



FRANK BEADLE
FOUNDER OF THE
NORTH EASTERN MECCANO SOCIETY

40 YEARS OF N.E.M.S.

THIS WILL BE OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The first meeting was on the 5th March 1975, with 5 people present. Our founder Frank Beadle had placed an advertisement in the local newspaper, The Northern Echo. Directions were sent out for Frank's home, at that time a large older type terraced house towards the centre of Darlington. At the very first meeting were:

FRANK BEADLE - DARLINGTON
JOHN F. MALLON - DARLINGTON
JOE ETHERIDGE - KIRK MERRINGTON
SALLY ETHERIDGE - KIRK MERRINGTON
ALAN D. DODD - STOCKTON

CHRIS BARRON had phoned to say he could not make that meeting, but he hoped would be at the next one. At the first meeting, the main occupation was getting to know each other.

The second meeting was held on the 4th June 1975, and was held at Frank's new home in Yoredale Avenue, Darlington. At this meeting we welcomed Chris Barron. The main part of this meeting was the election of officials as follows: Frank - Secretary, Chris - Chairman and Sally - Treasurer and subs set at £1. It was also agreed the Society be named the:

‘NORTH EASTERN MECCANO SOCIETY’

Also added to the membership were Bill Chalk of Sunderland, and Rowland Johnson from Darlington. The quest for further members was pursued by word of mouth, a further advert in a more local newspaper and the Meccano Magazine, which was quarterly at the time.

Chris Barron proposed a window display for later in the year, Frank was to approach the Nationwide Building Society in Bondgate Darlington, for one week, two if possible, with the press to be contacted nearer the time.

Note at the bottom of the minutes from the meeting: Ladies and Gentlemen we are in business! Straight after the meeting, Frank contacted the Nationwide manager; the window was booked for a week from the 12th October 1975. He also offered to be present on the Sunday 12th, to allow us to dress the window from 10.00am. There will be no charge for the use of the window. This was to be our first ever display of models in a very spacious 18ft x 4ft. deep window, which was in the centre of Darlington. So we had to build models through the summer and autumn, mainly quite large ones.

Models on show were: Chris Barron - Blocksetter
Joe Etheridge - Fairground Dive Bombers
Frank Beadle - Sea Quest Oil Platform also
Fairground Gallopers
John Mallon - Blocksetter



Chris Barron's Blocksetter

None of the models were shown working, as the window was left unattended, but it did bring the attention we required, and also put N.E.M.S. on the map. The press saw it and put a spread in the Echo, The John North Column, and yes the T.V. got to hear of it (Tyne Tees T.V.) and the passers - by stood and looked at the models.

Meetings were continued, falling into a two monthly pattern, at the January meeting (Wednesday 28th 1976) a verbal confirmation of the appearance on Tyne Tees Television had been confirmed as the 21st April

TYNE TEES TELEVISION LIMITED
INDEPENDENT TELEVISION FOR THE NORTH EAST

The Television Centre City Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 2AL
(Registered Office)

Telephone Newcastle 0632 610181 — Telex 53279 — Reg. No. 598781 England

13th April 1976

Mr Frank A. Beadle,
Grey Tyles,
Yoredale Avenue,
Darlington,
Co. Durham DL3 9AN

Dear Mr Beadle,

Thank you for confirming our recent telephone call in which we agreed that you would bring some of your models to our studio at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21st.

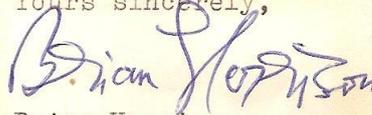
We look forward to meeting you and your three colleagues and feel that it should make a very interesting item for our programme.

When you arrive, please make contact with our reception desk, and we will make arrangements to take the models straight to the studio.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to meet you because I will be on holiday at the time. But I have given details of your visit to my colleague, Eric McGuffog and the programme Director, Malcolm Dickinson, and they will be expecting you.

Once again, many thanks for your assistance in what I am sure will be a very visual feature.

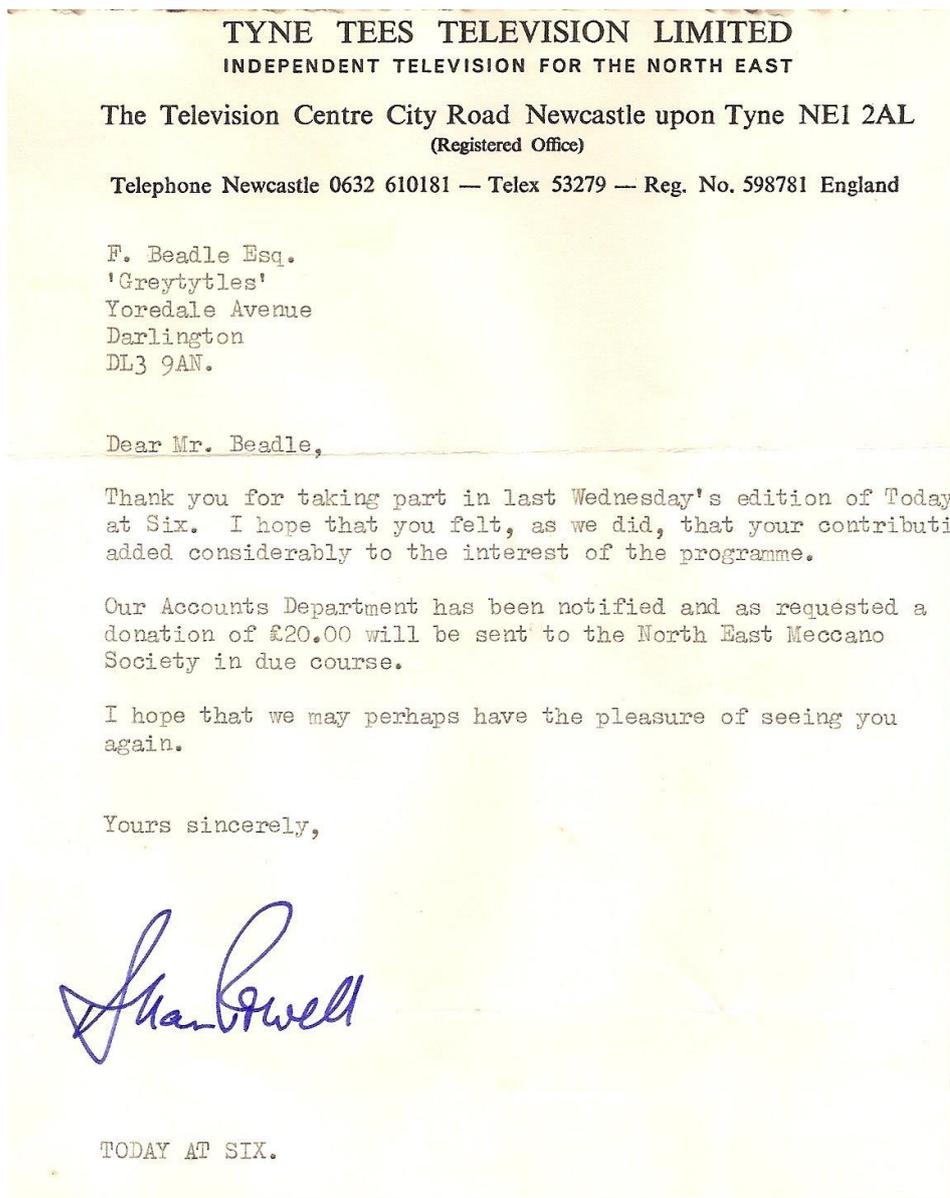
Yours sincerely,



Brian Harrison

April, Models anticipated to date were:

Chris - Steam Roller (almost complete). Frank - Container Loader Crane partly built now, Joe - G.M.M. Dockside Crane almost complete, Bill - Original Motor Chassis - if remainder of parts are to hand, John - Blocksetting Crane, although not in full working order. All models were completed in time to go to the studio except that of John's Blocksetter. The event realised a welcome donation of £20, and was shown on the Today at Six programme.



Thank You Letter from Tyne Tees

The Director of Young's Motors, Chester-Le-Street contacted the club to stage a large window display. They are also a stockist of Meccano Spares. He is also an enthusiast and will no doubt consider joining us. He became a stockist through the frustration of searching the country for spares. Meccano Spares are sold on Saturdays only and are stocked in the Motor Spares Department. This display was one week after the T.V. appearance, with obviously the same models.



Joe and Sally at Young's Motors

Michael Walker, Secretary of the N.W. Meccano Guild invited us to their annual exhibition in Clitheroe, Lancashire across the Pennine mountains. This was also in April and the five models shown by Chris, Joe and

Frank, introduced us to wider Meccano fraternity for the first time, the N.W. Club having been started some two years before ours. It was good to meet new friends and see their ideas.

We began now to make some positive arrangements for our first Darlington Exhibition, to be held in the Supper room of the Baths Hall now booked from D.B.C.

NORTH EASTERN MECCANO SOCIETY

MECCANO EXHIBITION

BATHS HALL ROOMS, GLADSTONE STREET, DARLINGTON
Saturday, 11th December, 1976. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Large premises with good facilities.
All Meccano Modellers
are welcome to display their models.

Admission: Adults 20p Children 10p.
Exhibitors Free

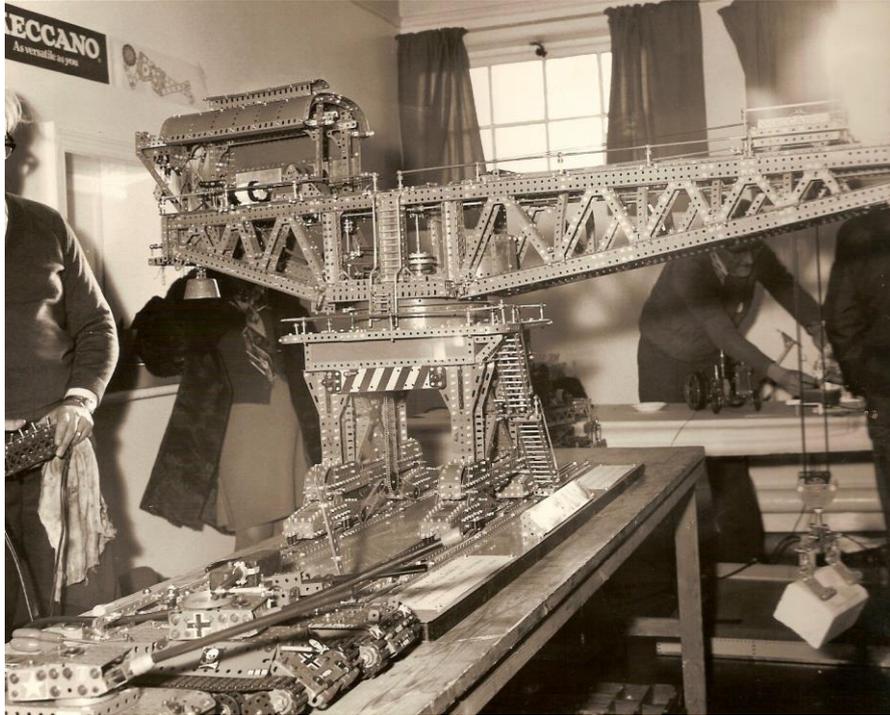
Further details from the Secretary:—
F. A. BEADLE
"Greytyles", Yoredale Avenue, Darlington,
Co. Durham. DL3 9AN.

The advertisement above was shown in the October Meccano Magazine Quarterly to tempt modellers from distant places nationwide. We really had stuck our necks out here, as we had no more than £20 in the funds at the time. Frank loaned £50, Joe £20 and some smaller amounts and we managed to collect contingency funds in case the whole event failed!!! Posters were displayed in all towns large and small from Newcastle to York and Carlisle to Teesside in addition to all Darlington.

It paid off; Geoff Wright of M W Models came in person to the exhibition and donated two prizes for adult and junior which he presented himself later. Bert Love journeyed from Birmingham bringing his magnificent Blocksetter in red and green. Alf Reeve was another person well known in the Meccano world who travelled a vast distance to show his Aero Constructor outfit Biplane. The Coles Family also came in force and we were delighted to meet members from other Clubs.

The general public also looked in with astonishment at the rather small show but with nevertheless 56 models on our first attempt. Needless to say the takings were sufficient to just cover the outlay of £95.89 with a bit to spare. We also had a thriving Junior Section, as many Clubs had no juniors at all at that time.

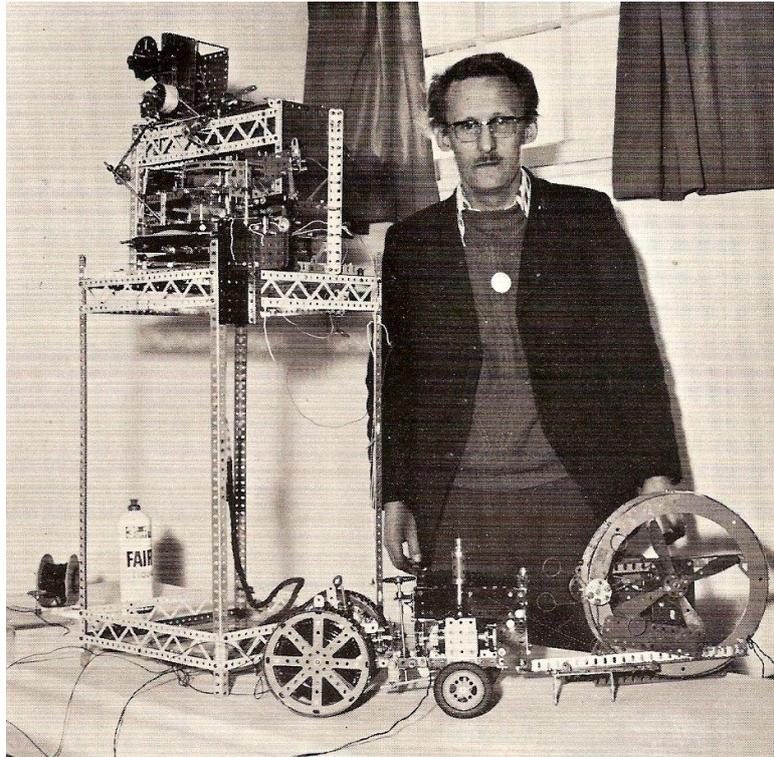
PHOTOS FROM THE FIRST EXHIBITION



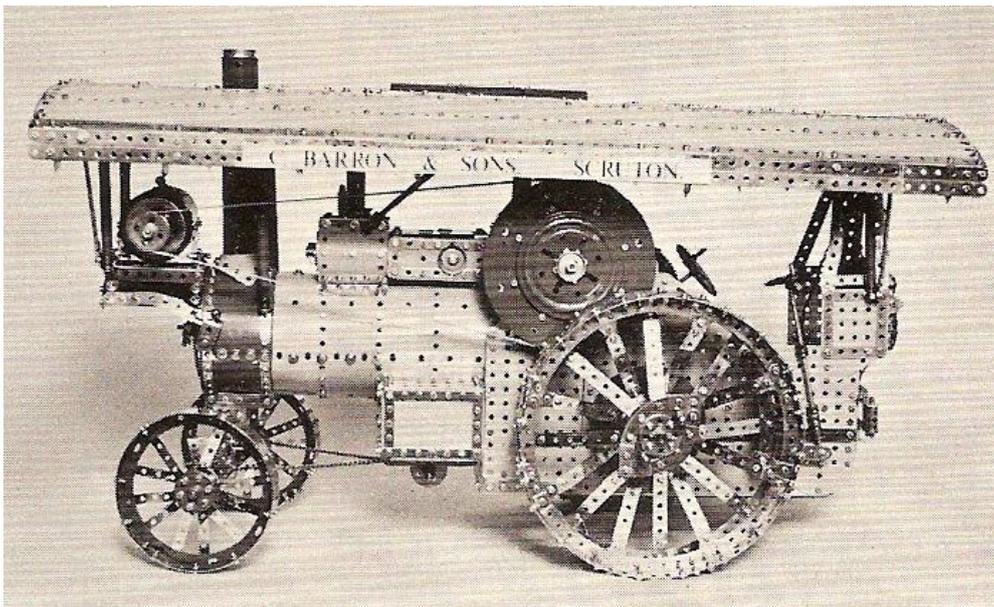
Bert Love's Blocksetter



Geoff Wright presents a No. 1 Set to Geoffrey Cairns



Bryan Reay with his French Knitting Machine



Burrell Showman's Engine by Chris Barron

At last it is all over! What a splendid show it was too, many of the exhibitors travelling vast distances to support the NEMS in our first effort in the public exhibition world. The show served to put Meccano on the map in a hitherto untouched area of the British Isles, as no Meccano

Exhibition had been staged in the North East in 75 years, to our knowledge. As this was the first full Exhibition it is appropriate to mention the names of those who showed models, which also gives an indication of the growth situation:

NEMS Adults: Michael Allen, Frank Beadle, Norman Brown
John Mallon John Lythgoe Barry Wilkinson
Joe Etheridge Raymond Stephens Chris Barron
Fred Foster Bryan Reay Michael Gallagher
Alan Dodd

NEMS Juniors: Robert Hamer Paul Marsh Kathryn Beadle
Tony Cairns Geoffrey Cairns Michael Beadle

Also Francine Coles and Julian Coles PMG

Other Adults: Geoff Coles PMG, Bert Love SAMC,
Geoff Wright HSME, Alf Reeve.

1976 was a memorable year, certainly one of progress putting the NEMS on the map.

1977 The second year.

Club meetings were held about every 8 weeks, and usually at the home of the Secretary, Frank Beadle. These were happy occasions, plenty of Meccano chat and we welcomed many new members in January, including Dave Dalton and Ellis Dudley. At this time Frank produced a Newsletter on a regular basis which had news and information on Meccano. Notes from the January Newsletter:-

There has been one meeting since the exhibition, this dealt mainly with the conclusions of the December Exhibition, together with some future activities, in addition to other items of interest.

Exhibition; the review of all models shown at our first Annual Exhibition has now been circulated to all members, Thanks to everyone who took part. It cost £99.66 ½ p. to stage, of which £3.12 was taken from the General Fund, leaving us with £18.01 in hand now.

A Footnote to this Newsletter: Apart from the statement in the Exhibition Review, that one man asked if Meccano was still being made. Whilst yet another did not know the Meccano Magazine was still in publication!! I have met a person recently who said he would not be at our Exhibition in 1977 as he did not wish to see the same models!! I could hardly believe my ears -- the SAME models! What does he think we are Meccano modellers for?

Frank Beadle (Secretary)

These Newsletters were produced by Frank, and were on average about two to three pages long.



Photo taken at Frank's house with Joe, Chris and Frank

The Baths Hall used for our first Exhibition the year before was soon to be demolished due to the opening of the Dolphin Centre, so another venue was found in the shape of the Bondgate Church Hall, centrally placed and very large indeed at 70 x 35 feet with a vast stage. It was agreed to book it for November 19th, as it was felt that the previous year the Exhibition was too near Christmas. This was to be the pattern for the next 30 years although not envisaged at that time, it was also to avoid other Exhibitions, such as Henley in September, now in its sixth year, Pennine Guild in Huddersfield in May and Clitheroe earlier than that. Skegness was not held until 1982.

April 2nd seven of our members gave very good support to the N.W.M.G. Exhibition, making the journey over the Pennines by car, taking a total of 14 different models with them. Then on the 23rd, of April the club put on a mini exhibition in Northallerton Town Hall. The display was to be opened to the public from 11 00a.m. This followed our theme of 'taking Meccano to the people' as it were. This was not too well attended by visitors even though we were right in the centre on market day, but nevertheless 15 members showed over 35 models. Also in April the club received an invitation to travel further, to exhibit in Nancy, France, but no one attended this show.

The Pennine Guild Exhibition at Huddersfield saw Ellis Dudley as the only N.E.M.S. member in attendance.

The next outing for the club was the Festival of Leisure, at Darlington College of Technology, on the 5th 6th & 7th July, when 21 similar hobby type clubs took part in this Jubilee year exhibition. If anyone could be there on Tuesday 5th, at noon, they could be on B.B.C. TV, the news item appearing at 6-00p.m. This show was a great success, crowded through its three evening run, serving our point of view to put us on the map, with straightforward advertising for our hobby, to a section of the public we may never have contacted. Many spectators were agreeably surprised at our efforts, and we found some new members too.

The Henley on Thames Exhibition held on the 3rd. September, was the largest Meccano Exhibition held at this time. Chris Barron booked a Mini bus for the Friday. Six members travelled by the mini bus to the exhibition, seeing some of the most fantastic display of interesting models from all over the U.K.

Without doubt the real highlight of the year was the Society visit to Binns Road, Meccano Limited on the 27th October. This visit was partly arranged by Frank, there was a limit of 8 members allowed in the party.

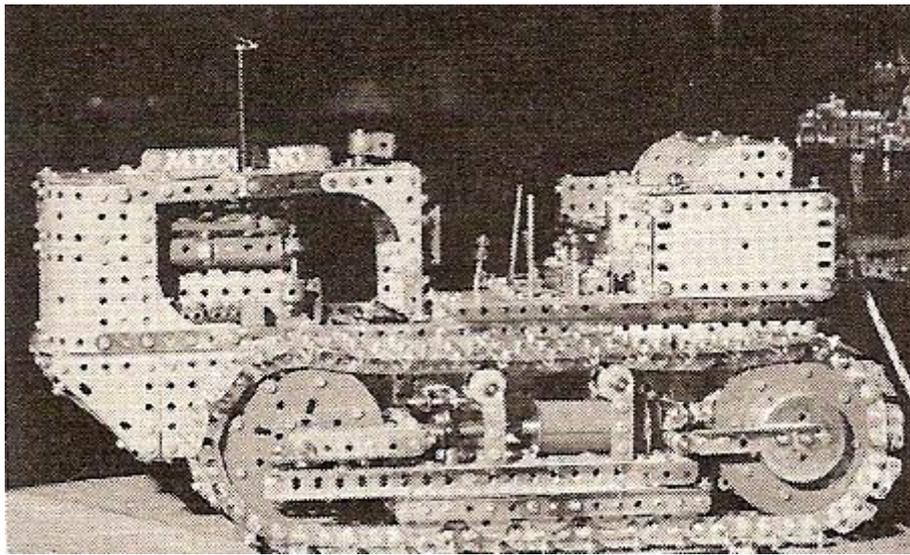
We arrived at 9-00a.m. the factory looking just as seen in MMs. over the years and we were met by Chris Jelley Editor of the MMQ who had arranged the visit. After a briefing in the board room we toured the factory, seeing first the machines to make plastic parts by injected plastic from sacks of granular loaded at the top, followed by a full tour of the strip making machines, with one man being able to make all the world needs of 2 ½” strips in a short two hours or so, before changing to another part. We saw the 24 ½” Angle Girders being made from flat 24½” Girders, (why did it not occur to leave a few as they were for that length Flat Girder?) We stood in fascination at the Nut and Bolt making machines, always busy, and watched one of the older workers rotating strips etc. in the rows of barrels of warm sawdust to take off the ‘burr’. We then saw the painting bays with parts hanging on hooks as they slowly rotated on a conveyer belt, being dry when they arrived at the completion end. Finally, we saw the packing rooms, originally used for Hornby Train Testing on their long metal bench tables, at that time being used to pack Lady Penelope’s Dink, Cars for export to the USA.

The whole day was absolute sheer pleasure, a fascinating experience which we would not have missed for the world. Unfortunately the whole place was closed by March 1981 but we and those who worked there were not to know this. We were indeed honoured to be there. Those who attended were:

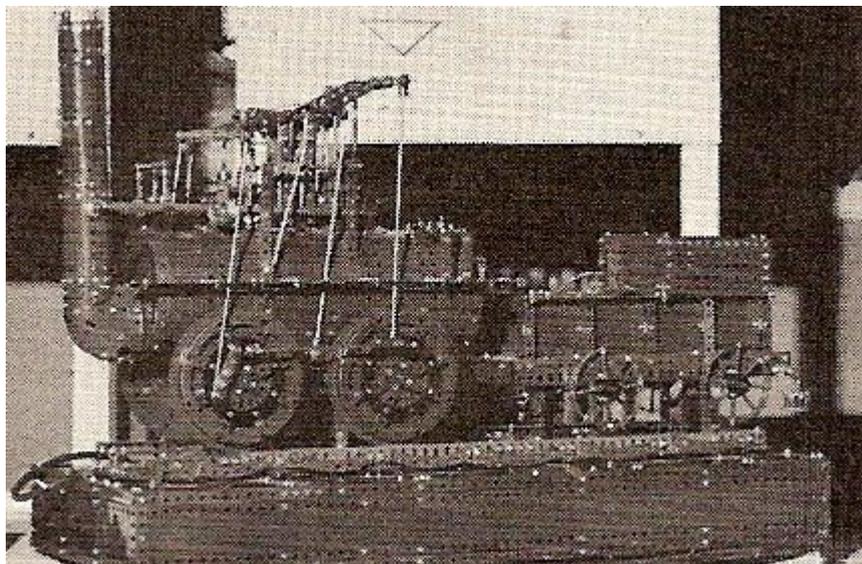
Frank Beadle	John Lythgo	John Mallon	Bryan Reay
Chris Barron	Michael Allen	Joe Etheridge	Fred Foster

Now to the 1977 Exhibition, again we have stuck our necks out on this one. Frank was fortunate in booking the Bondgate Memorial Hall at a cost of £60.00 for Saturday 19th November. This is a very large hall, so everyone will have to build at least SIX models!!!! Or as many as they could in the time available. Seriously though, we hope to have a super exhibition, Meccano Ltd. are coming over from Liverpool to help in several ways, we hope they will fill the stage with none sales products, as well as staging display models in the entrance.

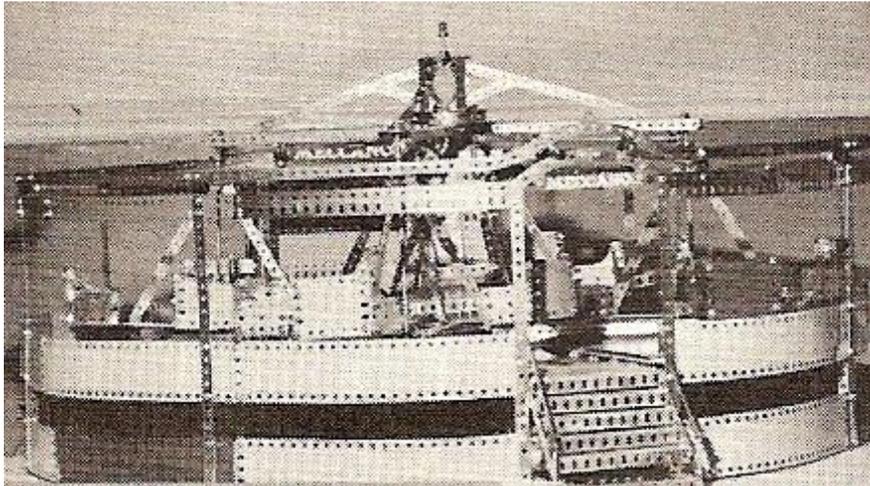
It was agreed in principle to ask them to judge our competitions, also to ask Barry Wilkinson to sell new parts, and Bert Love red/green parts. We hope M.W. Models would sell literature too.



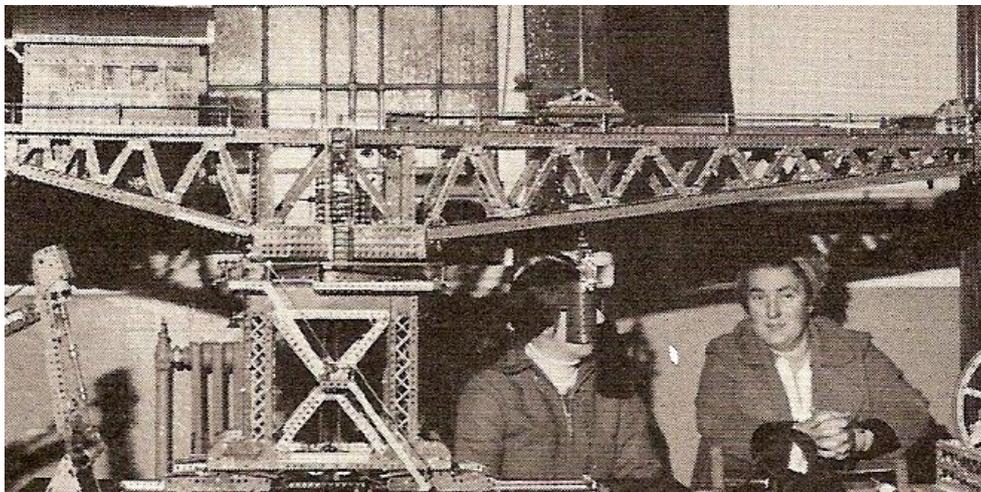
Heavy-duty Crawler Tractor built by Chris Barron



Locomotion No. 1 built by Frank Beadle



Fairground Ride built by Joe Etheridge



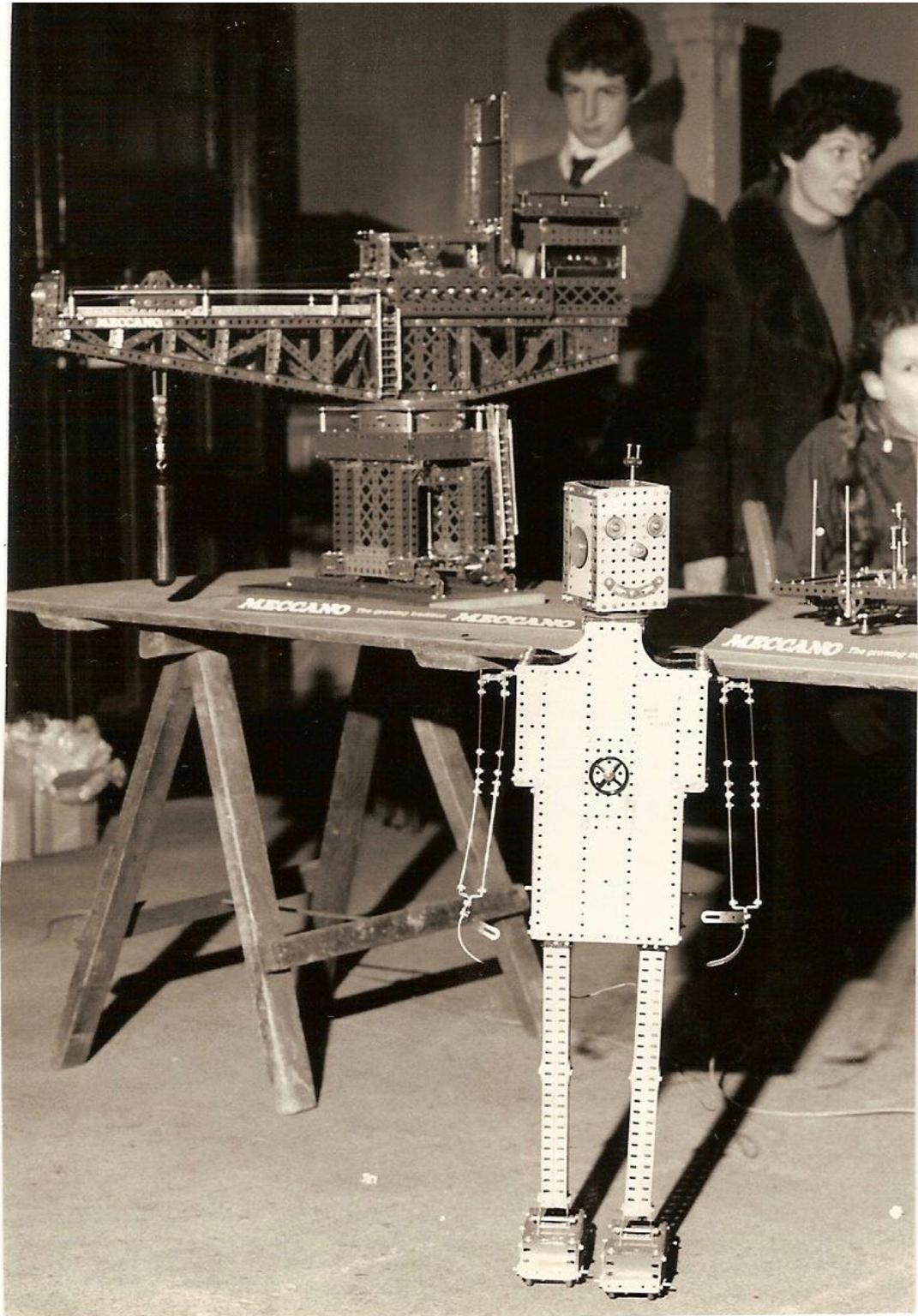
Block - Setting Crane built by Ellis Dudley

The Society now had a new secret weapon a 14ft. X 2ft. Banner in calico painted by Frank as a standard portable advert wherever we are. Meccano did come and help our November Exhibition with the supply of posters in two sizes of red wording on white as well as a display mounted by Ted Knowles, Promotions Manager on the stage.

During the year at frequent meetings, all efforts were geared to the show in a wider scale than previous, with much advertisement through all possible outlet avenues, the MM Quarterly other clubs, and a regular Newsletter 5 times per year to club members and 150 posters were put out mainly in Darlington including all Comprehensive Schools in a radius of 20 miles. We also had coverage on Radio Cleveland.

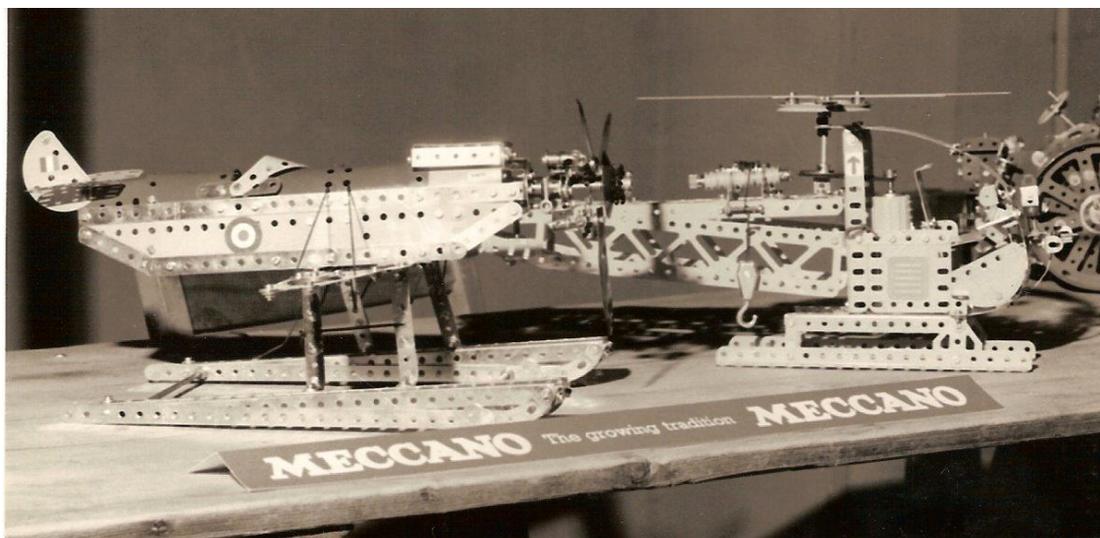
The Show was a huge success, with 96 models on display almost filling

the very large hall. Geoff Wright of MW Models, kindly did the judging of the 230 feet of tabling, and we had almost 500 visitors through the door by closing time even though we had a press strike to contend with, counteracting this by larger hardboard posters informing passers by from the road nearby. The total outlay of £91.45 with an income of £88.44 the balance of £3.01 taken from the funds.



Julian, Francine and Anne Coles

Many modellers came from other Clubs including Mike Cotterill of MMG; others came from PMG, NWMG, HSME and the Roberts family who journeyed from Surrey!



Julian Coles Seaplane

JUNIOR PRIZES: Andrew Ward Traction Engine

Mark Barron Trick Motor Bike

Julian Coles Seaplane

ADULT PRIZES: Fred Foster Racing Car

Mike Cotterill Synchronous Clock

The 1977 Show can be voted a real success.

At the December Club Meeting the next mini exhibition was planned. It is hoped that all our members will exhibit at the YMCA Hall in Stockton, on Saturday 18th February. At the exhibition in November Bert Love gave the Club two Enicron Mains Motors. We will raffle one of these at the next meeting, and the other at the Stockton Show. These are large heavy direct mains motors.

The year 1977 was indeed a year of progress and we looked forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm, having got over the financial worries of the last year.

1978 The third year.

At the AGM on the 15th March with eleven members attending the meeting, saw the membership in a healthy position. Subscriptions at that

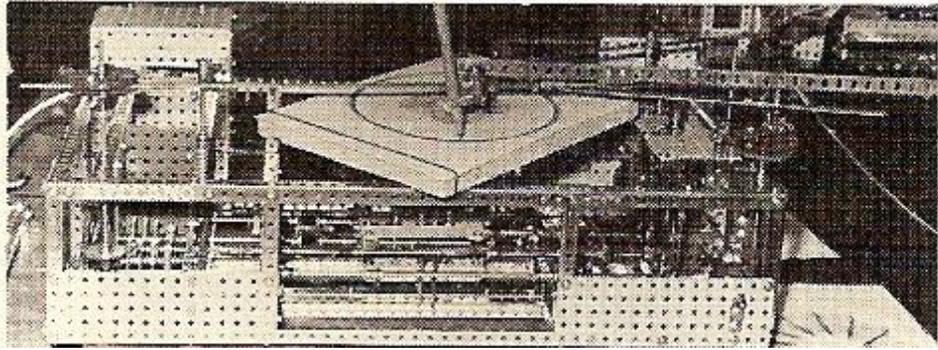
time were £1.00 for adults, who also paid £1.00 for every meeting attended, juniors were given free membership. The Balance sheet showed we had a good balance of £54.83 in hand, (as against £14.63 for 1977). The total membership was 20 adults and 7 junior members. Bill Chalk had left for health reasons. Juniors David Watts and Paul March both left as they lived on Humberside, Frank made some moves to get a Club started there.

The first event of the year was the new venture of a Spring Exhibition in the YMCA Hall in Bath Lane, Stockton, February 18th, on which there fell 30cm of snow!! Though modellers from afar did not know until they arrived in the immediate area, just 12 miles east of Darlington. The same cannot be said of adult members of the Club, as only 5 adults presented any models, helped by 6 juniors. We were indebted to Mike Cotterill and Alan Scargill for the contribution of 11 models between them, together with 340 mile round trip from Skegness, without whom we would have been very thin on the ground. Unlike our first Mini Exhibition in Northallerton in April 1977, some advertising in the form of a block in the local Teesside Times as well as 14 posters in the area did help to make the day the success it turned out to be.

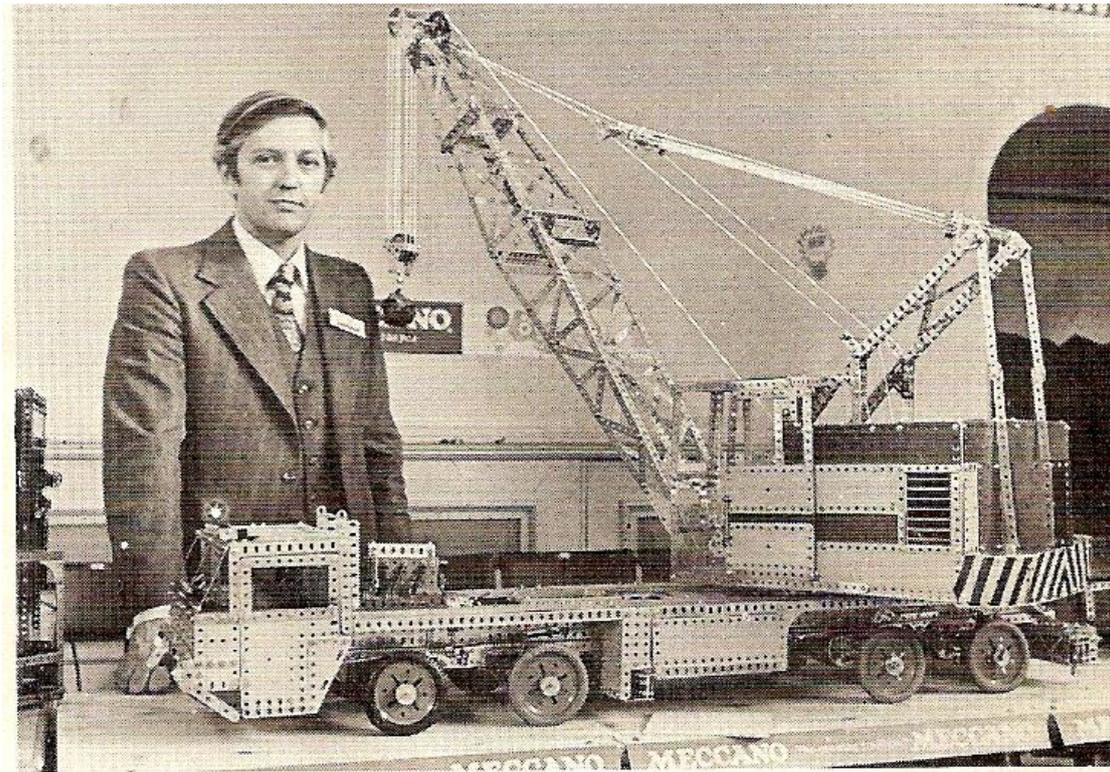
The total intake at the door, which included the sale of Meccano Manuals donated by Bert Love, was £42.70; the outlay for the Exhibition was £32.59 leaving a profit for Club funds of £10.11. In all a total of 35 models built only by 11 of the Club, many of the models were as seen at Darlington in November, but as this was new ground they were new to the spectators who formed a steady stream all day. The facilities of the YMCA were the best we could hope for, with all snacks and full meals readily available, our only job at the exhibition being the door work ably carried out by the ladies of members to whom we extend our hearty thanks.

The Annual Meeting in March gave a pleasing report of things in general, with a fairly solvent state of funds for the first time since the Society was founded, the balance showed we had a good balance of £54.83 in hand (as against £14.63 the previous year). Special note was made of our junior members who support the Society well at its major functions.

The next outing by the Club was to the NWMG exhibition at Wigan on the 8th April, with three members attending. This was followed by an exhibition in Huddersfield by the Pennine MG on the 27th May with six members attending.



A Combination Meccanograph by John Lythgoe at Wigan Exhibition



**A Lorry-mounted Crane with its builder Joe Etheridge
At the Huddersfield Show**

Another new outlet to display models was the commercial 'Spectacular 78' show in Darlington South Park. This was a massive event covering about 20 acres, but marred by heavy rain on both days, 24th and 25th June. Only three members attended; Bryan Reay showed his marvelous life-size 'SAM' Robot containing 14 motors. Joe Etheridge had a large Lorry Mounted Crane, whilst Frank Beadle had a 9ft. (3m) Battleship, Cake Walk and a Four Cylinder Car Engine. We were in a large marquee next to a bathroom display, on a very wet weekend, with nevertheless 15,000 visitors, so it was worthwhile.

As if this was not enough, we also attended for the first time, the Masham

Steam Engine Rally in Yorkshire for two days with a spread in the Engineer's Marquee. Those who showed models in July were :- Frank Beadle, John Lythgoe, Joe Etheridge, David Dalton, M. Gallagher and Barry Wilkinson, with two model Traction Engines, and Mike Calagher brought a 4 - 4 - 0 Locomotive and Tender. Frank showed his Cakewalk model there too. Completing a busy July with three evenings at the special event called 'Festival of Leisure' at Darlington College of Technology when members again put Meccano on the map.

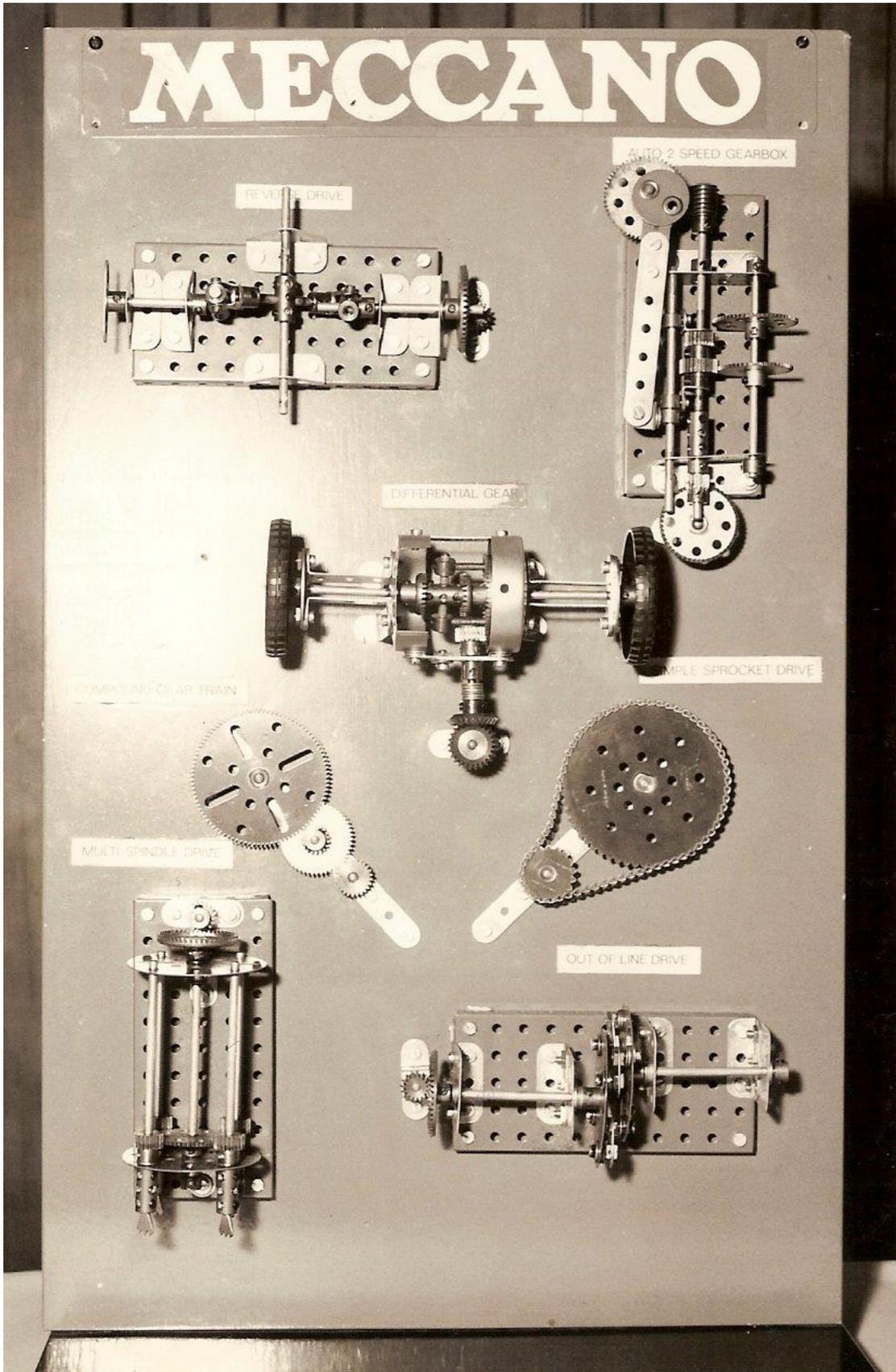
We could be forgiven for declining our first invitation to the Congres Des Amis Du Meccano Exhibition at Nancy, in France, because of the distance, but more due to the host of local events attended nearer to our home base.

We were also getting requests from various Garden Fetes and Galas and there were so many invitations it was difficult to attend any more, otherwise one had no Meccano at home most weekends and it was impossible to do any model building. Frank seemed to solve the problem by keeping 8 or 9 large models permanently built and stored around the house for just such occasions - but he was the subject of many a jibe over this as some models remained intact for long periods, we recall a Battleship, the Stone Sawing Machine etc. But it could provide up to 15ft. of models when needed in a hurry.

Regular meetings were a pleasure to attend, with constant chin-wag from such old stagers as Alf Dean who boasted about how many obsolete parts he had! Only to be shot down by someone else who happened to possess a part, or even two, that he did not.

Notes from the newsletter September 1978: Henley Exhibition on Friday the 7th September, 7 of our adult members travelled by Mini Bus to Henley booked by Chris Barron for the Friday at a cost of £10 each person, leaving Northallerton at 6-00am and returning back at about 11-00pm and by all accounts had a splendid day out, seeing many new models incorporating different ideas and approaches.

Cowans - Sheldon, after Bryan Reay's initial arrangements earlier in the year, the Club has now been in contact with the Training Controller at the Crane Works. The Society made the following arrangements; the visit will be on Wednesday 25th October. A party of 8 will go and meet at Bryan Reay's home at Low Row, near Brampton at 1-00pm then go as a party to the works at Carlisle; the visit will be of about 2 1/2hrs. The visit and day went well, returned back by Bryan's home for a cup of tea before going home.



**Meccano Mechanisms Board by Norman Brown
Shown at one of the Club meetings**

At the October meeting the final details of the 1978 exhibition were finalised. All of the Clubs in England have been notified, an information sheet was available well before the show, this was sent out to all clubs, and members, and also past members. The information sheet also carried the local guest houses and accommodation in some member's homes. The posters were supplied by Meccano Limited as last year, but were larger A3 size and in blue, yellow and black being very eye-catching indeed with the No. 10 Traction Engine shown. Meccano Limited did supply prizes again but no personnel to attend the show.

The 1978 November Exhibition, in Bondgate Hall for the second time, ran from 11-00 a.m. to 5-00 p.m. again 20p for adults and 10p for children. We were confident that we would fill this very large hall with many more models and attract more visitors too.

IN THE EVENT OF
ENQUIRY PLEASE QUOTE

FROM
MECCANO
LIMITED

10947

BINNS ROAD, LIVERPOOL, L13 1DA

TELEPHONE
051-228 2701

TELEGRAMS
MECCANO, LIVERPOOL, 13

[F. BEADIE ESQ.
HON. SECRETARY
NORTH EASTERN MECCANO SOCIETY,
33 YORKDALE AVENUE,
DARLINGTON. DL3 9AA.]

