



LEFT: The tribute to Tony Olliff on the Swiss Cottage MBC stand displaying his model of the Tamar class lifeboat currently in service at Shoreham.

There is nothing more guaranteed to lift a model boater's heart in the gloomy depth of winter than a colourful, bustling show and Midhurst at the beginning of February hits the mark very well. Now in its 37th year, the exhibition is all the more welcome, following the demise of the larger Brighton Modelworld which has left the deep south of the country a bit short of events of this kind.

As usual, the mix was around 40% boats, 40% trains with the balance including Meccano, wargaming and miscellaneous modelling. I thought the boats edged it a bit over the trains this year though, with more than ten clubs represented.

As I have mentioned previously, Midhurst provides the opportunity to see models that don't normally make it to the larger shows further north, so there is usually something new to see and this year was no exception.

I was very pleased to see a tribute to the late Tony Olliff on the Swiss Cottage club stand, along with his model of their local Shoreham lifeboat. Tony was very well known for his superb lifeboat models and his huge fundraising support for the RNLI at model shows and elsewhere over 25 years which was recognised by a special award in 2015. I enquired what has happened to his models

The Grange Modellers Show 2019

Colin Bishop reports from Midhurst

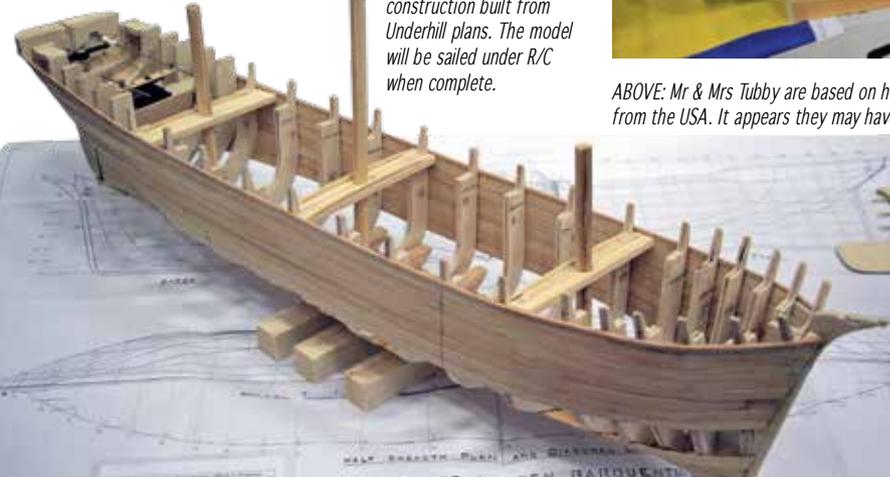


ABOVE: A close-up look at Graham Bushrod's type 23 frigate HMS Lancaster model which took 8 years to build.



ABOVE: Mr & Mrs Tubby are based on homebuilt pleasure craft from the USA. It appears they may have a son called Rodney!

BELOW: Richard Hoare of the Selsey club has this plank on frame model of a 3 masted barquentine under construction built from Underhill plans. The model will be sailed under R/C when complete.



RIGHT: The Portsmouth MBC had an interesting display of 1950/60s radio gear which many of our readers will no doubt remember.



and was told that they have been donated to the lifeboat stations bearing their names where they are very much appreciated by the crews and can be admired by visitors. One can hardly imagine a better place for them.

Among the dozens of excellent models present, there were several which particularly caught my eye. One of the most impressive was Graham Bushrod's HMS Lancaster. This early Type 23 frigate is presently undergoing an extensive refit which will considerably change her appearance so such an accurate model becomes a future point of historical reference. The position of the model made it difficult to get an overall shot, so the close up will have to demonstrate Graham's fine workmanship.

Two novelty boats were Mr & Mrs Tubby. These are not, as I assumed, make believe toy boats but based on full size leisure craft home built in the USA by people wishing to have something a bit different to conventional small day boats. With a 'fuggy' theme, the full size versions are built from plywood sheet with flat bottoms in garages and backyards and transported on trailers like dinghies. Mr & Mrs T were built by Chris Monk and Sharon White of the Crawley MBC.



A standout on the Selsey stand was Richard Hoare's work in progress of a three-masted barquentine built to Underhill plans. The photo clearly shows the very neat plank on frame construction and the model is intended to be fully working under R/C with a detachable false keel.

I think the photos give the flavour of this popular and well supported show. The railway hall included some small traders, some of whom were selling model boats kits and fittings so I came away with a few goodies for the bits box. Who could fail to enjoy the working model railway layouts at various scales including steam powered locos?

ABOVE: Just part of the extensive Portsmouth Model Boat Display Team display.

RIGHT: Basingstoke MBC stand was packed with models.

BELOW: A lovely working ten oar pulling lifeboat constructed by Ralph Stocton of the Solent MBC.



ABOVE: Another view of the Basingstoke club stand. BELOW: A loose interpretation of the encounter between HMS Thunderchild and a Martian fighting machine as described in H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds with SMS Scharnhorst of the PMBDT standing in for the doomed ironclad.



BELOW: You never quite know who you might run into at these shows - this gentleman goes under the name of Boilerplate. Look him up online.

