.

The group is now a continuing group, which means members can join at any time, subject to capacity of the venue

WHO IS IT AIMED AT?

Those wanting to build a model railway for a child or grandchild; those who have an interest in model railways and see retirement as an ideal excuse to build a model railway as a new hobby; those who had a model railway as a child or teen but gave it up for marriage, a mortgage and a family, but with advancing years want to indulge in the hobby once more and those who prefer an afternoon timing for the activity.

Ladies and gentlemen are equally welcome as they are in most modern model railway clubs.

DURATION & CONTENT

Each of the 10 monthly sessions will be of three hours duration and will cover, in a likely construction order, all the basics of building a small functioning model railway.

A little bit of history; How a model railway differs from a train set; choice of scale and gauge; Prototype based on; Space required; Where to put it; Design; Building a baseboard; Laying track; Electrical control systems and wiring; Signalling; Scenic treatments, Along the way hopefully we might also touch on-magazines, books and internet; Exhibitions; Model Railway Clubs, Prototype research. Notes will be available covering the majority of topics.

The sessions will be held on a Wednesday afternoon, between 1.30 & 4.30 pm. at the [Milland Valley Memorial Hall Committee Room, Iping Road, Milland GU30 7NA](#) (Close to the Rising Sun & Milland Stores) *No sessions in July or August

The venue is disabled friendly throughout with ramps and toilet provision. It is also Wi-Fi fitted.

COST & REQUIREMENTS

To make the group viable we need a minimum of 6 and from the practical standpoint no more than 12. (We currently have 6 members who are carrying on from the first year)

Attendees must be current paid up members of the Liphook U3A for the whole duration of their group membership Current members of local U3A's Petersfield, Haslemere, Woolmer Forest and Midhurst may also attend.

The subs for the annual 10 sessions are likely to be around £26 per person, based upon 8 members These are to cover room hire, and consumable items- CD's for notes/paper for illustrations etc. but **not** for the cost of the group layout construction, as the layout will be owned and paid for by the leader.

You will need to supply materials and tools to construct your own projects. There will be specific non-negotiable requirements at the sessions about mains powered electrical items (Portable Appliance Regulations) and eye safety.

Coffee, Tea and chocolate digestive biscuits, which are essential material to aid the modelling process, will be available during the sessions. A cash donations (£1) for the refreshments will be appreciated & will be donated to the Railway Children charity. The first 6 sessions raised around £30

MODEL RAILWAY SCALES & GAUGES EXPLAINED

Scale- the proportion (ratio) the model is built to, relative to full size. Unfortunately, scales are referred to in the UK as a mixture of metric & imperial measures, instead of as a ratio. There are also no internationally agreed scales for the various nomenclatures (O, N, etc.), as you will see from the chart below.

Gauge- the distance between the inside face of the rails

The word gauge is sometimes used where the term scale should be used!

<p>O UK - 7mm= 1ft (1:43.5) US - 1/4" =1ft (1:48) Europe 1: 43 & 1:45 Gauge 32mm</p>
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<p>OO Commercially only in UK 4mm=1ft (1:76) H0 Rest of the World- 3.5mm = 1ft. (1:87) Both H0 & OO use Gauge 16.5mm</p>
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<p>N UK 1:148 Europe/U.S 1:160 Japan 1:150 Gauge 9mm</p>
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<p>Z 1:220 Gauge 6.5mm</p>	<p>T 1:450 3mm</p>
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ABOUT THE GROUP LEADER- Tony Bettger

He previously led courses run as part of Liphook U3A in 2011-2014 in conjunction with Liphook & District MRC which covered the same territory.

This group started in 2017 and is of an entirely new format, which has further evolved into an afternoon railway modelling group. Tony has had an interest in model railways for 65+ years. He was formerly a member and committee member of several local model railway clubs but is now just a veteran modeller!

ACTIVITIES

You can work on your own projects or follow Tony's projects. The choice is yours.

There is a list on Tony's website, together with more detail, of the choice likely to be available to group members, from which they chose two layouts and one diorama. Here are some of them

[Bennett Mews](#) British outline 1:76 scale (OO). Industrial layout with a small main line content set in Blackfriars South London This continues from work started in the previous season.

[Soltendieck](#), German outline 1:45 scale (O) a very minimalist track layout but with interesting shunting. Set on the inner border between East & West Germany

[Warehouse District](#) American outline 1:87 scale (HO) a switching (shunting) layout set in Milwaukee Wis. DCC operated. This layout is partially completed with baseboard built, track layout completed and wiring well advanced. Some buildings have also been completed.

[Idylton Vale](#) British outline 1:76 (OO) tram layout set in South west London- using Bachmann OO scale RTR Hong Kong trams, prototypes UK designed and built originally, so little work to anglicise them. Street scene set in area around New Malden/Kingston By-Pass area, immediate post war. Baseboard completed- track partially laid, No wiring completed

[Cartersland Camp](#) British outline 1:76 (OO-9) DC narrow gauge military camp layout set in the UK, in the First World War. The baseboard is constructed but no other work, other than selecting a track layout, has been undertaken

[Danger- Border Ahead](#) German outline 1:87 scale (HO) Tramway operational diorama set around *Friedrichstrasse* station at the border of East & West Berlin in the early 1960's

More information on activities

If you require more information see Tony's website or e-mail him- details on the front of this leaflet

LOCAL MODEL RAILWAY CLUBS

The area has a number of well-established model railway clubs. All meet in the evenings. We as a group are not in competition with them but to compliment them

The oldest and perhaps the smallest locally is the [Liphook & District Model Railway Club](#) which holds its weekly meetings in the same venue that we are using for this group. The Club reaches its 55th birthday in 2019

Alton, Basingstoke, Fareham, Farnham, Guildford, Portsmouth, Southampton all these towns have medium sized clubs.

See www.millandvalleyrailway.co.uk for listings and contact info.

Petersfield & Haslemere do not have clubs.

At a conservative estimate there are over 400 model railway clubs in the UK.

We hope in the future to establish an affiliation with one existing local club who has evening sessions

NATIONAL/SPECIALIST MODEL RAILWAY CLUBS

There are a number of these in the UK, some scale specific; some more broadly based or prototype specific. I am a member of several such associations See www.millandvalleyrailway.co.uk

LOCAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITIONS

There are a number of good local and regional exhibitions throughout the year which would be of interest to members of the group. Tony will advise of forthcoming events at each session