DEPT. *Prizes* Ent'd by *[Signature]*

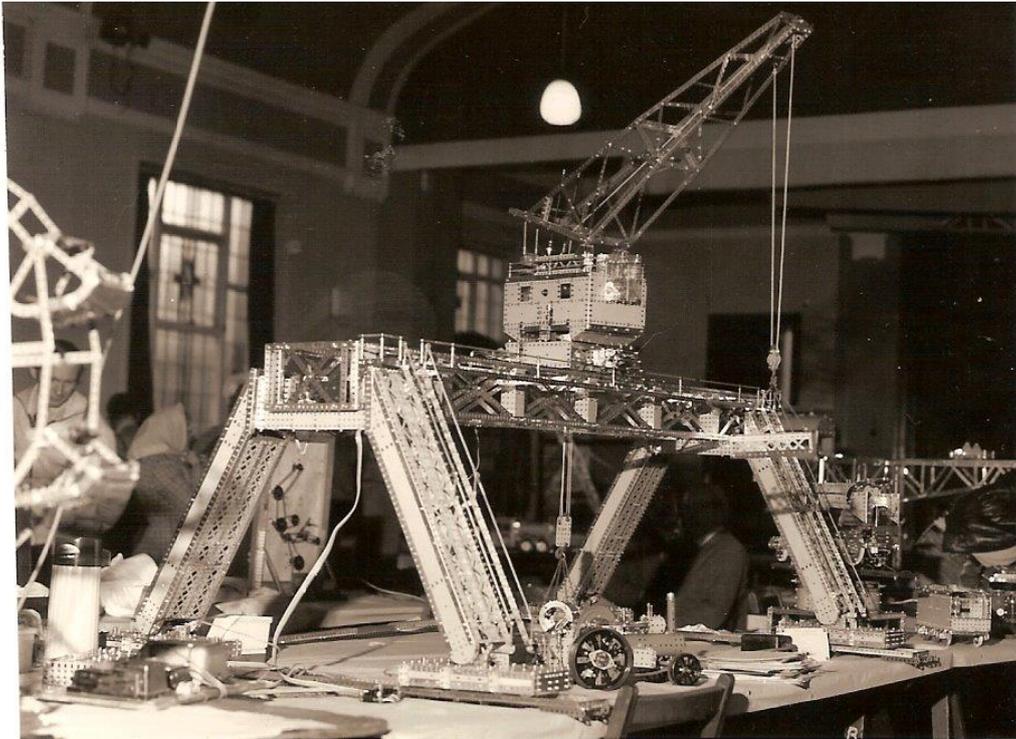
Your Ref. Date *30.10.78*

Please receive

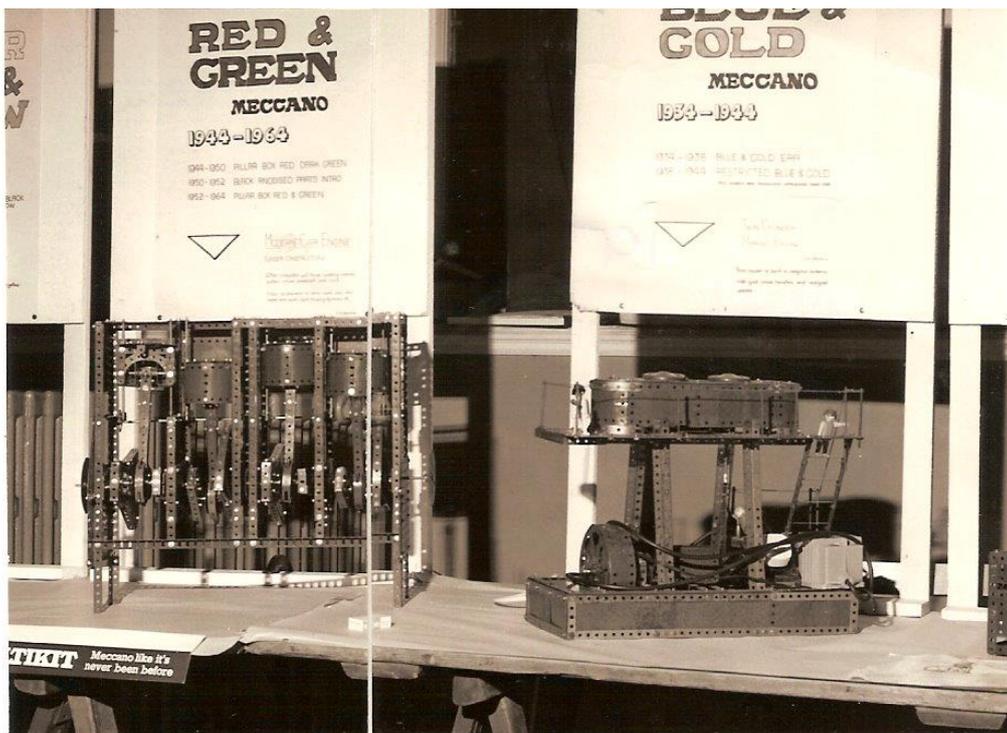
1 No 1 Meccano set.
1 No 3 " "
1 EU1072 MOTOR
1 11957 " "

IN CASE OF ANY SHORTAGE OR INACCURACY
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM

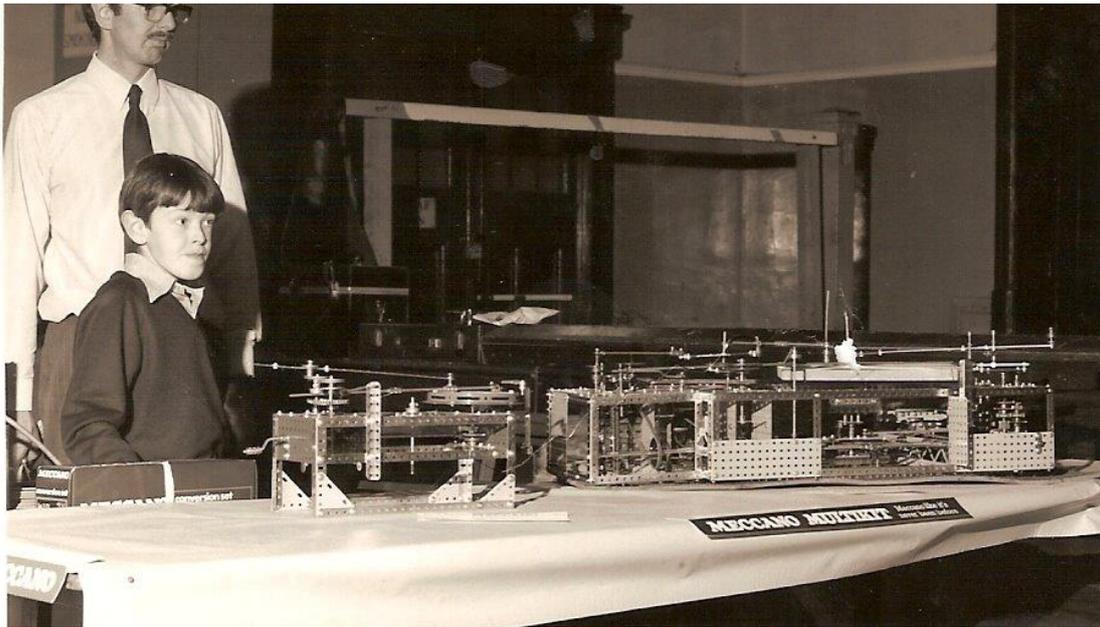
Note from Meccano Ltd. With a list of prizes for the show



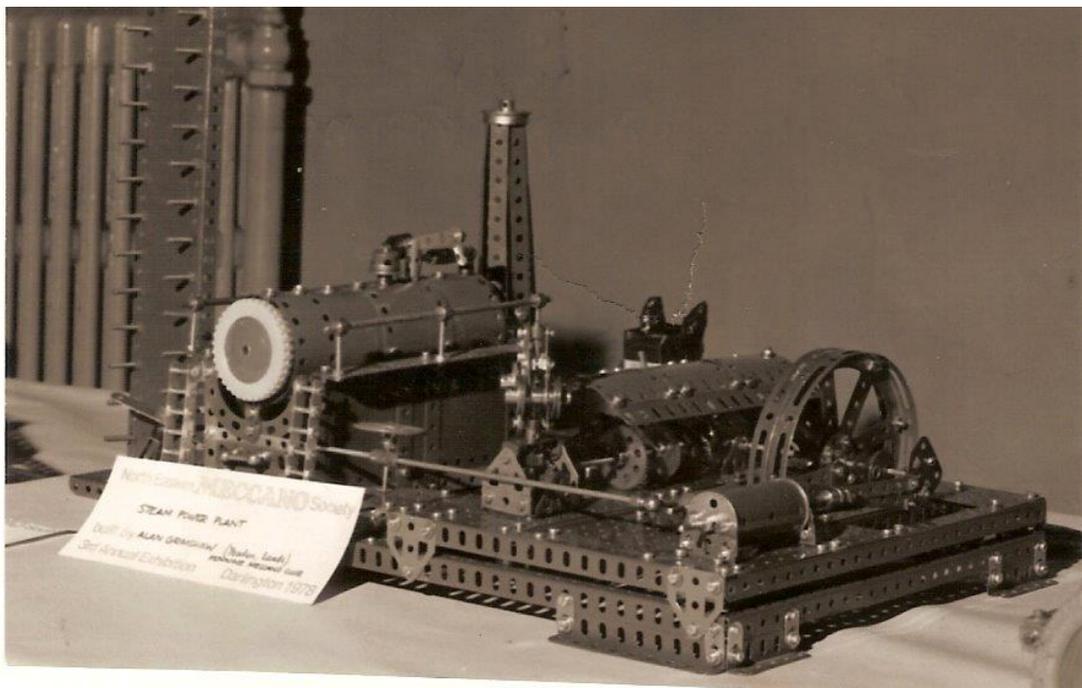
Mike Cotterill staggered everyone with his gigantic Dockyard Gantry Crane which took up two square metres on two large tables, and stood 1.75 m. high to the Auxiliary Boom Head



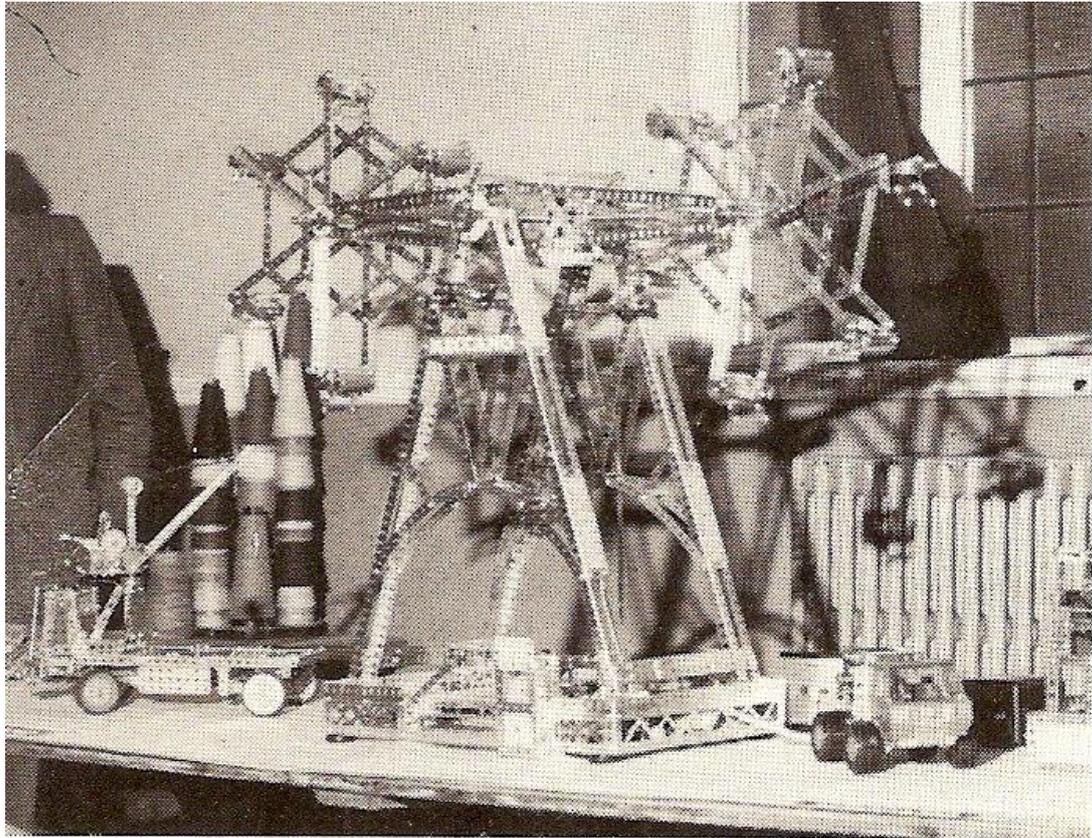
Part of Frank's six panel display of the Meccano colour periods. This display was placed on the stage showing each period from 1901 to 1978



John and Mark Lythgoe had his latest Mk. 15 Meccanograph turning out fine patterns. Mark had a hand driven Meccanograph



Alan Grimshaw had this well-built Konkoly Steam Engine in red and green

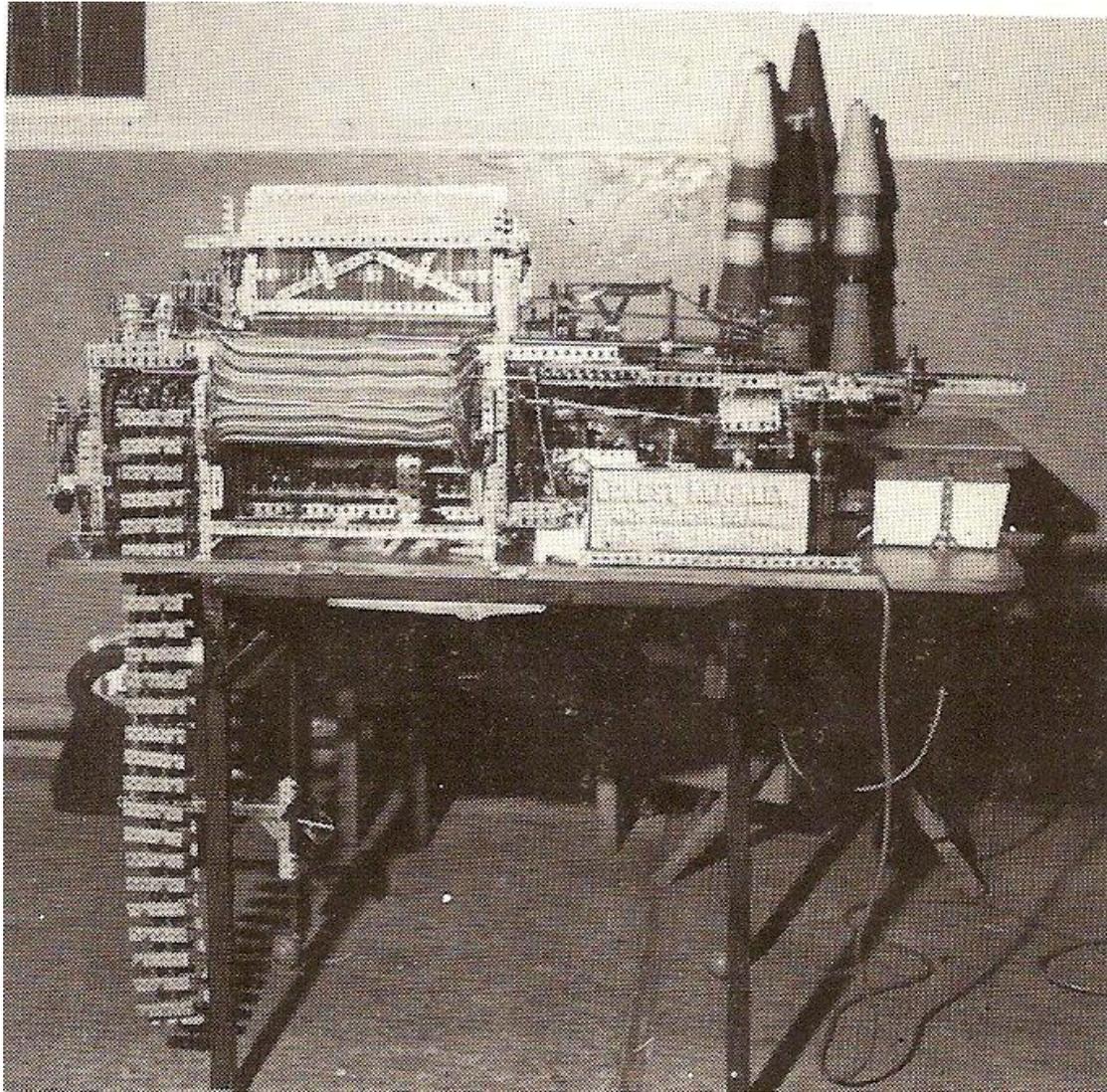


Joe Etheridge showed this superb Double Ferris Wheel which operated sequentially, stopping to allow entry to each of the twelve cars

The public poured in and for the first time we topped over 500 to 584, of whom over 300 were adults. Almost 100 models were on display, over 30 having been built by the juniors under 16, who were all placed in a special section in the centre tables, where they could chat about Meccano to people of their own age.

The predominant feature of this Exhibition was the very large number of cranes of all types, several up to 2m tall, including Mike Cotterill's gigantic Gantry Crane, and Bryan Reay's impressive Dockside crane. Bryan had his famous SAM Robot on show, which actually handed the press reporter a cup of tea!! The press reporter however, mentioned SAM having a 'screw loose' in journalistic jargon.

Bert Love also provided several exhibits in his usual style. His Blackpool Tower model in yellow and zinc brightened up the doorway. A No. 3 set Racing car looked good in new colours. He also had a Sewing Machine from a No. 5 set also in new colours, also a Crane Kit Helicopter made a colourful model.



Ernest Keighley of Preston amazed all who watched the fascinating motions of his improved, automatically operating Rapier Loom

At this time, the procedure for judging was to ask two N.E.M.S. members who had been last year's winners to act as judges. The ladies of the Society always did a fine job by providing pies and peas at lunch time as well as other homemade cakes etc. The caretaker was also helped the previous evening in arranging the 250 feet of tabling which was a hard job for one man.

The 4 prizes were donated by Meccano Ltd and presented in style from the stage.

Junior Section: First - Robert Anderson - Slewing Crane

Second - Andrew Ward - American Car

Adult Section: First - Mike Cotterill - Dockyard Gantry Crane

Second - John Lythgoe - Advanced Meccanograph

As a final event of the year we were invited to exhibit at the Darlington Model Railway Exhibition in December, in the hall where we held our first show in 1976. Joe Etheridge showed a large Canadian Pacific Loco built for the occasion, whilst Frank Beadle showed a Murdoch - Aitkin Steeple Engine.

Yes! 1978 could be said to have been one of the busiest years so far. We found several new members including Bill Butterfield, Ron Barnby, Dennis Wright, Bill Seaton and many more bringing the membership to 36 before the November Exhibition.

There were about 8 meetings each year, most attended by an average of 14 members, some who journeyed a long way and brought anything of Meccano interest, most of these meetings were held at the home of Frank Beadle, though there were rotational basis meetings when maps were provided for finding another members home. The ladies in each case provided needs for refreshments whilst keeping out of the Meccano chat. At least our wives knew where we were.

Many meetings were attended by juniors who were fascinated by the larger models and asked all sorts of questions or advice, usually the youngsters departed earlier, adults remaining to later hours.

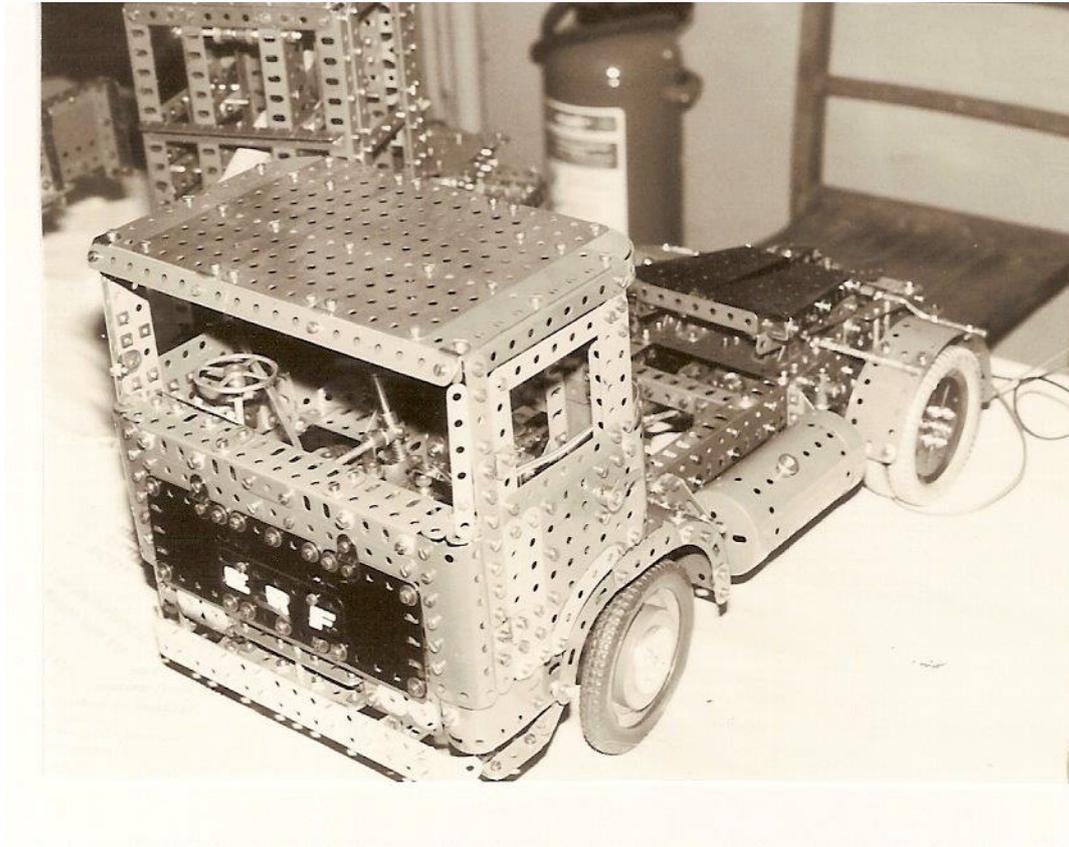
1979 The Fourth Year

The January Meeting, this had to be cancelled due to very heavy snow over the first week, one member arrived for the meeting however. The next meeting was then arranged in between telephone conversations and was arranged for later in January, and not much took place until the AGM in March, when a significant new addition to the NEMS was the appearance of the first club magazine. No. 1 Volume 1 was of A5 size and four pages, or 8 sides, with typing reduced so that there was just as much in actual fact as an A4 size. The cover was mauve, it contained an Editorial, all meeting dates, a whole page on Meccano Limited news, including a review of the Earls Court Toy Fair, a quiz on Meccano parts and literature.

The back cover had a drawing of a simple basic Beam Engine, inviting juniors to build it for a small prize. The NEMS had a great emphasis on encouragement of the younger member and was one of the few Clubs to do this apart from the Guisborough Club.

The Guisborough Exhibition, this was a first class show for the Guisborough Club, with a fine display of models in a well-lit hall, the event attracted a steady flow of people all day. Our Society supported it with the attendance of 11 members, of which three were juniors; Mark Taylor, Paul Newman and Robert Anderson. Our members showed about 30 models in all, and were looked after very well by the organisers Arthur Ing and Charles Archer.

Club meeting in April was attended by 10 members, including one Junior for the first hour. Alf Dean showed the tractor unit of his almost completed ERF lorry



Alf Dean's ERF Tractor Unit

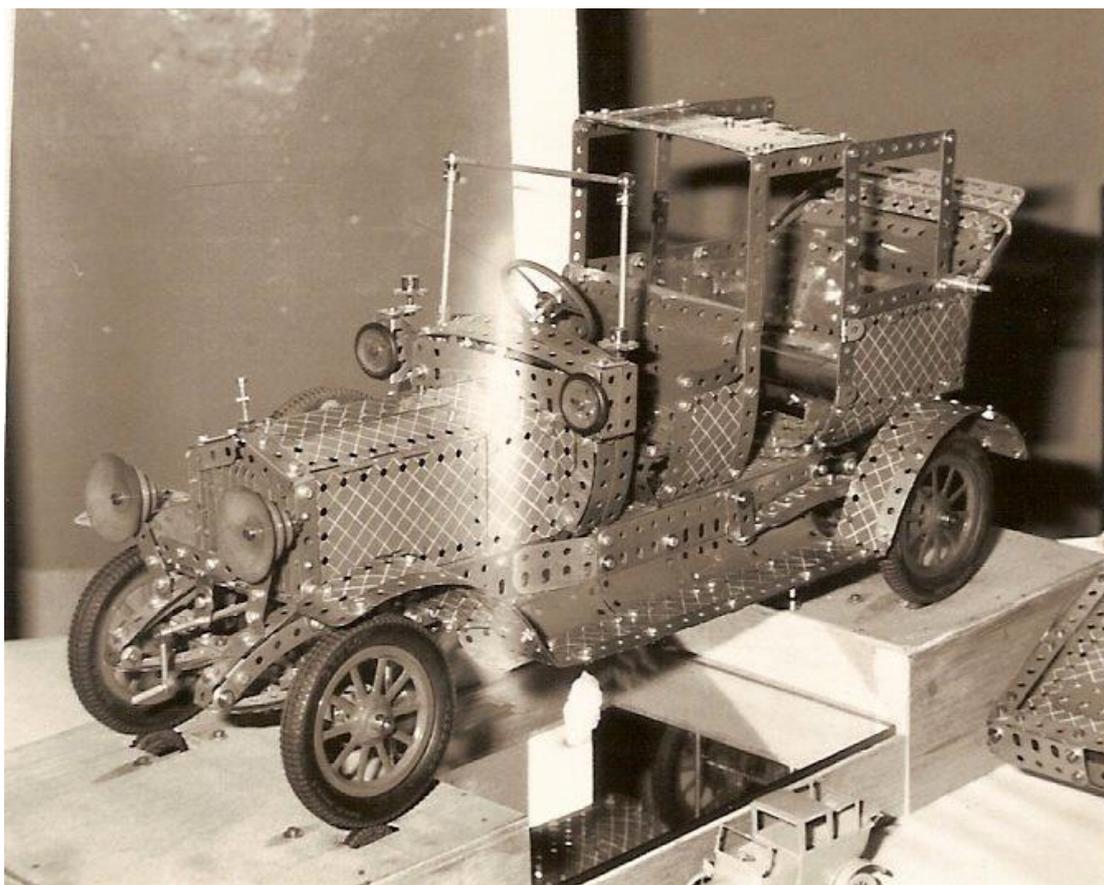
Also at the meeting Chris Barron brought along a HYMAC loading excavator which worked as a display model in fine style. Frank Beadle showed a 1911 Rolls Royce in Blue - Gold colours, built to scale. Dave Dalton had his now famed Square Meccanograph with intermittent motion.

Hobbies Exhibition at the North Road Museum, this was supported on three days by five adult members, the entire event attracting 4,000 visitors in the three days, and without any doubt putting Meccano and our club right on the map.

On the Saturday Dave Dalton with his Dynapac Roller, Low Loading Transporter, Square Meccanograph, and Ford 'A' Series Radio controlled truck.

Chris Barron - Astronomical Clock, Kinsley Steam engine and a Hy-mac excavator.

Frank Beadle - Lakeland Stone Cutting Machine, Murdock-Aitken Steeple Engine and a 1911 Rolls Royce car.

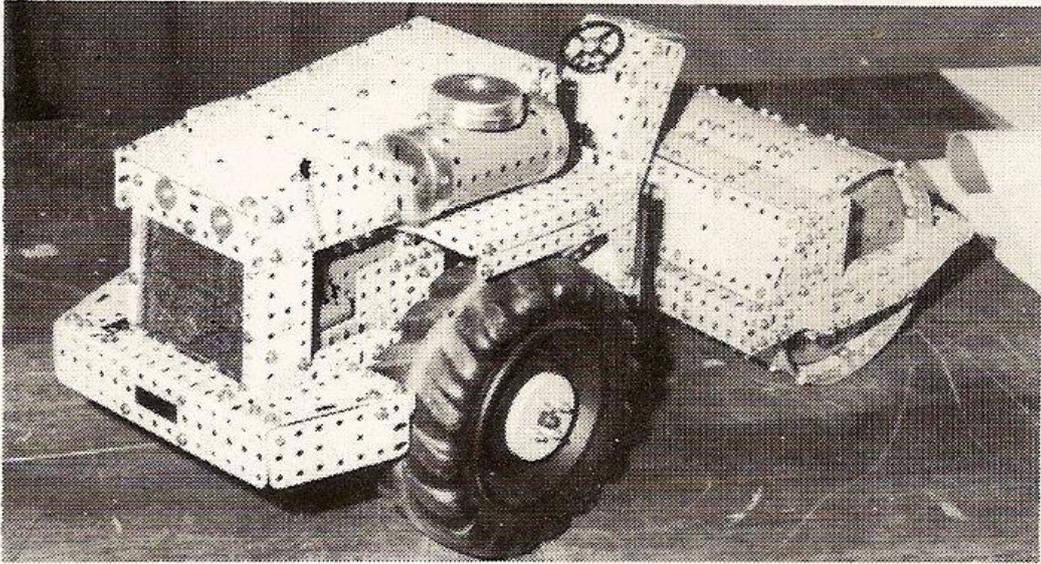


Frank's 1911 Rolls Royce.

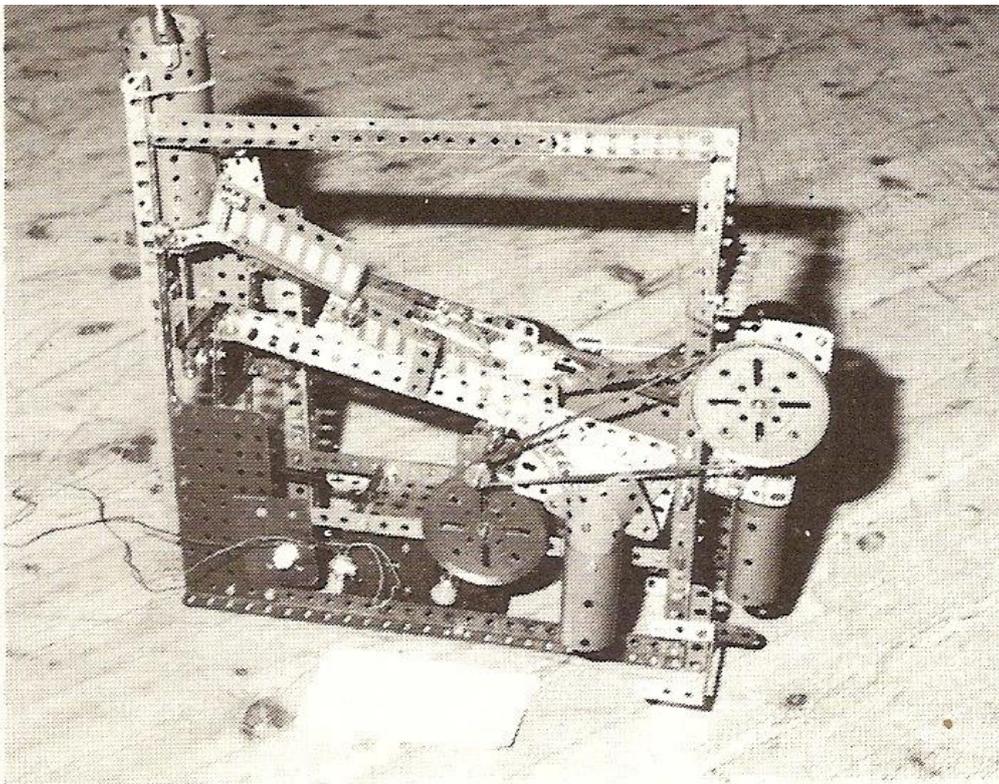
On the Sunday - Joe Etheridge with a 6 feet long Coach fully automatic, also a Gear Cutting machine, and Frank with his models. On the Monday Joe, Frank was joined by Alf Dean with his now completed 6 feet long ERF articulated unit. So all in all we had a worthwhile and fine display over the three days.

N.W.M.G. Exhibition this was the fifth show at Wigan, and was a huge success, attracting modellers from all points of the compass. Although the great day coincided with the Cup Final at Wembley, resulting in reduced public attendance in the afternoon, the show paid for itself quite adequately. The Adult section of the model building contest was the subject of ferocious competition but Roger Wallis won first prize for his Juke Box. Other prizes went to Roger Le-Rolland, and Bryan Reay, a member of the North Eastern Meccano Society.

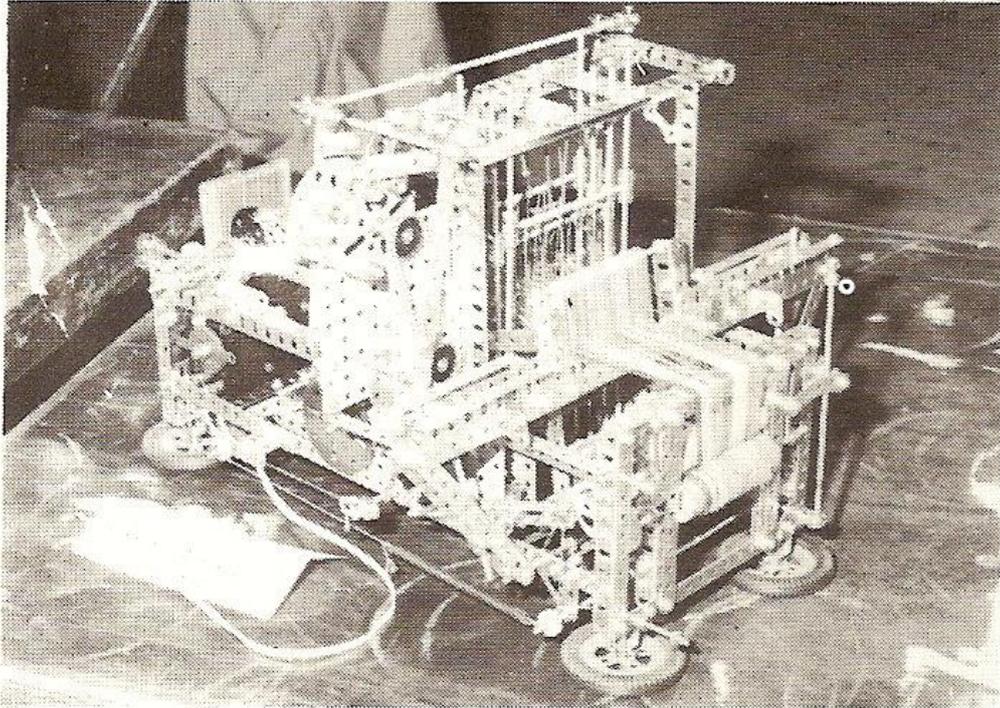
NEMS Models on show at the Wigan Exhibition



A rugged looking and neatly modelled Road Roller by David Dalton of the N.E.M.S.



Brian Reay of the NEMS is a specialist in the more unusual types of model, and this Nut and Bolt sorting machine earned him a prize in the competition.



A very attractive, yet surprisingly compact, fully working Loom by Joe Etheridge.

The next issue of the Club magazine appeared in June, this time others apart from the Secretary - Editor contributing to its pages with articles from Ann Cains 'Plea from a Meccano Man's Mother' and one by Joe Etheridge - Electric Motor Controller.

Notes from the Meccano Magazine October 1979, meetings during the spring and summer have been well attended, each bringing its own crop of Junior and Adult models.

The April meeting entailed the judging of the Junior Model Building Contest to a design brief given to each member, of a simplified version of a Beam Engine. Omitting such parts as the eccentric to bring it within the scope of the average Junior's Meccano Set. First prize was won by Tony Cains of Stockton-on-Tees for a very creditable effort of sound mechanical design. Second prize was awarded to Neil Birket of Darlington for his successful work. It is hoped to have at least one Junior Model contest each year, as we are delighted with these fine results in our first competition.

Bryan Reay brought a massive Kenworth Articulated Tractor unit to the meeting. (His first appearance after months of being snowed up!) The model had full suspension featured large ash tray tyres and a tilting cab.

Raymond Stephens showed a six cylinder diesel engine and gearbox unit incorporating an E15R motor inside the cylinder block. Joe Etheridge brought along a well-built factory lift driven by six separate motors and fitted with automatic gates.

The May and July Meetings brought many more models from adults, among them David Dalton showed a fascinating Radio-Controlled and power steered Ford 'A' Series chassis which thrilled everyone with its lifelike realism. He also displayed an unusual freelance model of a Wickham Diaphragm Sludge Pump, built from an illustration in a trade manual, and driven by a mains motor.

Joe Etheridge invariably turns up at each meeting with different models; he put on show an Army Scammell Truck with spur gear differential drive and a fine model of a Konkoly Steam Engine. One of the highlights of the meeting was enjoyed by all in the form of Joe's birthday cake, provided by his wife Sally and finely decorated with icing strips, gears and trunnions all in appropriate colours - other Meccano wives could take a hint here! That was part of Frank's Club Roundup in the Meccano Magazine for October 1979.

A few smaller events were attended during the year, but nothing on the scale of the multitude of large events attended in 1978 in fact it was a very quiet year all round. During the late summer and early autumn the NEMS had several prominent window displays to stage, with a direct view to attracting a few more members who may have gone undetected in recent years. The first of these was at the Northern Rock Building Society, Northallerton. Setting up on Saturday 11th August for 2 weeks and dismantling on the 25th August. This is not a large window but we may need several smaller models to complete it. The second of these displays was back at The Nationwide Building Society in Bondgate, Darlington who have agreed to a display of models for 1 week. Setting up of the window will be Sunday 23rd September at 10-00 a.m. This is a large window and will take 8' high models. The general feeling is that any type of large or small static model will do fine.

Chris Barron organised another of his mini-bus outings to Henley on Thames with about 8 members making the full day out to Henley to this now International Exhibition.

The 4th. Annual Exhibition November 17th 1979 was held in Bondgate Hall, Meccano providing us with colourful A3 posters in the same format as last year, and also the prizes. In addition we were able to set up a good editorial competition with the Northern Echo Meccano will supply appropriate prizes to the value of say £25.00. (See letter from Meccano) The price for admission being raised to 30p for adults, with children still at 10p.

For this exhibition only, it was agreed at the request of one member that we remain open until 9-00p.m. for latecomers! About six people came through the door between 6-00 and 9-00p.m. and attendance in any case was down slightly on last year.



MECCANO
LIMITED

P.O. BOX No.4 BINNS ROAD LIVERPOOL L13 1DA Telephone 051-228 2701
Telegrams MECCANO, LIVERPOOL Telex 629246

Our ref: JBF/TS

9th November 1979

Mr. F. A. Beadles (Sec)
North Eastern Meccano Society,
Greystles,
33, Yoredale Ave.,
Darlington,
Co. Durham,
DL3 9AN.

Dear Frank,

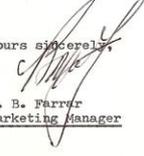
I am sorry that you had to write twice although I do assure you that the necessary action had been taken against your first letter.

To confirm our telephone conversation:-

- 1) Your posters are in the post.
- 2) I or Eric Mair will be attending and we will bring up with us appropriate prizes for both the adult and junior sections.
- 3) If you could set up a good editorial competition with the Northern Echo we will supply appropriate prizes to the value of say £25.00.

I really am looking forward to meeting you on your home ground as I have heard very very good reports about the Darlington Exhibition.

Yours sincerely,


J. B. Farrar
Marketing Manager

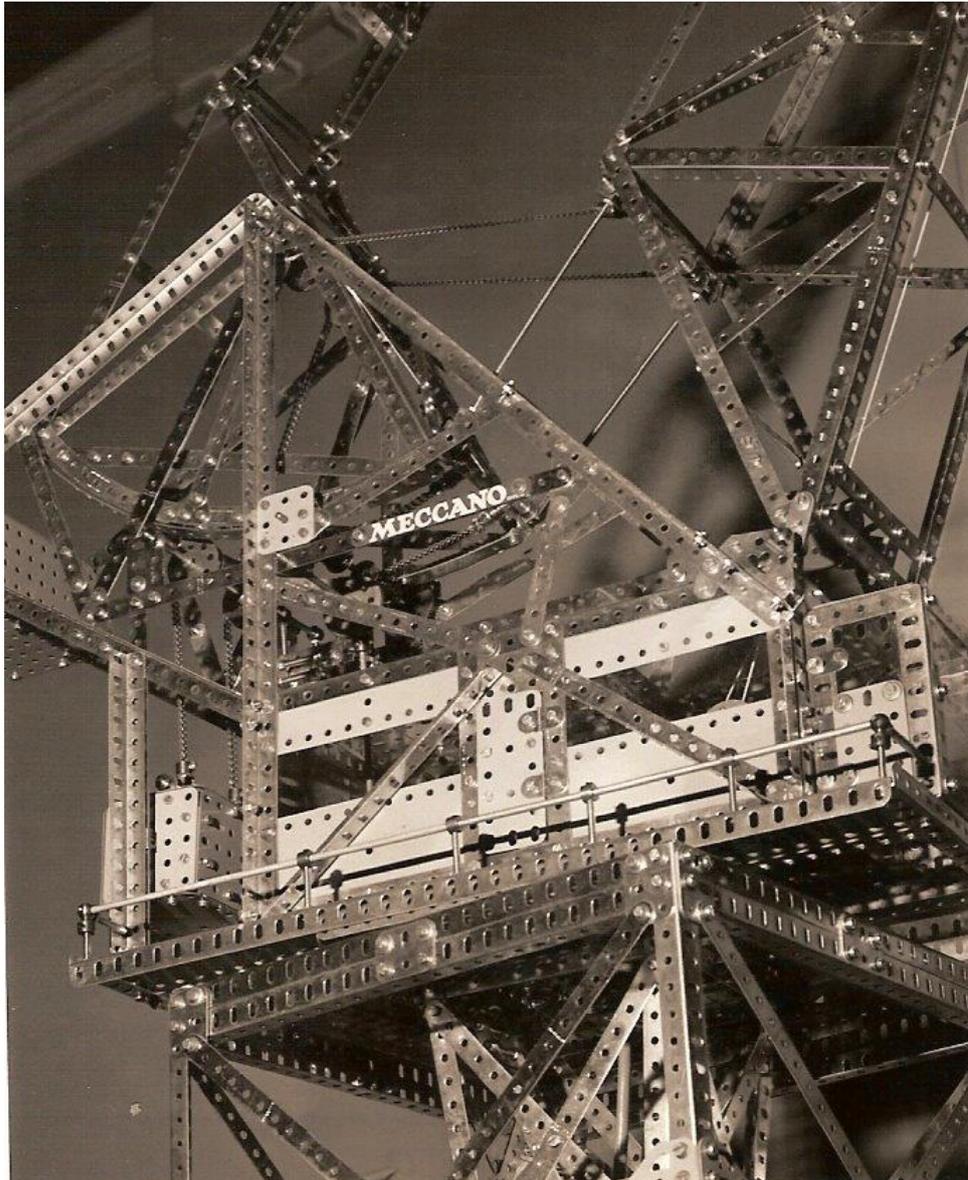


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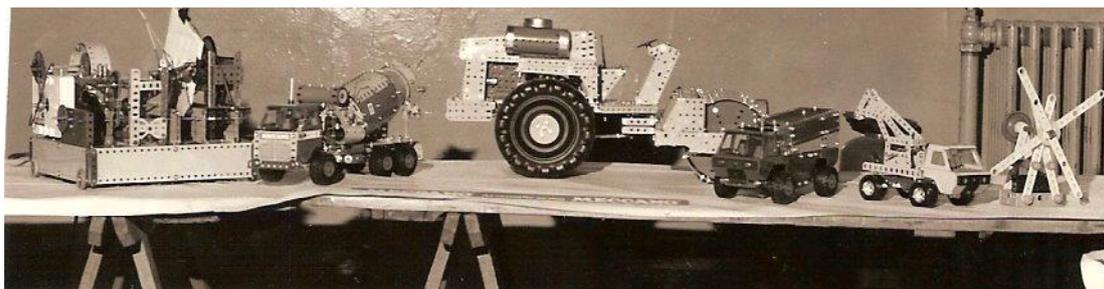
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Letter from Meccano stating that either J. B. Farrar or Eric Mair will be attending the exhibition and will bring the prizes

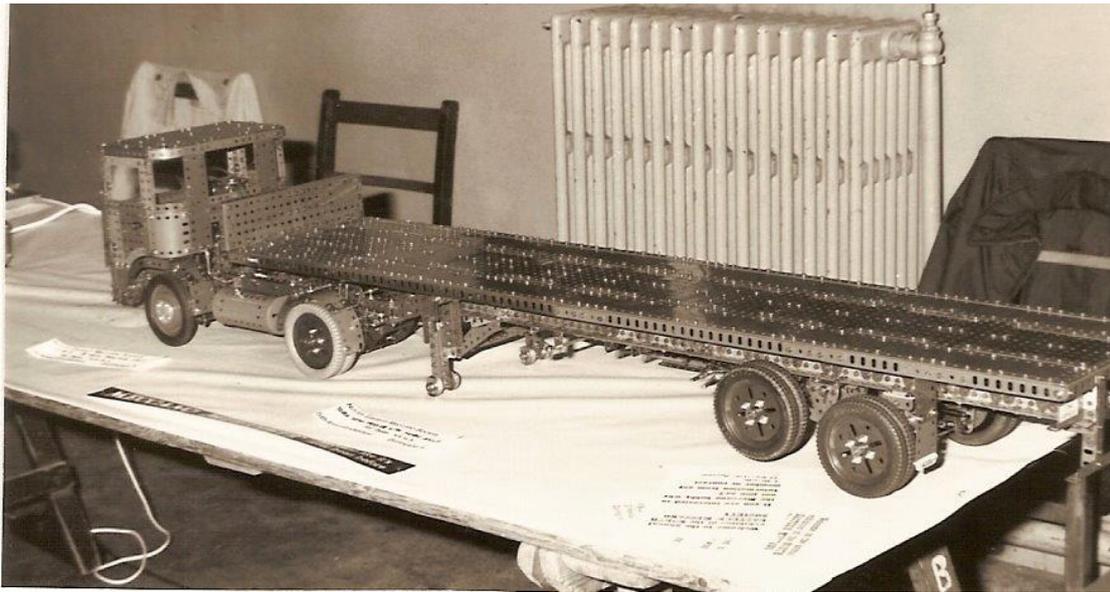
More models compensated, 96 models presented by 38 adults and 17 juniors in fine style indeed.



Just part of Barry Wilkinson's Level Luffing Crane the tallest model in the show



David Dalton - Part of his Civil Engineering theme, with his Dynapac CA-25 Road Roller



**Alf Dean's Amazing York Trailer and ERF Tractor Unit, with the
Hobo third axle lift unit**

After our successful show last year, we had a slight drop in attendance figures. This factor can be put down to the dreadful wet weather on that weekend and the previous few days, there is no doubt the weather is often worse in the North.

The extended closing time to 9-00p.m. proved a long day, but it was an experiment, with the last hour being hardly worthwhile to keep the exhibition open. Comparative attendance figures are below:-

1976	Total	400	Only total attendance figures taken at this show.
1977	"	462	" " " " " " " " " "
1978	"	584	of whom 300 were adults and 284 were children
1979	"	513	" " 253 " " " 260 " "

This review cannot go without bringing to notice the splendid work done by the 8 or 9 ladies in the refreshment buffet. Member's wives and mothers provided a full cooked meal at lunchtime, followed by a substantial tea which included hot dogs. One visiting exhibitor commented that one always gets well looked after at this exhibition.

The judges for this exhibition were invited from South Durham Branch of the Model Engineers Society. Mr. Gladden and Mr. Swales took some time to reach a decision on the prize winners, especially in the adult section where the choice of subject is always extremely diverse, but they again looked at things through other than a Meccano eye, which can't be a bad idea in itself. We are most grateful for their willing help.

The prizes were presented by Mr. Bryan Farrar, Marketing Manager of Meccano Limited, and the support of which, together with others, including Michael Walker of the M.M. we were very glad to have.

JUNIORS: 1st. Prize - Robert Anderson - Blocksetting Crane
2nd. Prize - Michael Beadle - Eiffel Tower
3rd. Prize - Tony Cains - Tower Crane

ADULTS: 1st. Prize - James Walker - Giant Blocksetting Crane
2nd. Prize - Chris Barron - Astronomical Clock

The Exhibition was now costing over £200 to stage by 1979. So ended 1979, we look forward to the 1980s.

1980 The Fifth Year

We produced three issues of the magazine during 1979, the first copy being sent out in March and was well received, we could of course put in twice the pages, but costs prohibit this at present. Club membership has shown an increase over the year, standing at the end of February with 21 adults and 12 juniors; however the balance, a mere £83.63 was not too healthy when announced at the AGM.

Dave Dalton was elected Chairman for the year, Frank Beadle as Secretary, Chris Barron Treasurer, with John Lythgoe elected to the new office of Commercial Treasurer. The committee would comprise of the above four, with two other elected officers Raymond Stephens and Joe Etheridge. Adult membership fees were set at a revised figure of £5 but with only a 50p fee at each meeting, in order to share the burden on all members, not just those who attended meetings which had formerly been £1.00. It was also agreed to set a half-fee of £2.50 to adults joining after the November Exhibition.

The first major show of the year was at Guisborough on the 15th. March. This was a first class show for the Guisborough Club, with a fine display of models in a well-lit hall, the event attracting a steady flow of people all day.

Our Society supported it with the attendance of 11 members, of which three were Juniors Mark Taylor, Paul Newman and Robert Anderson. The NEMS Club members showed about 30 models in all, and were looked after very well by the organisers Arthur Ing and Charles Archer. Models on show were, a Steam Driven Bus of the open top type, a 1m long Motor Coach, Meccanographs, and the juniors had a collection of Army Multi Kit models and a Lorry Mounted Crane.



Guisborough Poster from 1980

During Easter we presented models on the three days at North Road Railway Preservation Society Hobbies Weekend. The five members got rather blackened from smoke from live steam engines but enjoyed the week as again about 4000 visitors did. The Club received a donation of £5.00 for club funds, from the North Road Museum Trust at Darlington for this display.

At this time news was rather grim from Meccano Ltd. The Binns Road situation was somewhat fluid to say the least, with representatives being sacked, stock moved and auditors in, but the Airfix Company who own Meccano Ltd. still had hopes of sorting things out.

Our friends from the North West Meccano Guild have advised that this year the exhibition is not at Clitheroe, now instead at the Civic Hall at Leyland on Saturday June 7th. This will be a bigger event this year, part of the crowded-out Annual Leyland Festival.

After the ordinary meetings in April and May we did the hat trick and attended three events, miles apart, on the same day July 5th. Northallerton Boy's Brigade Gala, the Kemplah School Fete at Guisborough and Kirk Merrington Village Fete! How is that for enthusiasm?

The June meeting was held at the Arts Centre Darlington and not at Franks home. This was a good meeting with 14 members attending, and brought along 11 models. It was a pleasant evening enjoyed by all.

Having attended the Henley on Thames Exhibition as visitors in a mini-bus outing, the Society again showed models at the Bedale School Hobbies Exhibition in October as well as the forwarding arrangements for the Annual Exhibition in November.

N.E.M.S. Club Chat. Keeping ones ears open at club meetings, it is amazing what can be heard of in the Society. For instance, not one but two members are said to be making up display boards for obsolete parts.

We hear that one member has Little Geordie or it might be Big Geordie! Under way with no doubt a large room to house it when finished as I understand this type of Walking Dragline is over 12 feet long when completed.

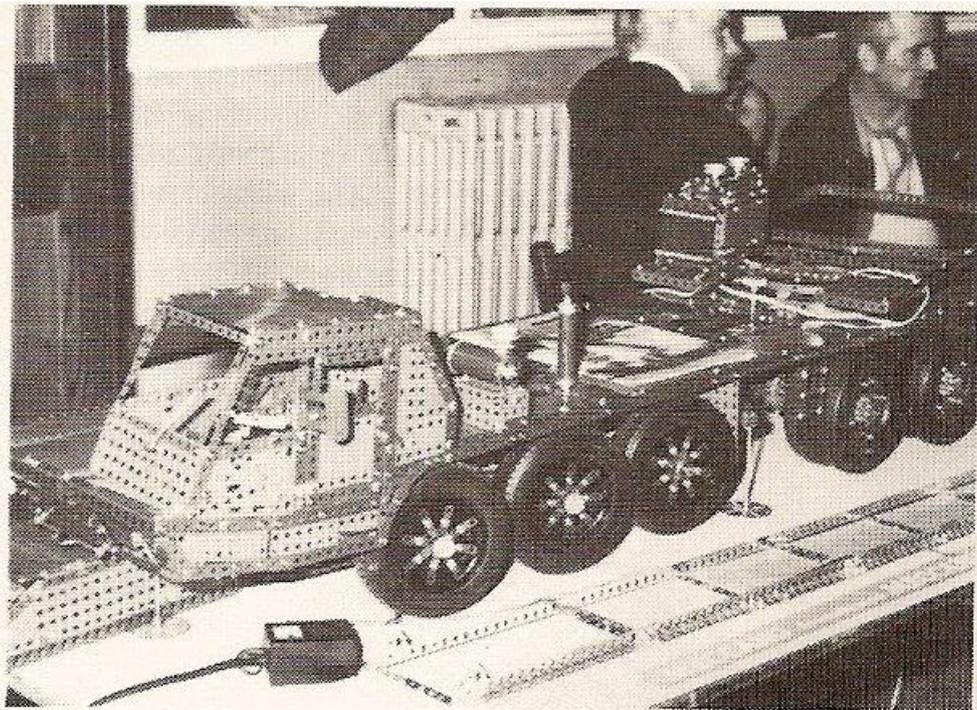
Another member has an almost completed Snowcat standing in the garage, whilst garages are supposed to house cars, they are also handy for large Meccano models, another member I hear, has an almost completed Automatic Ship Coaler in his garage.

One member has an obsolete Digger Bucket we hear, but we have not yet seen this relic --- the Digger Bucket I mean!!!

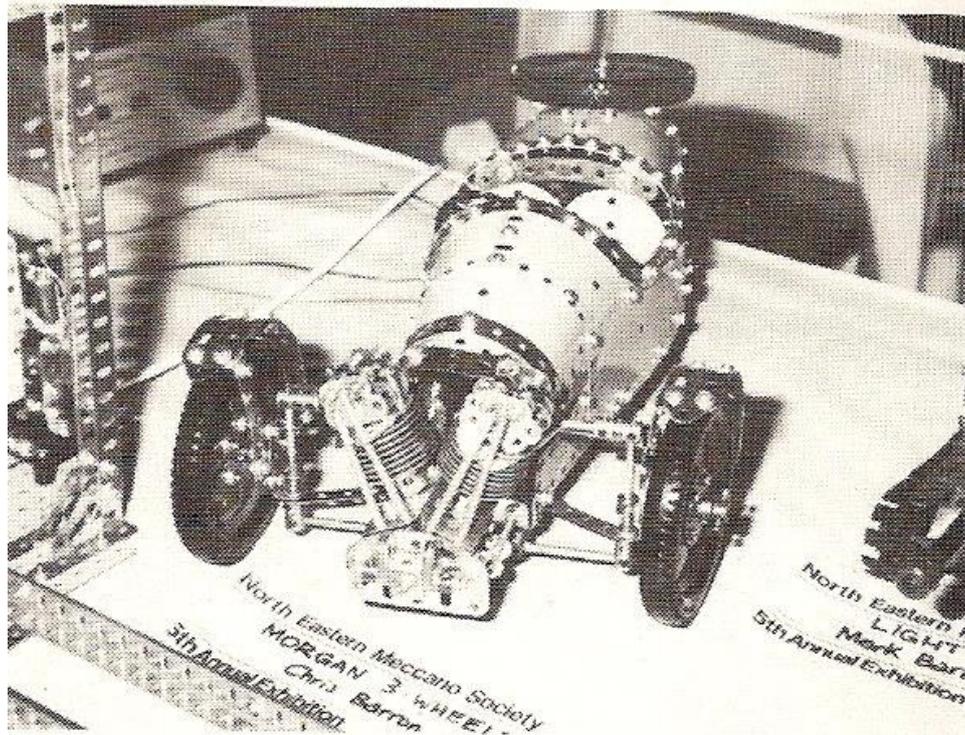
Another member on warming up a few of his parts for repainting, used the household frying pan, culinary things take second place when the Meccano assumes its real importance -- hope he took them out of the pan before breakfast time! We should be seeing some gigantic road vehicles at our next show in November, by the number of Ashtray Tyres that has been seen around.

Scene at Darlington 1980

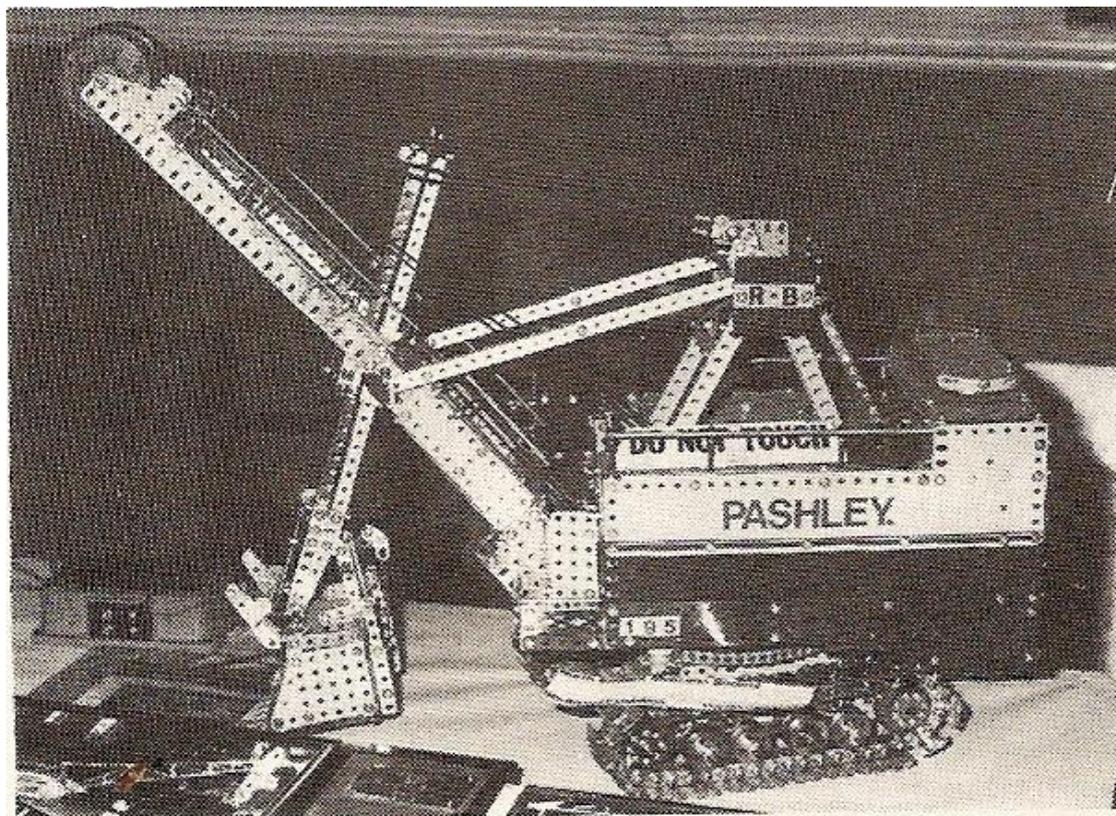
A look at just a few of the many excellent models on view at the North Eastern Meccano Society's Annual Meccano Exhibition held in Darlington on November 15th.



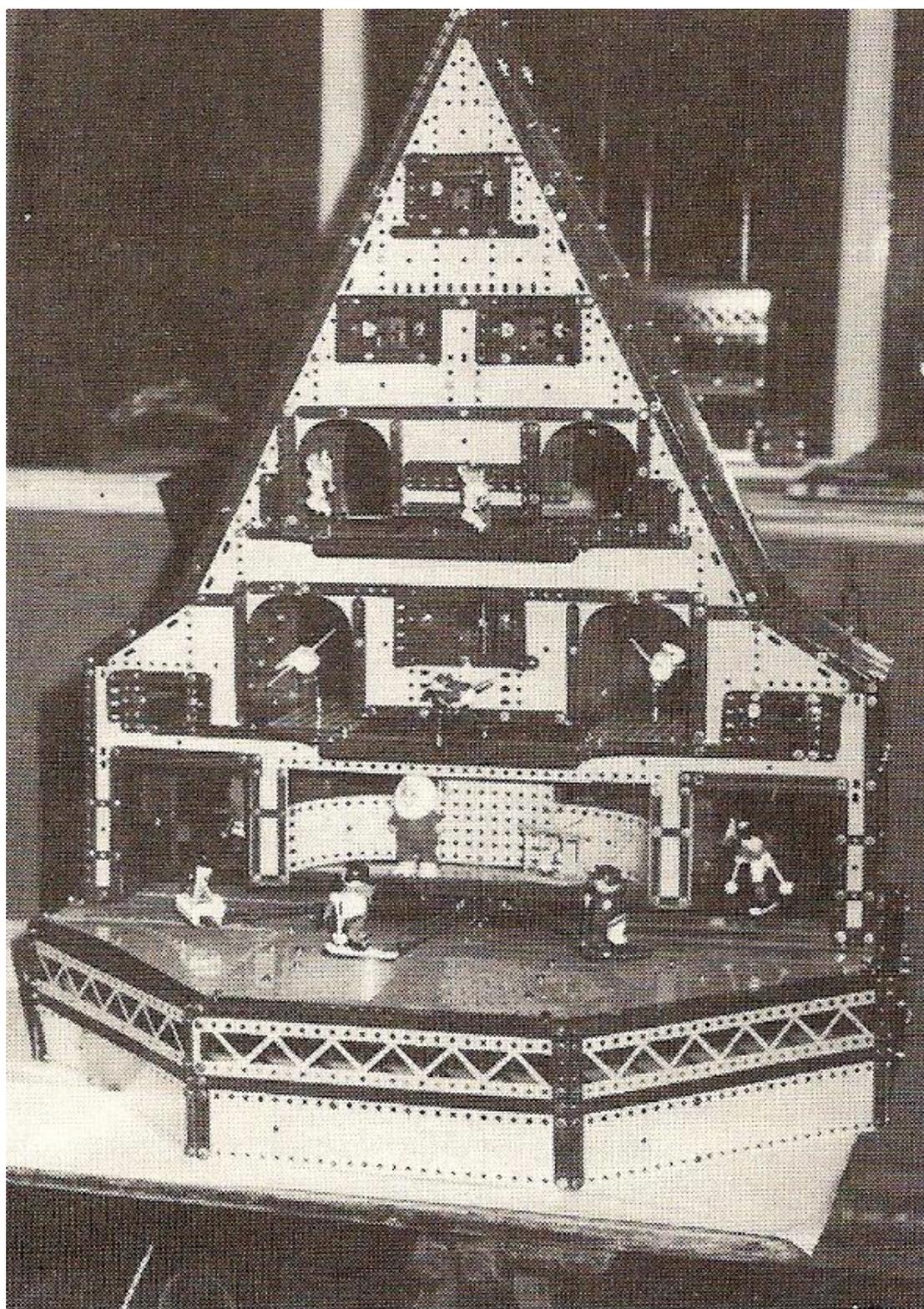
Large-scale modeller Raymond Stephens presented this 6 feet long Grove 1150 Crane Carrier finished in red and green parts, three axles were powered by one motor.



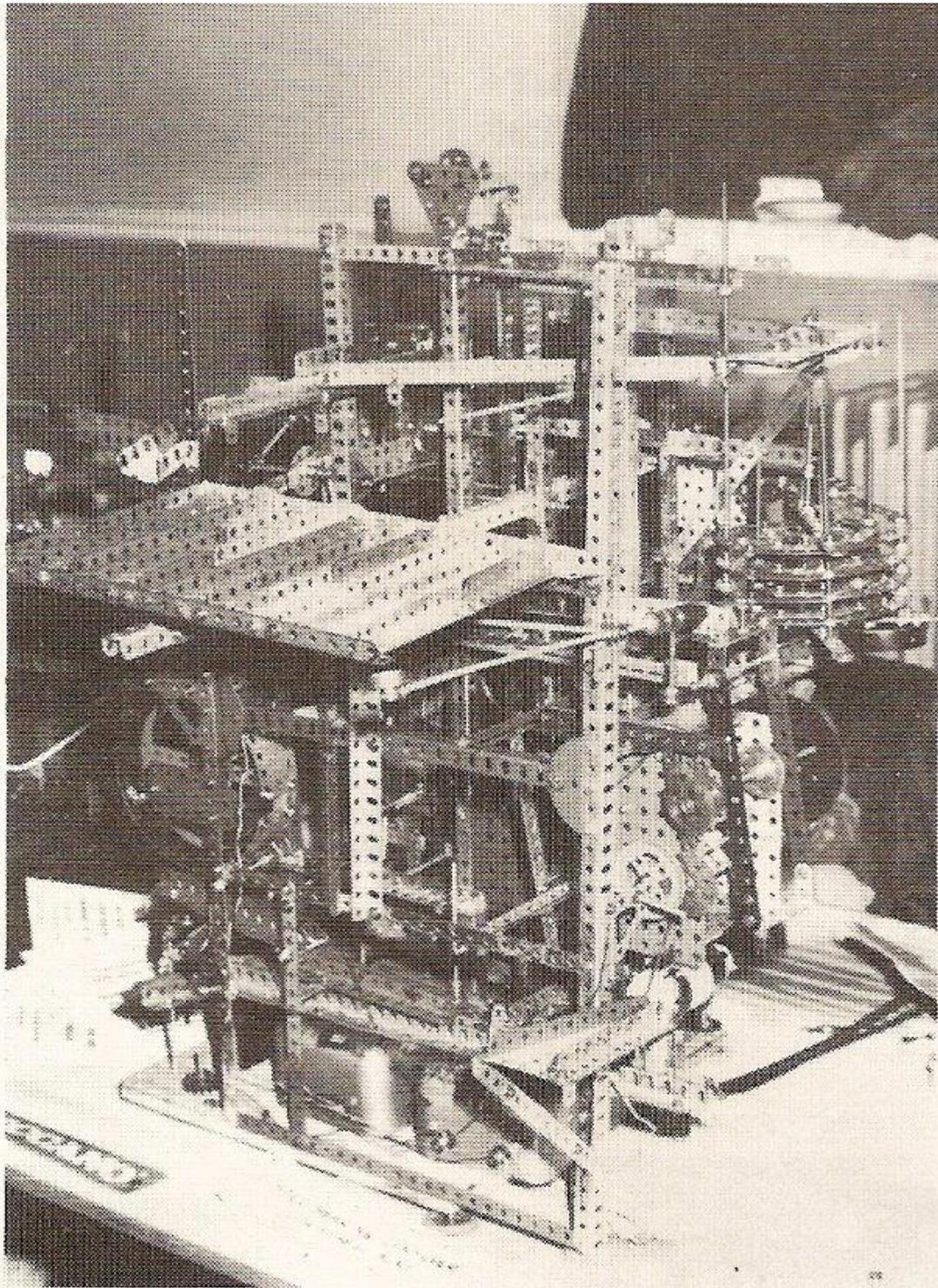
Chris Barron built this extremely neat model of a Morgan three-wheeler car with engine detail and driven by a PDU.



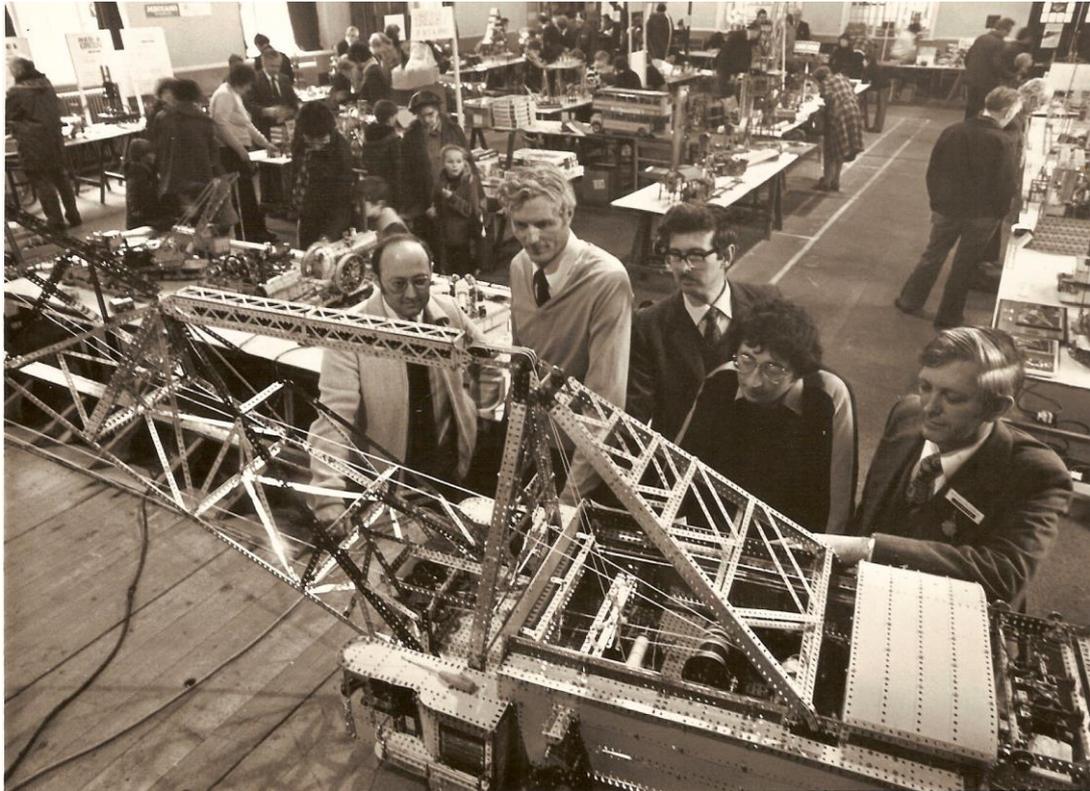
Displaying the highest standards of construction, a Ruston-Bucyrus 195 Face Shovel by Mike Pashley.



John Russell's version of Dr. Keith Cameron's Christmas Chalet added a Seasonal note both aesthetically and musically—it incorporated a musical movement!



Bryan Reay in his usual baffling style produced this 'Ball Bearing Confuser' which also confused any onlookers attempting to follow the tortuous path of its captive ball-bearings!



Leading members of the N.E.M.S. examine Joe Etheridge's gigantic Walking Dragline. From L. to R. Chris Barron, Frank Beadle, John Lythgoe, Dave Dalton and Joe Etheridge.

Joe's model is shown on the front of the stage, being too heavy for the tables as it was 14ft. long from cab to boom. Bondgate Hall was ideal for our purpose. Photo taken by the Evening Despatch with a large spread, with this picture of five of our adults and an article headed 'Meccano Lives Again!' and such wording as 'flocked to see a major Meccano exhibition' in the text, which in itself cannot fail to do anything but good for the Society.

On November 15th Bondgate Hall in Darlington again thronged to the noise of another major Exhibition, our best yet with 525 visitors and 130 models, with the modified opening times of 11-00 a.m. to 7-00 p.m. giving plenty of time for visitors to see all. Profit margins were still small; last year it was £2.31 and in 1980 only £20.23 on the main event of the year.

We were delighted to have Mr. B. Scott the N.E. Airfix Representative with us for the greater part of the day, he was very impressed and made a full report of the show to his London Office.

Mike Cotterill of Skegness, an experienced Meccanoman took on the difficult task of judging, he was assisted by Chris Warrell Secretary of the South East London Meccano Club and a very welcome visitor from a far.

The prizes totalling over £70.00 were announced and presented by Dave Dalton, the club Chairman, to the winners at 4-00p.m. from the stage. Airfix donated 5 of the six prizes and for this we are most grateful.

Adults Section: 1st. Prize - Mike Pashley - 195 Type Face Shovel
2nd. Prize - Nicholas Forth - Panther Six Sports Car
3rd. Prize - Dennis Wright - Greek Warship with Sails

Junior Section: 1st. Prize - Robert Anderson - Heavy Duty Level Luffer
2nd. Prize - Tony Cains - Rotating Helicopter
3rd. Prize - Peter Storr - Dockside Crane

Bill Butterfield took on the job as I/C Catering and did a fine job with the lady helpers. John Lythgoe handled the enquiry desk in his usual businesslike style, we gained three new junior members but it was disappointing we did not glean any new adult members from this particular show.

Although we had three trade stands, selling sets, new and second hand parts, a service which visiting modellers appreciate, we had a new suggestion that any private individuals selling parts were to be asked a percentage to help with Club funds, as each show makes a greater and almost unbearable strain in the adult subscription charges each year.

This was without doubt the best exhibition the N.E.M.S. has had since our first show in 1976. Four of the exhibitions have been at the Bondgate Hall which measures over 70 feet x 40 feet excluding the stage. So ended another good year.

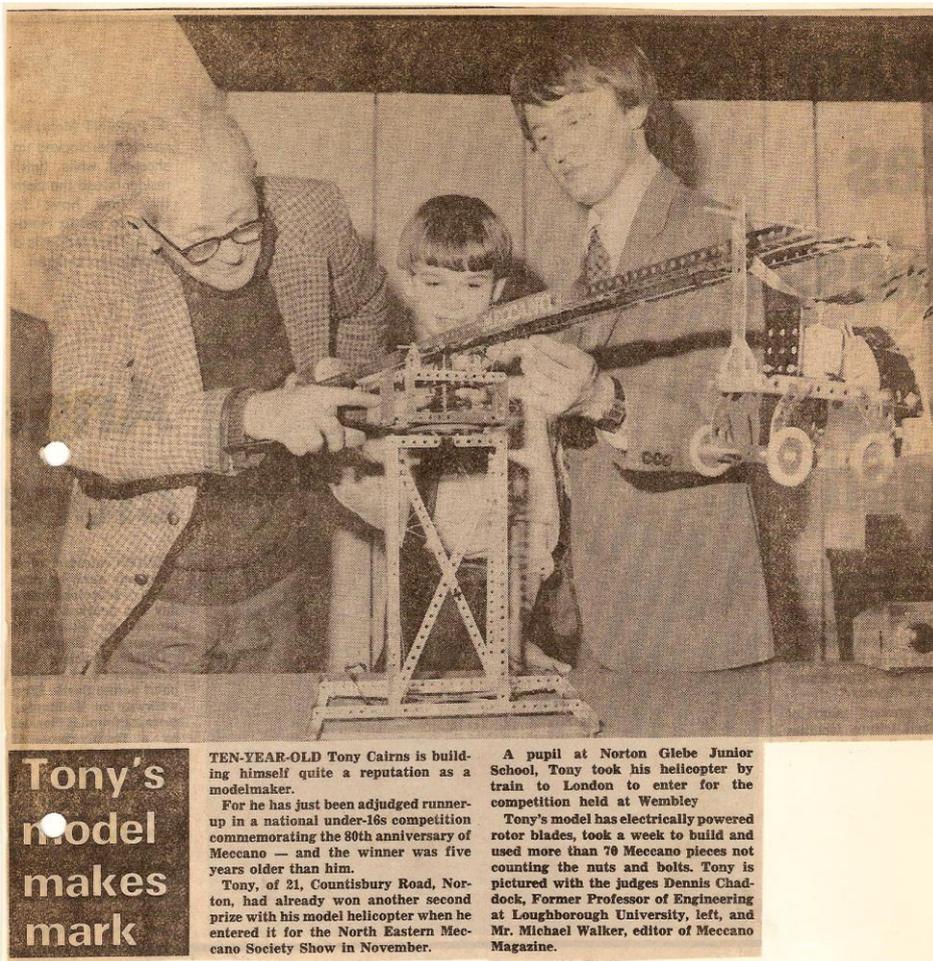
1981 The Sixth Year

The end of 1980 and the start of 1981 was a great time for the Club. A national Meccano Competition as part of the 50th. Model Engineer Exhibition is to be held at the Wembley Conference London. The entry forms came rather late, we had Alf Dean enter the adult competition and Tony Cains the Junior Section. Tony did extremely well with his model of the rotating helicopter at the Darlington Exhibition and was selected to go to the Wembley Conference Centre on New Year's Eve for the final judging. One of Tony's problems, was finding the best way to dismantle it and pack it into a suitcase for the journey to London. In the end Mr. Cains carried it in a rucksack, with reassembly on arrival.

Tony was visited at home by Tony Baker and the film crew from 'Look North' and by Peter Dodgson of Radio Cleveland, the day before he set off to London on December 31st. The BBC Look North programme gave a showing of the model, and Mike Neville introduced the item with the statement that Meccano was not dead, or very similar phrase.

The Junior Cup was won by 15 year old James Gilbert, who had built two other models in the Junior Final, his prize winning model being of an electric locomotive, with his model of an oil rig being on Blue Peter during the week.

Tony won second prize and found it very interesting to look at the other models on show. The Adult Section prize winner was Alan Partridge with Jovalobe (model of Jupiter with its moons). Tony returned to London on January 10th to collect his model and a prize of Meccano presented by Airfix. The Society is indeed proud of Tony for his efforts and achievement in this competition, it is certainly a feather in the cap of the N.E.M.S. and we congratulate him.



**Tony's
model
makes
mark**

TEN-YEAR-OLD Tony Cairns is building himself quite a reputation as a modelmaker.

For he has just been adjudged runner-up in a national under-16s competition commemorating the 80th anniversary of Meccano — and the winner was five years older than him.

Tony, of 21, Countisbury Road, Norton, had already won another second prize with his model helicopter when he entered it for the North Eastern Meccano Society Show in November.

A pupil at Norton Glebe Junior School, Tony took his helicopter by train to London to enter for the competition held at Wembley.

Tony's model has electrically powered rotor blades, took a week to build and used more than 70 Meccano pieces not counting the nuts and bolts. Tony is pictured with the judges Dennis Chadcock, Former Professor of Engineering at Loughborough University, left, and Mr. Michael Walker, editor of Meccano Magazine.

The magazine know as N.E.M.S. NEWS was now an important and expected part of the Society, issue number 7 started the year with its six double faced pages of news. Until now with F. Beadle as Editor, issues 8, 9 and 10 were edited by Joe Etheridge, the printing of these three issues was not very good, with Frank Beadle taking over again for issue number 12.

The Meccano Magazine had ended publication and would in fact never appear again and the situation at Binns Road, Liverpool was deteriorating quickly, news was not good and we wondered where Meccano would be by the end of the year. The Sets 1000, 2000 and 3000 had only recently appeared in shops, but spares were still available.

The pattern of the year, a February Meeting, with the AGM in March, fell into place followed close at heel with the now regular Guisborough Show on March 14th at which the N.E.M.S. gave yeoman support as usual, to the delight of Arthur Ing and Charles Archer who organised the Guisborough Show each year. With a total of 56 models on show, 24 were from N.E.M.S.

The prize winners were 1st. Prize Joe Etheridge, Giant Walking Dragline

2nd. Prize Bryan Reay, Rapier Loom

3rd. Prize Geoff Coles, Scammell 4x6 Artillery

Tractor.

Junior prize winners were 1st. Prize Tony Cains, Helicopter on Rotating Arm.

2nd Prize Mark Taylor, Articulated Lorry.

3rd. Prize Lee Barnby, Warship Supply Vessel.

May 30th N.W.M.G. Exhibition for the first time this was held in a marquee at Haydock Park. Members from NEMS attended this exhibition, Bill Butterfield, Dennis Wright and his wife and Joe and Sally Etheridge. Bill showed his Railway Wagon Tipper, Dennis had his, now famous Greek Warship and Joe showed a Baltic Tank Locomotive built from the Supermodel Leaflets.

The next day May 31st The club was out at the Victorian Railway Fayre at the Timothy Hackworth Railway Museum, when some members dressed in top hat and tails believe it or not, and displayed several models in the old engine sheds, where 5 members showed a great display of models to an interested public.

The year was a comparatively quiet one, very little in the way of Fetes, the Bedale School Hobbies Exhibition was again supported in October.

The 7th Annual Exhibition was again in Bondgate Church Hall, as good as ever, making our 7th Exhibition another memorable occasion for young and old alike. A great deal of effort was put into advertising these shows, almost 80 posters placed in shops of all types in Darlington and its radiating roads, paid adverts in two newspapers, free in two others, Radio Cleveland etc. and over 20 UK Meccano Clubs given information on where to stay, how to get here, insurance, electrical units etc. All casual visitors from last year were sent details if addresses were in fact known. Over 50 letters sent out and posters in streets in close proximity to the hall.

The Exhibition held on November 14th produced one of the best so far turnout of models, with approx. 114 models on show, providing the judges with the unenviable task of choosing the winner. First prize in the adult section just had to go to Mike Pashley with his magnificent Ransome & Rapier 5360 Face Shovel. His prize was a Set No. 5 Second prize went to Alf Dean with his Slotting Machine, which is capable of adjustments to 0.001", with a rotating table capable of adjustment to 1°, his prize was No. 5 Set (old type). Third prize went to Ray Stephen, with his magnificent A.E.C. Matador Recovery Vehicle, with 6 x 6 drive, 4 speed and reverse gearbox, 3 differentials plus an auxiliary engine driving the hoist, and his prize was a voucher.

In the Junior section, the judges looked for quality, originality, quality of workmanship, mechanics and the age of the modeller was taken into account. First prize went to Peter Storr with a Locomotive. His prize was a Super Highway set. Second prize went to Robert Anderson with a Level Luffing Crane. His prize was a Space Set. Third prize went to Tony Cains with a Walking "Thing" and his prize was also a voucher.

The judges were Edwin Hodgson who has recently joined the N.E.M.S. from the South African M.C. and Bill Butterfield, Chairman of N.E.M.S.

One or two models that did not win a prize but are worth a note: B. N. Love displayed his R.M.S. Queen Mary and a helicopter. He also borrowed Adrian Ashford's A.E.C. Merryweather Pump-Escape engine. C. Barron a large Block Setter Crane powered by 4 pdu's and the star of the show was "Fido" watch out K9. J. Nuttall a Scammell Constructor 1950 Wagon Chassis, with twin back axles and front wheel drive.



Nick Forth with his model Simon Snorkel

Modeller Nick aims high

THERE'S no such thing as simple Simon for fire engine fanatic Nick Forth.

It's a company called Simon that makes the Snorkel — Britain's most advanced fire-fighting device — and for the past year 18-year-old Nick has been building an exact replica from bits of Meccano.

To date it's cost him thousands of working hours and hundreds of pounds from his "over-blown" bank account.

But at the weekend the nearly-completed model was attracting all the attention at an exhibition in Bedale.

Nick, of Larkhill Crescent, Clothholme, near Ripon, has been fascinated by Meccano since he was 11, and by fire engines long before that.

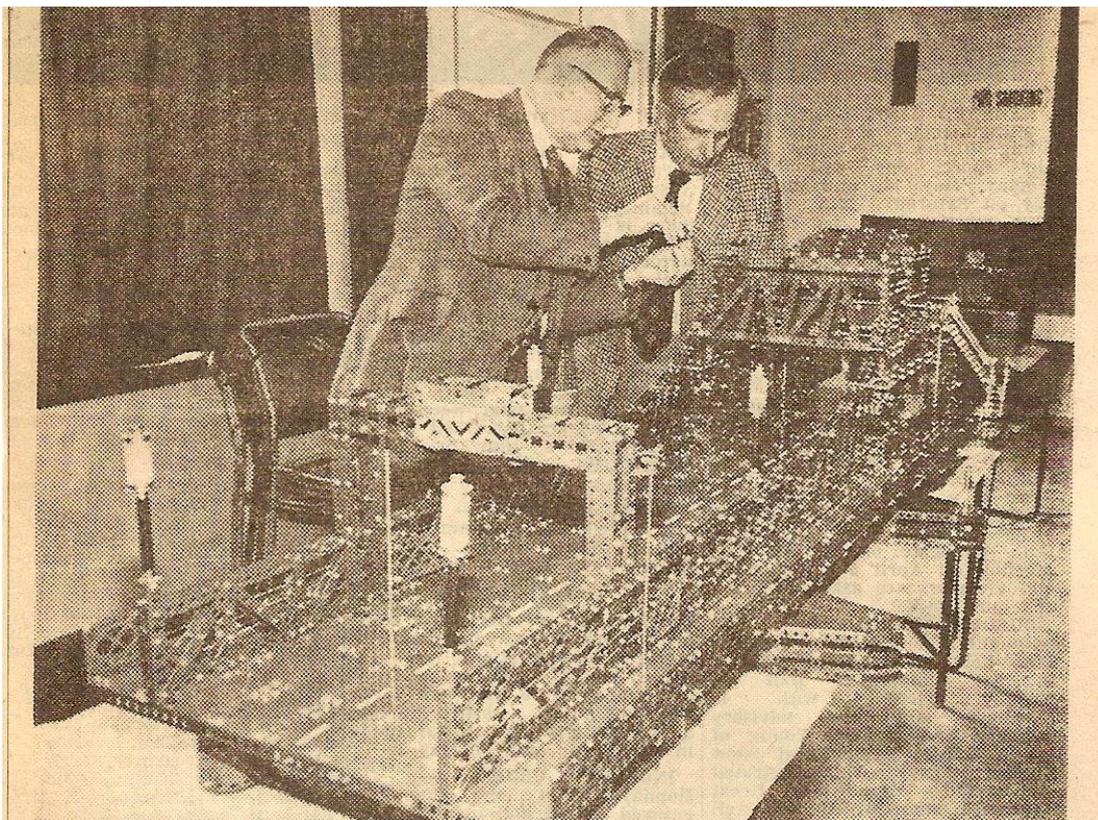
"But it's only in the past year that I could have attempted anything as complicated as this," he said.

"I've spent £300 this year alone on parts, but the whole thing will have cost a great deal more.

"In a sense, the fire engine is as much the attraction as the Meccano. They are brilliant feats of engineering."

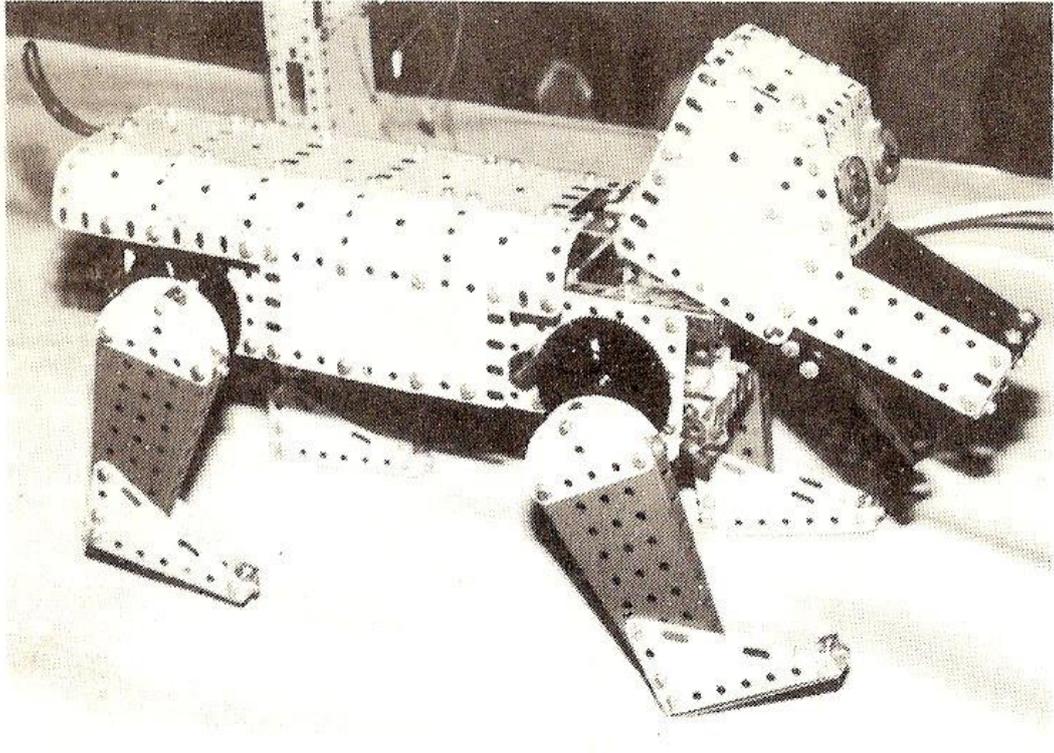
His working model, when completed, will travel at speed, elevate to a scale equivalent of 110 feet, and even have flashing blue lights.

Other attractions at the exhibition, staged by Bedale School parent teacher association, ranged from miniature fairground rides made by Tom Hamper, of West Burton, to a full-size Darlington Corporation 1962 double decker, now restored.

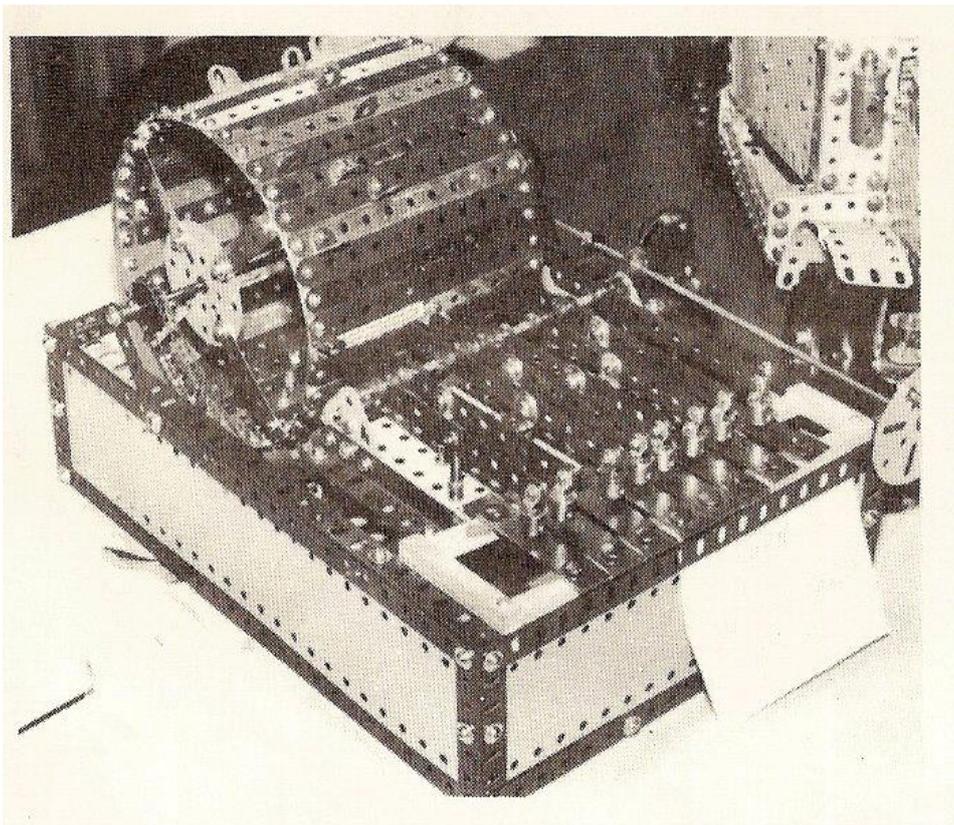


Meccano

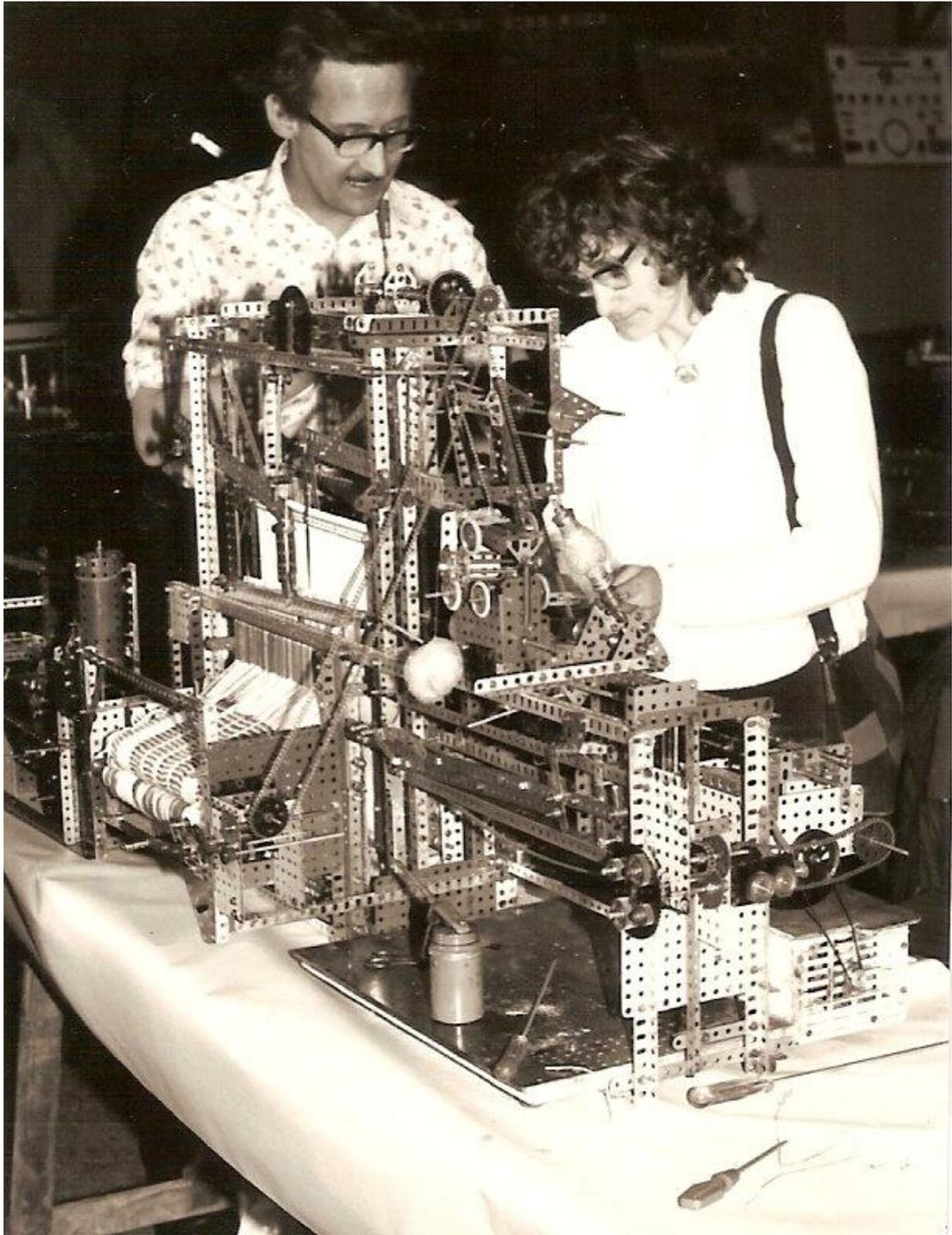
Mr Bill Butterfield (left), of Stockton, chairman of the North-East Meccano Society, and Mr Charles Archer, joint organiser, of Guisborough Meccano Club with one of the most elaborate constructions. — (DST).



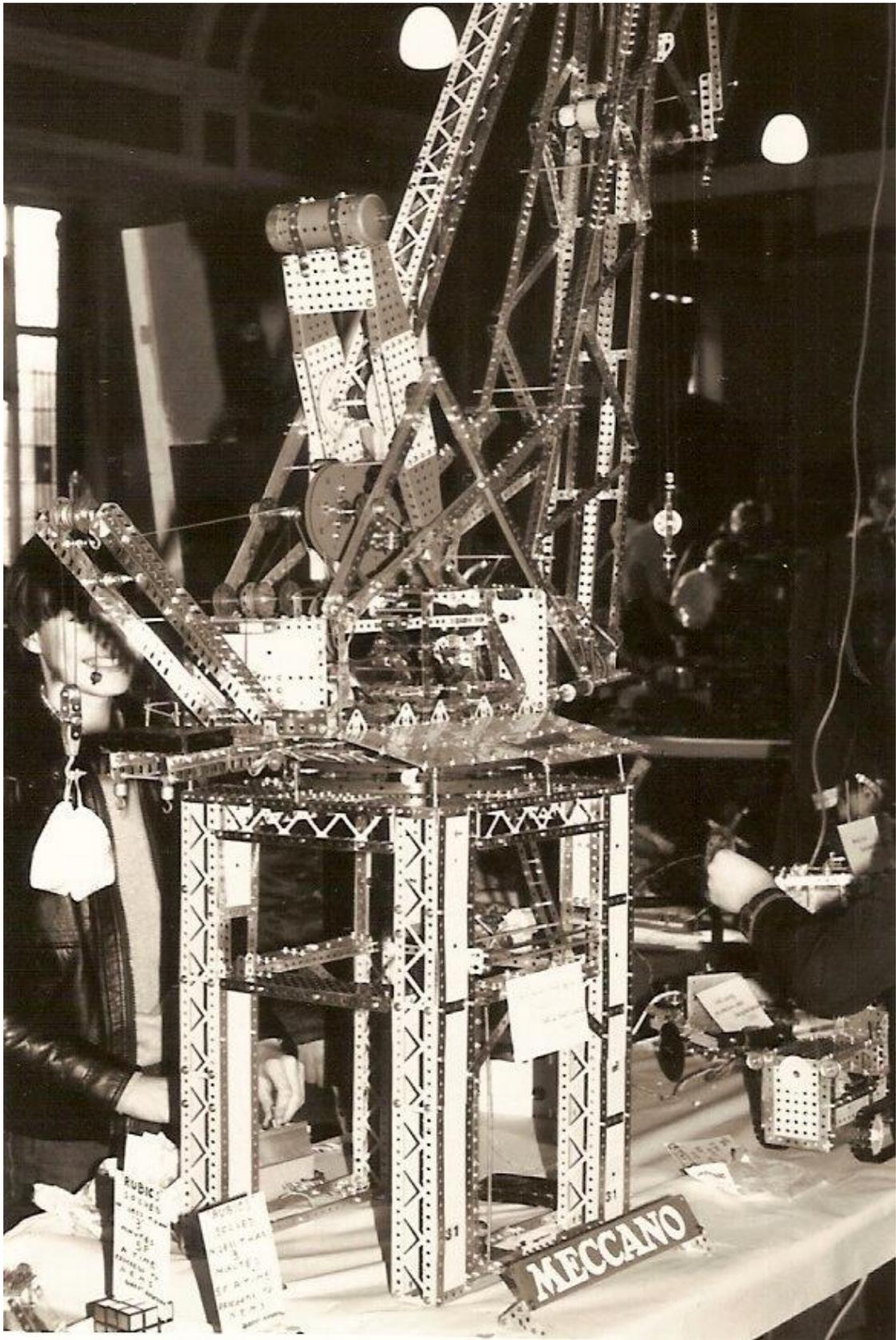
Chris Barron's "Fido"



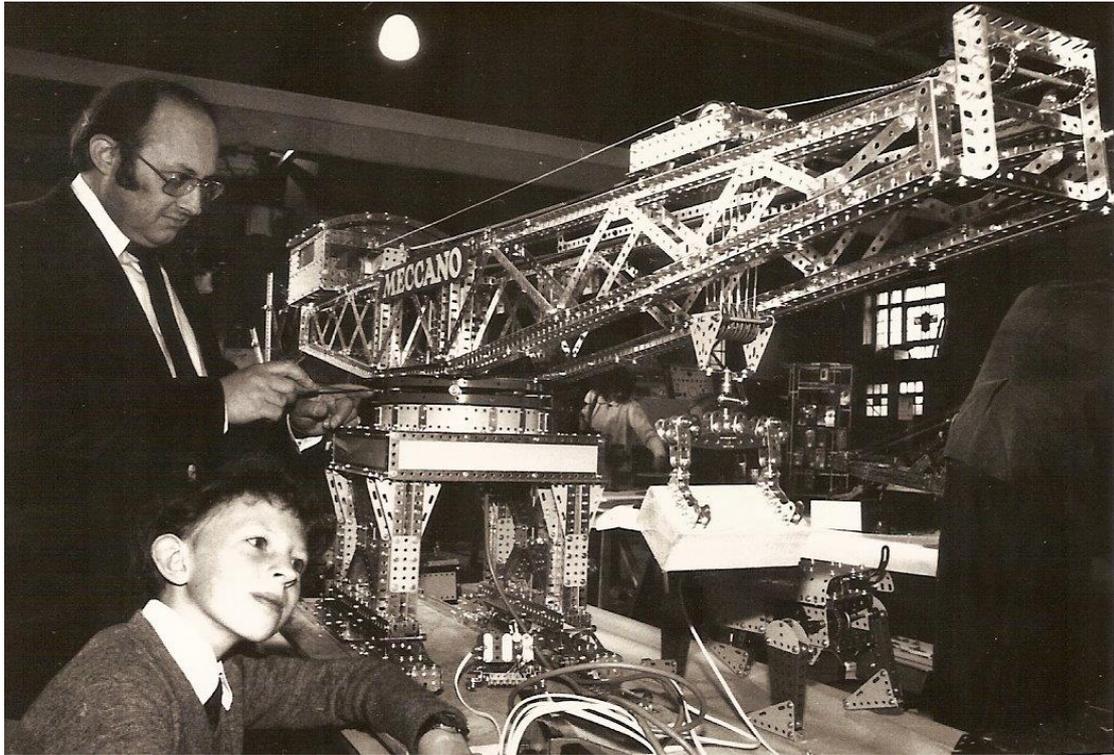
Musical Movement built by Dennis Wright.



Bryan & Florence Reay with his Rapier Loom



Junior Robert Anderson's Level Luffing Crane 2nd. Prize winner



Chris Baron and son with his Block Setter Crane

The 1981 Exhibition was again a success and showed a small profit of £13.23 against an outlay for the show of £166.28. What a great show of models were on display of all sizes and of great variety.

Once again we managed to fill Bondgate Hall to stage one of the foremost Meccano exhibitions in the country. The door takings were some £8.00 down on the previous year and there seems to be no accounting for this, as we pushed out more posters and press advertisements than usual.

Our visiting Meccanomen expressed their thanks for the day, and they in turn have now received a letter of thanks from us, as well as Palitoy Limited who supplied the generous batch of prizes and the Palitoy Representative who brought them to the show. Thanks also to Edwin and Bill for the difficult task of judging, and to all the ladies who gave a hand on the refreshments.

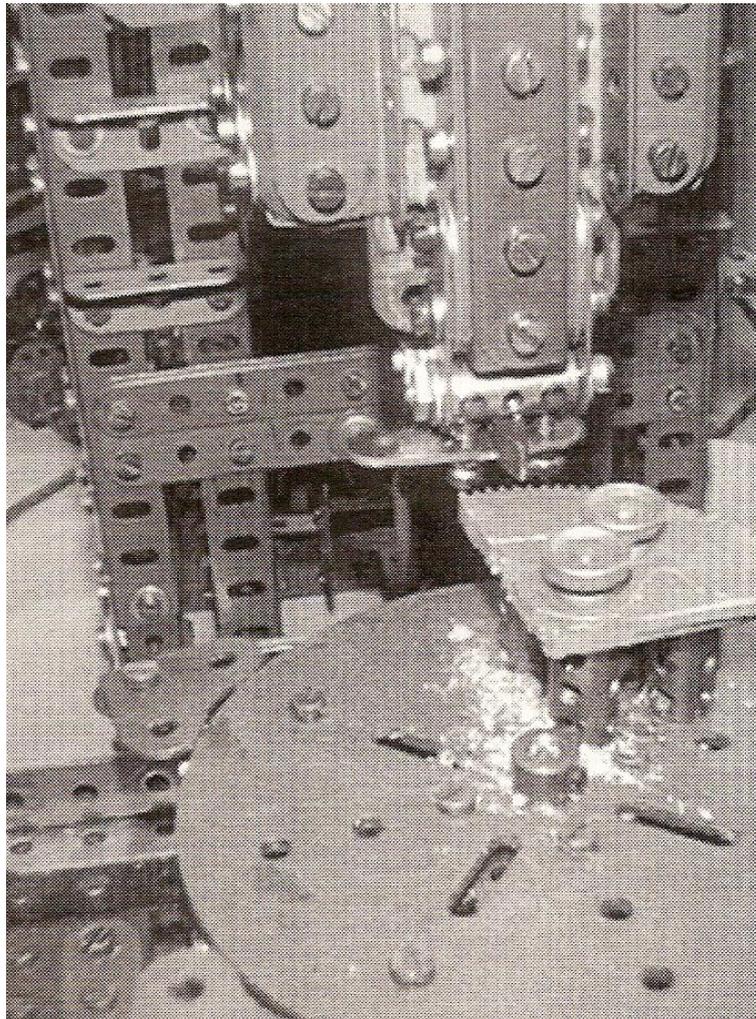
1982 The Seventh Year

This followed the same pattern of events, but there was always the unexpected to bring an interesting difference, just like Meccano itself constantly and always presenting some new challenge or new modelling subject.

The January meeting at the home of the Secretary, was as usual awash with many new models, due to dismantling after the November

Exhibition, many built models over Christmas, to show them at the first meeting of the year. Bill Butterfield showed a partly built Rolling Lift Bridge, the two counter weight balances filled with 1" pulleys, that is one way of using them up!!

Dave Dalton demonstrated a bogie with 16 wheels of a type used with Sunter Bros. Heavy Haulage, Northallerton. The bogie had correct steering geometry to negotiate corners when fixed to the load as a separate unit. Alf Dean showed his now famed Slotting Machine actually cutting a rack segment with great accuracy when meshed with a standard pinion. Frank Beadle took up most of the room with a partly built 4-8-8-4 Union Pacific Loco over 8 feet long, and the tender will be a further 5 feet when the model is complete. With several good models, this was a well-attended meeting



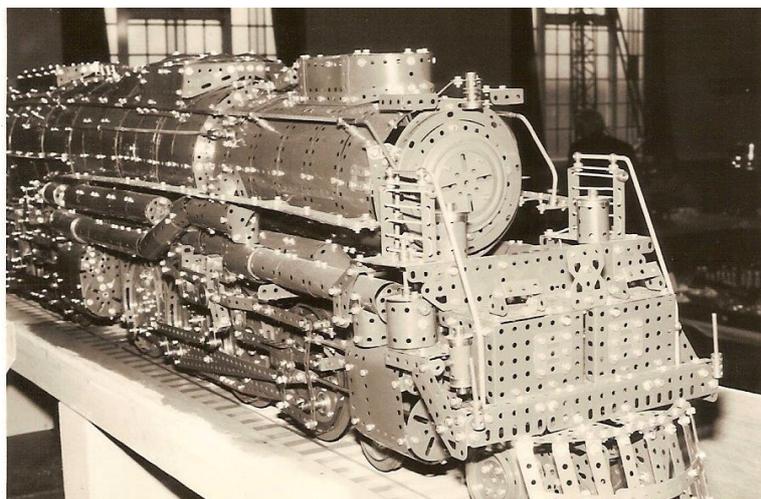
6" Butler Slotting Machine built by Alf Dean

The A.G Meeting held on the 3rd March dealt with the business side of the Club, decision were briefly as follows, Chairman - Bill Butterfield, Secretary - Frank Beadle and Treasurer - Chris Barron. The Balance Sheet showed a healthy balance in hand of £184.11 (against last year's balance of £155.60).

Guisborough Exhibition 13th March at St. Nicholas Parish Hall this as always enjoyed as the burden of organisation was not on our shoulders; it was a pleasant day in the spacious and well lit hall, with a steady stream of spectators from the town centre. The club was represented by 11 members; Joe and Sally Etheridge visited the show but having strived to get his model out of his home, could in no way get it into the car! He is said to be building a larger van now!

This year we decided to hold a Spring Exhibition in addition to the autumn, just to make life more busy and interesting. The Y.M.C.A. at Stockton was chosen. Not quite on the scale of our November show, it was nevertheless almost as large and ran on the same lines. Hampered by hot weather we did not have the attendance expected, but agreed that the venture was very worthwhile. There can be little doubt that this show was a success as far as models and modellers go. The show made a very small profit of just about £5.00 from an outlay of about £40.00, when we had hoped to use this new venture as a means of swelling the general fund, but this was not so.

Bill Butterfield, our Chairman, is to be thanked for doing all of the spadework and eventual arrangements at Stockton, which provided an opportunity for members of the N.E.M.S. and others to meet for a whole day. The models were of a high standard, it is a credit to the Society to put on such a show which illustrates the keenness of young and older members. It should be added that the Chairman was asked to broadcast on Radio Cleveland the day before, and he did so, being taken to the studios by taxi. (Frank Beadle's model of "Big Boy" Union Pacific Locomotive)

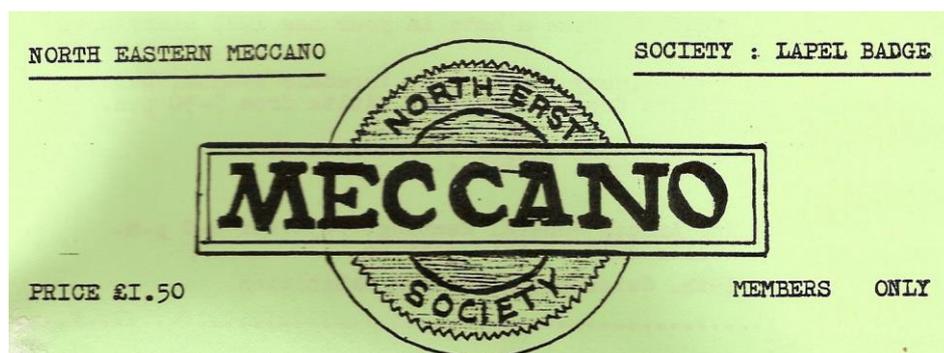


Another Victorian Fayre at Shildon on June 13th Then at Blakestone Comp. School Fete on the 27th followed by Egglecliffe Comp. School Fete early in July, with a short break until we returned to show models again at the Bedale School Hobbies Exhibition in October.



**Aveling & Porter 10 ton Steam Roller built by Chris Barron with
A No. 10 set Gantry Crane built by Bob Robson at Bedale School
Model Exhibition**

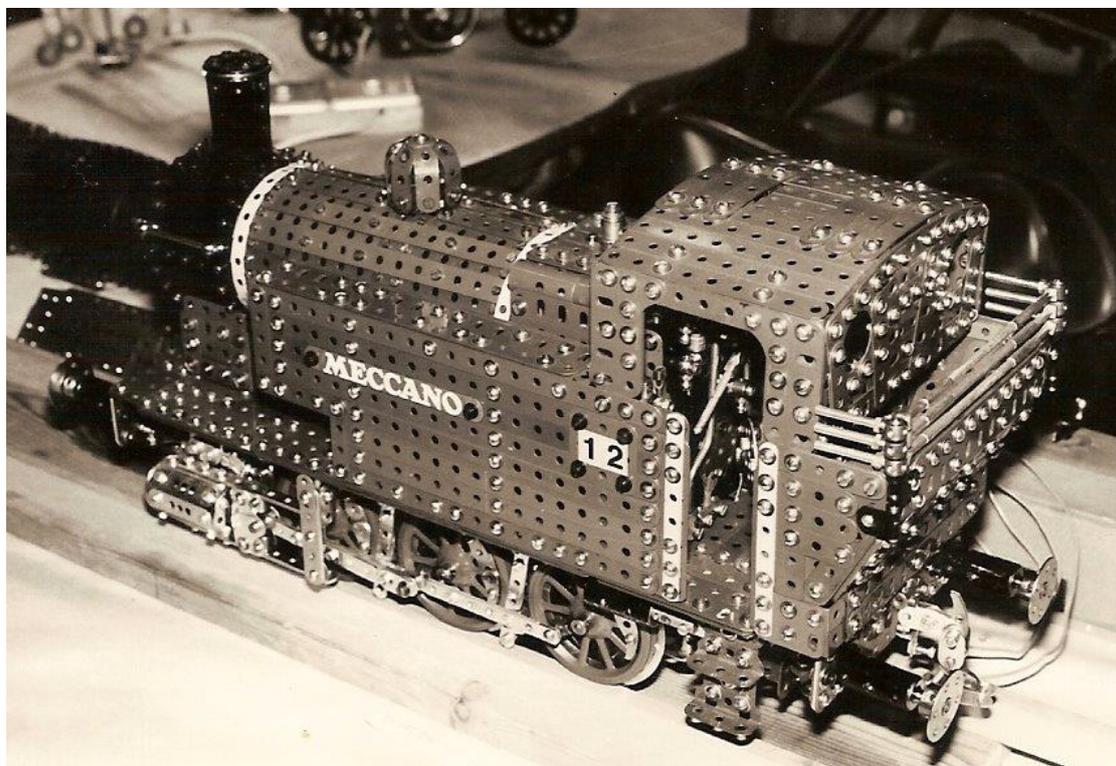
In the November issue of the club magazine No.14 Chris Barron has produced a drawing of the club badge, Chris has been the prime mover in getting this badge for the Society. The cost of producing the badge has been £1.30 each with profit of the remainder to Society funds, thanks to Chris for his efforts in this new venture, which is a worthy compliment to the N.E.M.S. It was agreed at the meeting before the exhibition, when the first sales were offered, that the badge be available to members only.



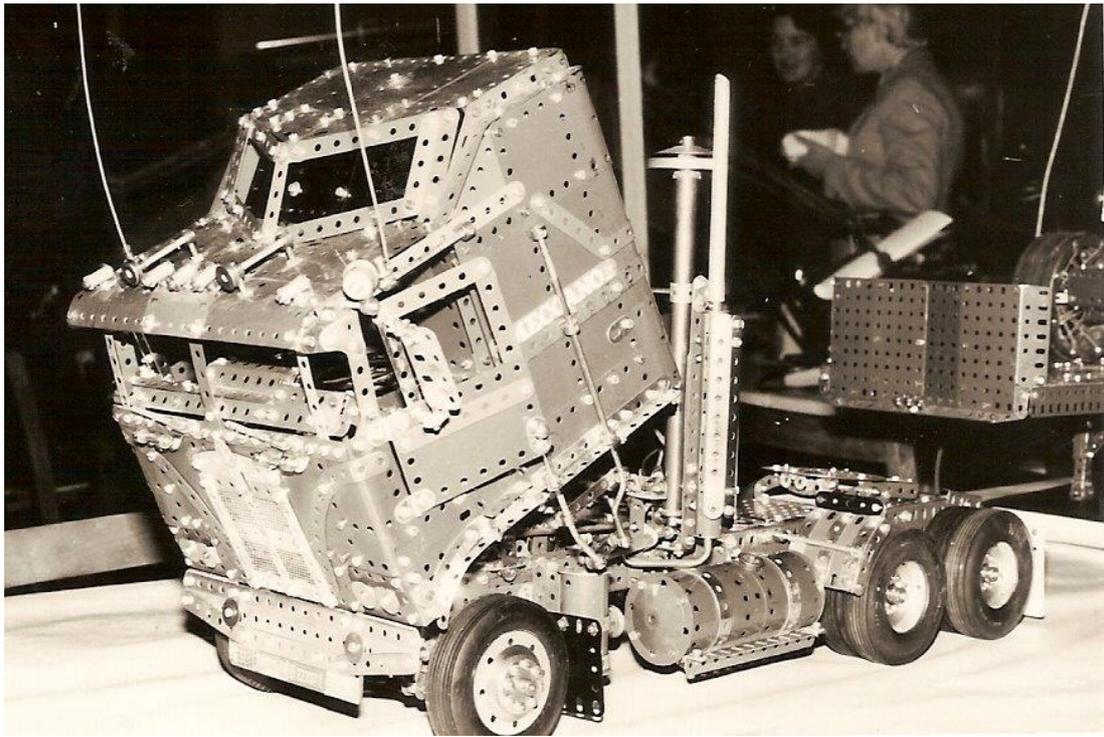
Preparations were well advanced for our main November Exhibition when a few stalwarts arranged the tabling and other items on the Friday evening, we had to now bring in extra tables to the 230 feet available at the hall; all were covered with the newsprint paper found on roll ends. We felt this presented the models much clearer.

The Exhibition broke all records with an attendance of 718, last year being 640 a record up to then. Costing £213 to stage there was a small profit of £23.92 not a very healthy margin by any means but we were still charging a mere 40p entry for adults and reduced rates for families of four, who could gain entry for £1.00.

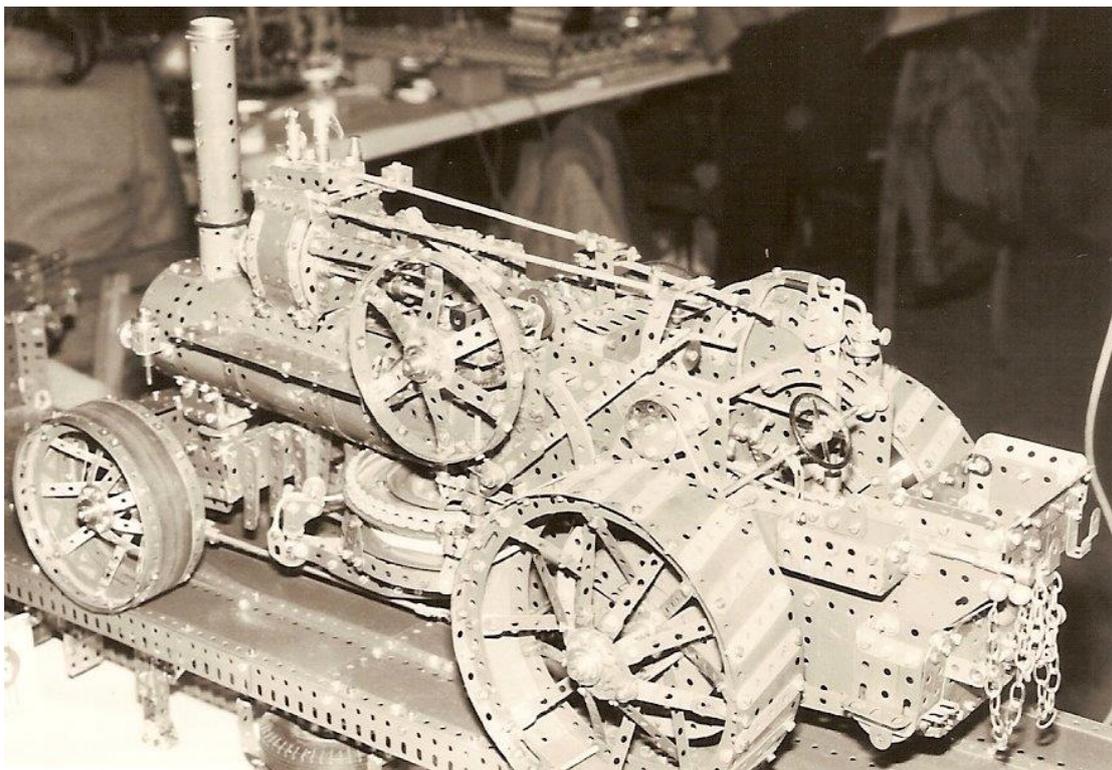
Although there were fewer models than in 1981, there was in fact less space on the tables, because most models were of a much larger type than in previous years, one model was over 12 feet high, with a few very near being the same, another model was over 12 feet long, this also had a few contenders for similar lengths, even the Juniors were requesting about 3 feet of space per model.



0 - 6 - 0 Tank Engine built by John Fuller



Kenworth Aerodyne Tractor unit & semi-trailer built by Tony Clark



Fowler Ploughing Engine also built by Tony Clark

A new feature this year was the Model Description Sheets, each modeller filling in details of his models, instead of the laborious task of someone listing them, it also ensured that none were missing from the list and saved looking for exhibitors at lunch! Also new this year was the introduction of a Certificate given to everyone who exhibited a model which was very well received.

The anticipated prizes did not arrive this year, due to internal troubles at Palitoy or Meccano Ltd, so we had to make do with cash prizes, hence the smaller profit margin.

A survey on how people found out about the Exhibition, also on what they thought of it, produced such remarks as 'Fantastic' and never seen anything like it! We had two selected judges each year, usually one of whom was the winner from the previous year; in 1982 the judges were Mike Pashley and Alf Dean, two experienced people.

Adults Section

- 1st. Prize John Fuller - 0 - 6 - 0 Tank Engine
- 2nd. Prize John McDonald - Westland Lysander Aircraft
- 3rd. Prize David Dalton - Dumper Truck

Junior Section

- 1st. Prize Mark Barron - Corvette
- 2nd. Prize Andrew Dunning - Stock Car
- 3rd. Prize Hazel Storr - Dalek

We also had a hard working band of ladies in the separate kitchen and eating area, the team was usually headed by Mrs. Jean Beadle and Mrs. Sally Etheridge, and exhibitors and public were kept well fed. So ended 1982, we look forward to the next year.

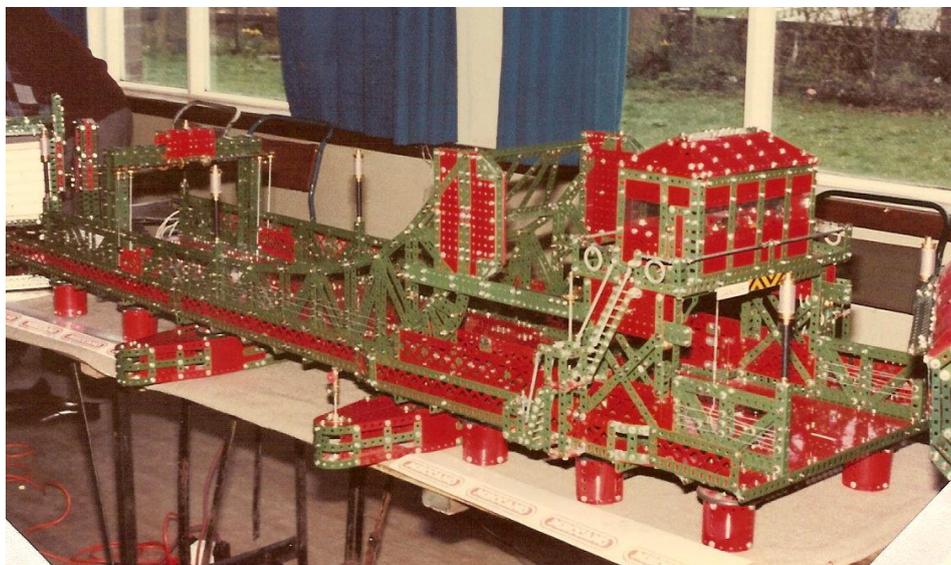
Now into 1983 the 8th Year. On New Year's Day the first of a series of exhibitions were held at the Ambulance Station, Guisborough, Cleveland, in aid of the BBC Blue Peter Appeal. Fortunately for one member of N.E.M.S. the leading light of the Guisborough Meccano fraternity, Charlie Archer, couldn't make it, so thankful Ray Storr remained a light shade of green safe from the public view.

However, on the 8th January, Charlie Archer, Andrew Flecknor, Bill Seaton and Frank Beadle, turned out complete with models. Also showing were model boats, die-cast cars and buses, timber models and '00' train displays and layouts. Add to all this raffles, bring and buy sales, piped music and a film, after which it is easy to see why the exhibition was held over through Sunday. There appears to have been about 3000 people through the show over the three days and the effort raised about £225.

The 1st Meeting was held on the 2nd February we hope everyone managed some model building during the Christmas break; this was a very well attended meeting with an attendance of 16 members. The main point of discussion was of course, the recent Exhibition held in November, though we did find it difficult to better the event, we still had one or two improvements for this year (1983) as the hall had already been booked for November 12th, this being done just after the meeting. Note from the exhibition, Bryan Reay lost a box of nuts (not peanuts), but No. 37's which he left at the exhibition. Has anyone seen this box, did Bryan ever get his nuts back? Also at this meeting we welcomed the following to swell our ranks further still for last year; Mr. Keith Hughes, Mr. Brian Chaffer, Mr. Fred Clarke and Mr. Bob Robson, after a very moderate start to 1982, we are now in total 48 members.

Our next meeting was the AGM on March 2nd. This was a well-attended meeting with 14 members present, and dealt with the business side of the club. The meeting was also a model meeting and on display were, an almost completed very large face shovel excavator by Joe Etheridge, in blue and yellow, a motor car chassis frame by Frank Beadle, in all gold, and a miniature (4 ½" long) bulldozer by Bill Butterfield, in blue and silver.

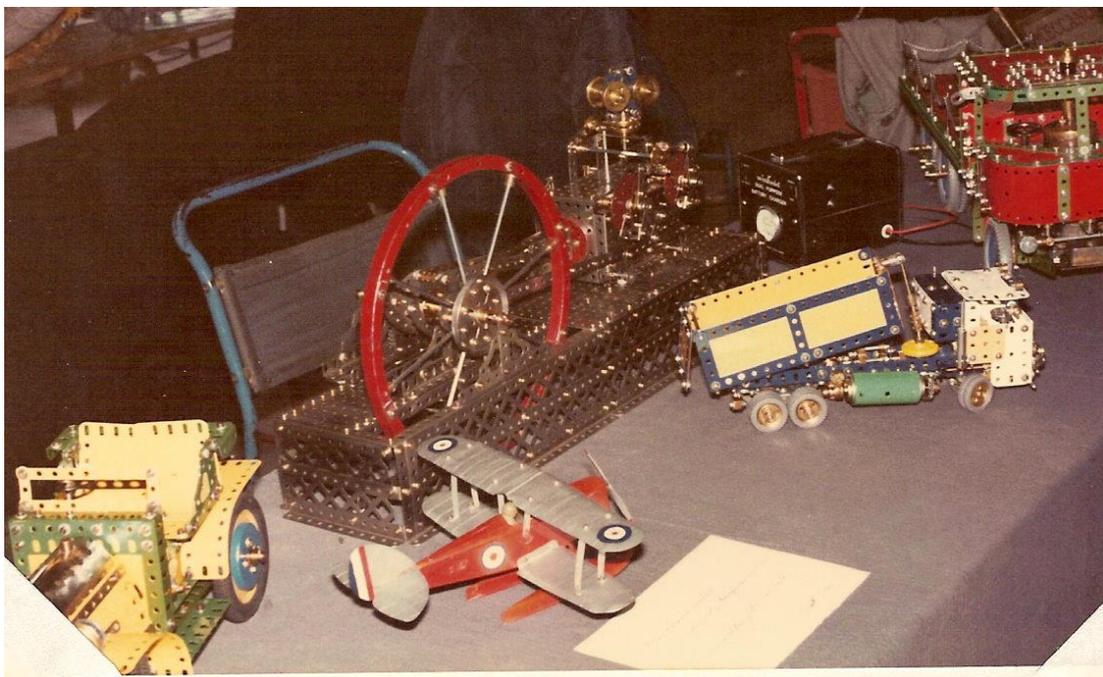
The Guisborough Meccano Club Exhibition was held on the 19th. March, and was again well supported by members of N.E.M.S. It is always a lively show and almost 300 people saw the colourful array of models. The Darlington & Stockton Times carried two pictures of the show, one of Bill Butterfield and Charles Archer inspecting Bill's Bridge model, the other picture of Bill Seaton & his son Mark with a fine model traction engine.



Bill Butterfield's Grimsby Corporation Road Bridge



**Westland Lysander Plane Built by John McDonald
With a 7' wing span, moving elevators, ailerons, rudder & fitted with
disc brakes and a variable pitch prop**



A selection of models built by Geoff Coles

Everyone enjoyed themselves, there were several members of the N.M.M.G. there, and Meccano was certainly kept to the forefront in the Cleveland area.

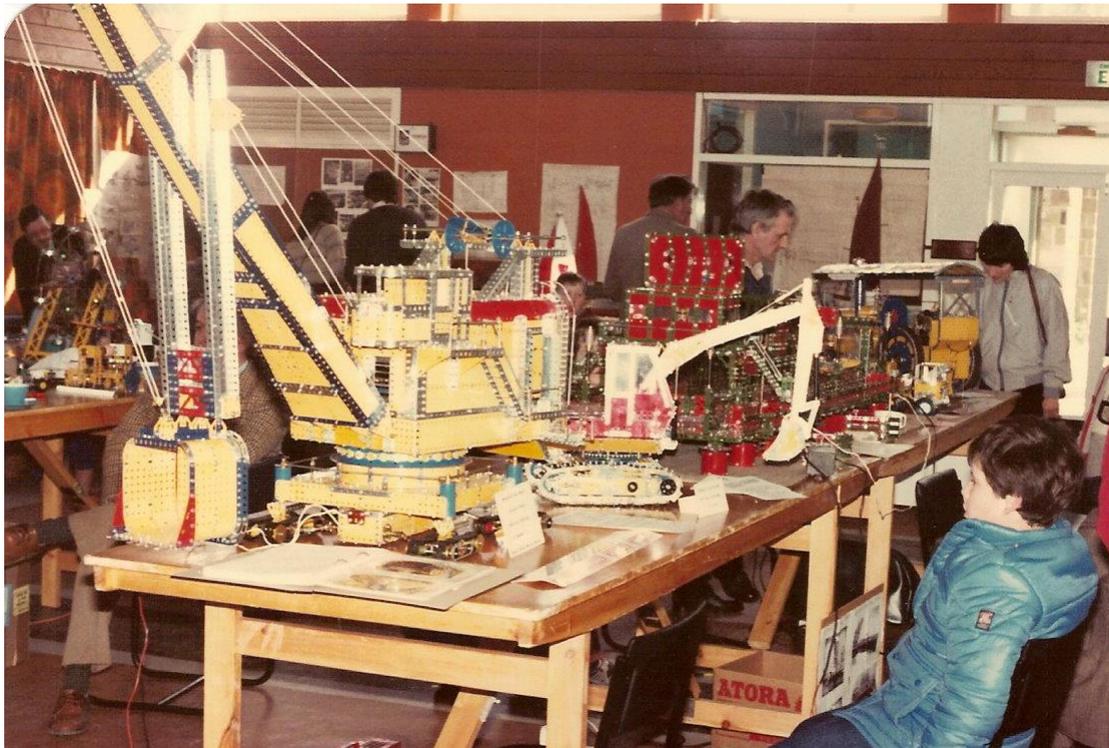
CHESHIRE HOMES - MARSKE

On the 9th April, the Guisborough Ambulance Station organised yet another model exhibition at the Cheshire Homes with five of our members turned out for the Meccano side.

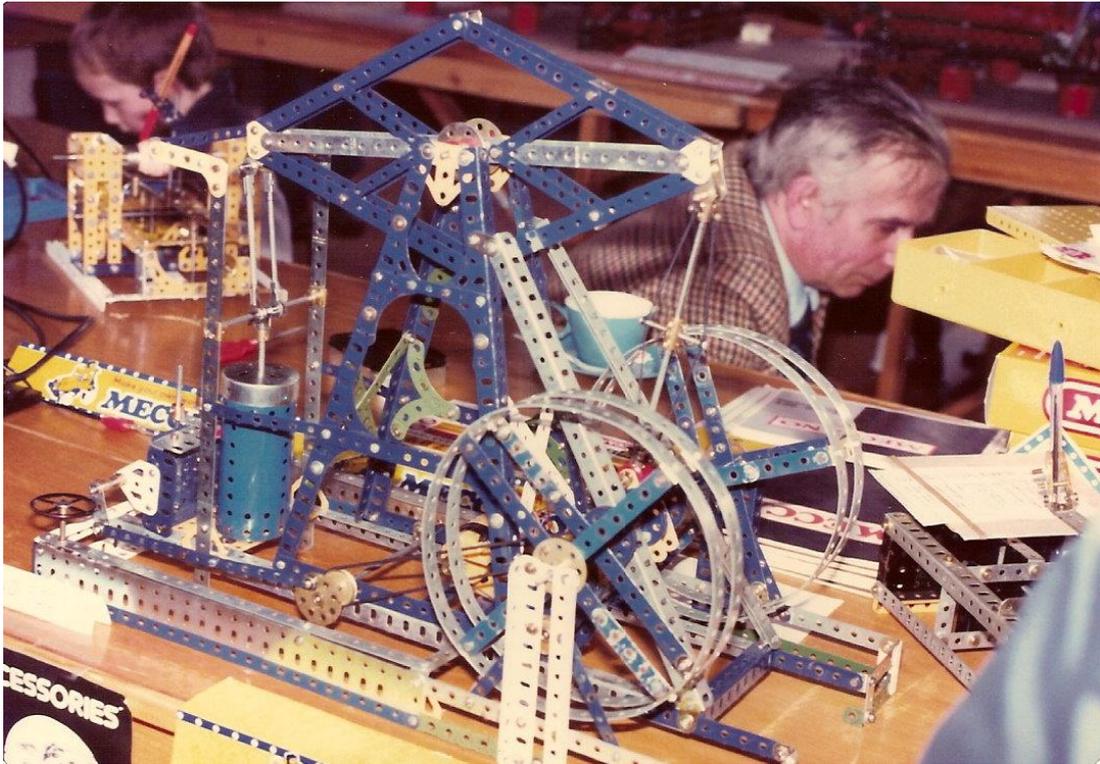
This model show at Marske was opened by the New Seekers



Charles Archer with the New Seekers



**Mechanical Face Shovel & Hymac Excavator built by Joe Etheridge
Part of the Meccano section at Marske**



Charles Archer with his Beam Engine



A selection of die cast models at Marske

A new event for the club was the Hobbies, Models & Crafts Exhibition at Eastbourne Comp. School in Darlington. This two day event was over the Cup Final weekend on the 21st & 22nd May. It was very well attended by the general public on both days, especially the Sunday, even though heavy rain prevailed on both days.

We could have done with far more models to fill the space which we requested early in the year, but the 40 feet of table area was quite well used on the Sunday. Those who exhibited models were as follows:-

Bill Butterfield 1/30 scale model of Grimsby Corporation Road Bridge in red and green, this model took up 10 feet of space; he also demonstrated a Loaded Pallet Inverter also in red and green, driven by two E20R motors. Joe Etheridge needed extreme height for his 8 feet high model of a Dockyard Crane, which was in current colours and driven by 5 PDU motors and 3 crane motors, all remotely controlled from a Meccano Switch Box. He also showed a Hymac Power Shovel driven by 4 Crane and 2 PDU motors, how many more motors has he left ? Bob Robson displayed a well-built Three Cylinder Marine Engine in current colours, driven by a Stoky's 20v motor. Chris Barron put on display a fine model of an Aveling & Porter Compound Steam Roller built to a scale of 2" to 1 ft. and powered by a mains motor.

Mark Taylor (junior) demonstrated a fully remote controlled Car Chassis, complete with steering and rear spur differential through a splined shaft. The model was controlled by a Meccano switch system.

Frank Beadle, although not present through illness, managed to have his 4 - 8 - 8 - 4 Union Pacific Locomotive and tender transported there by varied means, this model taking up over 12 feet of space, built in red and green and powered by two mains motors. He also showed an 1898 Stationary Overtyp Engine built in pre 1926 Nickel Plated parts, also driven by a 240v mains motor concealed inside the boiler.

The Darlington local newspaper, the Evening Despatch carried a picture of the U.P. Locomotive the following Monday, but the caption did not mention the Club.

The event was a useful and successful show, demonstrating a very wide variety of hobbies, even to model boats in an artificial lake.

June saw us back in the Northern Rock Building Society in central Darlington for another window display, this was for a month, with many interested onlookers to view the rather small models due to the size of the window. Models from the window were transferred to two venues the same day as follows: Egglecliffe School PTA Fete this was attended by Bill Butterfield and Joe Etheridge also from Lee Barnby (Junior member)

Also on the same day at another entirely new event the Fire Engine Rally at Teesside Airport where we were in a marquee for two days. This was

attended by Dave Dalton and Frank Beadle on the Saturday with Bob Robson and Frank on the Sunday. Good model displays but disappointing turnouts of members, when both events were well attended by the public. N.E.M.S. at Marske on Sea, Ray Storr, Andrew Flecknor and Charles Archer showed models at the Marske Leisure Centre (for the fourth time this year) on September the 1st, then at Loftus Community Centre where they were joined by Bill Butterfield and his wonderful Bridge, bringing many looks of amazement from the public. Ray Storr was awarded 1st. Prize, Charles Archer 2nd and 3rd at Marske Carnival. The 'East Cleveland Branch' of the N.E.M.S. have attended no fewer than 11 events of one kind and another in that area this year --- if that is not keeping Meccano on the map we don't know what is?

The Bedale P.T.A. Model Exhibition on the 1st & 2nd October was well attended by club members as follows: On both days Chris Barron with his Steam Roller, Dave Dalton had models on both days, Trailer type Concrete Mixer, Rise and Fall Automatic Tower, Snorkel type Platform and finally an Articulated Lorry. On the Sunday, Bob Robson showed a Fairground Steam Yacht, Bill Butterfield his Grimsby Road Bridge and Joe Etheridge with a Scammel Tractor and Articulated Tank Transporter he also had his Hymac Excavator.

The event was again a great success and well attended by the public, seeing many varied hobbies apart from Meccano which was well to the fore and created great interest as usual.

Work was well on for our annual exhibition in Darlington, although last minute things are always hectic in the few weeks before the show. Although the club advertised in the Darlington and Stockton Times, the Evening Despatch, the Railway Modeller and Model Engineer, we are always trying to get some 'pre - show' publicity in local papers. This year 1983 it happened, all at once, from all angles.

The Northern Echo, the large 350,000 circulation in the North East, were on the phone to Frank late on Wednesday 9th after our usual request with poster and details three days before to ask for a line in the 'Outings' free column. They wanted a picture of some models and details for their topic 'John North' column.

Frank could only arrange for Mark Taylor to be at his home at 4-00 p.m. after which a frantic modelling session to complete his Helicopter which was shown with Mark's Rail Mounted Excavator the following morning in that Newspaper.

During the Wednesday the Evening Despatch with a Darlington circulation of 18,000, this also covers Newton Aycliffe and many other surrounding villages, also requested model pictures.

On the Thursday morning, Frank got a phone call from BBC Radio Cleveland at lunch time, requesting a broadcast on Friday! Frank

requested 'how about 4-00 p.m. today' they agreed and the broadcast of 4 minutes was made at the Town Hall in Darlington.

Surprise, surprise, Tyne Tees TV on the phone at lunchtime on Friday requesting to screen models which they presumed were set up on that afternoon for the show ---- we do work so models were set up on the Friday. As they were busy at the weekend that source fizzled out.

**Meccano just grew and grew
so I had to extend the house**

John North

WHEN schoolteacher Frank Beadle ran out of room for all his Meccano sets, he came up with a simple solution.

Build an extension to the house!

Frank has been a Meccano nut for more than 40 years and founded the North-Eastern Meccano Society after placing a small advert in The Northern Echo.

The society now has more than 50 members — most of them adults — and they are holding a giant exhibition on their work this weekend.

Members from York to Newcastle, will be displaying their handiwork at Darlington's Bondgate Hall on Saturday.

Frank himself has built a special scale model of a Chinook helicopter for the exhibition — with a seven-foot span.

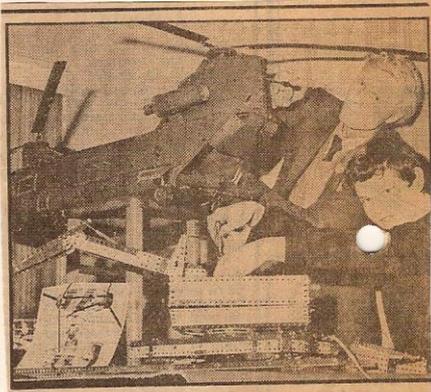
And he will also be showing his masterpiece, a 13-foot long model of a Union Pacific locomotive.

Frank has 3wt of Meccano parts at his Darlington home, some dating back to the 1920s, and he usually has several large models complete at any one time — but he does have to take them apart occasionally.

"This was a hovercraft three weeks ago," he said, indicating the helicopter.

J.N., being completely cack-handed, could never get on with the tiny nuts and bolts of Meccano, but Frank thinks differently. "In a racey world you can get completely absorbed in it."

The secret of his success? "I have a very patient wife . . ."



Frank Beadle, secretary of the North Eastern Meccano Society, and junior member Mark Taylor, put finishing touches to their models.

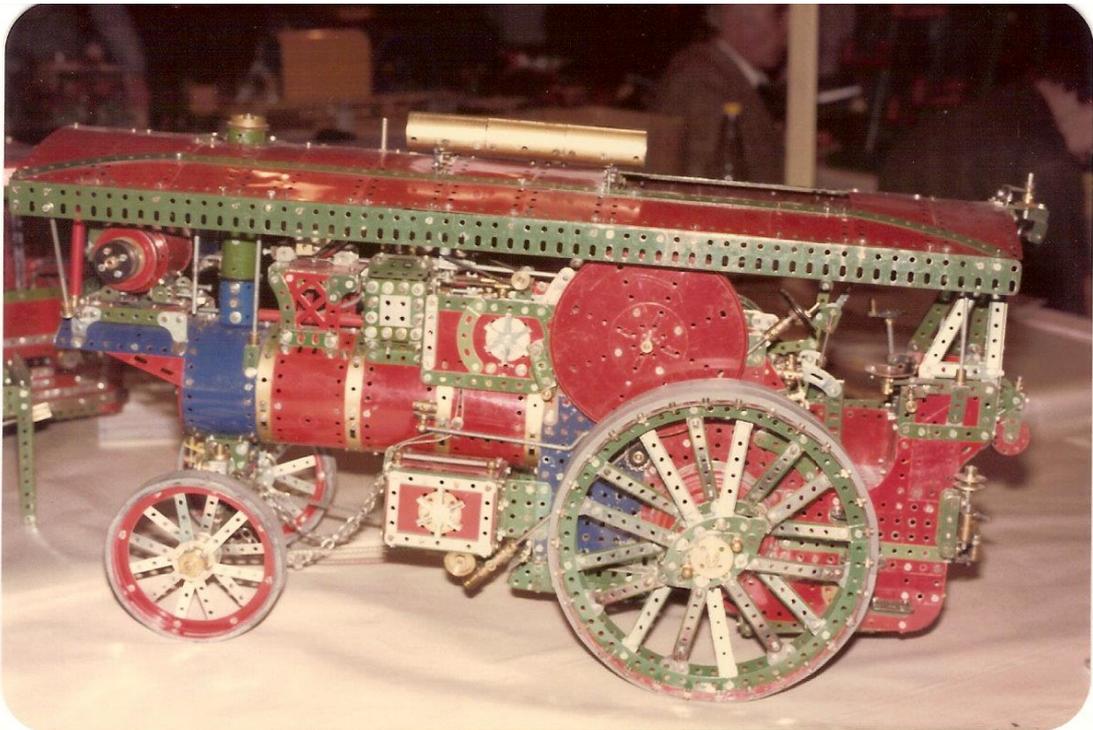
The Northern Echo report on Thursday 10th. November

This was the 8th Annual Exhibition staged by the N.E.M.S. and it attracted about the same number of spectators as other years, with equally as many modellers supporting it.

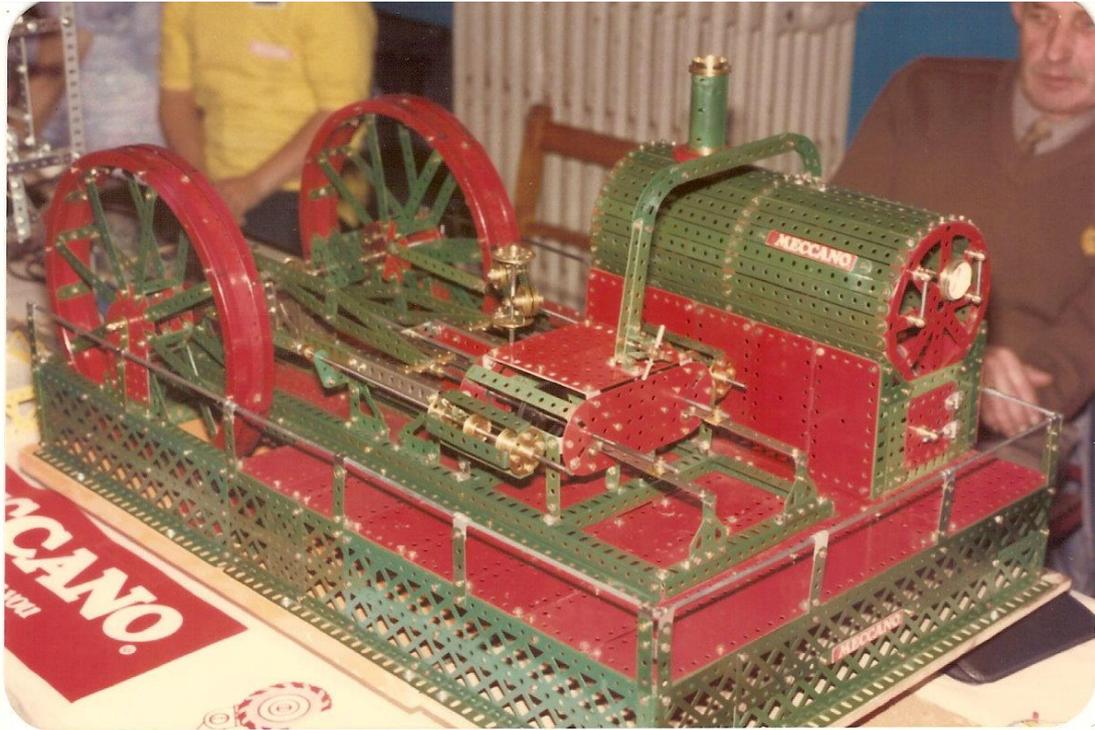
It was a fine mild day which helped for those from other clubs who travelled from afar and for whose support we are grateful at this show which fills a hall 80 x 40 feet in addition to the stage. There were many more juniors models than usual and the N.E.M.S. aims to encourage younger members and visitors to take an interest in the hobby. Adult models were as good as ever, but there were perhaps less very large structures than the previous year.



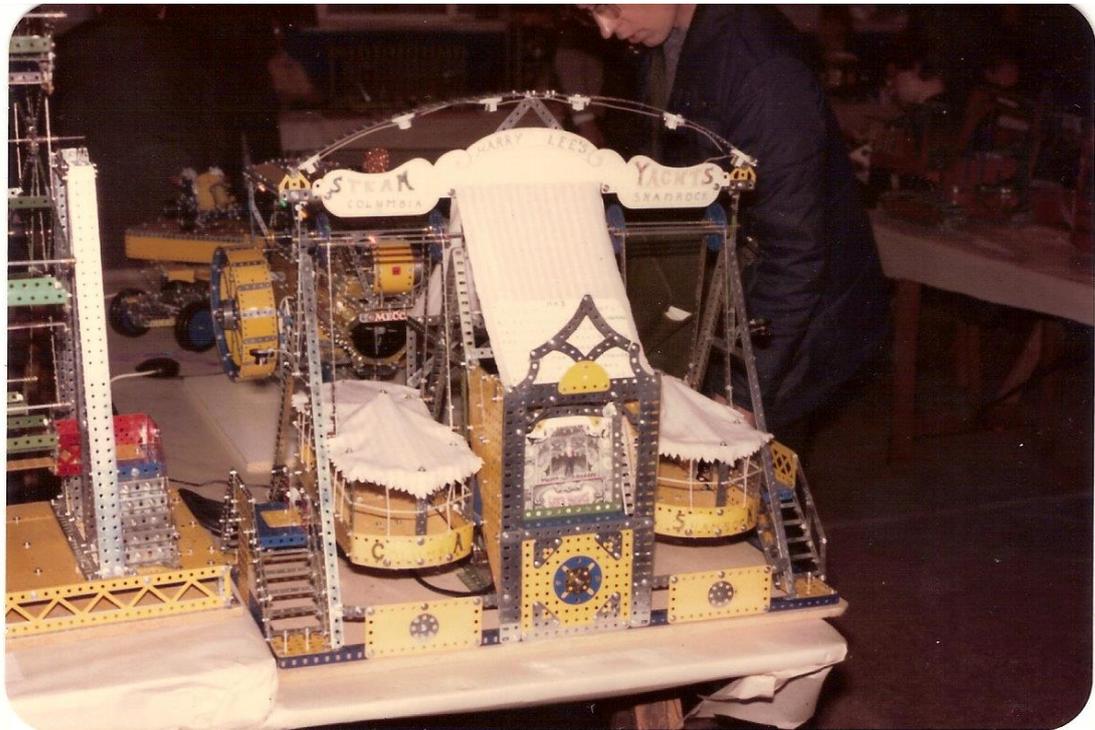
James Reay on Bryan Reay's Tricycle Car



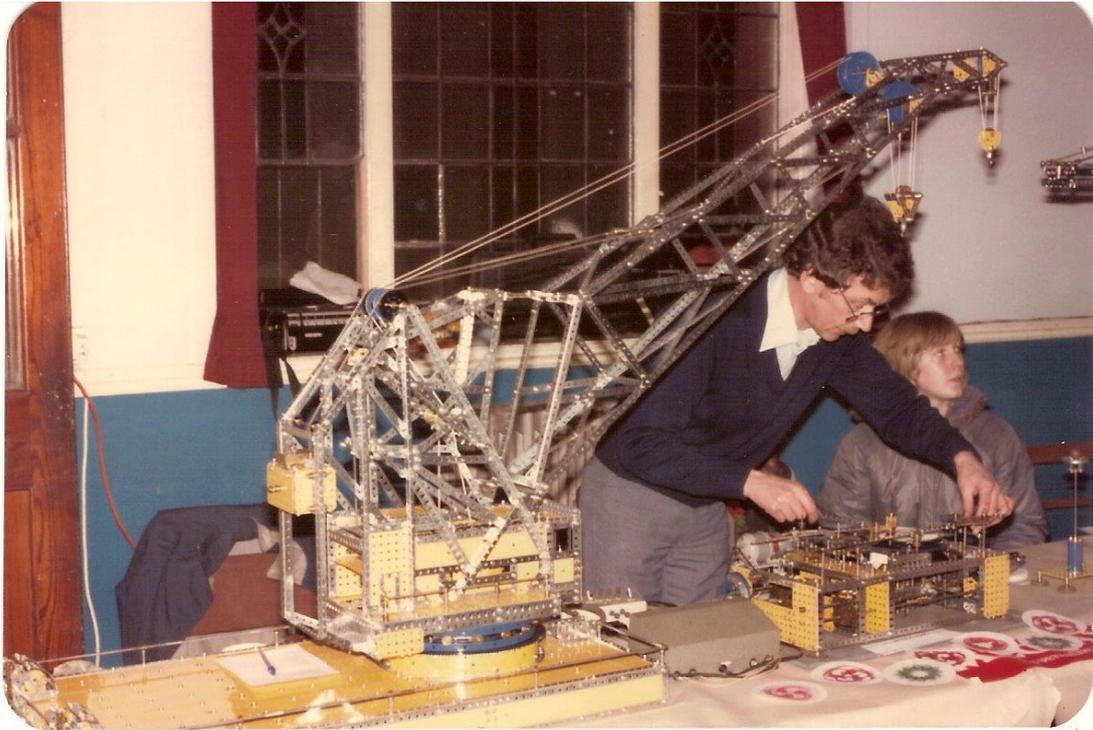
Burrell Showman's Engine built by Tony Clark



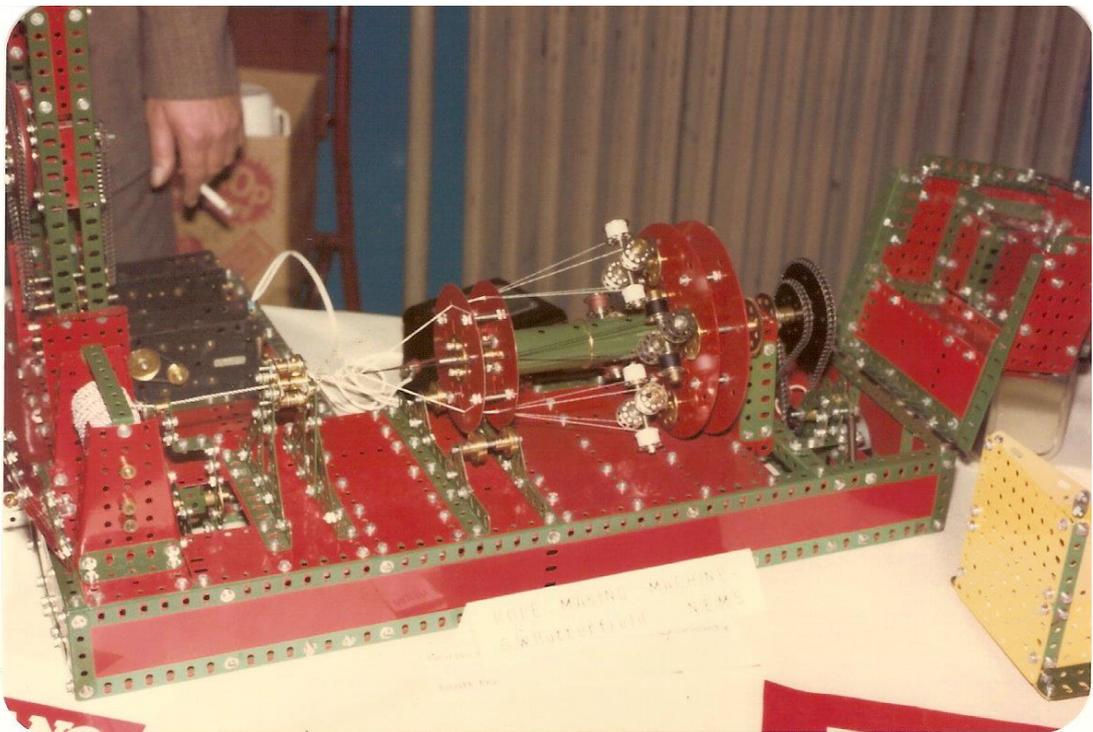
Twin Cylinder Steam Engine built by J. D. Finlayson



Steam Yachts built by Bernard Sage



200 Ton Floating Crane & Meccanograph built by Barry Wilkinson



**Rope Making Machine - start 16 strands to 4 strands to 1 strand
Built by Bill Butterfield**

Exhibitors were pleased with the catering arrangements for hot meals arranged by the ladies, who, as mothers and wives, support the exhibition in a splendid way, in addition to fathers who help at the door, allowing modellers to be with their exhibits.

On a practical note the exhibition cost £220.00 to stage and a profit of £28.00 resulted, against last year's £23.00 profit. The Club is indeed most grateful to The Palitoy Company for donating six prizes and advertising material for the show. All exhibitors were presented with specially made certificates as last year on behalf of the Society.

The judges this year were Joe Etheridge a founder member of the N.E.M.S. and Chris Barron, Treasurer, they devised a marking sheet for this long and difficult task and the results were as follows:

Adult Section 1st. Bob Robson - Automatic Ship Coaler
2nd. John McDonald - Armoured Car
3rd. Bill Butterfield - Rope Making Machine

Junior Section 1st. Mark Barron - Aircraft Undercarriage
2nd. James & Edwin Reay - Transporter Bridge
3rd. Mark Taylor - Rail Mounted Excavator



1st. Prize winner Bob Robson with Bill Butterfield and Frank Beadle

The last exhibition for 1983 was at Great Ayton on the 3rd December, at which 4 of our members gave their support to this small exhibition held in aid of elderly and handicapped persons. Although the number of visitors was not great, this was more than made up for by the serious interest shown and the number of intelligent questions asked about the models, and the availability of Meccano. Charles Archer - Double Ferris Wheel, Ray Storr had his Fairground Chair - o - Planes, Joe Etheridge with his Hymac Excavator and Bill Butterfield with his Grimsby Road Bridge and his Rope Making Machine. This then ended another great year for the Society.

1984 The Ninth Year.

The first meeting of the year was on the 1st February, and extremely well attended during a break in the previous bad weather of late January; there was a good display of models.

The highlight of the meeting was a half hour Video of the November Exhibition. It was with great interest that members watched this half hour video showing almost all the models working, the colour added to the effect, as well as the dubbed background music of Chariots of Fire and Blue Peter Theme music.

Perhaps we are a first in this venture! It certainly brought to life again models seen, or perhaps looked hurriedly at in the hustle of our November Show. To see the actual working models, and sometimes their builders (but not working) was of very great interest. The video was run through twice and like a film seen more than once, other things were noticed on the second run.

We thank Chris Barron the club Treasurer who made the arrangements initially before the exhibition and brought the tape, also Barry Wilkinson who supplied all the necessary gear to show the tape to members, this was shown at Frank Beadle's home and he only had the TV medium.

In actual fact we saw two videos as Chris had also recorded the Nationwide Tyne Tees Broadcast of the N.W.M.G. Exhibition at Whitehaven in Cumbria in December, this was a well presented show in a Museum on the West Coast, with John Fuller's fine models figuring in the display. What a pity we had no written information on this show before it actually took place, but it did put Meccano on the map in a hitherto 'grey' area.

We welcome a new adult member, our first from the Continent, Monsieur Jean Beauchene of Nantes, France a 'postal' member because of the distance the club are pleased to welcome him.

After the winter meeting, the AGM was held on the 7th. March. This left subs at the same level but requested that juniors pay their subs at the time of the AGM instead of at the Exhibition as had been the custom.

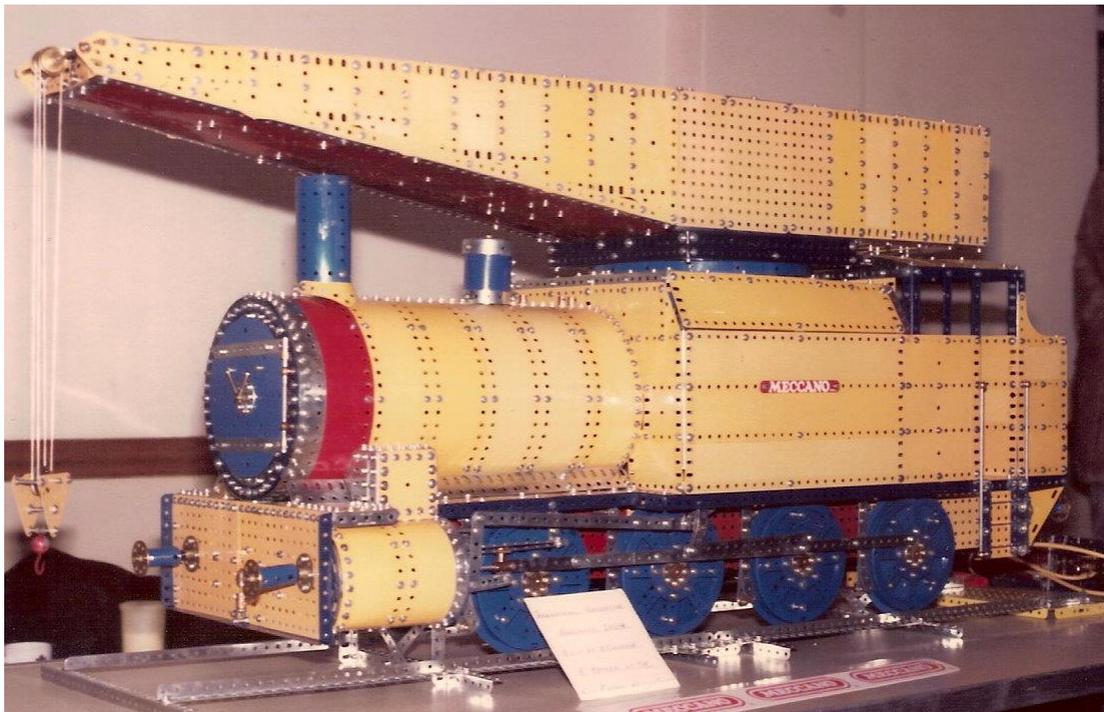
Notes from NEMS News April 1984. The Society has made great progress since 5 adults assembled at the home of Frank Beadle in March 1975, in answer to an advertisement in the Northern Echo.

After membership extended to about 35 within about 18 months, we then had a fairly level membership for a year or two, since then we have attained the aim of 50 members and overtaken that number in the last year.

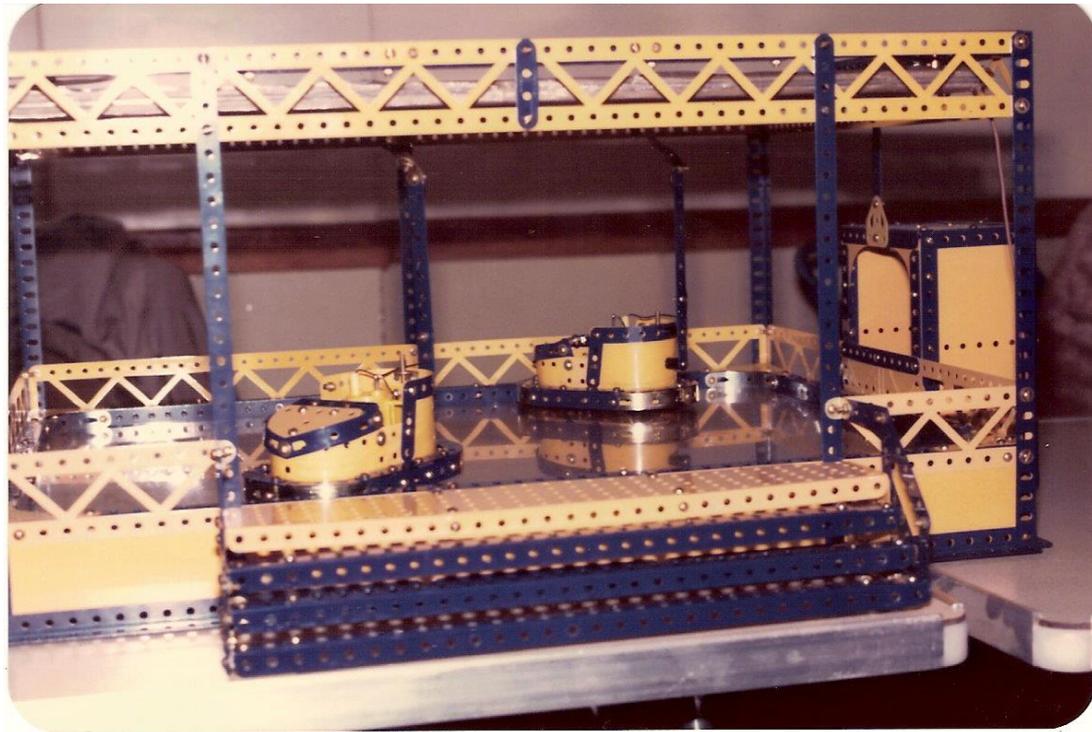
Although we have several 'postal' members, both in the UK and now abroad, who can never attend the meeting nights held every six weeks, these regular meetings in themselves, as well as the 5 magazines and 5 or 6 Newsletters each year, do make the club a living reality.

Some clubs are only able to hold two model meetings each year, others are like us, with fairly regular general meetings at which members can talk, discuss and compare notes on models.

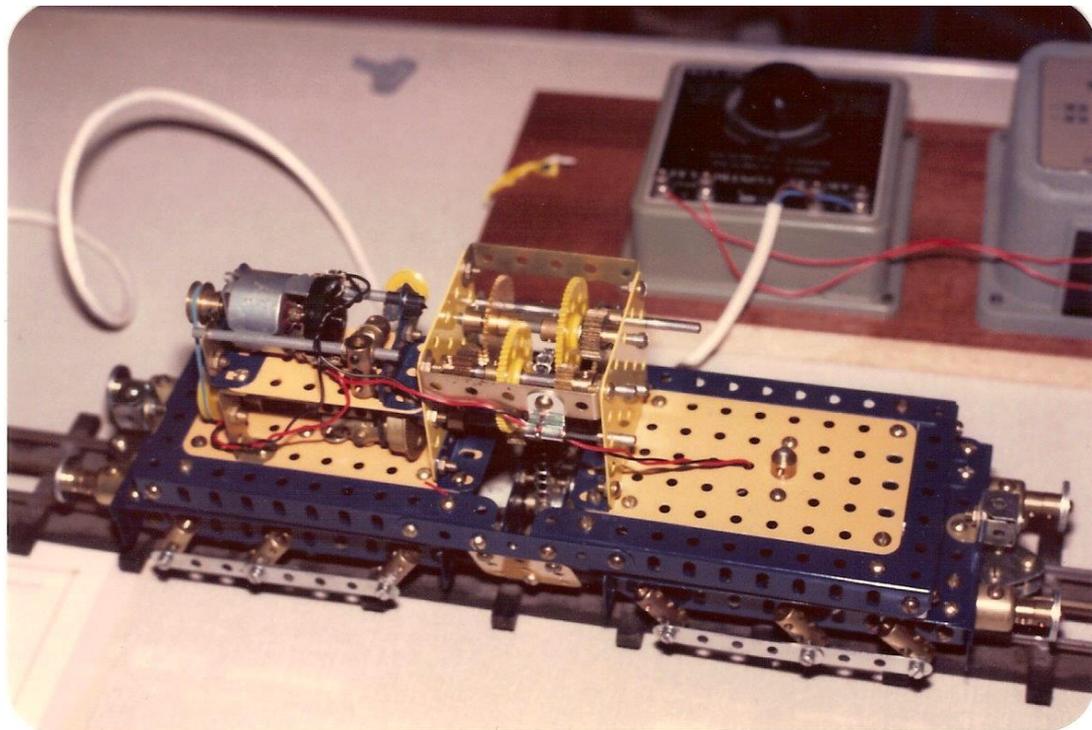
Events during the year began with the Guisborough Exhibition support shortly after the AGM on the 17th. March. This was again very well attended by our members, with about 15 adults and 6 juniors showing models. Jim Finlayson made the long trip from Scotland by car, staying overnight in Middlesbrough and is to be congratulated on the marathon journey.



Locomotive Crane built by Joe Etheridge



Dodge Cars (Self Steered) built by Michael J. Gray



Hunslet Narrow Gauge Shunter also by Michael J. Gray

Although well supported by modellers the general public did appear to be down a bit on previous years, but we can only give an indication from the standpoint of an exhibitor as we have no official report.

Frank Beadle, once again had a problem with the press, against his wishes the press featured his loco. He tried to tell them it had appeared in two N.E. newspapers but to no avail. The picture was in the Darlington & Stockton Times, a large circulation newspaper designed for outer areas of Cleveland, South Durham and North Yorkshire. It featured the loco plus his Helicopter, Charles Archer as organiser of the show, Frank and a bevy of beautiful girls!!! The reporters' idea, apparently the press men always wanted to take pictures of the 'Big Boy' Union Pacific Locomotive.

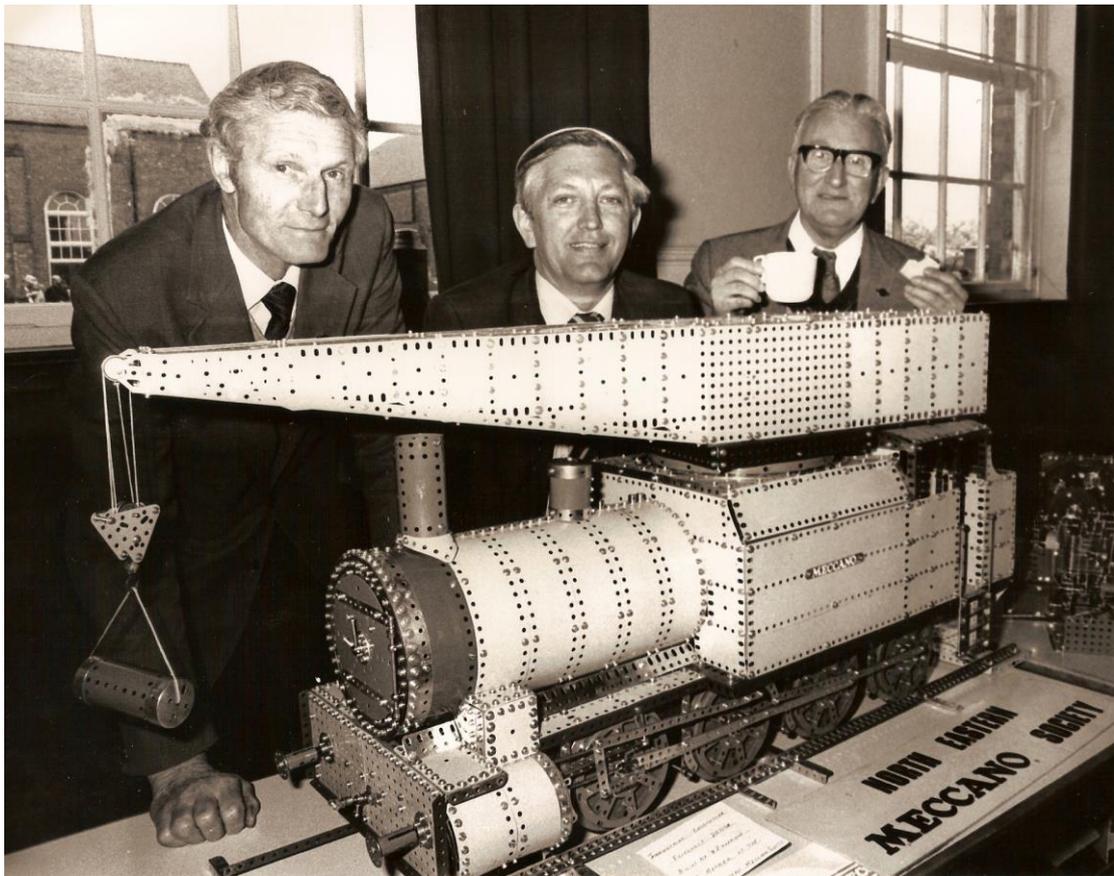
Just six days after the Guisborough show the Society put on a small show at the Mill Hill County Primary School, at Northallerton. At this time these smaller shows help to advertise our hobby and we are most grateful to the members who exhibited at this event.

At about this time we received news that Durham County were drilling rig boring holes for soil samples in the Bondgate Church yard and roundabout, this is an indication that the inner ring toad (phase four) is getting nearer and we fear that we will not be able to have more than perhaps the next exhibition fixed for this year, plus one in 1985 if we intend to hold one. The Council is obligated to build an alternative hall for the church, which will probably be on the car park to the left of the exhibition hall and church. We will have problems in 1986 we fear, certainly by 1987 as the Dolphin Centre (Darlington's new £17.3 million complex) is far too expensive at £250 per day for the Central Hall of 70 x 40 feet. Some happenings over the first few years in the North Eastern Meccano Society, Who was it who;

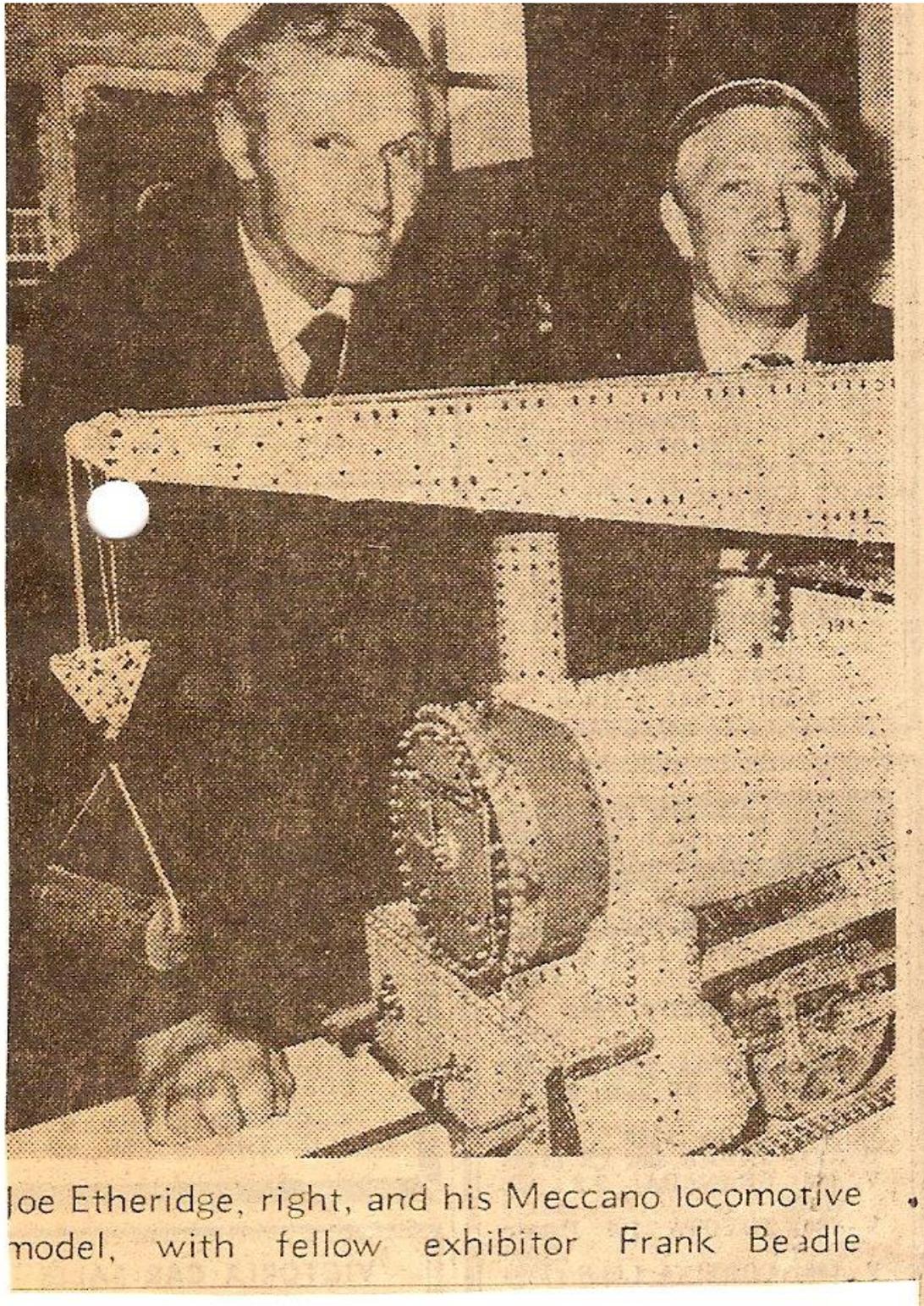
- *Built a life size Robot, left it standing in the corner of the living room and it fell onto his wife whilst she was dusting it?*
- *Built a massive Dockyard Crane, then never took it out for any show or event, because he could not get the thing out of the house?*
- *Discovered a No. 10 set model Cargo Ship 8 feet long had been left seemingly without an owner, at the end of a Bondgate Hall Exhibition?*
- *Built a large W.W. II Bomber, and fused all one side of the exhibition each time it was put in motion?*
- *Suggested we had a 'Miss Meccano' at our show?*
- *Built an automatic Bubble Blowing Machine which functioned without a hitch and covered most of our spectators with soap bubbles?*
- *Dried off Meccano strips in the frying pan?*
- *Built a massive Battleship, which reached the breakers yard just before the comments about it became too much to put up with?*
- *Built a Mouse Trap, to catch live mice, which it did in large numbers and frightened his wife?*
- *Built the famous Sludge Pump?*
- *Wrote all this rubbish???*

That's it now back to work!!!

North Road Museum Hobbies Exhibition organised by the Darlington Railway Preservation Society had a three day event over the Easter week end, this was well attended on the first day, poorly attended on the Sunday with a moderate attendance on the final day, often rather cold with the Goods Shed as the exhibition centre having large north facing doors. Although on the last two days the combined models of Frank, Joe and junior member Mark Taylor took up all of 30 feet of table, we could have done with a few more models to vary the load over the three days.



**This is the original photo taken at the North Road Museum with
from the left Frank Beadle, Joe Etheridge and Bill Butterfield, with
Joe's Locomotive Crane**



Joe Etheridge, right, and his Meccano locomotive model, with fellow exhibitor Frank Beadle

This is the picture that was in the local paper with Bill Butterfield missing.

Our next outing this year was at Eastbourne School PTA Hobbies Exhibition, Darlington. Attending this two day event for the second time, it attracted a great number of visitors on the first day, rather less the second, was this time at the east side of the town, and rather cold in an

unheated school. It was well supported by members who took up 32 feet of table rather than the 16 feet requested.

By now Skegness was becoming a very popular event to attend with several of our members going, this year it took place in June and was proving very popular with models from afar as well as the UK.

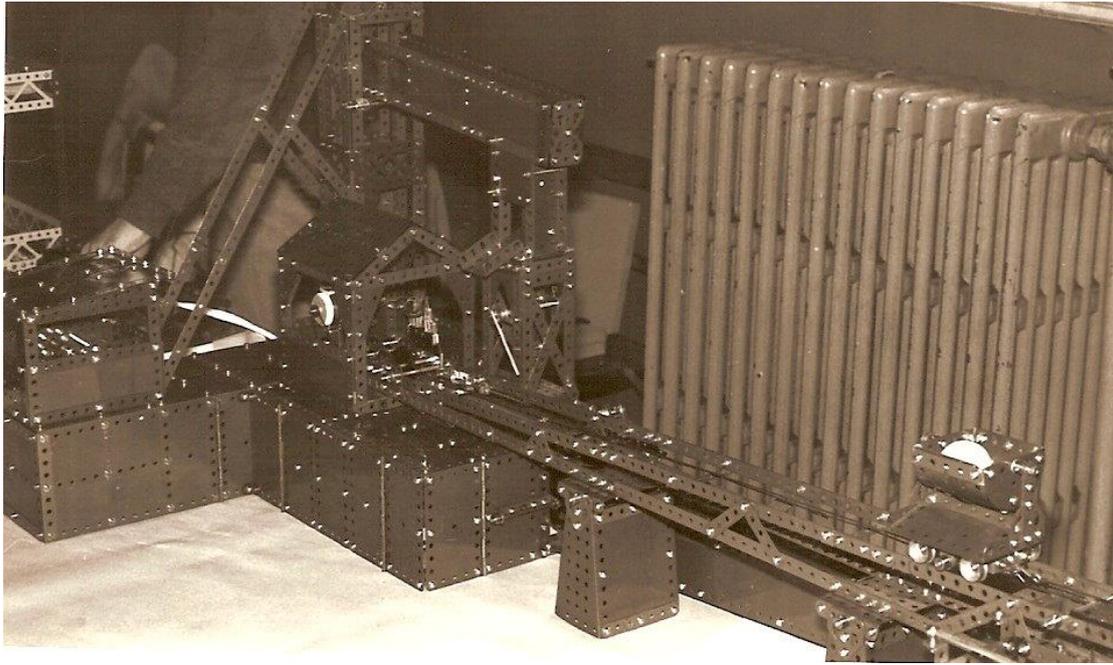
Following on from Skegness we were at Teesside Airport Fire Engine Rally this was held on 7th And 8th July from 11.00 a.m. each day. As last year we have about 10 feet of table in the marquee, with power from a nearby pavilion, note from Frank, don't bring any 13 foot models. This was again well attended by N.E.M.S. members.

October 5th Annual Model Exhibition at Bedale School PTA, was very poorly supported indeed with only Bob Robson exhibiting models on the Saturday, and no one at all on the Sunday.

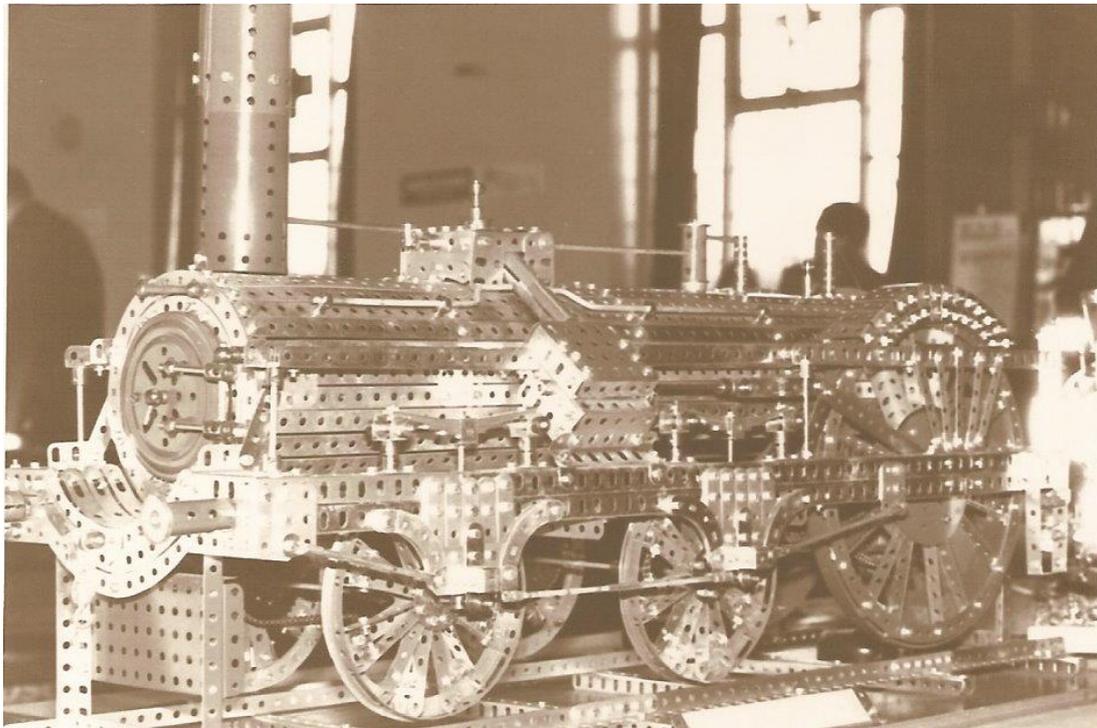
This is most unusual and it is the first time it has occurred, we usually are in the position of being able to fill at least 7m (over 20 feet) of table with a variety of models on the two days, at this exhibition which has on show everything from steam traction engines, barn engines, models of all kinds and a host of other things such as woodcarving etc., and is attended by a great number of spectators.

Perhaps we need to rethink when we commit ourselves to events, to ensure that we are able to provide some models on both days, and those with a limited amount of material for model building are at the stage where they have a model built. However, it has been very rare indeed if at all, that we have not been able to provide a model at a pre-arranged venue; normally we have more to show than there is table space for.

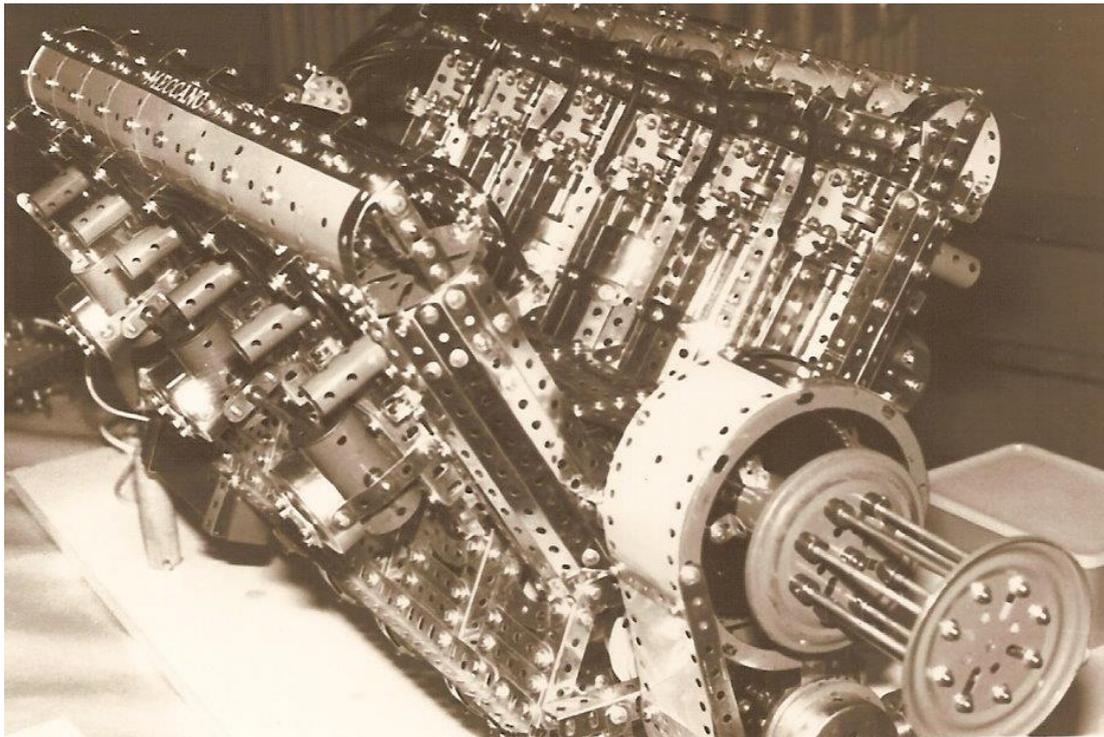
The final arrangements for our 9th Exhibition are now finished, we now have these prizes from Palitoy, consisting as per last year with 3 x 'A' Sets, 3 x 'B' Sets and 3 x 'C' Sets. The Society has written to thank them. Bill Butterfield is contacting Tyne Tees TV and Radio Cleveland. We should have about 150 posters out in the immediate and outlying areas. We hope to catch the attention of passers by on the day with the big banner and placards hung on drainpipes (with permission and a certain amount of agility!) early on the morning of the show. Posters have now gone to 14 Comprehensive Schools in and around Darlington. We will also have notes in the Darlington & Stockton Times, Evening Despatch and South Durham Times Newspapers, as well as the Railway Modeller and Model Engineer.



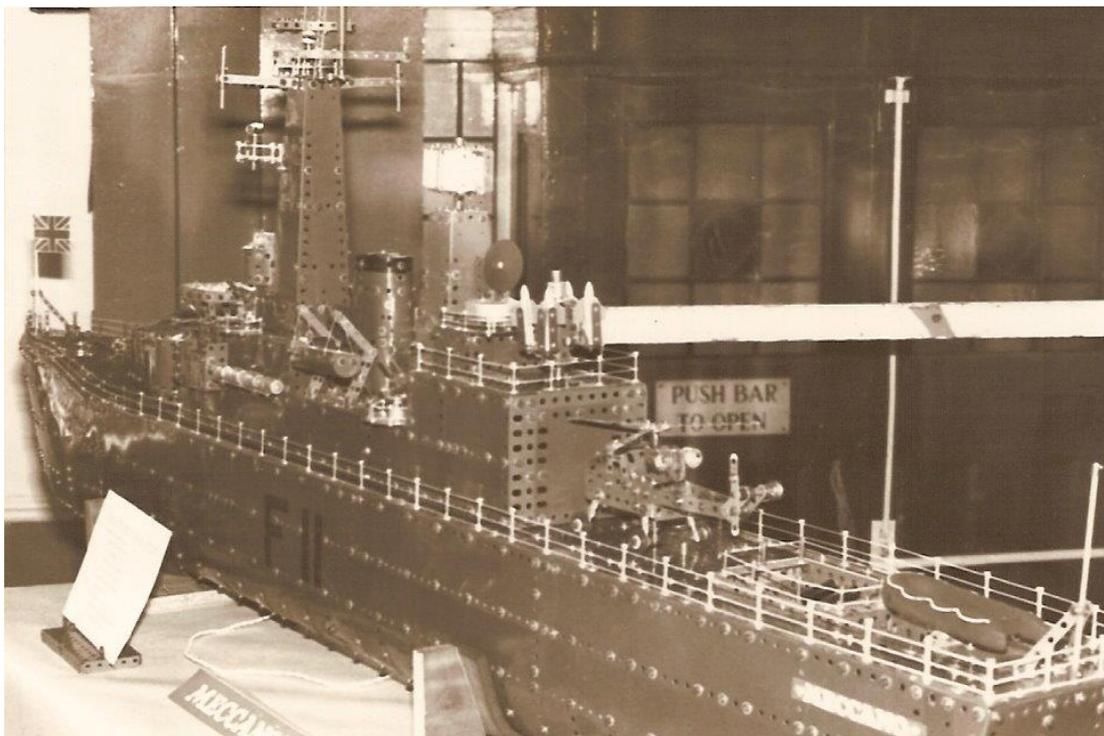
Automatic Coaling Plant by Bob Robson



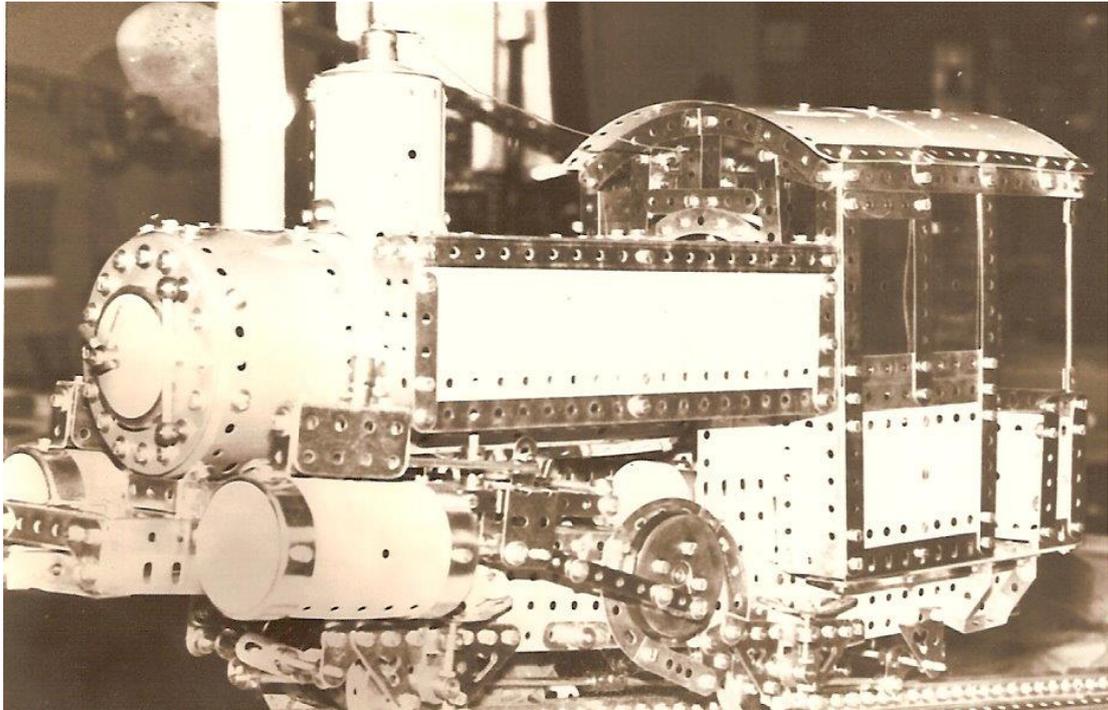
Crampton Cab Single Wheeler Locomotive built by Jim Berrie



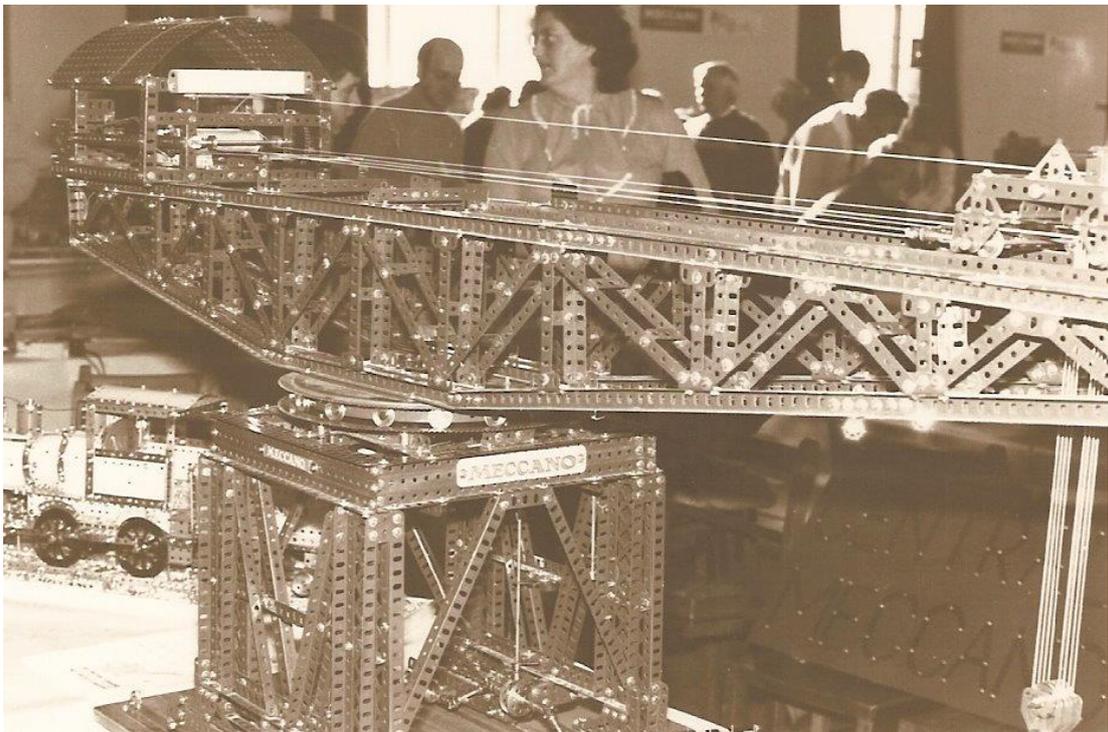
V - 12 Hispano - Suiza Aero Engine built by Chris Barron



Frigate Based on the Broadbeam Leader Class Built by John MacDonald



Rack and Pinion Locomotive built by Brian Chaffer



Block Setting Crane built by Jim Finlayson

The Exhibition once again produced a fine display of models which reach a high standard, giving an impressive display as one entered the vast hall. The club arranged to have more table area when setting the tables the previous evening, this space was in fact rather slow to fill up as many Exhibitors had a long way to travel, but by 11 - 00a.m. it was all taken up with a wonderful show of all varieties of models.

There were actually less models than the previous year, 90 in total, compared with 130, but this could be put down to the fact that the nearby Guisborough Junior Club could not be present and they usually present about 30 small models. However, this year we viewed a much higher standard of often much larger models than in previous years.

Although there was a steady stream of the general public all day the attendance was down by 300 on the previous year. There are several factors which could account for this. Firstly it was a fine day thankfully for those Exhibitors travelling from afar, but we usually have more spectators on a wet day, secondly due to the recent illness of Frank Beadle we could not saturate the town of Darlington with posters, as few members live in the town itself, but those who did, did a fine job, thirdly Darlington's football team are having a great series of games at the time.

We are again most grateful to Palitoy (UK) Ltd. for donating the prizes, without which we would most certainly have run at a loss. The Treasurer, Chris Barron informed the Society that the Exhibition cost £209.00 to stage and the net profit was a mere £18.00, so we were very near the mark this year. In addition to the six prizes donated we gave, for the first time ever, a Trophy for the 1st. Prize winners in each section, his was in the form of a silver motif mounted on a plinth, both Trophies suitably inscribed and able to be retained by the two winners. The results were as follows:

Adult Section: 1st. Bob Robson - Automatic Slag Moving Unit*
2nd. Joe Etheridge - Self Erecting Tower Crane
3rd. John Fuller - Level Luffing Crane

Junior Section: 1st. Mark Barron - Naval Gun Turret
2nd. Tony Cains - Automatic Robotic Arm
3rd. Mark Chaffer - Helicopter

Bob Robson's model was later featured in CQ No. 35 1997 as an Automated Table Tennis Ball Colliery Complex.

A further presentation took place after the main prizes, this was unknown to the recipient, the wife of the Secretary Jean Beadle, who was asked to step onto the stage to be presented with a bouquet of flowers as it was her birthday, and as a gesture of thanks for the background work that Meccanomen's wives always put in for our hobby.

1985 The Tenth Year

From the first newsletter of 1985 January, the first show of the year, a report by Bill Butterfield. On New Year's Day Charlie Archer and Bill attended a model exhibition at the Cheshire Home in Marske, Cleveland, held in order to raise funds to help a little girl obtain specialist treatment for a rare disorder.

Included in the Exhibition were model cars, buses and fire engines (Dinky Toy type), railway engines, model railways etc. Considering the weather, it was quite reasonably attended, with Meccano helping in a very worthy cause.

At the first meeting held on the 30th. January the club welcomed a new member Mr. Barry Richardson, who joined us in December. He has a red and green collection fast nearing a No. 10 set, we look forward to seeing his work.

The NEMS now published five magazines per year, each of 16 pages on A4 and appearing in February, April, June, September and November, with a two page Newsletter in between in January, March, May, August and October. A few overseas members were now joining and we were on an exchange basis with Meccano Clubs in Canada, USA, Netherlands the latter which had recently commenced and going well, but the magazine was in Dutch!!

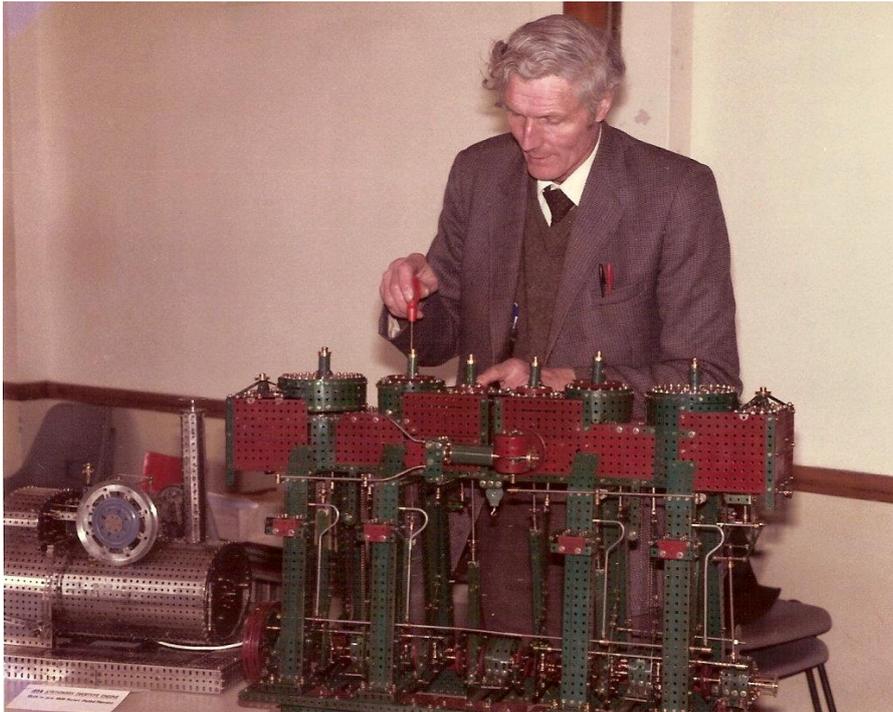
Guisborough Exhibition on the 16th April. To say this was dogged by bad weather on the Saturday, is an understatement, with the day starting in one of those late wet snow storms during which 3" had fallen overnight, yet with heavy snow still falling it did not daunt many exhibitors, even though there were up to 10" some short distance further north. However there was less snow further south, and we understand, none at all below Thirsk at the start of the A19.

We were made especially welcome at the exhibition hall, soon setting up models to find that there were spaces available, with perhaps not so many exhibitors as last year.

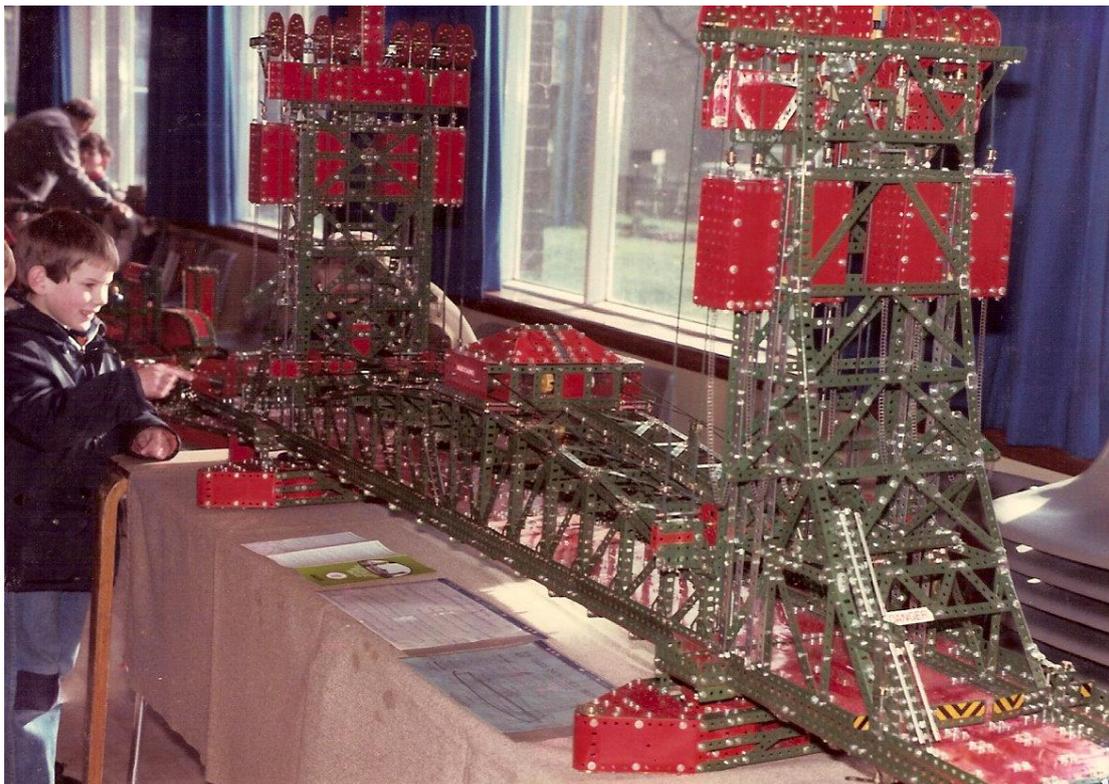
There was a steady stream of public during the morning despite the weather, which became less severe as the day progressed; the spectators dwindled during lunchtime to rally again during the afternoon. At the closing time of 5.00 p.m. everyone was very quickly away just in case we were snowed up for the evening. In that event we were sure the hospitality at Guisborough would have been just as good as it always is.

Mention should be made that John MacDonald and his son, also Ann Coles and Julian journeyed from Derby and Nottingham to be at the show, not meeting any snow until nearer the frozen north as it was. A letter of thanks for the day from the N.E.M.S. brought a similar letter in return from the organisers, who thank everyone for turning out.

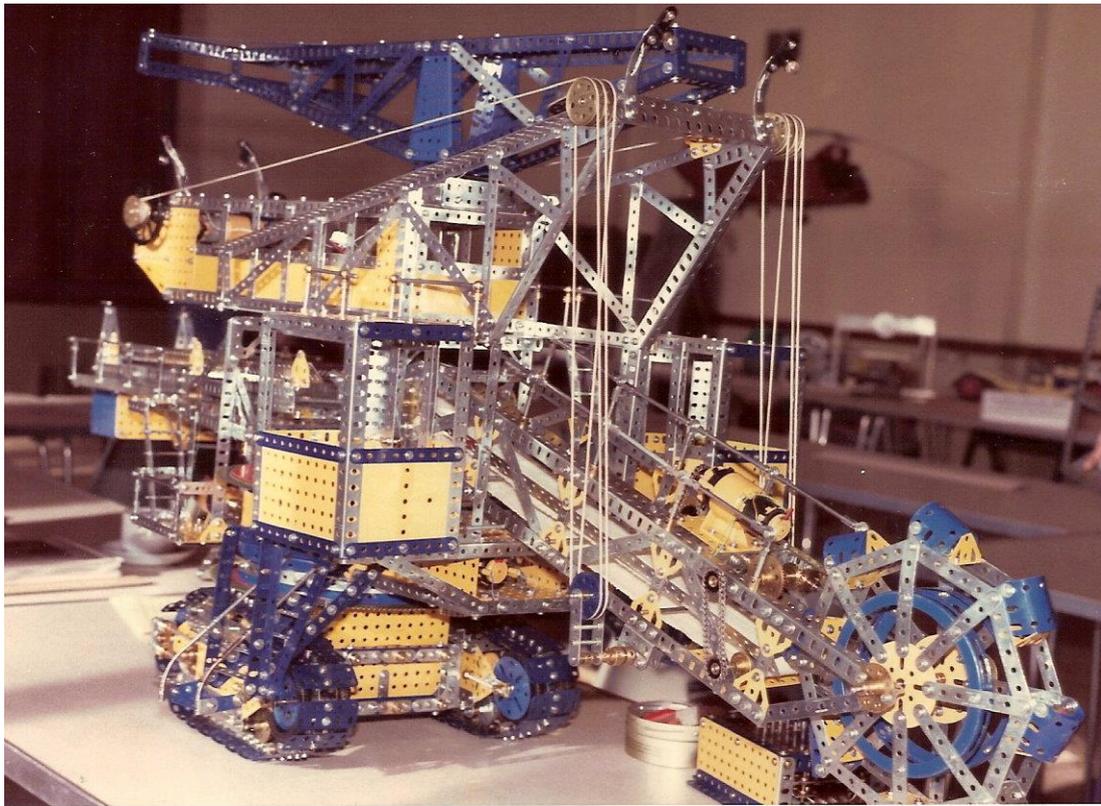
Models from the Guisborough Exhibition



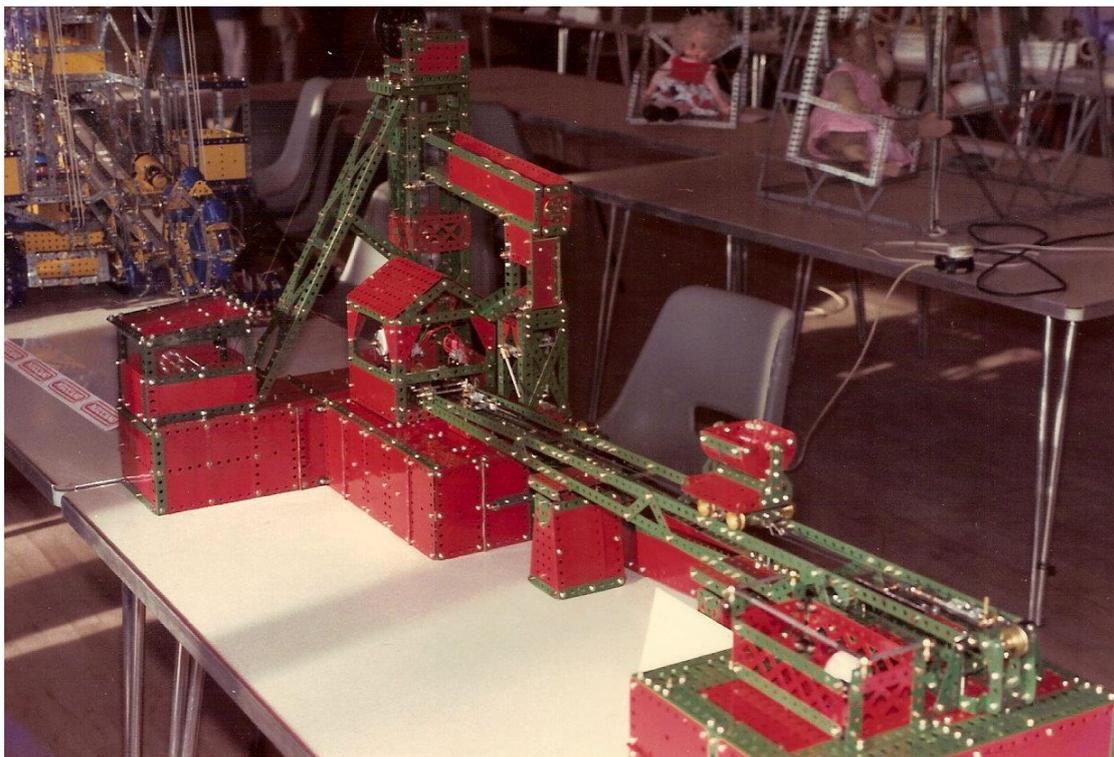
Frank Beadle with his 6 Cylinder Triple Expansion Marine Engine



Bill Butterfield's Newport Bridge



Fried Krupp Giant Trench Digger built by Joe Etheridge



Automatic Slag Moving Unit built by Bob Robson

Jason Bennison On a sad note we record the passing of one of our junior members, which indeed was a great shock to us all.

Jason, aged 15 years was killed in a tragic road accident as he left his school on the 27th March. Jason's father notified the Club the week after his magazine arrived, the Chairman and Secretary made a point of calling at his home in Darlington, to offer our condolence on behalf of the Society. Jason joined the Society after looking round the Exhibition in November 1983; he showed a model at Guisborough in March 1984.

On Saturday the 20th April this was the first of many shows organised by our friends from the far north the Central Scotland Meccano Exhibition. Bill Butterfield and Albert Howe made the 190 miles journey starting on Friday afternoon, Frank Beadle also hit the road north. We are sure the Scottish Exhibition will become a permanent feature in the U.K. Meccano calendar, the organisers are to be congratulated on their first show.

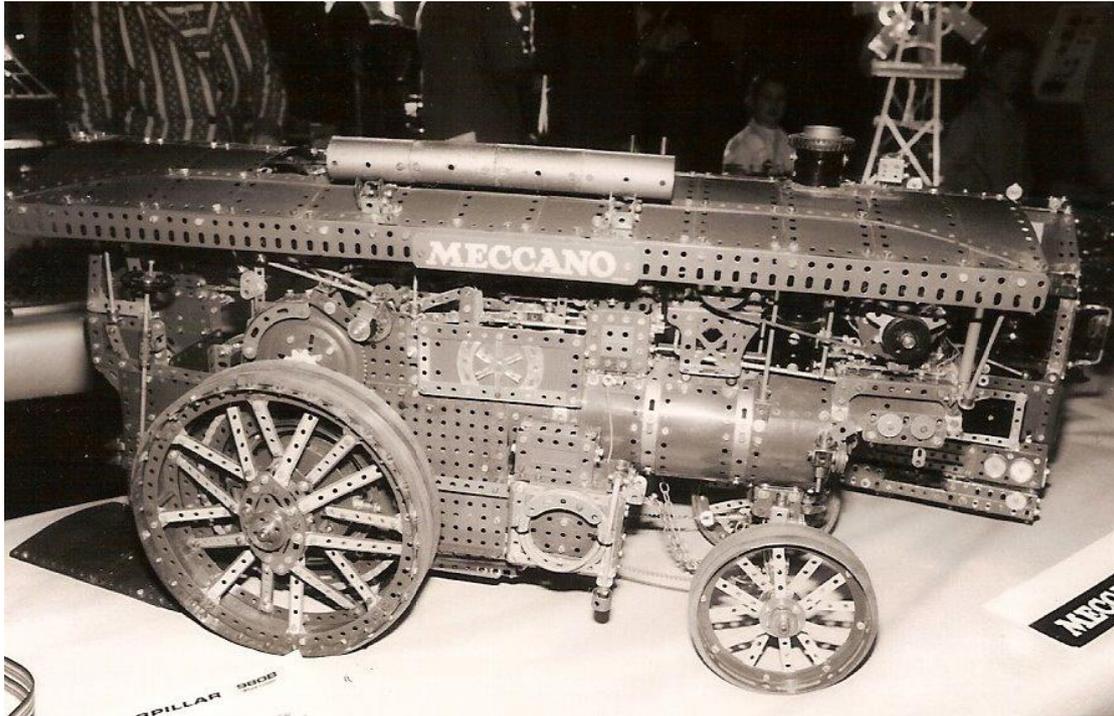
Northallerton Grammar School. Several members including Chris Barron, Dave Dalton and Bob Robson, showed models at this school event during May, keeping the NEMS on the map about 15 miles south of Darlington and the Meccano hobby alive.

The Society was again well represented at the Skegex Exhibition on the 22nd June. The weather, in keeping with 1985, was not too kind with cold winds and drizzle on the Saturday, with an improvement on the Sunday in this two day event, with quite bright warm weather towards the end of the show. There were not too many visitors on Saturday, though again on Sunday, especially during the afternoon, the hall was crowded to capacity. A total of 6 N.E.M.S. members showed models on both days.

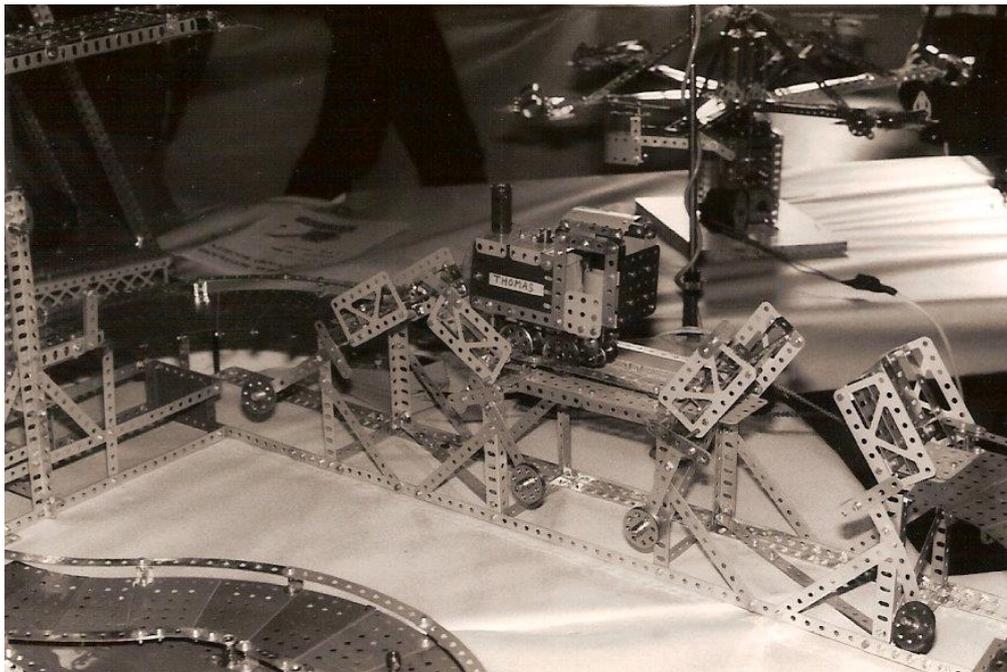
Scale Modellers Weekend - Newby Hall Yorkshire this was on the 13th - 14th July. This was a new venture which more or less replaced the Bedale PTA weekend supported by the NEMS from its outset until the final event in October 1984. Facilities provided at Newby Hall were excellent for our purposes, being situated in a room of about 100 feet by 20 feet with plenty of power points and tables. Adjacent to the room was a restaurant serving a quality menu at reasonable prices. The Society was represented by up to seven members over the two days.

Redcar Model Show, Bill Butterfield also attended a one day event on Saturday 27th July, this was a charity event, to which Bill transported his Middlesbrough Newport Bridge Model. October we had two general meetings, the meeting on the 30th was very well attended, the business dealing with two main items, the forthcoming exhibition and the general overall programme for 1986. After a great deal of discussion it was agreed to hold two major exhibitions in 1986 instead of one, also two model meetings in addition.

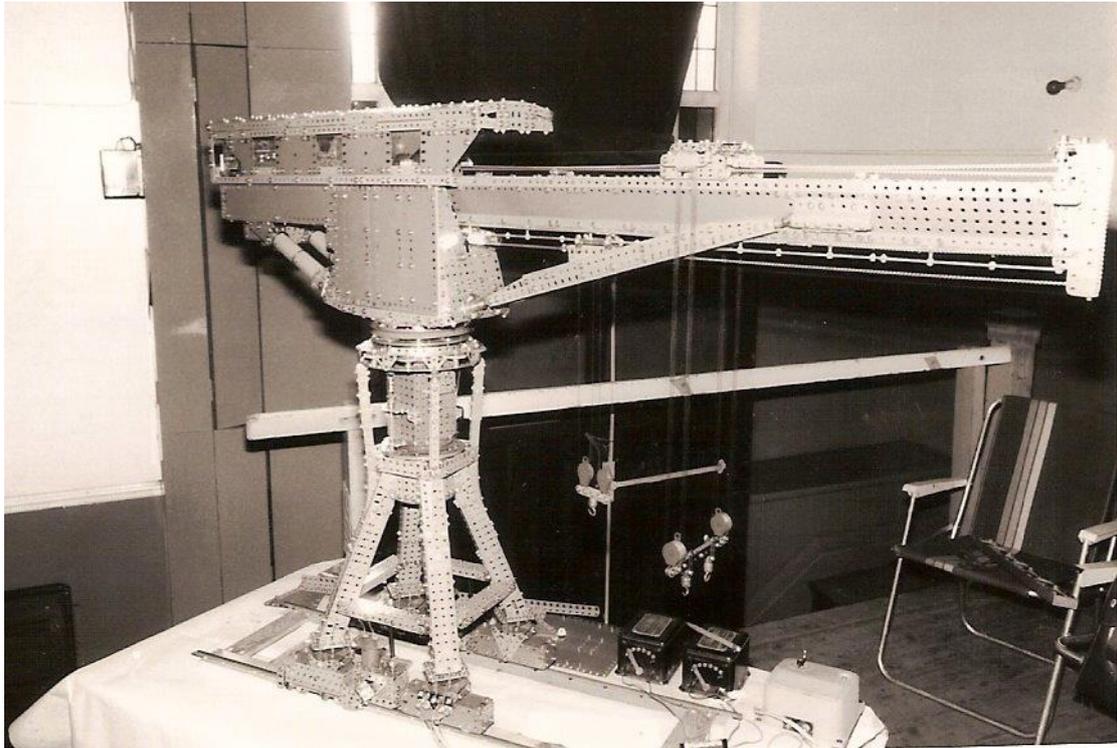
Darlington Exhibition 1985



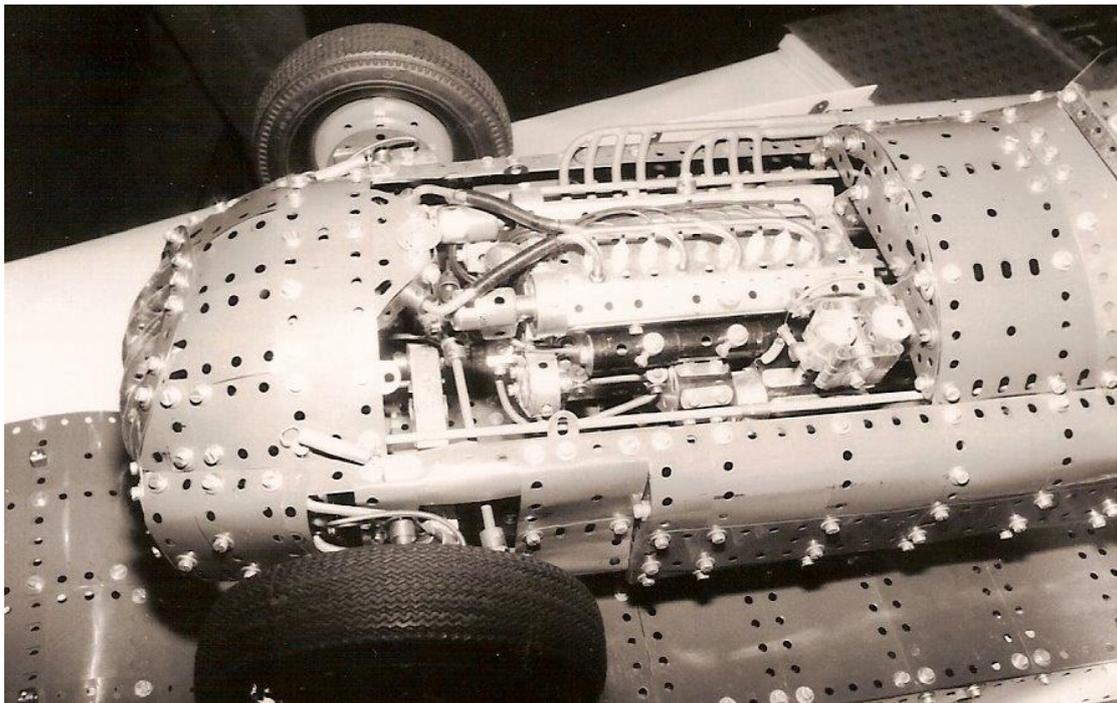
Burrel Showman's Engine built by Tony Clark



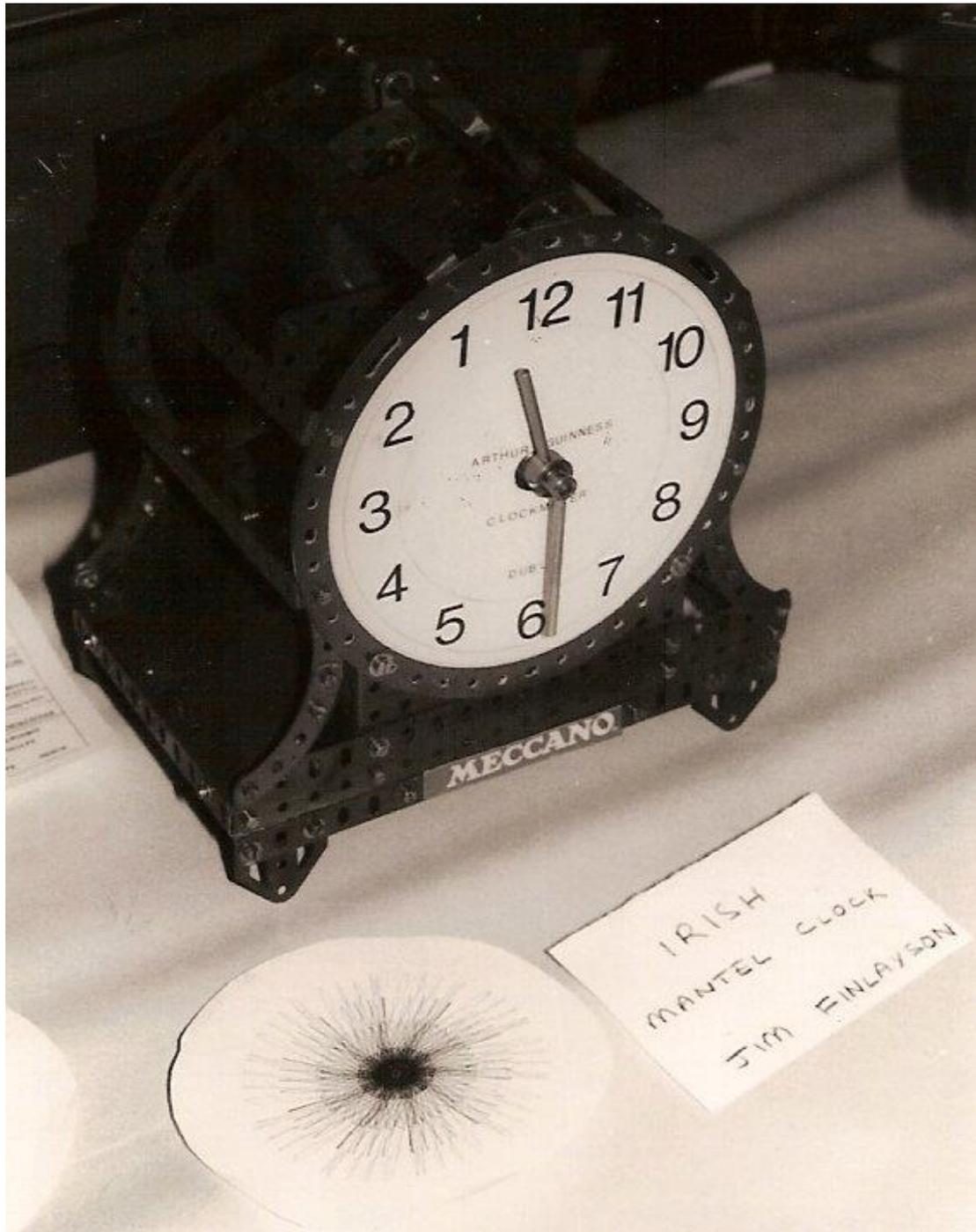
Double Tricky Track built by Jim Berrie



Hammerhead Crane built by John Fuller



Alfa Romeo '15' Car built by John MacDonald



Irish Clock built by Jim Finlayson

The 1985 November Exhibition was easily the most successful we have had to date, the hall was packed all day with over 900 spectators, who paid over £300 for entry, to see just over 100 splendid models.

The Exhibition surpassed the previous nine in every way, and most of the success must be put down to the television appearance the evening before, when Bill Butterfield and Joe Etheridge gave a four minute interview on the BBC, being screened the afternoon previous. The aim we

strived to achieve for some years but never quite made, we also had many more adverts in newspapers, and through posters as well as the local radio mentions.

On a more solemn note, this was to be the last show in Bondgate Hall, the Church realising that not to pay rates by not letting, was less work. The caretaker of the hall, photographed the entire model display for memories, so sad was he that the Annual Meccano Exhibition would not be there again. We had lost the best situated, in town, very large 120 feet x 50 feet hall with well over 300 feet of tabling, and a stage which we could display a historical collection of models in all the colours since Meccano began with full illuminated display.

The entire show cost £265.67 to stage, the net profit on all our previous shows has been around £25 or often less, this year the net profit was £111.19 and that speaks for itself, standing the Society in good stead, especially when one considers that £20.00 was provided from funds for prizes this year, in addition to the trophies.

After 10 years the N.E.M.S. had achieved very great heights indeed.

Prize Winners for 1985

Adult Section 1st. Prize - John MacDonald - Alpha Romeo Car
2nd. Prize - Bill Butterfield - Newport Bridge
3rd. Prize - John Fuller - Hammerhead Crane
Junior Section 1st. Prize - Mark Barron - Scorpion Tank
2nd. Prize - James Reay - Articulated Lorry
3rd. Prize - Daniel Gray - Tower Crane

The last ordinary meeting of the year was on the 4th. December, some quite mild weather made for good attendance. The business of the meeting dealt with an assessment of the November Exhibition, a pleasant task, when it had been so successful. The Balance Sheet presented by Chris Barron was adopted. The remainder of the meeting spent making final arrangements for the Spring Exhibition.

Other points at the meeting were, a 'facelift' for the magazine, we hope you like the changes in the next mag., done by Chris Barron and Frank Beadle.

Border Television, in Carlisle, have asked for models for a bygone machinery series which is to be shown next year. Bill Butterfield made the arrangements, models from several members were collected from Frank's home in Darlington on the 27th. December by Border T.V. van which then called at Tony Clark's home in Kendal, to pick up two of his mode. With regard to the models that has been collected on December 27th and after extensive arrangements by Bill Butterfield over care and

insurance whilst the models were not with us, we have been informed that the broadcast will go out as follows, though we cannot say which of the six programmes in the series will show models:

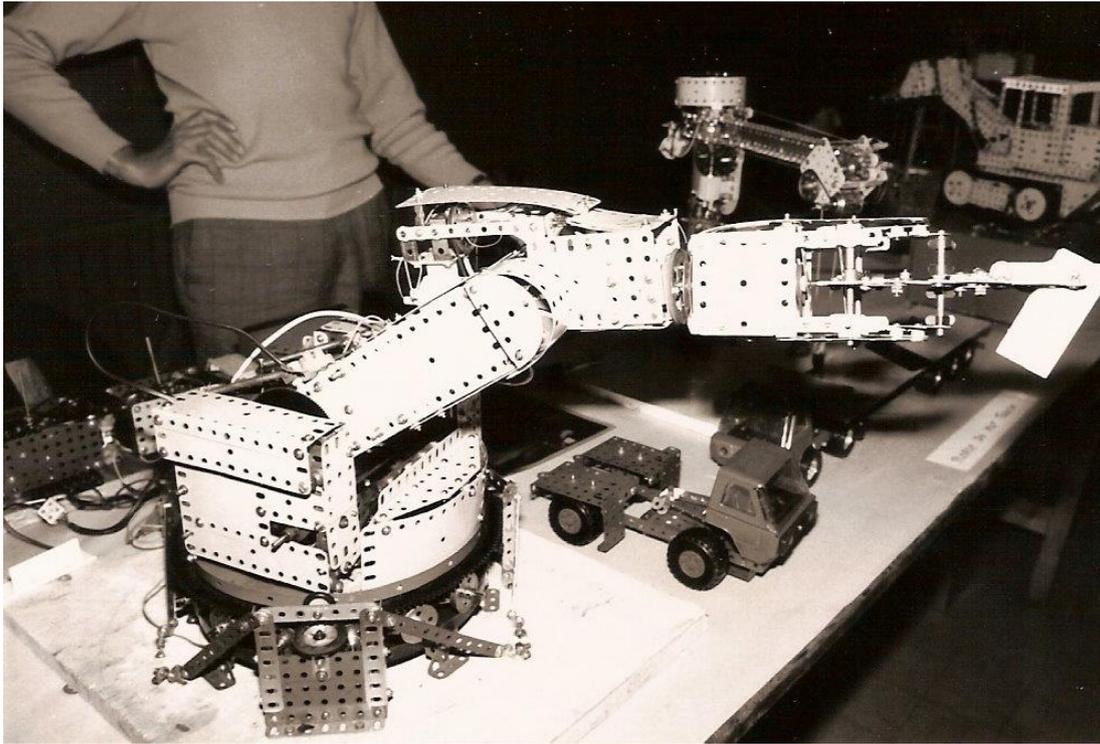
Transmission dates and programme title 'Natural Resources' total of 6 programmes, from Sunday 16th. February 1986 at 11-30 a.m. The models were as follows: Oil Rig, with helicopter and cranes, by Bill Butterfield, Donkey Oil Well Pump, by Dave Dalton, Lakeland Stone Sawing Machine and 1885 Overtypewriter Stationary Engine by Frank Beadle, Caterpillar 980B Bucket Loader by Anthony Clark. So ended the best year yet for N.E.M.S.

Now into 1986. We have been blowing our trumpet again, which cannot help but advertise the Society and its aims. At the AGM on the 5th March, Bill Butterfield was re-elected as Chairman, also Frank Beadle re-elected as Secretary and Chris Barron was re-elected Treasurer, with Dave Dalton as the Librarian, the latter now compiling a list of MM's for use of members. The practice of adult members paying a fee of 50p for each ordinary meeting attended, which had been there since 1975 to augment funds, was now discontinued as from the AGM as it was not felt necessary.

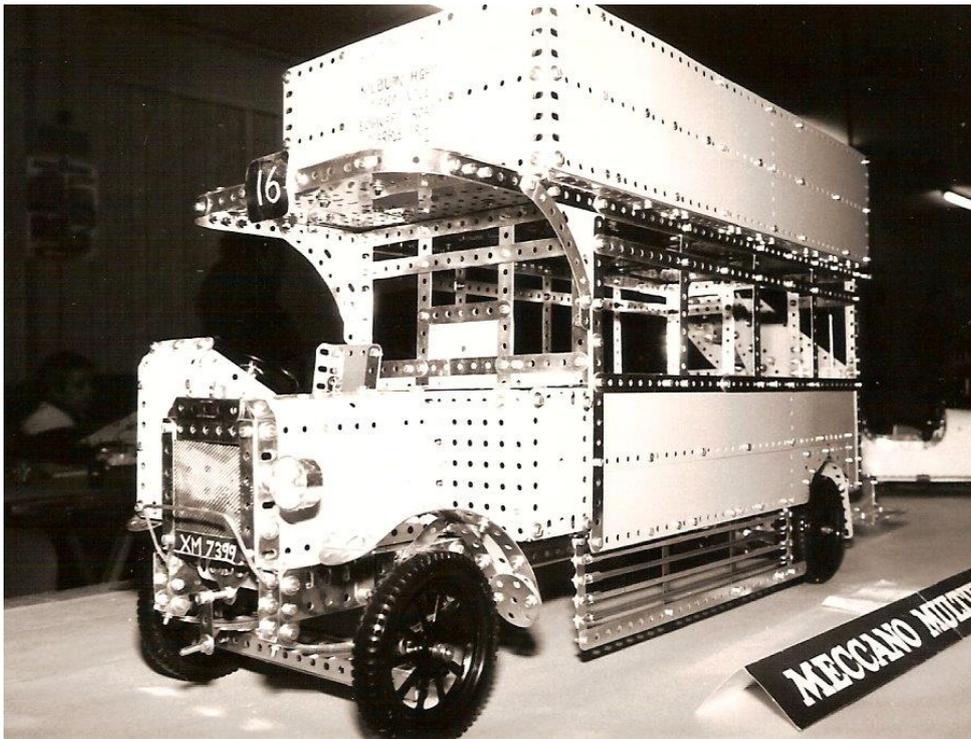
As gluttons for punishment we staged a full scale Exhibition two weeks after the AGM in Billingham Forum Hall of about 110 ft. x 30 ft. Bill Butterfield and others were mainly responsible for the organising of this almost as large as our Autumn show which took Meccano to Teesside and was a most enjoyable occasion in a well-lit hall with level off-loading too. Work had been completed by several members the evening before and early in the morning, road signs were fixed on many leading roads by 8 - 30 a.m. when most members assembled outside the Forum.

We are indebted to Bill Butterfield for his weeks of organising in that locality. By 10-00 a.m. people started arriving to the well sign posted and easy access door, right next to the car park, there was a steady stream of visitors all day with a queue at the door at one time, with a full hall most of the day.

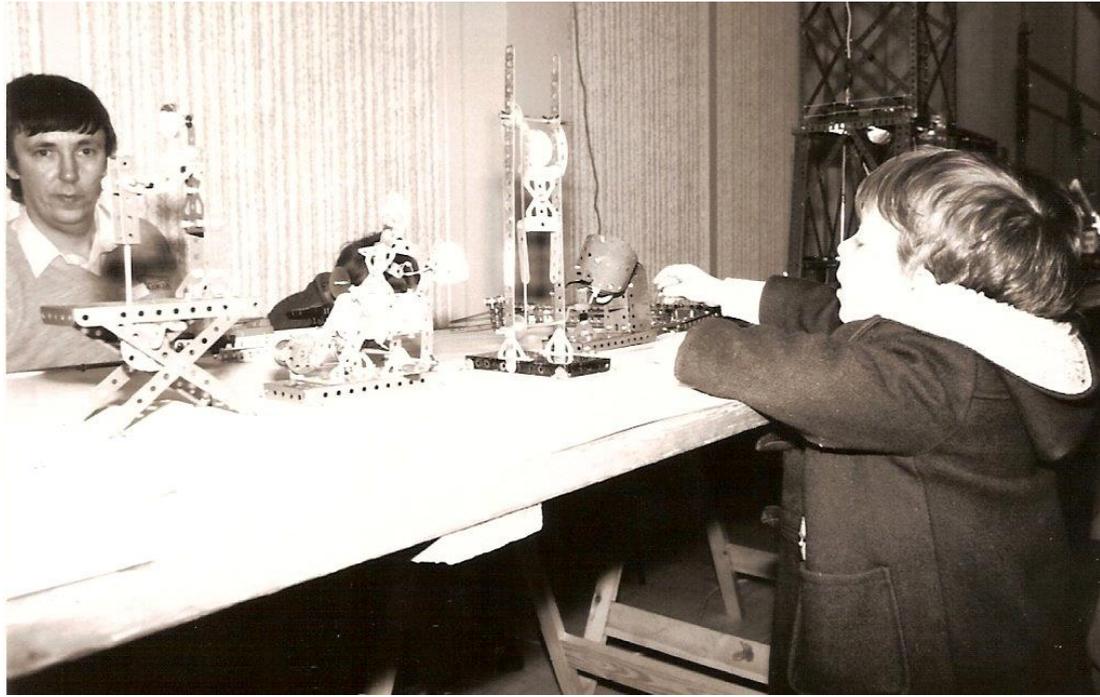
Spring Exhibition 1986



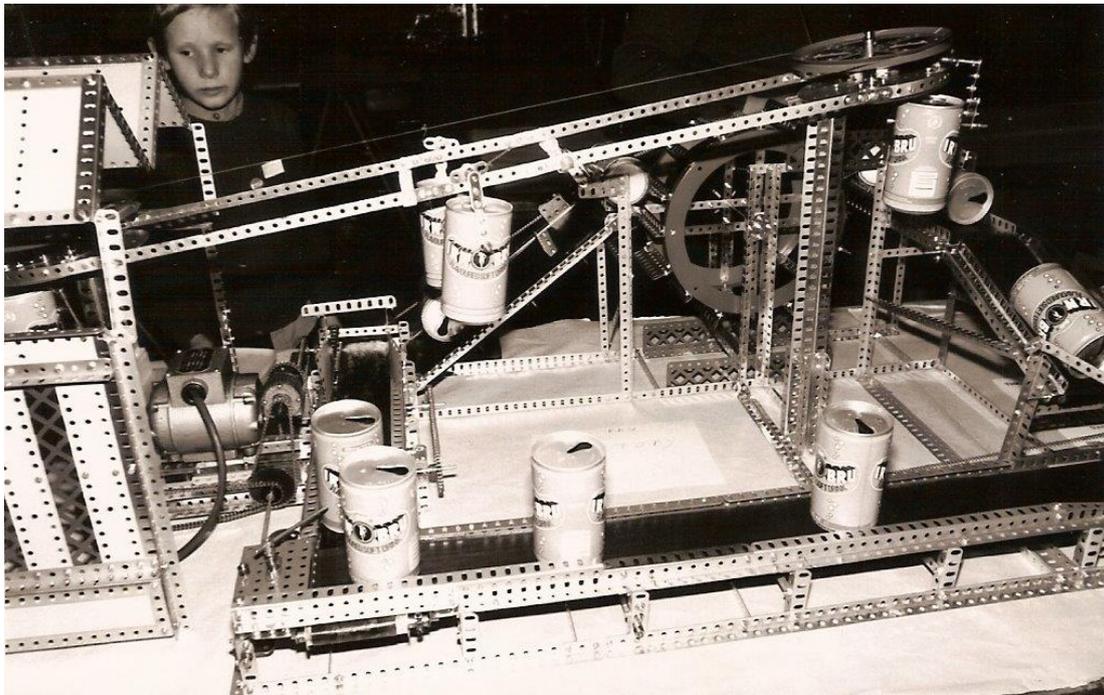
Robotic Arm built by David Dalton



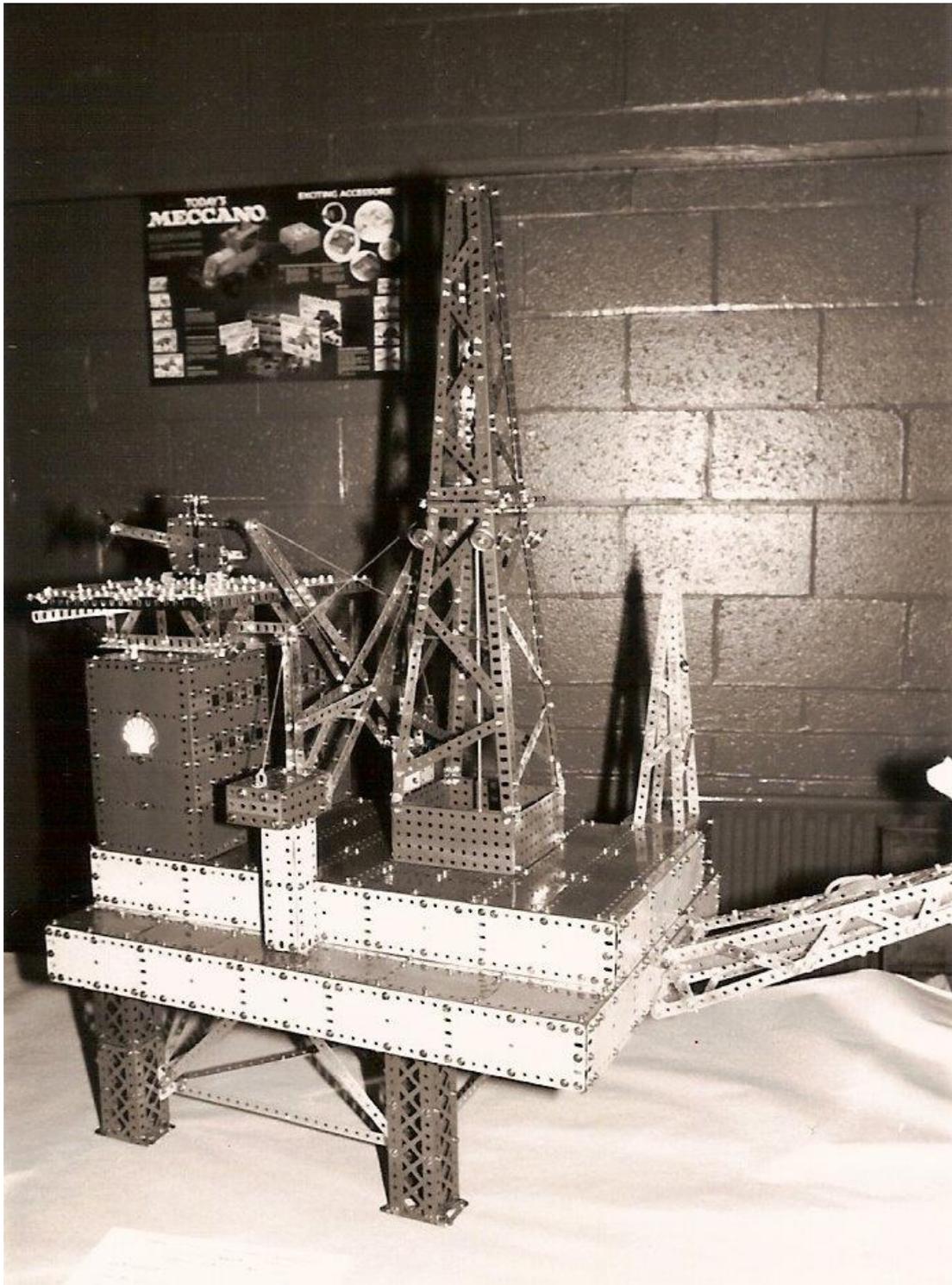
Vintage Double Decker Bus built by Brian Chaffer



Barry Richardson with a collection of his models



**'Iron - Bru Factory or Automatic Canning Plant
Built by Jim Berrie**



A Shell Oil Rig built by Bill Butterfield

By closing time 865 people had seen the show of models and gazed in wonderment at what can be done when one has a collection of Meccano. At this Exhibition we did not need to attend to catering, as all our needs were satisfied by the Forum Manager and staff could not have been more

helpful, roping off part of the parking lot for late arriving modellers, as well as looking in to see that all was in order.

The Exhibition, as our last one in November 1985, again topped the bill for attendance and relieved us of the worry of the previous 9 shows, when we often wondered if it would in fact make a profit. The figures supplied by the Treasurer Chris Barron, speak for themselves:

Door takings and trade stands	-	£313.30
Expenses for entire Exhibition	-	£149.64
Profit	-	£163.66

We are most grateful for exhibitors from other clubs, some of whom made long journeys to attend.

After which some of us again travelled to Stirling in Scotland to help with the M.S. of S. Exhibition early in April, the fairly new club had changed from its first name of the Central Scotland Meccano Society to give wider all Scotland scope. Jim Finlayson, a member of our club for some years, and then both, and latterly just the Scottish Club had sadly passed away the year before and was a sad loss to both.

The first of our Saturday Model Meetings took place at Kirk Merrington Co. Durham on the 17th. May from 10-00 a.m. to 4-00 p.m. This new departure from evening meetings will allow many more members to meet each other, away from the hustle of the exhibition atmosphere. This was designed to attract those who could not attend the evening meetings held in members' homes all through the year. It was quite well supported but not too well by those for whom it was hoped to meet and chat with.

Skegex as it was now called was growing in size and fast becoming the known midlands event, as a two day show on the sea front with 250 models on show, with an attendance of over 1400 spectators.

Northallerton Friarage Hospital Fete on the 28th. June. This event took place on a very hot day, though we were indoors in the Physiotherapy Wing, consisting of a spacious hall accommodating other modelling interests. The Society was represented by three members showing 20 models. They were extremely well looked after, each being given a free cooked meal, also travelling expenses where applicable.

Members also travelled again to the Henley on Thames Exhibition held at the end of August, though it was a long way to travel from the north east, but this year had a full scale display to commemorate the 50 years since the passing of Frank Hornby.

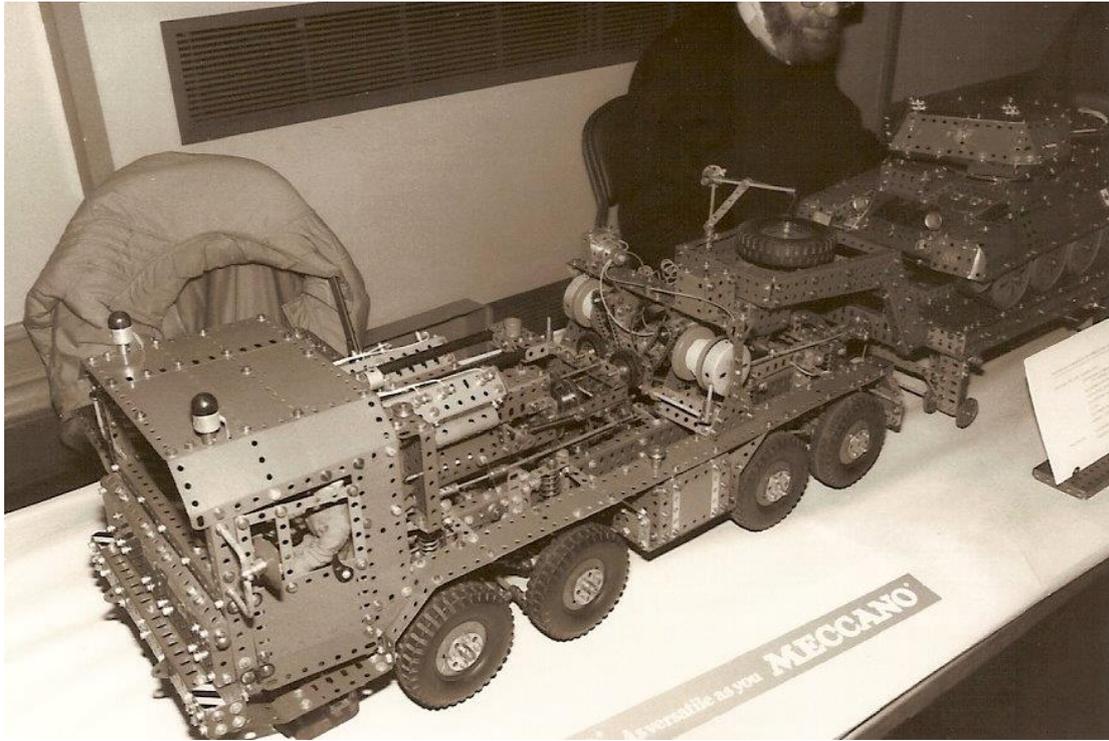
A second Saturday afternoon Model Meeting was held, this time in September and south of Darlington at Scruton Village Hall, although attended by the usual adults, it again did not bring in the rarely seen juniors, who of course had to have parents transporting them.

After a final meeting in October to arrange details of the Exhibition, we had ironed out all the foreseeable snags of the new venue, the main hall of the Dolphin Sports Centre in Darlington. Although the main hall was ideal in every way, access for Meccano with its concentrated weight ratio compared with other hobbies, was the real handicap, coupled with two flights of stairs and the fact that the BBC had all the restricted parking space to the rear through screening an international sports event, made the whole thing a nightmare especially for the dealers and those with large models. Coupled to this was the fact that we were suddenly told there was a dance in the hall that evening and an army of cleaners arrived long before we had left!

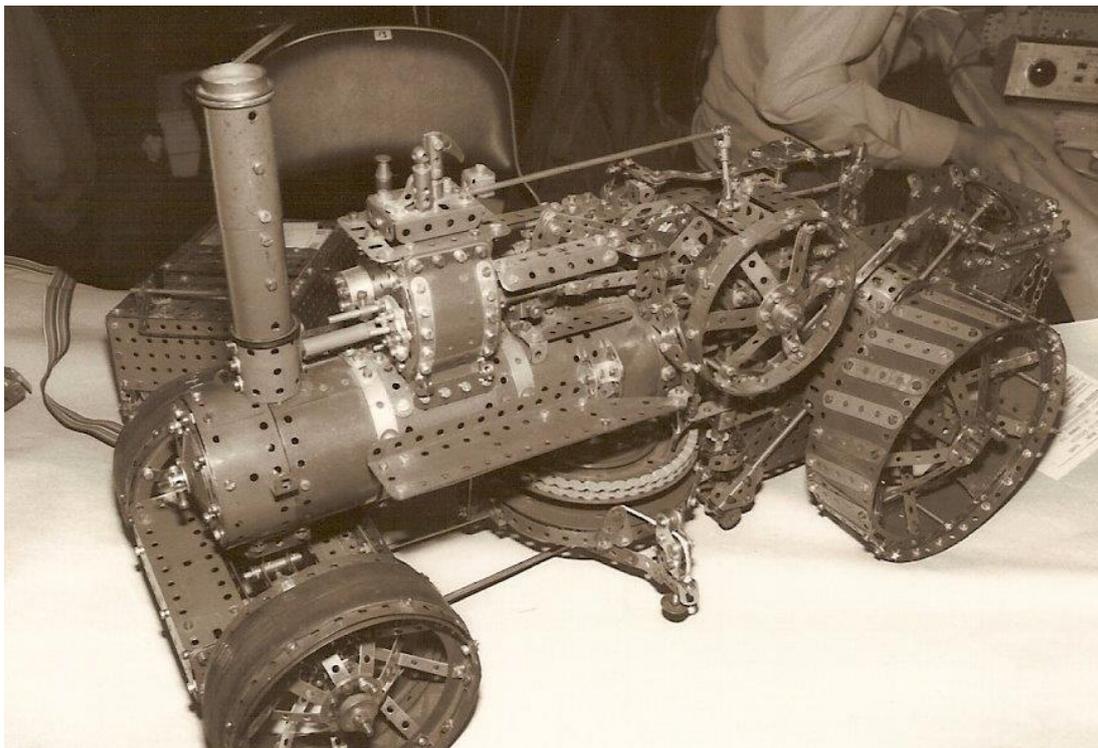
Autumn Exhibition 1986



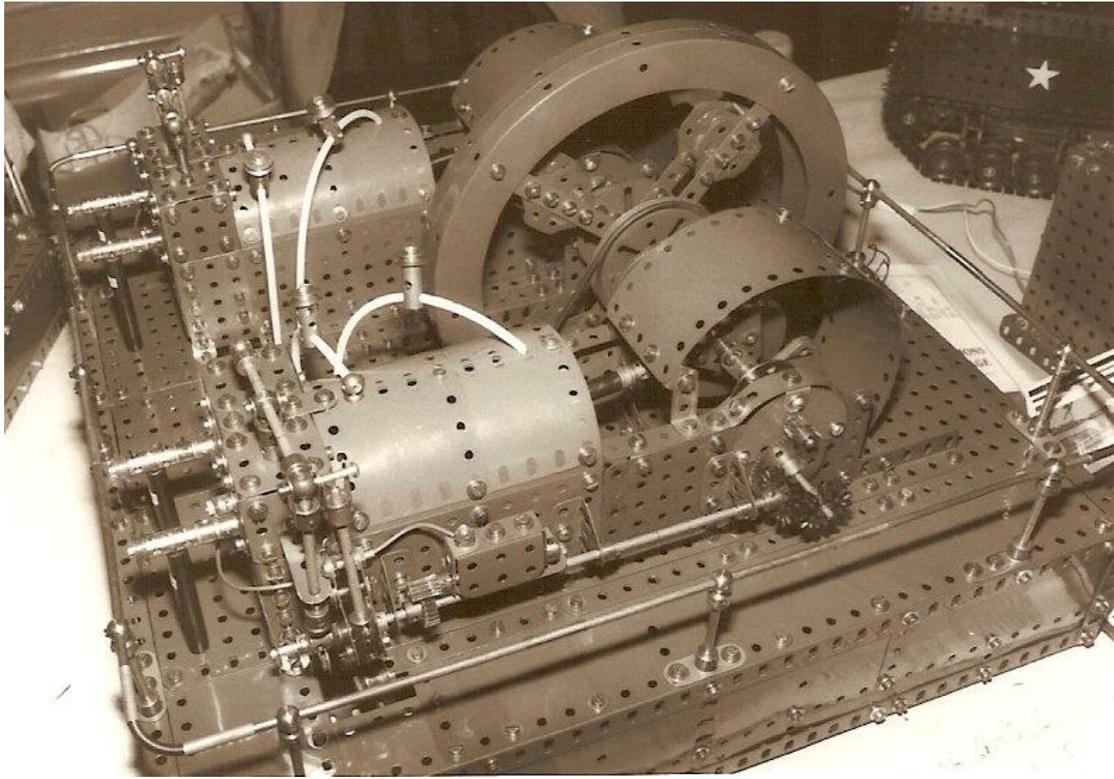
Fairground Dive Bomber built by Rob Mitchell



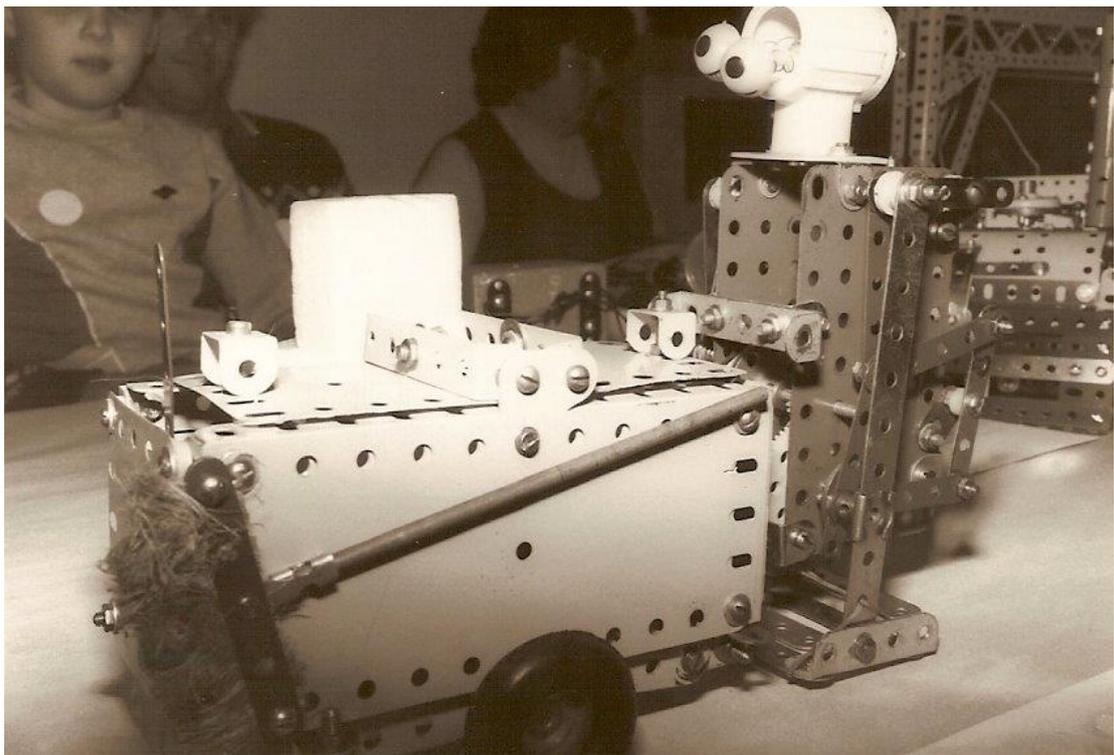
Tank Transporter Tractor and Trailer built by John MacDonald



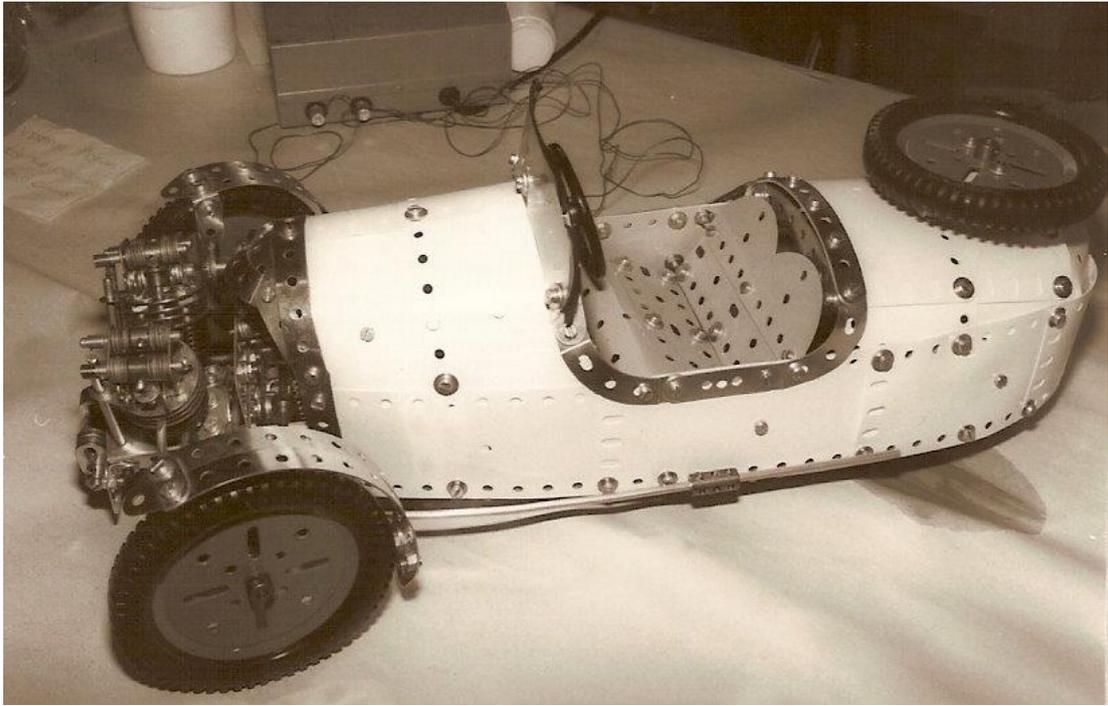
Fowler BBI Ploughing Engine built by Tony Clark



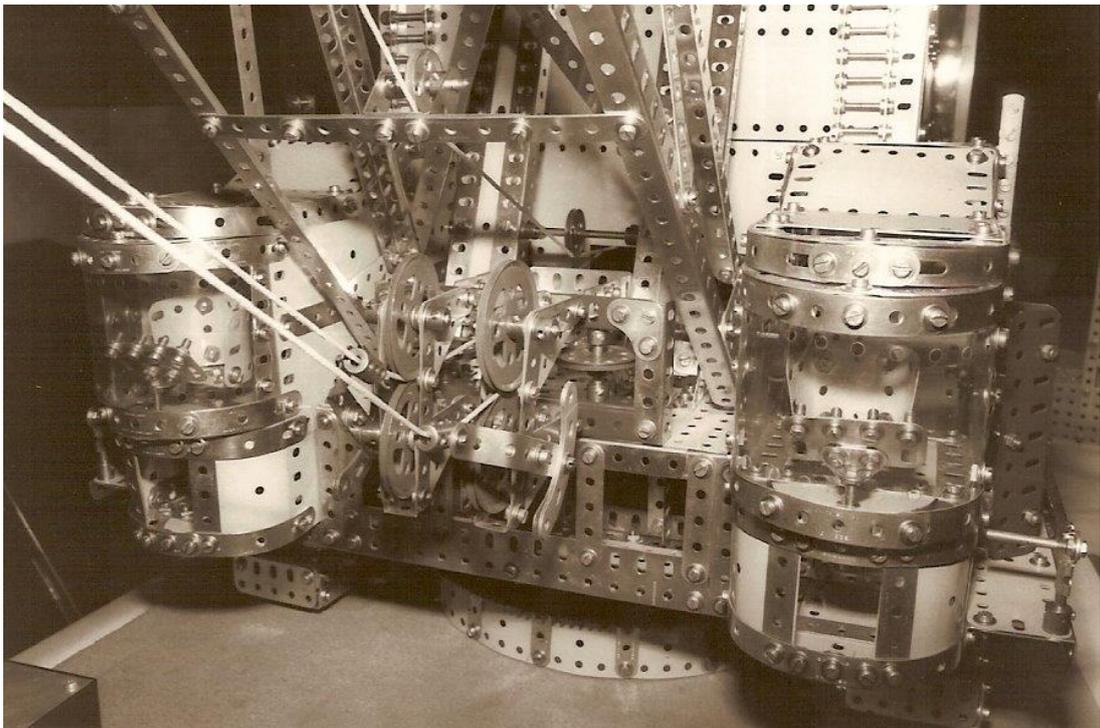
Hornsby Stockport 220 bhp Gas Engine as installed at Darlington Pumping Station in 1914 built by Bill Butterfield



Road Sweeper walking model built by David Dalton



Vintage Morgan 3 Wheeler Car built by Brian Chaffer



**Front of Ransomes and Rapier W40-00 Walking Dragline
Built by Joe Etheridge**

This Exhibition was undoubtedly hampered by many other events not only with the BBC, also International Swimming Events. We also had two false fire alarms, morning and afternoon, cleared an otherwise full hall of spectators twice, many not returning, though exhibitors were quite happy to 'perish' with their Meccano, seemingly very reluctant to leave the building on any account.

The pleasant spacious hall did compensate somewhat, more so the very fine array of models. The public attendance was well down on the Spring Exhibition at Billingham Forum, where we had 865 spectators against only 605 here.

We are again grateful to our two judges and their 4 hours work in arriving at the final decision, the difficult task undertaken by John Fuller and Michael Gray. Results were:

- Adults 1st. John MacDonald - Tank Transporter
2nd. Brian Chaffer - Morgan Car
3rd. Rob Mitchell - Fairground Dive Bombers
- Juniors 1st. Scott Richardson - Helicopter
2nd. Lee Barnby - Truck Cab
3rd. James Reay - Jeep



Scott Richardson 1st. Prize Winner

We are indebted to exhibitors from other Clubs, several of whom had long journeys from as far as central Scotland and South Wales, to help make a fine show with over 100 models, several on a large scale, many stretching both ingenuity and Meccano to the limits. As an Exhibition it went reasonably well but was a great deal of very hard work.

Over the weekend of 29th and 30th of November, a new venture of the Hurworth Community Hobbies Exhibition, saw the Society setting up in the village hall about 3 miles south of Darlington. This two day event was quite a leisurely pleasant weekend with members attending one or both days, amid Model Engineers, fairground organs, and other varied crafts.

We now look forward to the next year.

1987

At the January Meeting final arrangements were drafted for the Spring Exhibition, again making it a dual exhibition year. Democratically the N.E.M.S. has always tried to ensure that the main decisions were the wish of its members. Most of the organisation at Billingham Forum, the venue for the Spring Show, fell to Bill Butterfield who lived in the area. Also at the meeting it was decided not to continue the Model Meetings on a Saturday, as tried last year at two locations within the catchment area of the N.E. as they had not been well attended.

The AGM held on the 4th March, was not as well attended as previous years, though rather wintry weather that evening, there were no changes to officials who were re-elected. The most significant changes was an actual reduction in adult members subscriptions from £5.50 down to £5.00 due to good balance in the funds due to healthy exhibition profit, and we still turned out 5 magazines and 5 newsletters per year.

The Spring Exhibition at the Billingham Forum 4th April. Compared with 1986 this was a disappointing Exhibition due to a number of factors. The day was bitterly cold and damp, with the main entrance facing north in a severe draught when open, this may have had something to do with the public attendance being down to 479 after over 800 last year.

The biggest disappointment was the lack of models, which left over a third of the extensive 300 ft. completely empty, not really representative of a Society of about 70 members. We thank those few who travelled over 300 miles from Scotland, also a few Midlands model builders.

Even with the low public attendance there was a profit of about £30 due to the low cost of the hall. The Exhibition and future venues etc. will be reviewed at the ordinary meeting on the 15th. April.

After the Billingham Exhibition, some members journeyed to Stirling in Scotland for the Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition in the Gild Hall for the first weekend in May. We were always assured of a great Scottish welcome by Jim Berrie and Douglas Cooper as the main organisers, but

due to Frank arriving late and accommodation difficulties, they were unduly worried when he agreed to sleep in the exhibition hall overnight, though he did assure everyone that both himself and all things there were still intact next day ! A great dialogue of friendly banter was always bouncing between the two clubs.

A new event was attended in June at the Glaxo Factory at Barnard Castle when several members showed an array of models on Gala Day there. This was on the same weekend as the now regular Skegness Exhibition of the NMMG which was attended each year by more and more of our members as a prominent calendar event.

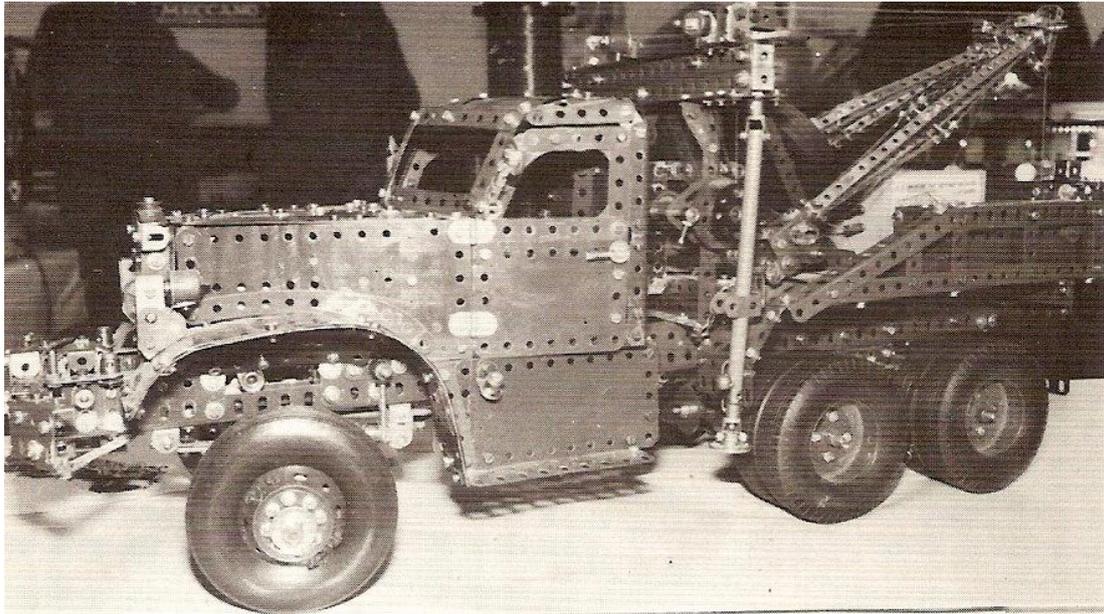
College of Technology Summer Fete, this was at very short notice on Sunday 28th June we staged another display at the Hospital Echocardiograph (heartbeat) Appeal in Darlington, which was extremely well attended despite the wet weather, our chairs sinking into the ground in the marquee - nothing to do with our weight. We put on a display of 14 models on over 20 feet of table, again attracting plenty of visitors who noted the advert of the November Exhibition hastily displayed.

The main event of the NEMS year was again the November Exhibition with yet another new venue in the Darlington Arts Centre for the first time. We declined the use of the Dolphin Centre used in 1986 because of stairs access and a television event. The Dance Studio in the Arts Centre measured about 70 x 30 feet with ground level loading, albeit a rather difficult access to the doors. There was no need for us to make any of the meal arrangements as these were all there at a reasonable cost and also a bar. The exhibition was still a low entry price of 50p for adults and 25p for children and OAPs and a very good display of models attracted a well-attended exhibition, though the distribution of posters in Darlington itself must go a long way to the success. This new venue was to be our exhibition home for many years to come.

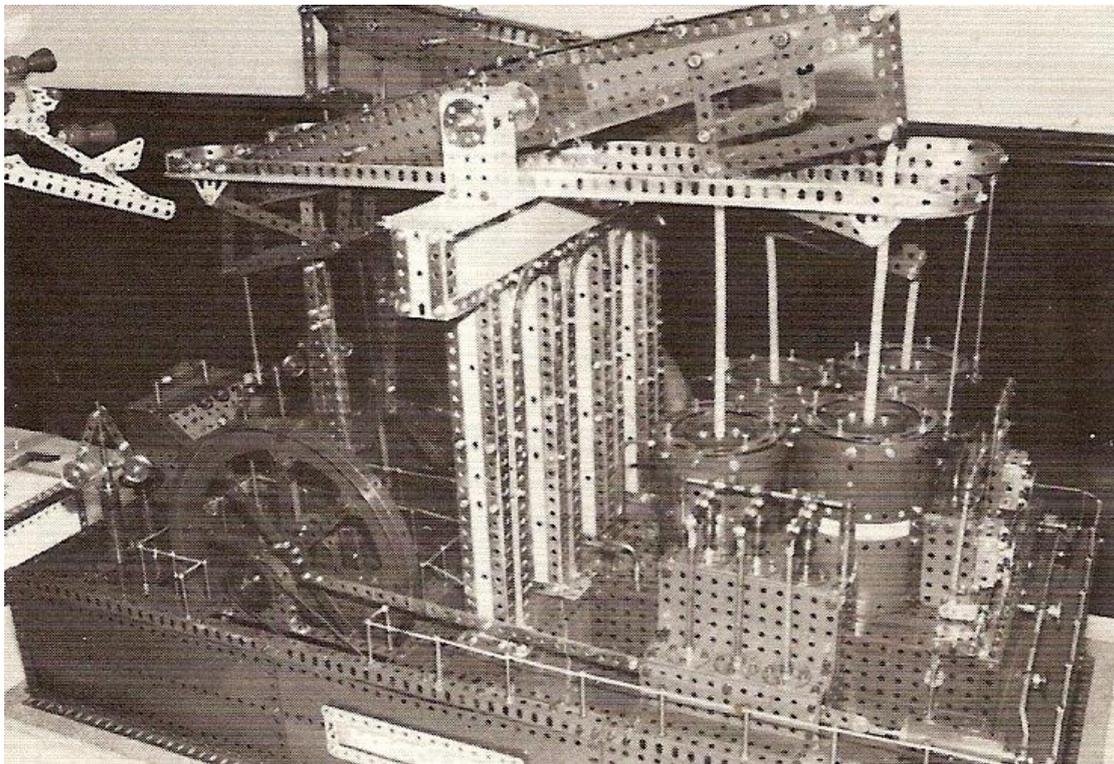
The Darlington Exhibition 1987



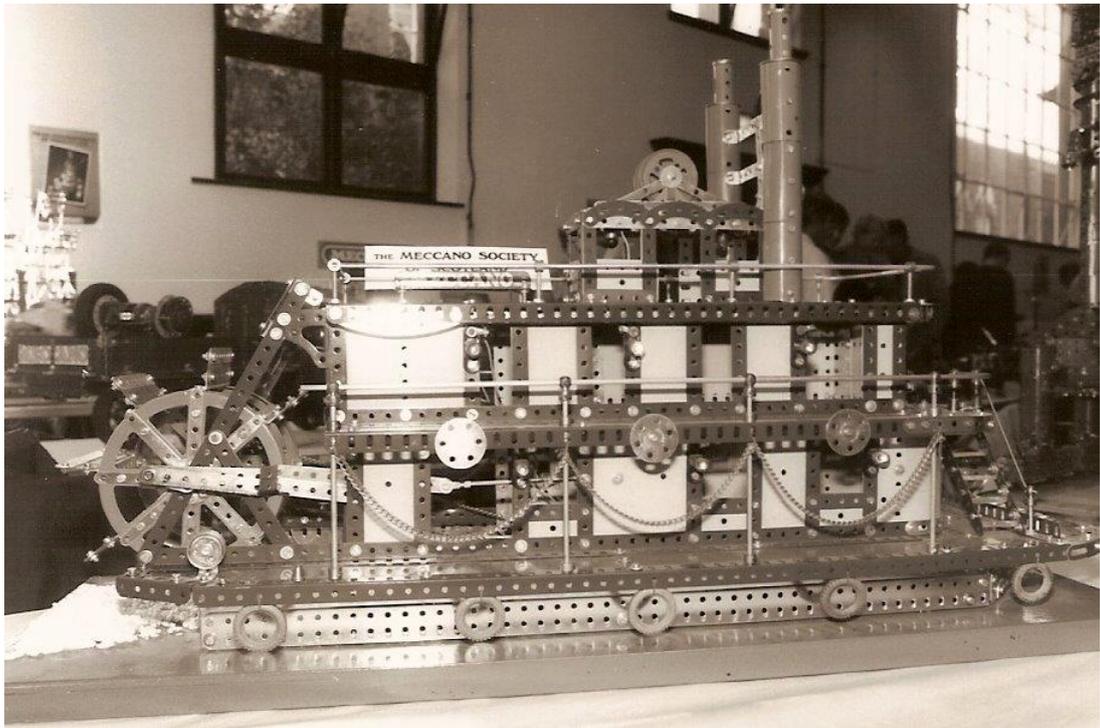
Mike Pashley with his Gotwald 1200 Crane



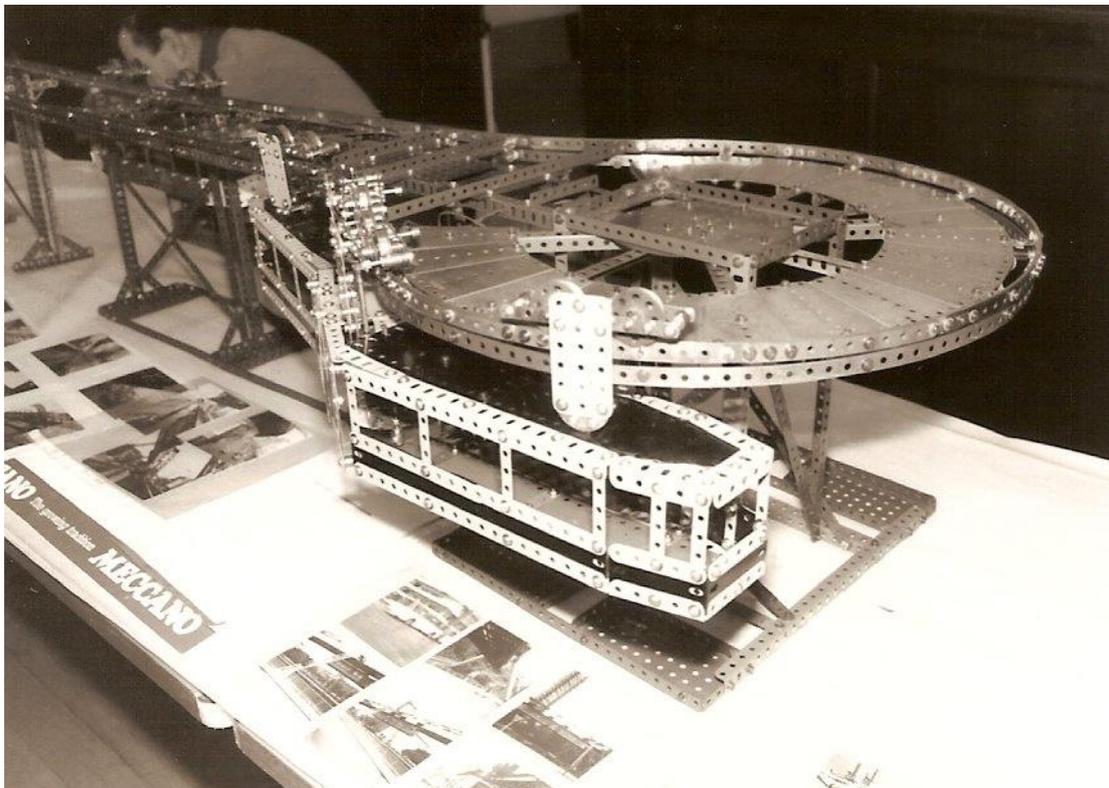
Diamond 'T' 6 x 6 U.S. Army Recovery Truck built by Tony Clark



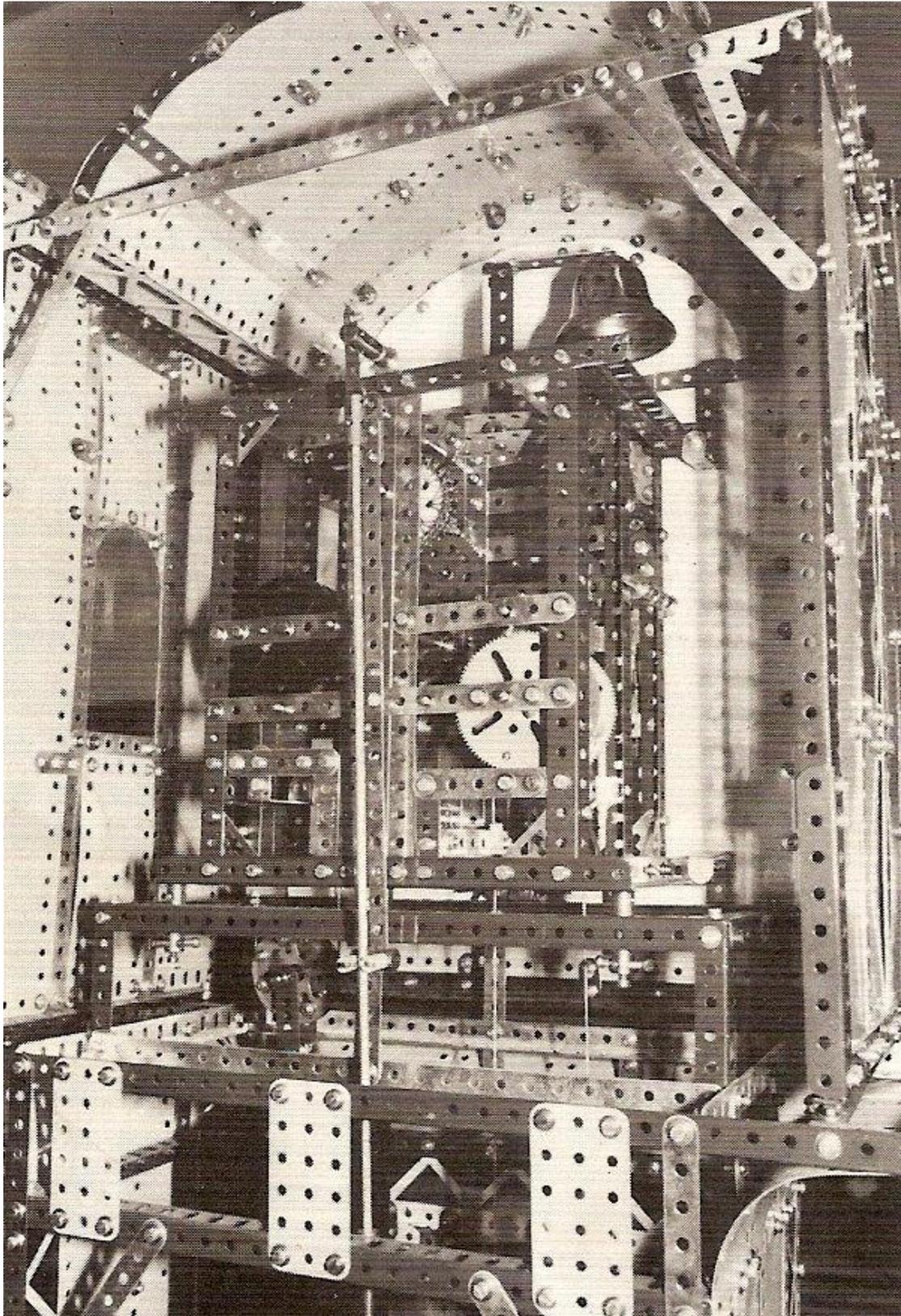
Twin Beam Engine based on the massive double acting engine at Ryhope Water Pumping Station built by Barry Richardson



Mississippi Showboat built by Douglas Cooper



**14 foot model of the Barman & Elberfeld Monorail in West Germany
Built by the Scholar family.**



The inside of Brian Harper's Grandfather Clock of the 1780s by William Stanford with a 30 t. escape wheel & rack striking of the correct time on the hour and automatic date change.

This was the 12th Autumn Exhibition which proved to be the great success associated with the NEMS Autumn Exhibition, apart from 1976 when we moved from Bondgate Hall after 10 years, to the Dolphin Centre, a leisure complex in the town centre, where access and other factors were not suitable for our hobby.

The Arts Centre is also Council owned, well used and a cluster of older buildings with three halls many rooms, cafeteria and bar, as well as overnight accommodation facilities used by some Exhibitors. The Hall was 80 feet by 28 feet very lofty for the tallest cranes, well lit with 252 feet of tabling. The main factor was the level off - loading straight into the hall which is essential for heavy models, and visibly appreciated by modellers attending.

The Exhibition for the first time was AA signposted, mainly from the northern entry to the town and could possibly be bettered next year. The overall attendance was 432, which was nothing to shout about, but almost covered the cost of staging the show.

The models were fewer than at some previous shows, but many were very large with several cranes towering above the spectators who came in a steady stream all day from 10-00a.m. to 5-30p.m. Models were of a high standard, well distributed for height and length and gave the public a fine array of subjects that can be tackled by all ages in Meccano.

The judges, Joe Etheridge and Barry Richardson spent about three hours looking at models and announced the finer points when they, at 5-00p.m., presented the prizes of cash from the Society.

Adult Section 1st. Bill Butterfield - Railway Wagon Tipper
2nd. John MacDonald - Kettenkraftrad Armoured Car
3rd. Scholar Family - Barman & Elberfeld Mono rail

Junior Section 1st. James Reay - Tower Crane
2nd. Philip Pratt - Land Rover
3rd. Christopher Dunning - Garage Ramp and Car

All are to be congratulated on fine workmanship, but we are sure the judges had a hard time deciding on the prize winners with so many really good models, so ended the 12th. Autumn Exhibition 1987. The year 1987 was actually quite a busy one, with several smaller events cropping up in the locality of the North East, as well as representation of the NEMS at many Meccano events such as Skegness, SMG Exhibition in July, MSS Exhibition in May in addition to our two major exhibitions staged by ourselves in April and November. So ended 1987.

Now into 1988.

The January meeting was quite well attended on a fine evening in this mild winter with much Meccano talk and refreshments, swapping of parts and inspection of two partly built models. It was decided to hold a Swap Meeting which is to be slotted into our General Meeting calendar.

At the AGM in March Michael Gray as Vice Chairman resigned as he was moving to the USA for a while and his post was taken over by Joe Etheridge. Bill Butterfield was now President and no Chairman was elected. Frank Beadle remained as Secretary, Chris Barron as Treasurer and David Dalton Librarian, who had in recent years built up a good stock of Meccano Magazines for the Society.

A very sad event in March was the death of Alf Dean on the 24th March. He was very sadly missed by those who met him at the regular meeting nights, and exhibitions over the years and other Society gatherings.

Alf joined in 1978 when he brought along his famed E.R.F. Tractor unit and Trailer with Hobo third axle, this detailed model was later featured in the MM. Another model of note was his Butler 8" Slotting Machine, which was later featured in the Canadian MeccaNotes. The Society was represented at Alf's funeral by Bill Butterfield, Joe Etheridge and Frank Beadle.

The Society meeting on the 20th April was attended by nine members and was as usual a most enjoyable and inspiring occasion. Plenty of Meccano chat even though not nearly so well attended as the AGM in March.

We decided not to attend with models at a Fete in central Darlington during June. Another similar function has arisen at which we have been asked to show models. This will be held at Applegarth Park, near Northallerton on the 29th August Bank Holiday.

A very sad but significant event took place at the home of Frank Beadle on June 4th. The society had been asked to sell by auction the entire Meccano collection of the late Alf Dean by his sister Mrs. Hazel Nichol, apart from his three superb built models, which will be retained in memory of Alf and shown at the November Exhibition. The collection has been separated into lots mainly through colour of which the whole span, apart from Blue & Gold, is well covered, the lots also contained a wide selection of all parts.

The Society are doing this for Alf's relative, and of course Alf himself. It is only when people pass away as he did, that one can realise or even begin to realise, from his sister's letter, just how much the N.E.M.S. meant and did for Alf Dean as an interest in his later years. We should be proud of the real comradeship Alf found in our Society, as we found out, he often told his sister in letters and phone calls.

The day was not bright and a sharp shower during the morning meant covering up 40 feet of tabling with plastic sheeting. Bidding was brisk

from over 20 members present and lasting 2hrs. 45min. disposing of a wide and varied array of lots.

As one member remarked later, it was the best Meccano day for real enjoyment and laughs that he'd had for years, many members met others they had not even seen. Those who were not able to be there missed a grand day out, with the ladies present taking over the kitchen serving eats and drinks to all present and having a good chat in addition.

The main Auction day realised £665.30 in cheques and £404.85 in cash with a further £56.00 at the July Meeting, total £1126.15. The total was deposited in the account of Alf Dean's sister, who thanked all our members.



Alf Dean's Auction in Frank's garden.



In place of the Spring Exhibition there was a new event by the **Sheffield Meccano Guild**, who were helped by some of our members attending their show.

Skegness Exhibition, this splendid event which no less than 13 members of the NEMS supported with models. This is the 4th Exhibition of the NMMG at this seaside town. One of the highlights of the Skegness Show was when Philip Pratt took first prize in the Junior Section and marched proudly to the stage for his prize.

Society Jottings 1988: One member discovering that at least two others had 500 Collars or more, he is said to be feverishly hammering out bosses from 1" pulleys to attain the round figure of 500 collars --- the name slips my mind at the present time!

The Society has been quite busy in the latter half of the year in which we have been represented at several events.

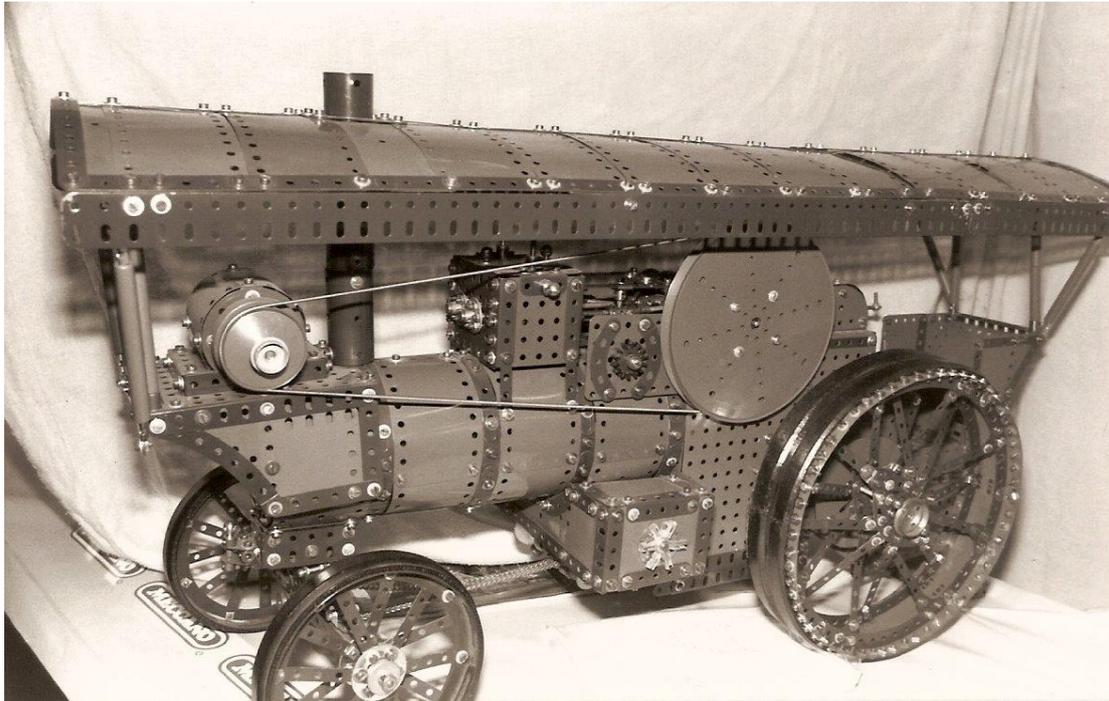
Hobbies for all Exhibition; this was on the 23rd / 24th / 25th September. This Exhibition was again held at the College of Technology, Grimsby and consisted of displays from no less than 29 different Societies, the NEMS had two members displaying models.

Model & Craft Exhibition, the Grange, Hurworth on the 29th & 30th October. This is quite a large exhibition, featuring a wide variety of arts, crafts, hobbies and pastimes, it has been a regular date on our calendar since first introduced some three years ago. Modelling themes in the large hall covered; covering boats, cars, model railways, space vehicles and of course the genuine Model Engineer Society themselves. The Meccano stand consisted of about 20 feet of tabling and this was soon filled to capacity with models from :- Bill Butterfield, and Joe Etheridge, Barry Richardson arrived on the Sunday but did not display his own models, there being no room left to do so. Picture posters were displayed on the walls and with ample supply of our own forthcoming Exhibition posters, much interest was shown in the models and the Exhibition in November. Altogether it was a most satisfactory weekend.

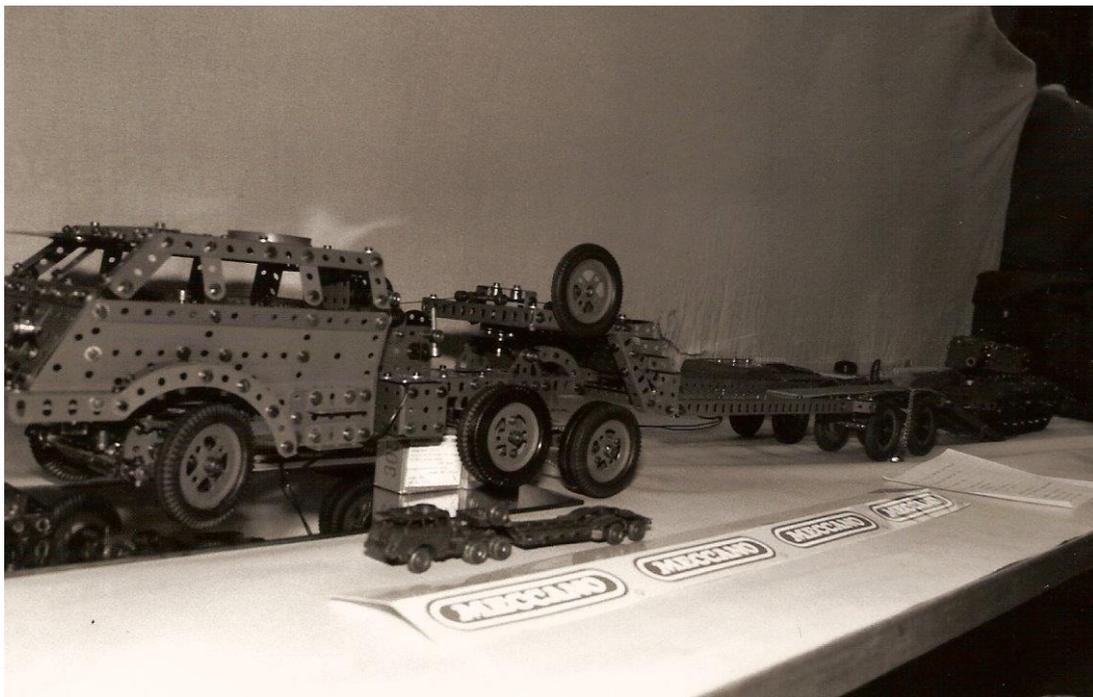
1988 Autumn Exhibition



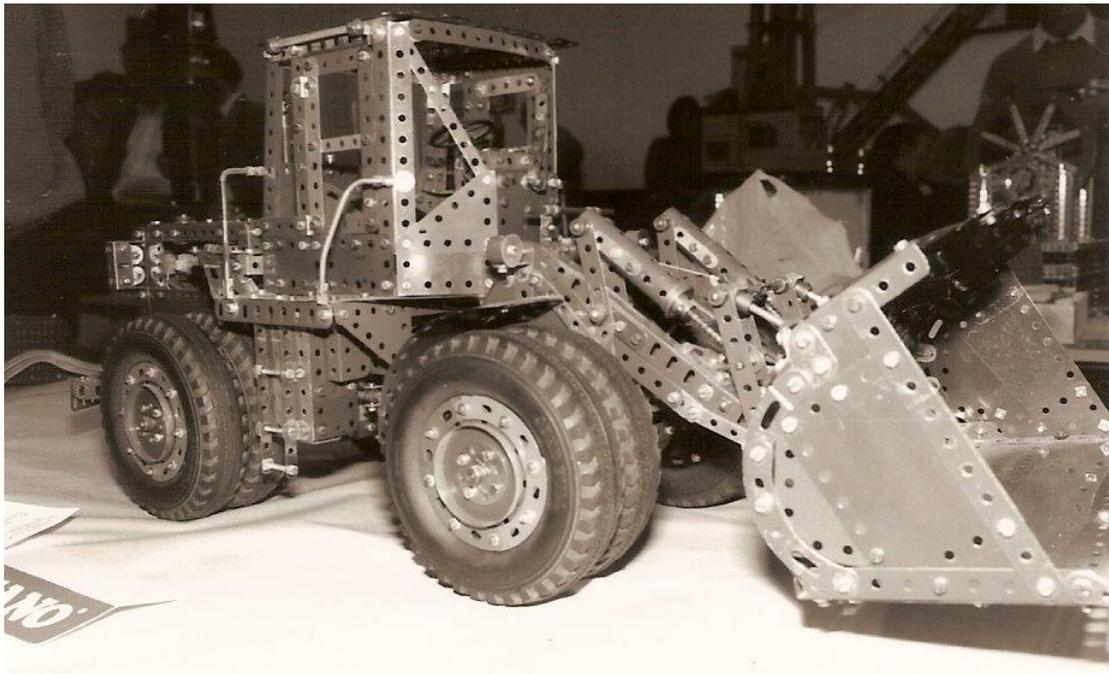
**Lorry Mounted Crane, height to top of jib 9 ft.
Built by Joe Etheridge**



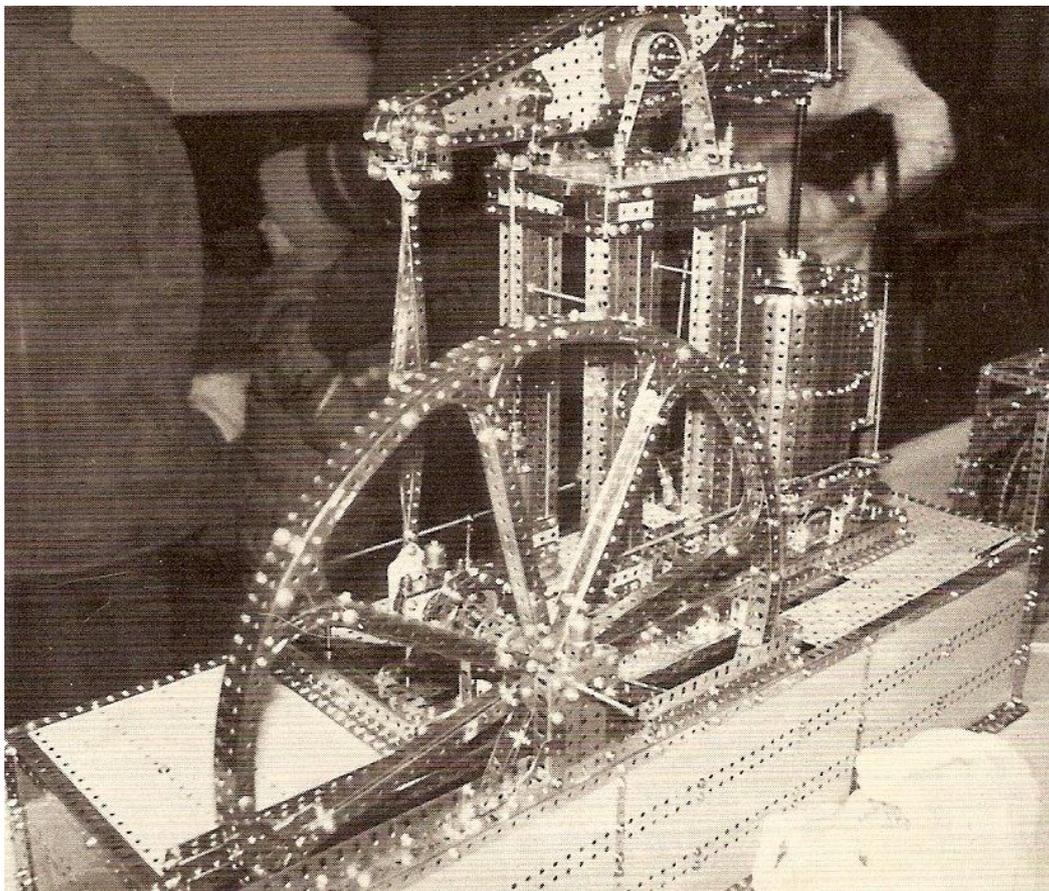
Showman's Road Locomotive built by Ray Stephens



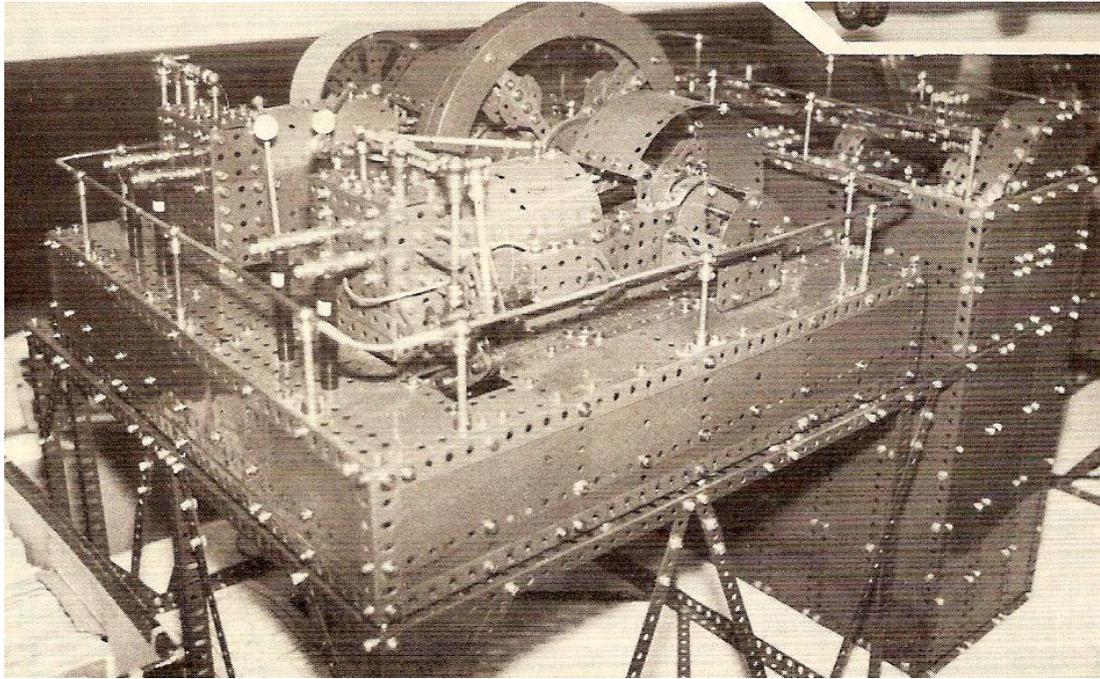
Tank Transporter built by John MacDonald



Caterpillar 980B Loader built by Tony Clark



Beam Engine built by Barry Richardson



220 h.p. Hornsby Stockport Gas Engine built by Bill Butterfield

There can be little doubt in the thoughts of anyone, that the Exhibition was a huge success, being a most enjoyable occasion for Meccano enthusiasts and visitors alike.

Our 13th Autumn Show and the second in the venue of the Arts Centre brought modellers from afar as well as nearby, some arriving as early as 8-00a.m. others having arrived the night before and helping to set - up tables. By 10-00a.m. opening time there was no more table space left as stewards tried to fit modellers into small corners. A steady flow of visitors arrived all day, many of whom seemed to linger a bit longer than previous years, obviously scrutinising the models. Radio Cleveland did a direct outside Broadcast at 10-00 a.m. and at least two main local daily newspapers had photographers and reporters present.

The Cafeteria supplied a variety of complete hot and cold meals for most of the day, with a guitarist in attendance. We would like to thank those who supported the Exhibition from other Clubs, the NEMS do appreciate your being present and showing the splendid models around the hall. We are indebted to Atlascraft Ltd. for supplying the six sets for prizes this year, it was indeed a great help and gave the winners something tangible to accept, especially the juniors. Thanks go to the two Judges in their difficult task, John Lythgoe and Tony Clark both of whom are specialist modellers in their own subjects.

Adult Prize Winners 1st. John Hornsby - Derrick Crane
2nd. John MacDonald - Armoured Car
3rd. Bill Butterfield - Gas Engine
Junior Prize Winners 1st. Scott Richardson - Army Tank
2nd. Phillip Pratt - Tower Crane
3rd. Peter Storr - Dinosaur

In total 99 models, and if you count the ticket machine it makes 100! Modellers came from 8 different U.K. Clubs and Societies. A total of 43 modellers showed models. The exhibition was a most enjoyable event and 8 new members gained there or before the end of the year one being Geoff Rowlinson. The period of time after the November Exhibition is generally a quiet time of the year. The Club Meeting on the 18th. December was again a well-attended meeting on a fine cold evening, with some good Meccano discussion a crop of models and a few decisions made for the benefit of the Society. So ended yet another good year for N.E.M.S.

1989

During the winter we were asked to put on a display of models in the window of Meccano stockist. Through the courtesy of introduction from Atlascraft, NEMS members are busily constructing display models for the new stockists in Hexham and Josephs Toy Shop Sunderland.

The AGM was held on the 1st March but was only attended by 9 members. The officials elected for the ensuing year, President: Bill Butterfield, Chairman: Joe Etheridge, Secretary: Frank Beadle, Treasurer: Chris Barron, Magazine Editors: John Lythgoe & Dave Dalton, Librarian: Dave Dalton, the position of Vice Chairman being left vacant.

The Secretary was extremely grateful to John Lythgoe and Dave Dalton for jointly taking over Editorship of the magazine. Frank Beadle, having produced all but 3 of the 45 issues during 10 years since March 1979 when issue No. 1 appeared. With the Editorial Chair moving, in the hope that Frank Beadle can have a chance in his daily routine to talk to his wife / pat the kids / stroke the cats and build more Meccano models, organize the Scouts and bring sanity to Darlington Council. The Society owes Frank a great debt of gratitude for his years of unstinting effort in editing and shaping the magazine into the inspiring and useful journal which bounces through your letterbox five times each year.

Omex 1989, on 3rd And 4th June, three of our members exhibited models at the Oxclose Model Exhibition (Omex) held at Oxclose School, Washington, Tyne - Wear, organised by the local Model Railway Society.

The exhibition consisted of numerous model railway layouts from various

clubs, model boats, aeroplanes, cars, trams and of course the genuine model engineers. The three members were Barry Richardson, Bill Butterfield and Joe Etheridge. Although the public attendance wasn't very large, considerable interest was shown in all the models and we may, as a result, gain some new members. We were treated very hospitably by the organisers, supplied with morning and afternoon cups of tea, plus a hot meal on each of the two days. The organiser was very impressed with our display and asked if we could possibly enlarge upon it for next year.



A photo taken at Frank's home a club meeting from the left Frank Beadle, Joe Etheridge, Brian Chaffer and Ray Stephen.

The Skegex 89 held on the 7th - 9th July, this was probably the largest Skegness show so far, attracting modellers from near and far, including a sizeable contingent from the continent - mainly from Holland.

The NEMS was represented by six members, who displayed around sixteen models between them, all of excellent quality. The hall was filled with an almost endless variety of really first class models which delighted the steady stream of visitors who packed into the two day exhibition.

Bill Butterfield represented the Society at the World's Largest Children's Party on the Large Newcastle Town Moor Park over the weekend of 27th / 28th August, when this massive event attracted about a quarter of a million people for charity. The event was very well attended on the Sunday but less crowded on the Monday.

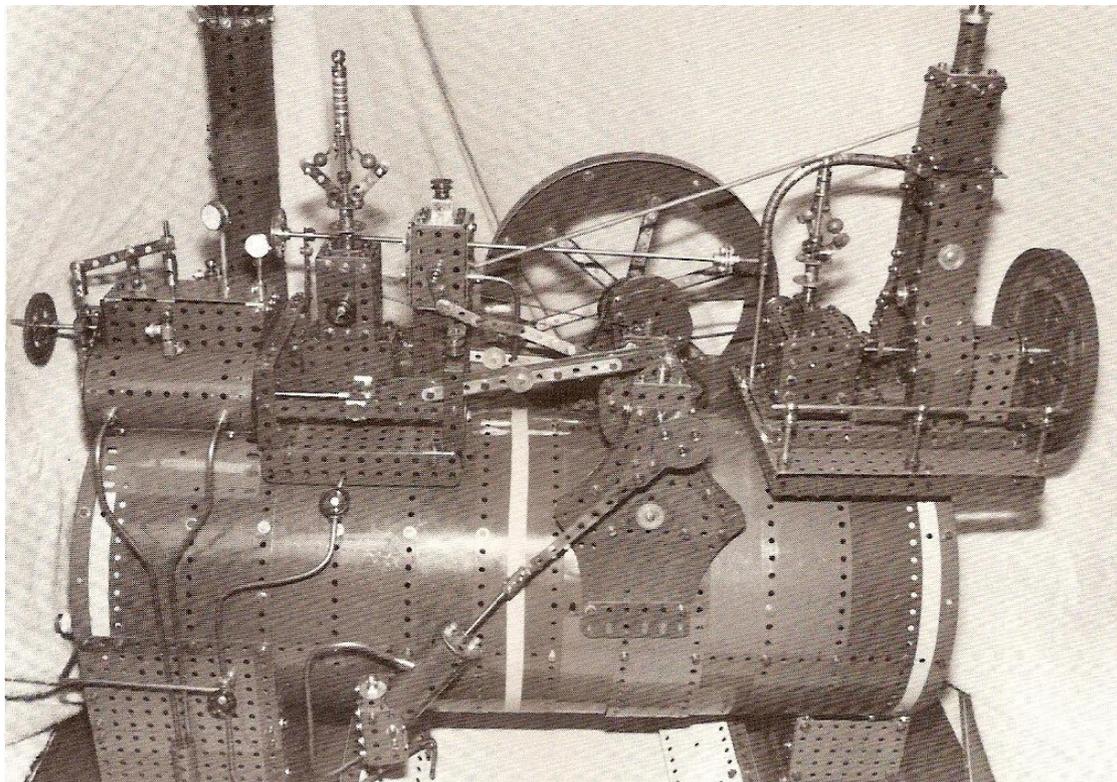
The following weekend (2nd September), Bill Butterfield and Frank

Beadle exhibited seven models (including one of the late Alf Dean's masterpieces) at the Rothman's Model and Hobby Show in Darlington. Members presence at such events keeps our active Society 'on the map' and, more importantly, in the public eye in the North East.

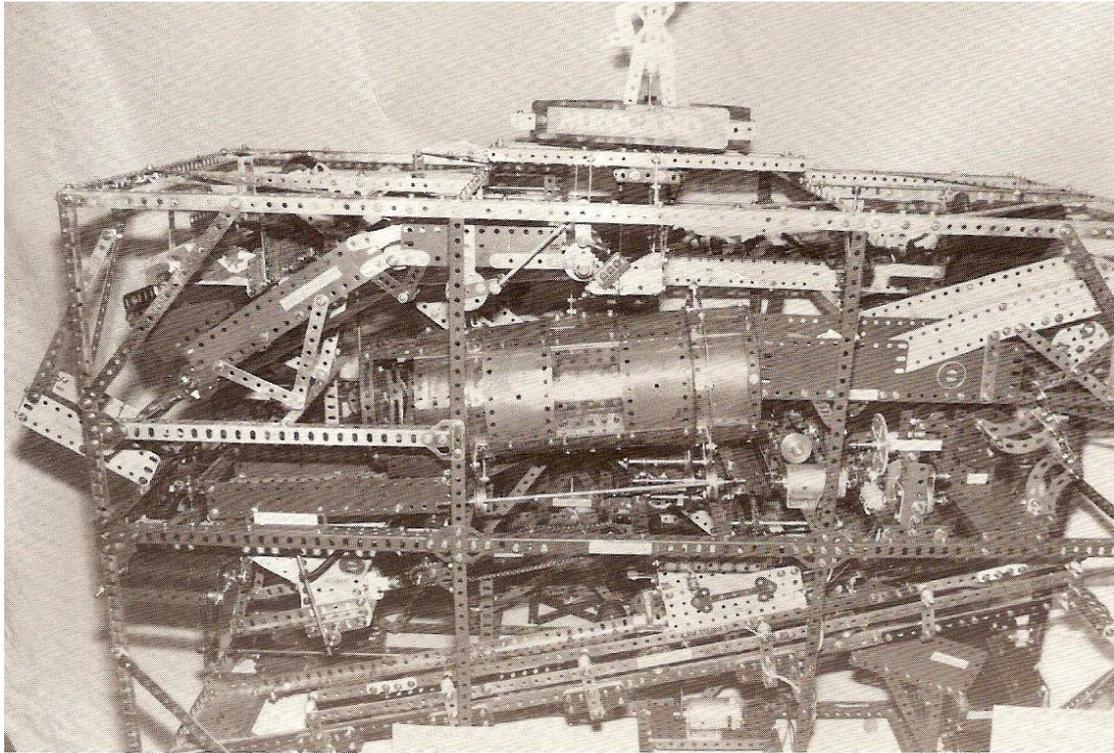
Our next outing this year was at the Hurworth Community Association Model and Craft Exhibition on the 21st / 22nd October. Frank Beadle coordinated this weekend with four of our members attending over the weekend.

At the November Exhibition we were honoured to have a Dutch visitor, Mr. Aart van de Ruit from Rotterdam, who joined more visitors than ever at a fine show.

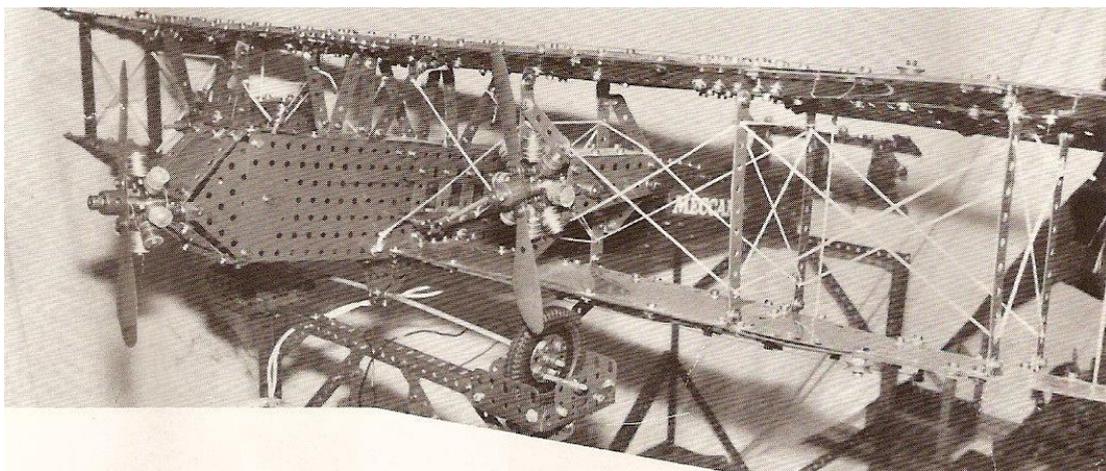
1989 Our 14th Exhibition



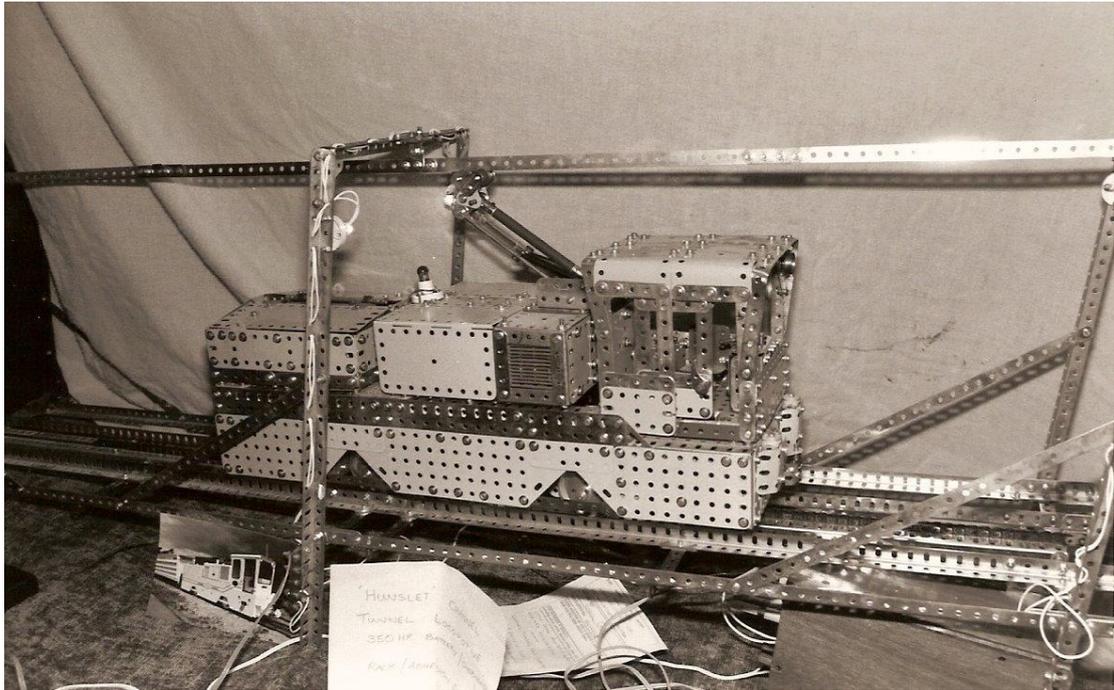
Overtyping Stationary Engine built by Barry Richardson



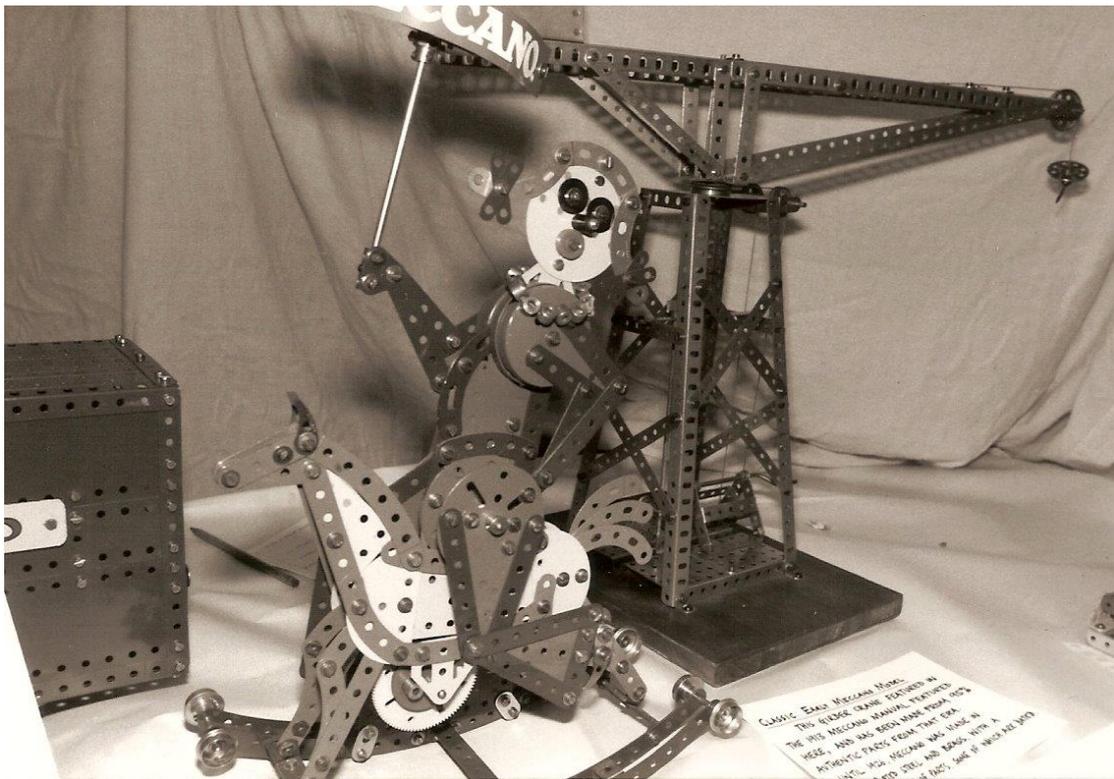
Rob Mitchell's 1st. Prize Winner Mailbags the Meccano Integrated Brick - Bashing and Grinding System



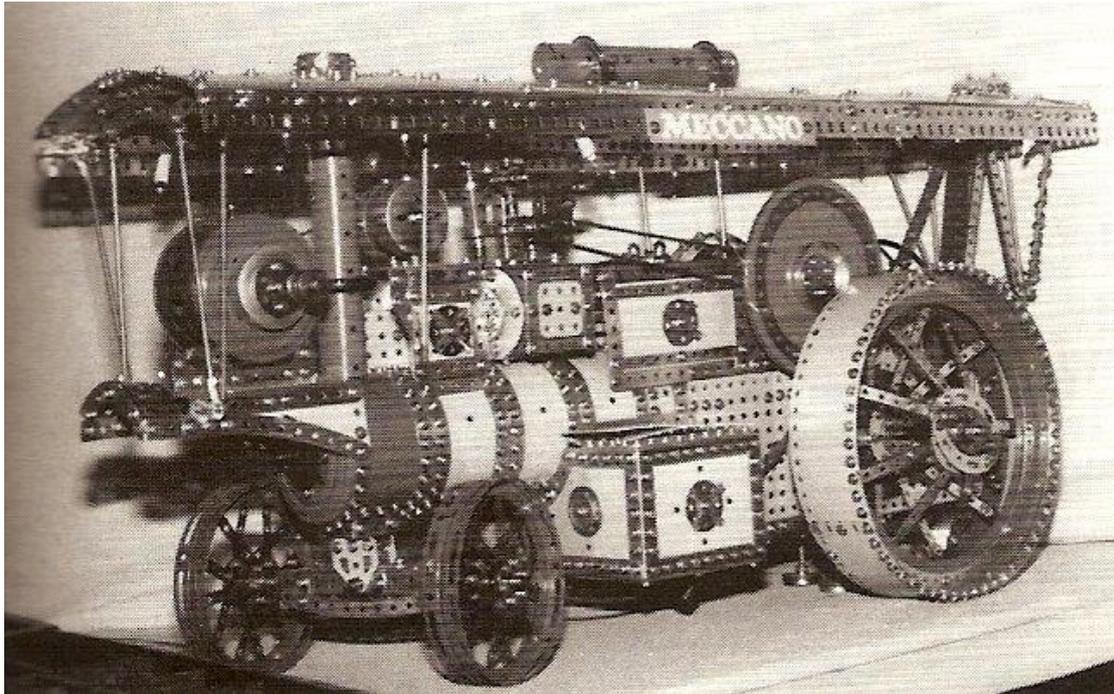
Philip Pratt Junior 3rd. Prize Winner with a Triple Engine Armstrong Whitworth 'Argosy' Biplane



A 1:10 scale Channel Tunnel 350hp. Electric Rack Locomotive built by Russell Carr



Alice on Her Rocking Horse built by John Martin



**A Burrell 8hp Scenic Showman's Road Locomotive built by
Joe Etheridge**

It has to be said - the best NEMS Exhibition ever!! Our past achievements gave us a hard act to follow, but we did it! (Or should we say Frank did it??) There's no doubt that without Frank's apparently tireless drive and energy, this year's Exhibition wouldn't have had that certain sparkle.

The Prologue! What a bumper list of 92 models (and 44 exhibitors) we had that year! It was particularly pleasing to welcome such strong and enthusiastic support from Meccano societies all over the country. Also, how nice to have the opportunity of talking to so many NEMS members from near and afar.

The Society acknowledges with gratitude the valuable assistance of Atlascraft for their generous provision of Meccano sets as prizes, the Prize Winners!!

Adults 1st. Rob Mitchell - Automatic Brick Bashing Machine
2nd. Ian Henwood - Lorry Mounted Telescopic Crane
3rd. Bobby Middlemass - Block - Setter Crane

Juniors 1st. James Reay - Ball Bearing Confuser
2nd. Katie Storr - Ferris Wheel
3rd. Philip Pratt - Armstrong 'Argosy' Triple Engine Plane

One or two notes from 1989:- Fingerless Mittens!! You have the tee-shirt and jumper - now look at these irresistible 'Steptoe' brand mittens! Wonder at the way we put the label outside for correct hands first time, every time! A perfect gift for the man who builds models in his garden shed or even out of doors for those larger jobs. Painstakingly hand knitted in free-range Albanian woollen mixture, these mitts will give many hours of enjoyment and are virtually indestructible in normal use.

Simulation Computer Game! Solve problems of design, obtaining parts, building a model, getting to the show.

Head-Line News! A head-mounted TV set - just the thing for whiling away the odd spare moment whilst you're contemplating the next stage of your model.

An interesting sideline of the Society is the fact that youngsters who were members from the outset in 1975, had now long since gone through university or were even married almost 15 years from the formation of the NEMS, but their place had, and still is, taken by youngsters just as enthusiastic. One of the salient points of the NEMS is its encouragement and help to young members, in fact at many meetings the older brethren such as Joe Etheridge could be seen giving advice on some difficult aspect of modelling.

The last meeting of the year was on the 6th December at Frank's home. The main part of the meeting was the November Exhibition, this was a fine show with table space at a premium with over 40 modellers, the longest model was a 22ft. long Forth Bridge and the tallest a 13 ft. high Eiffel Tower. So ended 1989.

1990 The first meeting was at Frank's home on the 24th January with several members present, and we welcomed 6 new members to the Society, among them were John S. Woollatt and Geoff Rowlinson. The main part of the night was notes for the next AGM in March.

The 16th Annual General Meeting, this was well attended on Wednesday 7th March at the home of the Secretary. Officials were elected as follows President Bill Butterfield, Chairman Joe Etheridge, Vice Chairman Barry Richardson, Secretary Frank Beadle, Treasurer Chris Barron, Librarian Dave Dalton, Magazine Editor John Lythgoe.

The Treasurers Report was given, subscriptions would remain the same as the previous two years, and they were actually reduced in 1987 by 50p. There was a healthy balance in the funds of £1008.80p. The magazine staff were thanked for their work, the main Editor being John Lythgoe. They are looking at increasing the number of pages and / or going onto a quarterly basis, both these issues are under review at present.

The first exhibition of the year was at Kelham Island Industrial Museum, with the Sheffield Meccano Guild. This was again a well-attended exhibition with several NEMS members in attendance.

Omex 90 at Oxclose School, Washington, Co. Durham this was on the 24th / 25th March, a good attendance by NEMS and a good position in the Dining Hall on both days. The Club was represented by 5 members over the two days. We had a good weekend, were very well treated by the organizers and a hot lunch and other refreshments were included. The public showed a lot of interest and we were kept busy explaining or demonstrating our models.

The club meeting on the 4th July was moved from the home of the Secretary, to the home of the Chairman in Peterlee. Now older members will know that this is the birthday of a member so all were welcome. This was on the Wednesday before Skegex, well supported during which members were hardly able to find room to sit. The organisation of the November Exhibition was the main item for the business side of the gathering, with models in abundance too.

Skegex 90, yet again this was a well-attended show, considered by some to be the best ever. Excellent support from overseas was very evident including 18 modellers from Holland, 2 from Belgium and one each from Israel, Italy and Australia. The NEMS was well represented: ten members attended.

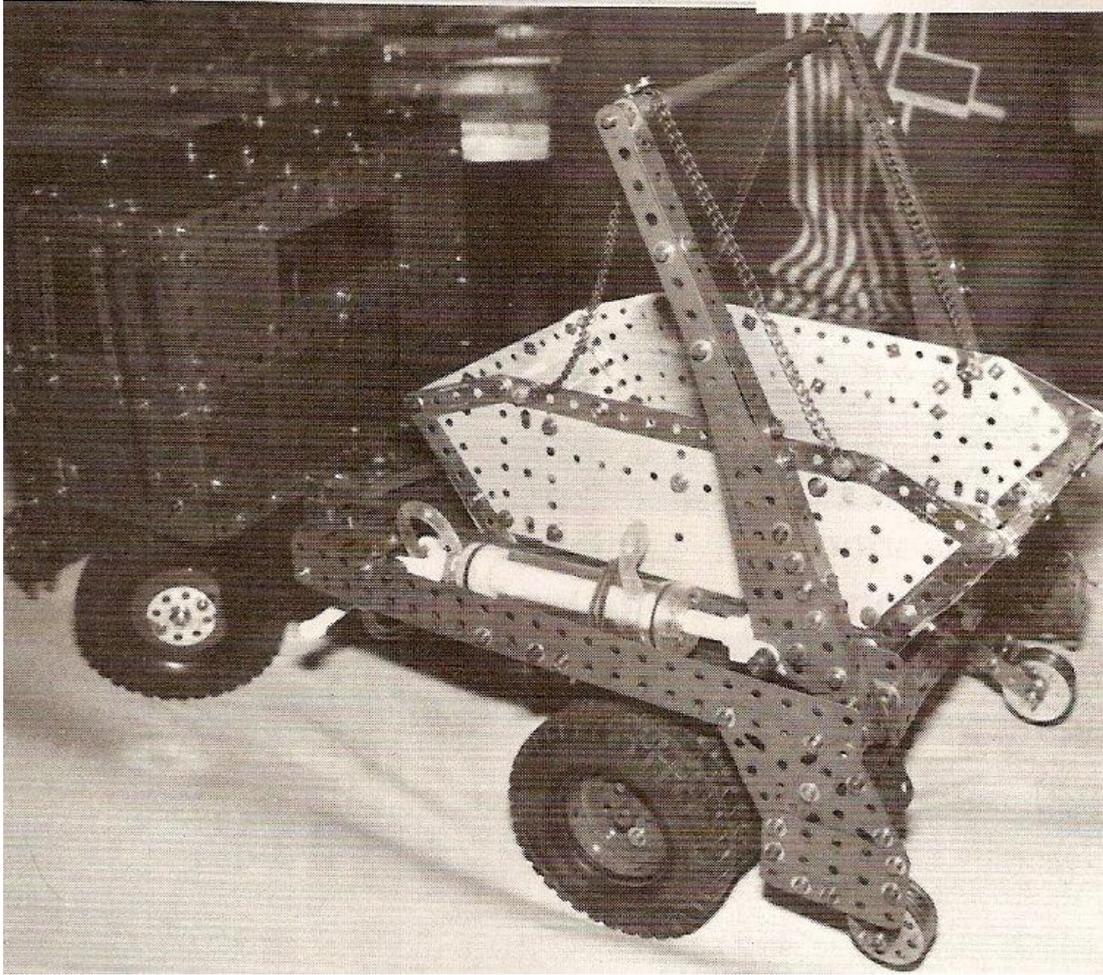
Hurworth Craft and Hobbies Exhibition, 20th / 21st October. The NEMS had seven members displaying 16 models over the weekend. It was a pleasant weekend, although the public attendance was a little disappointing.

At this time the Magazine was now only four issues per year with the fifth one being the Exhibition Special.

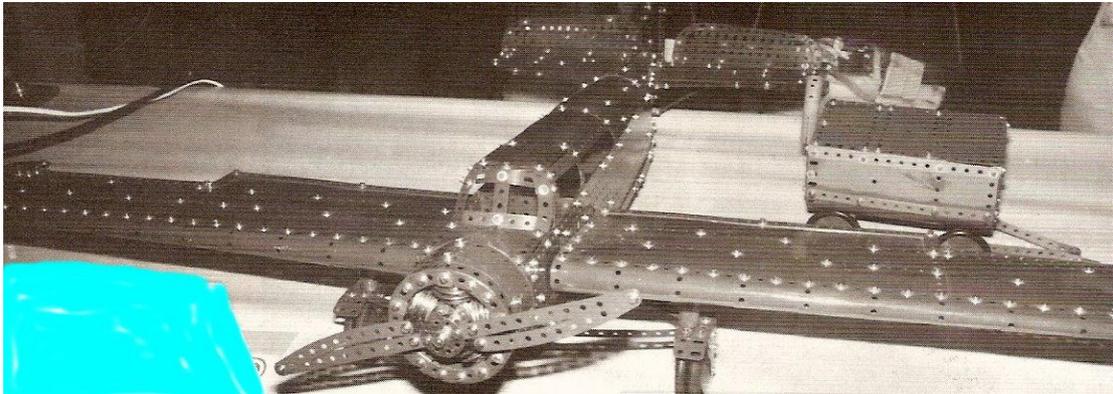
The 1990 November Exhibition

This was again a good show with the usual and keen interested spectators flowing steadily through the hall all day and good support from modellers outside of the NEMS. For the first time this year we introduced the model description sheet at the Exhibition.

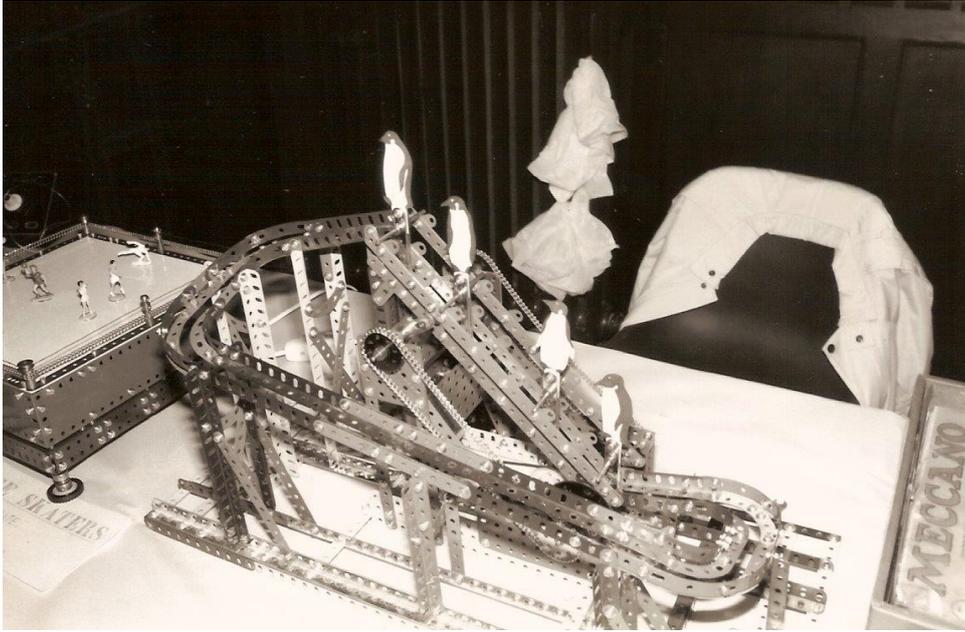
Leading members of the club, and others, are extremely worried by the number of members who actually displayed a model at this November show. To be quite plain there was table space and this is not a good advert for the Society when people pay to enter the hall.



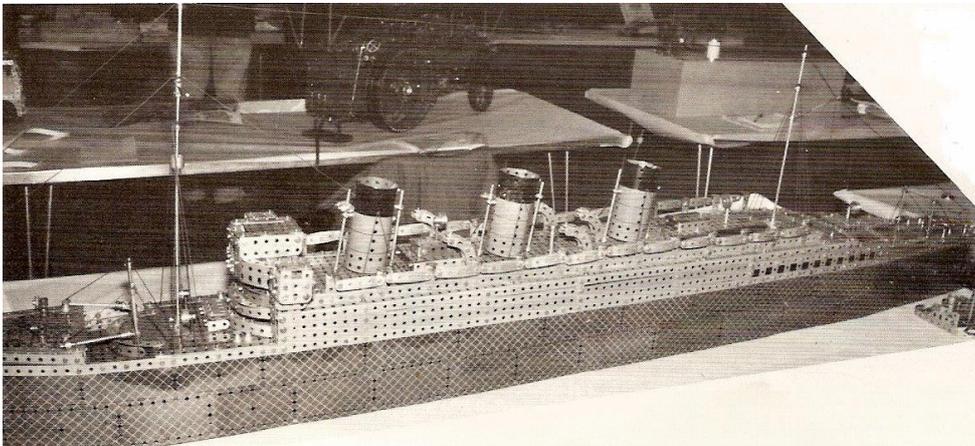
Iain McKenzie Skip Lorry



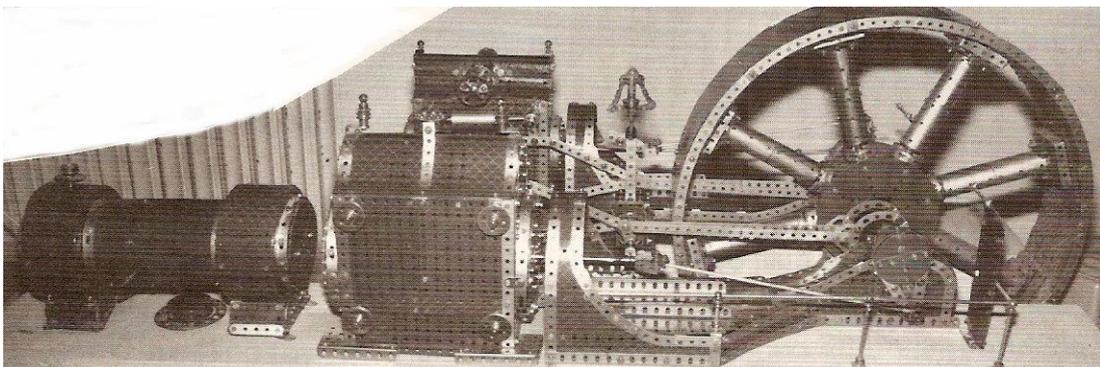
Cason Monoplane by Derek Strickland



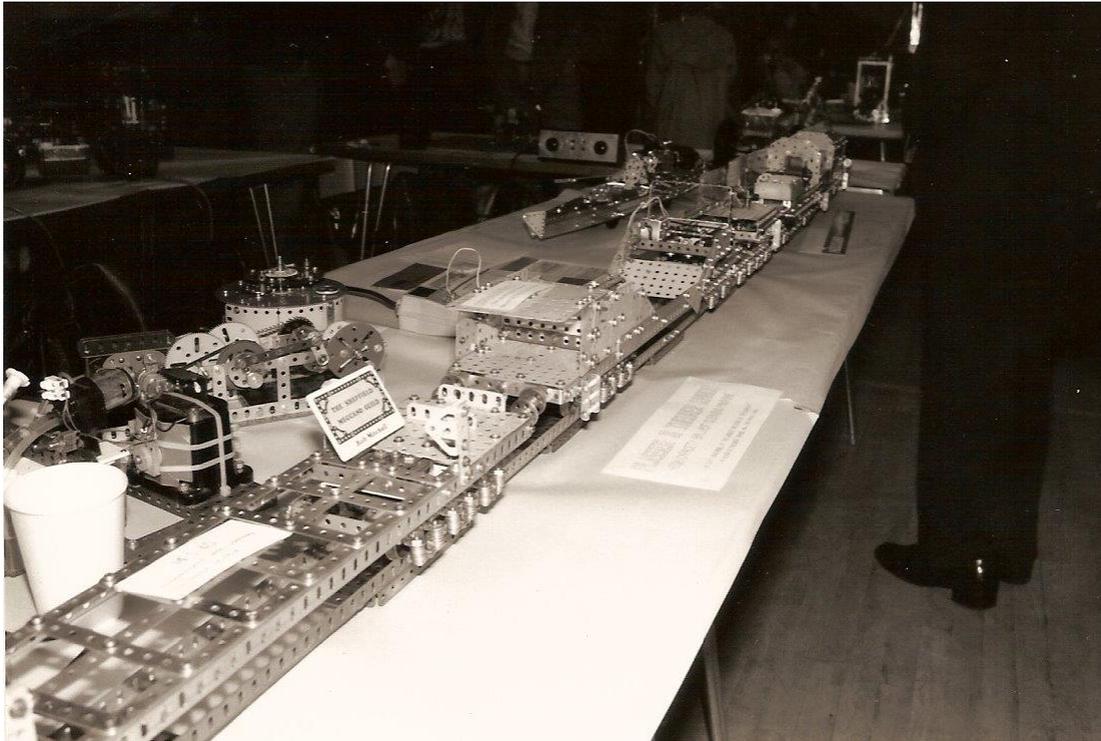
Penguin Staircase built by Ted Lydiate



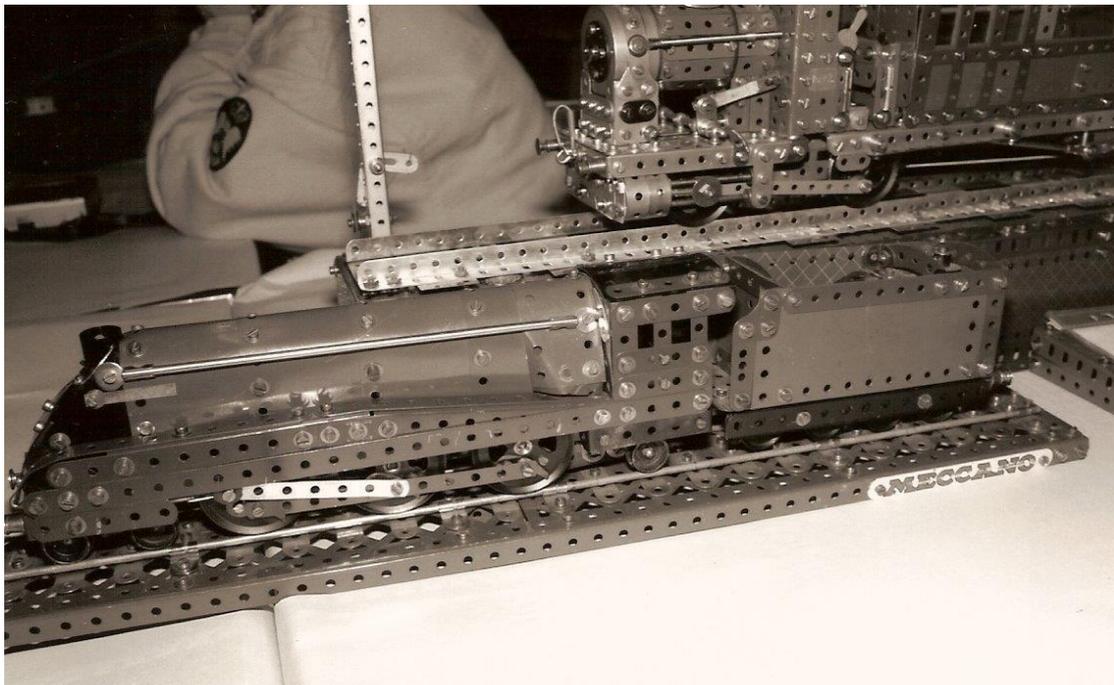
RMS Queen Mary by Dave Stokes



Corliss Valve Engine built by Frank Beadle



A Kenworth Roadtrain with three Trailers built by John Bader



The Mallard Locomotive built by John Martin

All the usual events were supported during the year, with the climax of the Annual Exhibition on November 15th at the Arts Centre, with a fine crop of models and support from afar, to make it again a really memorable occasion. For some years we had been kindly provided with

Sets for prizes from Atlascraft and were indeed most grateful after the collapse of the U.K. Meccano Company in the early eighties.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Adults	1 st . John Martin	-	GNR Railmotor
	2 nd . Brian Harper	-	Obstacle Railway
	3 rd . Derek Strickland	-	Milling Cutter
Juniors	1 st . Not Awarded		
	2 nd . Philip Pratt	-	Mighty Antar Tank Transporter
	3 rd . Katie Storr	-	Motor Car

Judges Prize: - Ian Mordue - Blocksetting Crane

The meeting on the 5th December was very poorly attended with only six members at Bill Butterfield's home to sample a delicious array of mince pies etc. Nevertheless it was a meeting worth attending as Ian Mordue had a vast array of Argentine parts which conjured up all kinds of interesting mechanisms with their 'out of the ordinary' uses in such as varied turntables and built-up eccentrics for Walking Draglines. Several members also had models there too. Though there were several apologies. Another year is over, one which seems to have been a steady year with the normal run of things taking place with nothing out of the ordinary.

1991

For our first meeting of the year NEMS goes walkabout, with fourteen of us gathered at the Durham home of Ian and Christine Mordue on Wednesday 23rd January, one of our newer members from the Scottish Club, who now lives this side of the border. We were pleased to welcome new member Michael Charlton from Jarrow. It was a fruitful evening for the examination of models. John Woollatt brought along his fascinating lever frame for operating a keyboard, Joe Etheridge showed a large multi-layered ball race, whilst our host showed his Super Meccanograph. Our grateful thanks to Christine Mordue for providing such a wonderful and mouth watering selection of refreshments, and for welcoming the tribal influx.

17th Annual General Meeting, this very well attended meeting took place on March 6th at the home of the Secretary. Officials elected were as the previous year. Subscriptions were raised by a small margin for the first time since 1980 and it is a tribute to the management of the Society that they have remained at this level for so long, they were actually reduced from £5.50 to £5.00 in 1987. Adults would now be £6.00, Students £3.00

and juniors remain the same at £1.50.

Different methods of producing the magazine were put by John Lythgoe, with an example of A5 size. It was however agreed to retain the A4 size, any more than 16 pages would also result in heavier postage costs. Meanwhile the magazine had entered into the world of computer graphics, showing clear illustrations and photographs of models, but John Lythgoe's short term as the Editor ended with issue 56 in April due to pressure of work.

For the March meeting we were back on the road, for this meeting was held at the home of Dave Dalton. This was well attended by members.

With no exhibitions at this time we only had the club meetings, and as with the rest of the year we were on the move. This time to the home of John Martin in Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire, this again was a well-attended meeting.

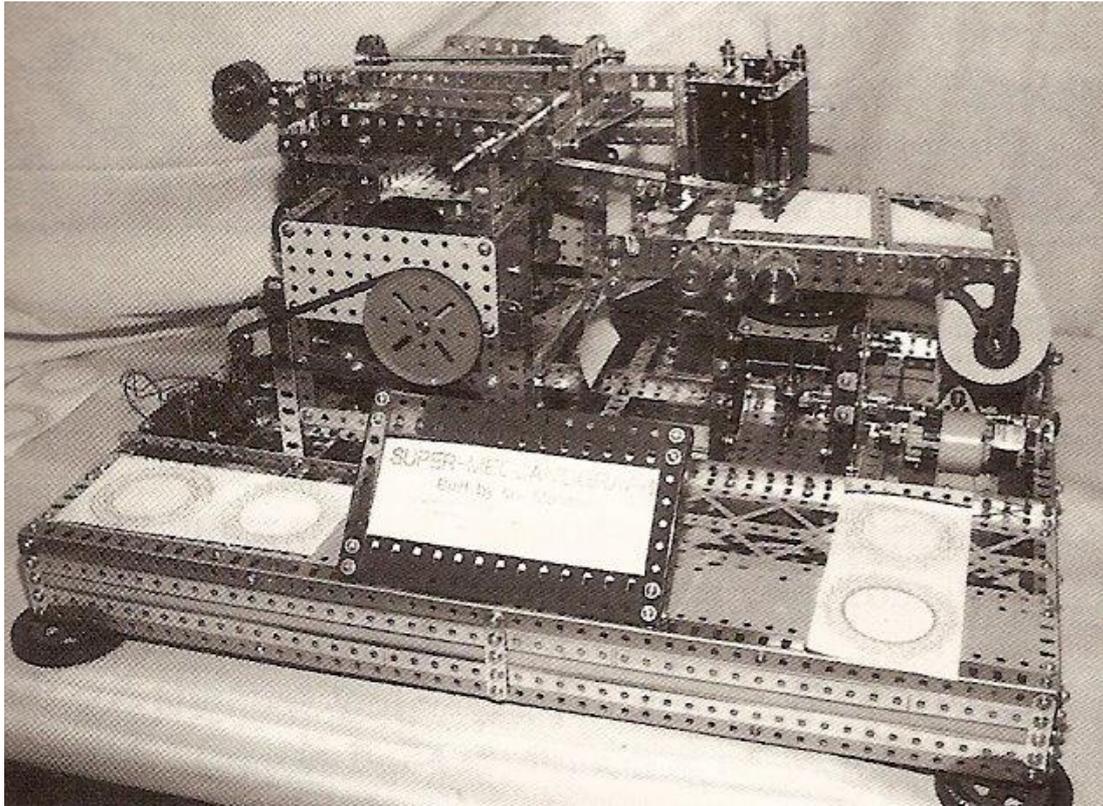
The first major exhibition of the year was Siege '91'. This again was a well-attended show with a big show from the NEMS, with Frank Beadle filling the back of the stage with his exhibition of forty 'other systems' from around the world.

The second part of the year had been a turbulent time for the Society, with no magazine since April, and only the news letter from the Secretary. Suddenly two of our most valued personnel have decided they've reached the age of retirement from the Society. A special NEMS News was issued in October with apologies, for not getting any sort of magazine they deserve, of course, and we intend to get back into regular decent publishing habits in the New Year.

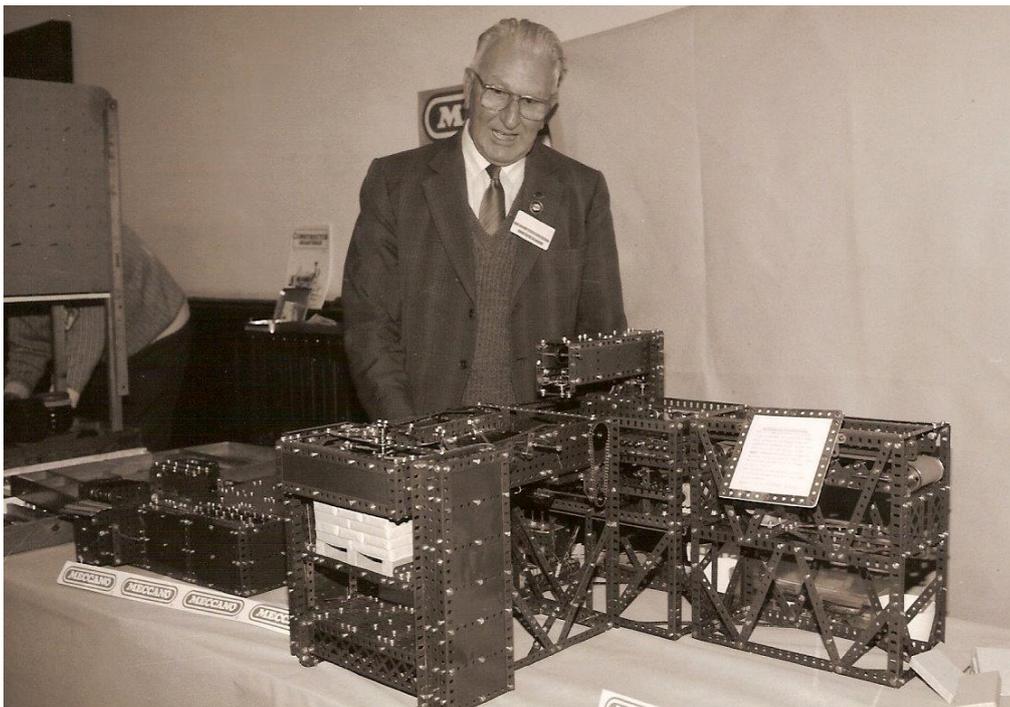
Among the disasters which have hit NEMS this year, Frank Beadle, secretary and NEMS founder, has decided he has to resign. The November Exhibition will be the last he will organise, as secretary, and we would want to make it a great one and a tribute to Frank.

In the meantime we had the Hurworth Hobbies Weekend on the 19th / 20th October. This was attended by four of our members over the weekend. With Bill Butterfield's prototype Fence Making Machine making its first appearance, also Frank had his Corliss valve engine which is 4ft. 6in. long, and Barry Richardson with his Steam Power Plant. Joe Etheridge had his French Pacific 4 - 6 - 2 Locomotive, Ray Stephen with his Burrell Showman's Engine.

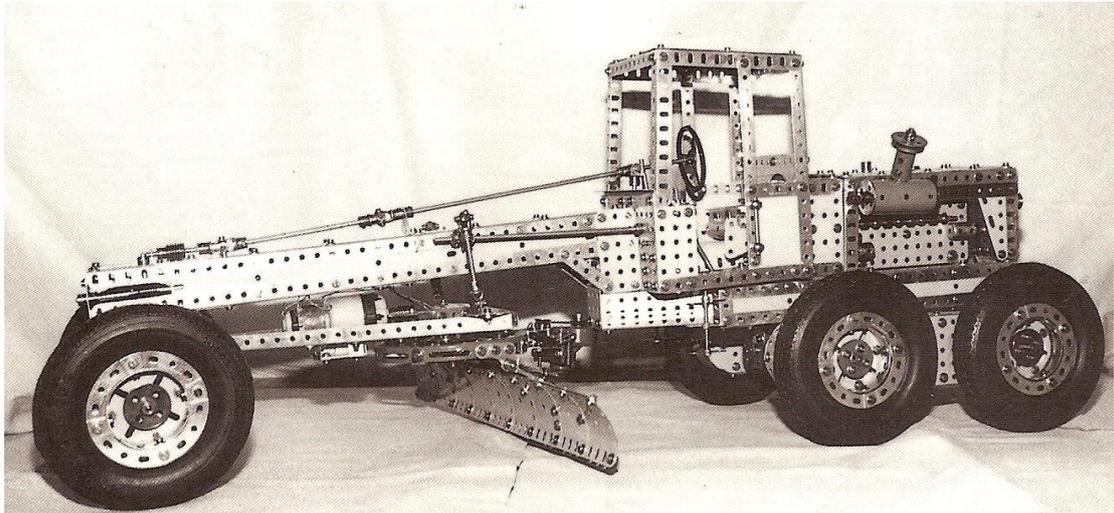
1991 Darlington Exhibition



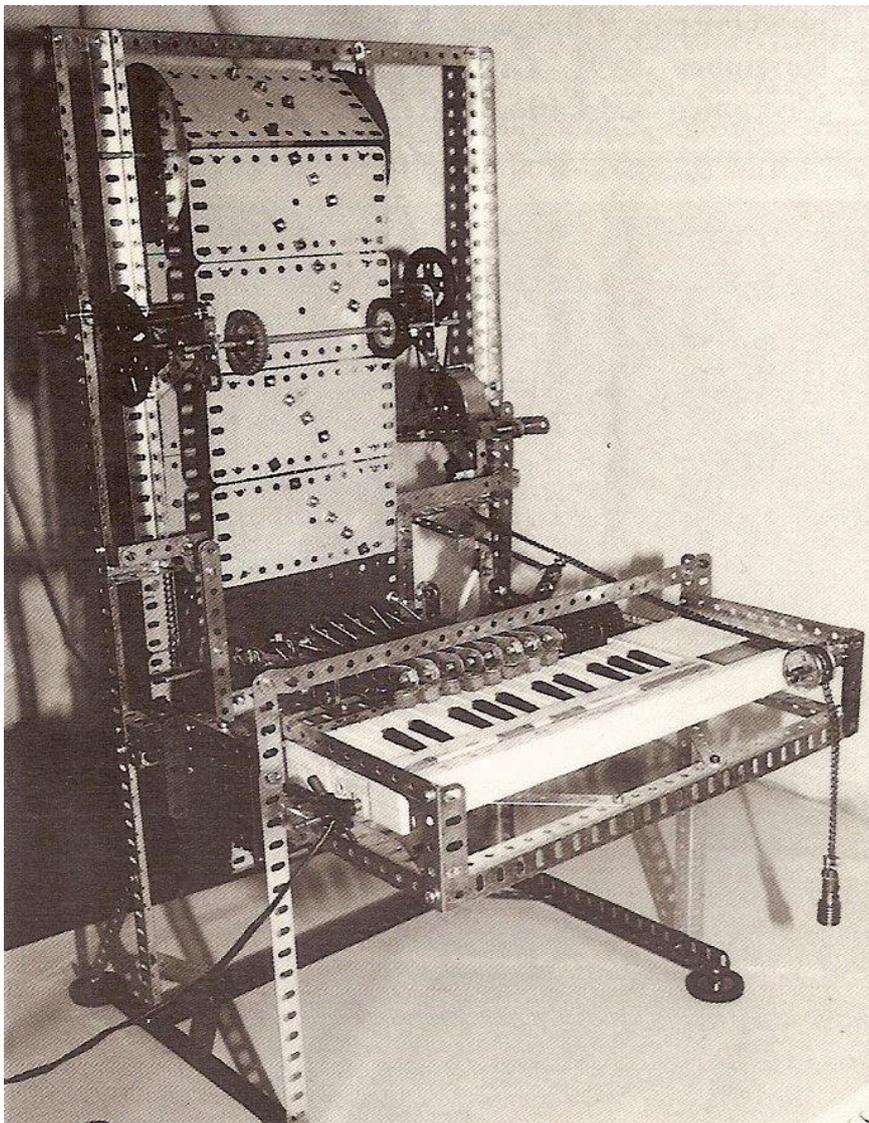
Super - Meccanograph by Ian Mordue



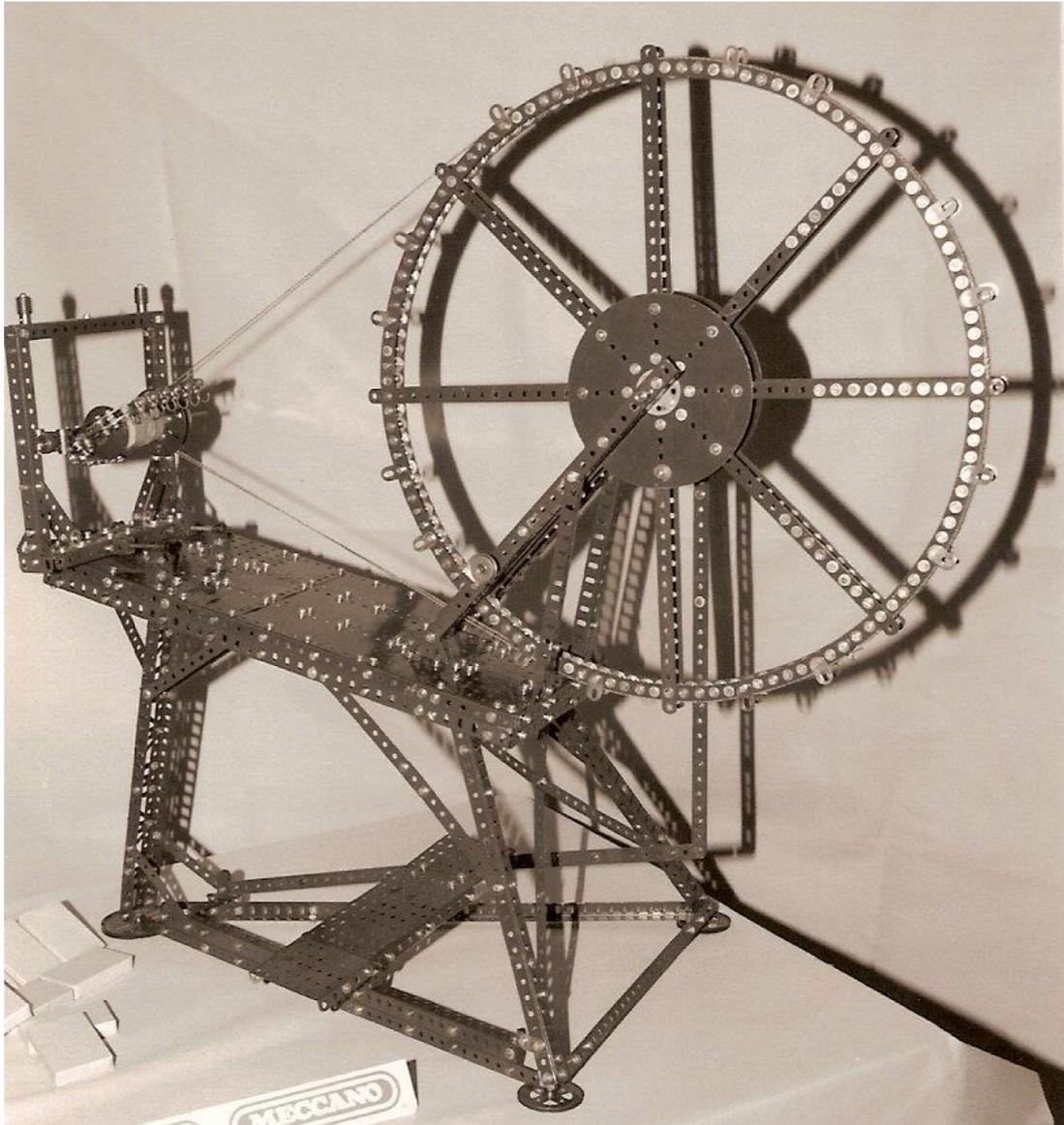
Fence - Making Machine by Bill Butterfield



Road Grader by Joe Etheridge



Meccarillon by John Woollatt



This model a full size Spinning Wheel built by Bill Butterfield, and was demonstrated by a lady visitor to the show.

After a slow start with only six modellers in the hall by 9.30am, the room very quickly started to fill and by the end we had thirty six modellers with a total of 76 models on show.

From first impressions, it seems that public attendance was down. Once again the judges, and for those who didn't know, were John Martin and Joe Etheridge, had a very difficult job. Owing to the fact that Joe had to disappear in the afternoon, John did most of the judging. (I heard on the grapevine that John may have had some help from his son Michael, who I believe, went round giving each model a mark out of twenty. I would have loved to have seen HIS list)

The Results were: 1st. Rob Mitchell - High Capacity Ballast Cleaner
2nd. Roger Marriot - Schools Class Locomotive
3rd. Frank Beadle - Corliss Valve Gear Engine

Due to a lack of models from juniors, the judges decided to award only two prizes. The third prize was awarded as a judge's prize.

Juniors 1st. Barry Harker - Single Suspension Grabber
2nd. Philip Pratt - Single Deck Bus

Judges prize: Daniel Cassidy - Willy's Jeep



Junior 1st. Prize Winner Barry Harker

The November Exhibition was again a success, with the usual and new spectators visiting. It is nice to see visitors every year. One even apologised for being late, but he had to work on the morning. Good support came from modellers outside of N.E.M.S. club, all of which have been thanked.

It will be noted that Bill Butterfield had also resigned shortly after the 91 Exhibition as he was even older than the former Secretary, and had been the main organiser of all the Stockton Exhibition except the first one. Also Chris Barron had relinquished the position of Treasurer which he had held since 1977.

Following the mass resignations and disorganisation of 1991, two meetings were held at the Chairman's home, in December. At the first meeting, various changes were discussed, with the two aims of avoiding separation of Secretarial and Editorial activity in the future, and of moving towards the meeting habits of other Meccano Guilds and Societies. The second meeting was formal, a new Secretary was elected, and it was agreed to cease the six weekly evening meetings in favour of three Saturday quarterly meetings and the Darlington exhibition. Responsibility for the magazine, due to be published quarterly, and roughly a month after meetings, and rests with an Editorial Committee comprising the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian.

Yet another year is over, one which has been very traumatic in the life of N.E.M.S. With the resignation of Frank Beadle as club Secretary, John Lythgoe resigning from magazine editor and Bill Butterfield resigning as club President, we have had some changes. Our thanks go to Frank, as he was the club founder. But we must thank all three of them for the hard work they have done for the club over the years.

Moving on to the future, I hope you will support the club, in its new format. We are going to try a move away from the evening meetings to Saturday meetings. The first meeting is on Saturday 14th March 1992, to be held at Aiskew Chapel Hall, Bedale. This meeting is also our AGM.

1992 the start of a new look to the N.E.M.S. The magazine now published four times a year and with the club meetings now held at Aiskew Chapel Hall, Bedale.

At the first meeting in March the Chairman had to say a 'Big Thank You' to all members for their messages of support over the last few months, and to the members who attended the two meetings at his home in Peterlee. Thanks to their encouragement, we have survived a difficult period. This was apparent from the extremely well attended meeting on the 14th. March. As over twenty people attended the meeting, the tables soon filled up, with an array of excellent models.

The officials elected for the ensuing year, President: vacant,

Chairman: Joe Etheridge, Vice Chairman: Barry Richardson, Secretary: John Woollatt, Treasurer: Ian Mordue, Librarian / Features Editor: David Dalton. And Young Members Editor: Philip Pratt.

From the meetings in December the only change was the Treasurer, after doing the job for 16 years, Chris Barron decided it was time for a change. We thank Chris for all the work he has done in the past.

Other matters from the AGM, subscriptions are to remain the same. The magazine will remain quarterly issue, with a separate report for the exhibition, and also a Newsletter in between each magazine.



An early Bedale Meeting from the left Ian Mordue, Joe Etheridge, Geoff Rowlinson, John Woollatt, and John Martin.

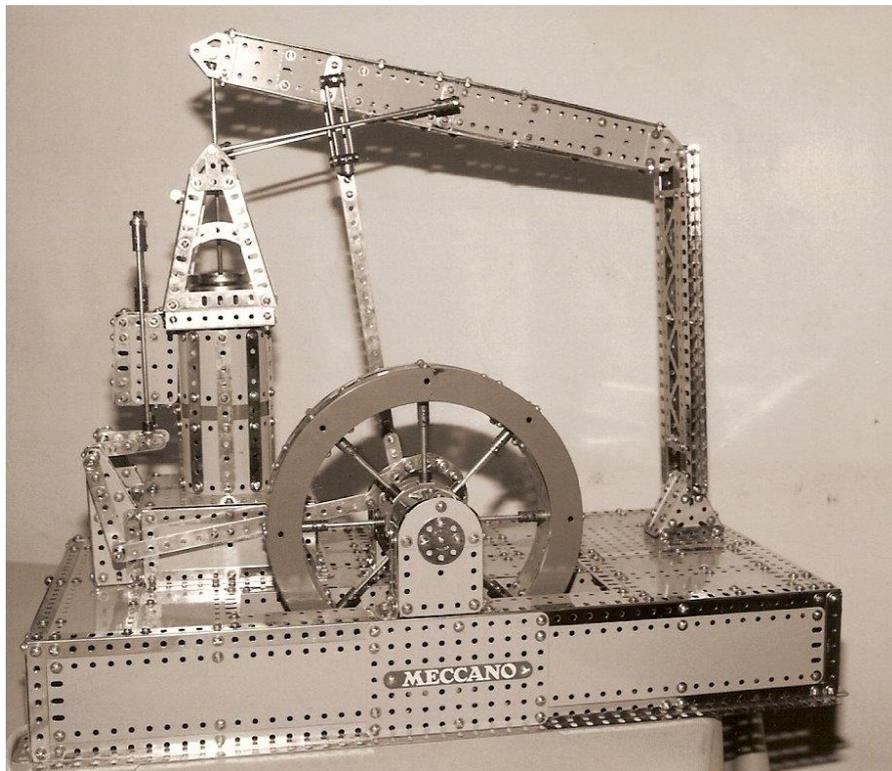
Our 1st was with the Sheffield Meccano Guild at their Annual Exhibition held at the Kelham Island Industrial Museum on the 4th & 5th April this, as always was a great day out.

The club meeting on the 13th June in the Chapel Hall Aiskew, was again pleasantly filled with Meccano people, wives and children, a few locals popped in to chat, and most importantly lots of Meccano in a variety of guises - unassembled, part assembled and even in model form, for the second in our “new look” society meetings. Members coming along were largely those who had attended the weekly evening meetings, but now also including one or two from further afield. We hope this trend will continue, since the day, starting around 11 to 11:30 am. and going on until around 5pm has proved to be a winner judging from the comments of those attending.

The business part of the meeting was quite short and focused on the need for magazine contributions. The input was most positive with the majority of members feeling able to offer something.

The next big outing was the Skegex 92' exhibition this as usual was well attended by NEMS members. This year the NEMS was at the Henley Exhibition on the 4th /5th September, with John Woollatt with his Punch and Judy Show, Joe Etheridge had a clock and his Grass Hopper Engine and Paul Smith visited on the Saturday. With a lot of other club meetings in the summer not many exhibitions were attended, with our usual attendance at Hurworth Model and Craft Exhibition.

The Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition Perth on 10th. October, this exhibition was supported by the NEMS with Joe Etheridge getting second place with his Grass Hopper Steam Engine.

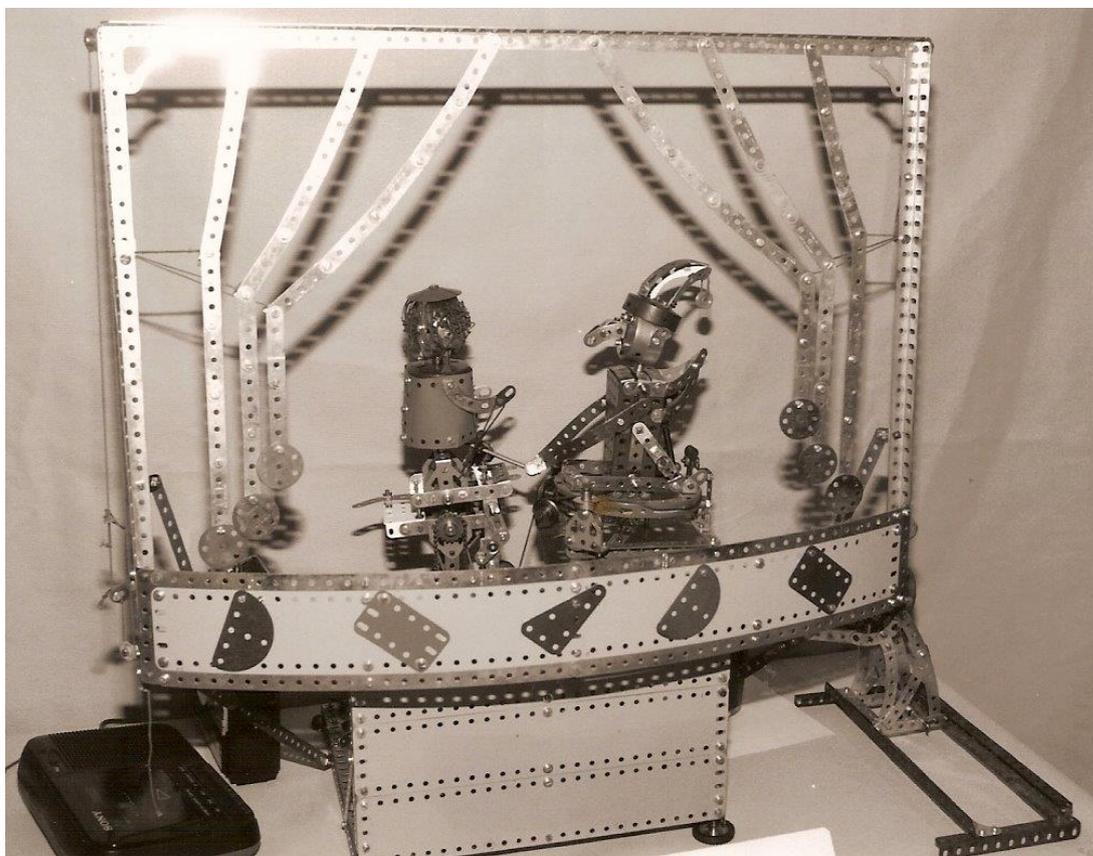


Joe's Grass Hopper Steam Engine

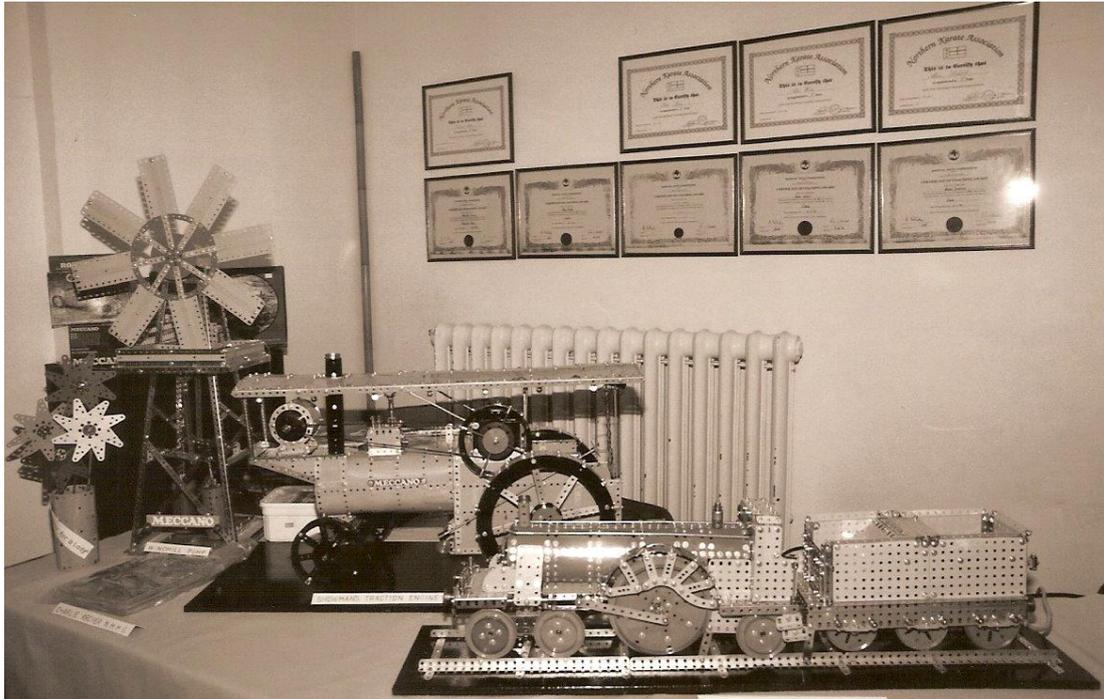
The Bedale meeting, September 12th this was the last of our three Bedale meetings for this year, and we can say that a lot of us have enjoyed ourselves. The number of people, and models, coming along has steadily increased, so that at this meeting we had nearly half of our members at Aiskew Chapel Hall, not to mention lots of impressive models. We now have members all coming along with their problems, for discussion with as many people as possible.

The 1992 November Exhibition

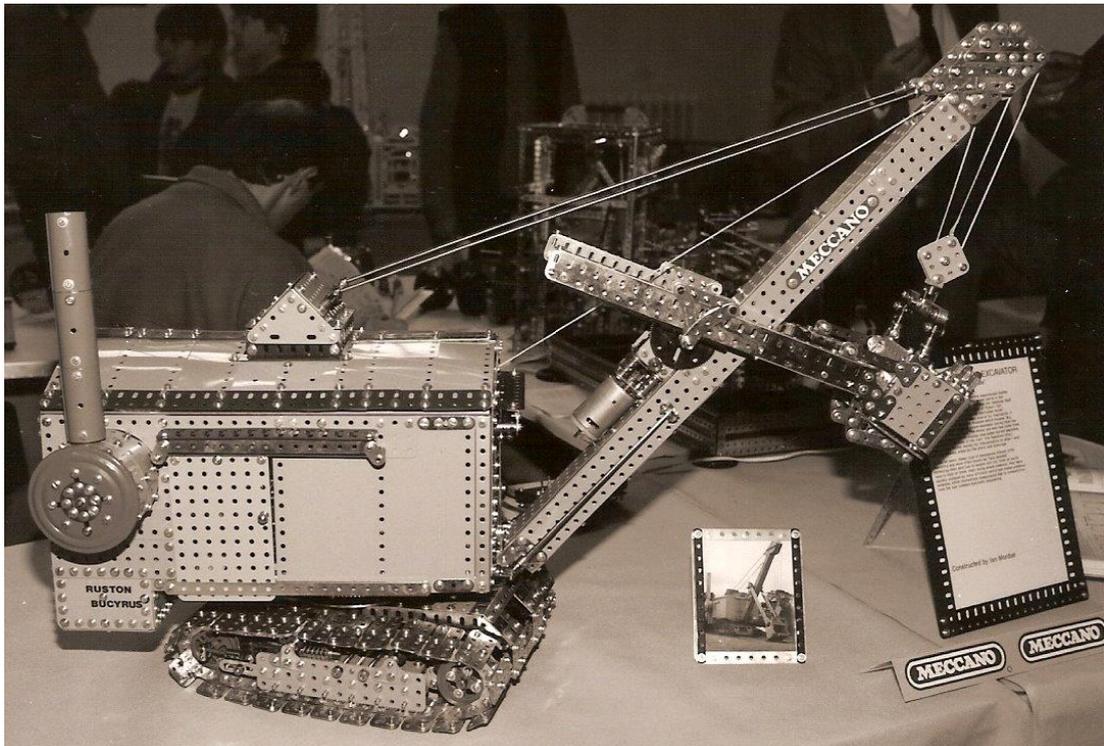
This again was in the Arts Centre Darlington, this was again a good show, from the point of view of exhibitors, and there were well over 110 models on show, though receipts at the door hardly paid for it. This next year we shall have to manage our finances better. We will try to re-create some of the atmosphere of the show through words and pictures.



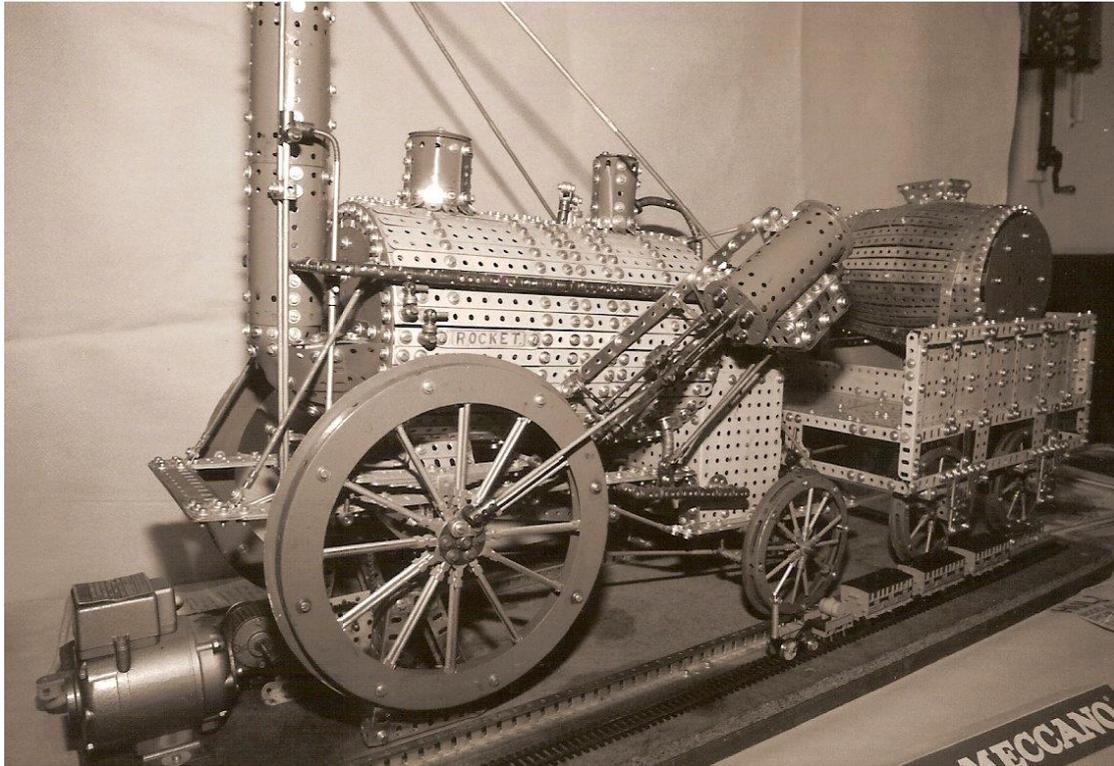
John Woollatt's well known to NEMS members, Punch and Judy Show



Charlie Archer's models: A Bouquet of Flowers, A Windmill, Showmans Traction Engine and finally A 4-2-2 Locomotive & Tender



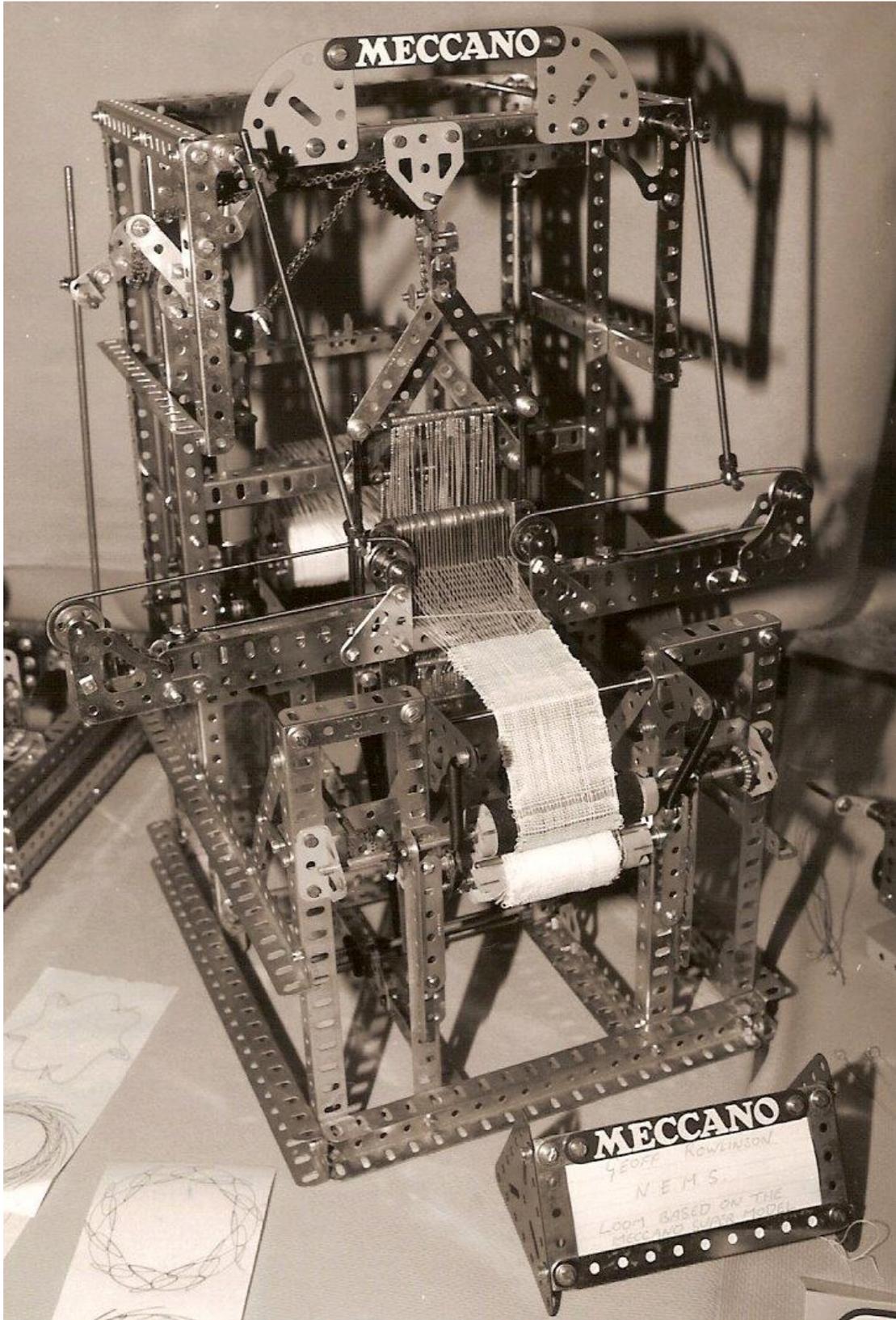
Ian Mordue's Ruston-Bucyrus Steam Excavator as preserved at the Beamish Museum. Ian won 1st. Prize for this model



Terry Pope's 2" to 1 foot scale model of Robert Stephenson's 'Rocket' Locomotive



Paul Smith's Cowans Sheldon Crane



Geoff Rowlinson's Working Loom

Now for the prizewinners, and in 1992 the NEMS used a 'voting' system and all modellers present at the exhibition had chance to vote for the models they liked best. In most opinions a fair system and it avoids the problem of finding judges!

Senior Section:

- 1st. Ian Mordue for his Ruston-Bucyrus steam excavator.
- 2nd. The Scholar family for their Schwebbahn Monorail.

Junior Section:

- 1st. Barry Harker for his Articulated Lorry.
- 2nd. Clare Milburn for her Digger.

So ended the 1992 exhibition, fortnight after the Darlington show we had a committee meeting, to discuss how we managed things in 1992, and what we shall do in 1993. We have had quite a few active people running things, and editing the magazine, though we should like more offers for guest editorials in 1993. Apart from the enormous help of having people editing the magazine, and the contributions we get from members, we have to make sure our active committee knows what the members want. Nobody will ever manage N.E.M.S., largely single handed, like Frank Beadle used to, so it is essential that all members take a lively interest, and, if you possibly can, join in the committee activities.

So we close the year with CONGRATULATIONS to Michael Martin, one of our junior members, (son of member John Martin) who was chosen to appear on a special edition of the 'Antiques Roadshow' on BBC 1 television, late in December.

Michael showed his dad's prized (and very beautiful) Nickel No. 6 Set from 1916. Young Michael did us proud, and for a few short minutes Meccano was in everyone's homes and on everyone's minds. Well done the Martin's. So that was yet another year over.

1993

The first meeting of the year was the AGM, this was on Saturday 13th March at Bedale. This was a rather well attended meeting of the Society with over 20 members present, most of whom showed models. The atmosphere at these meetings is always very friendly and relaxed, with lots of Meccano banter going on all around the room. Paul Smith had a partly built model of a Walking Dragline which first appeared in a 1960's Meccano Magazine. Mike Gray who had just returned from working in the U.S.A. and had picked a few ideas up whilst over there, that's just to mention one or two modellers, all in all a wide variety of models to be seen.

The latter part of the meeting was taken up with the Annual General Meeting. An agenda was worked through with many points raised and discussed. Officers were elected, Chairman - Joe Etheridge, Vice Chairman; Barry Richardson, Secretary / Treasurer: Ian Mordue, Magazine Co-coordinator: John Woollatt, and at this point it was unanimously decided to grant the position of Honorary Life President to Mr. Frank A. Beadle in recognition of the many years service he has given the club which he founded nearly 20 years ago.

Subscriptions are to remain the same for 1993 - 1994. A report was presented of the 1992 Darlington Exhibition, stating that although this had been a most enjoyable day, with an excellent turnout of modellers, a financial loss was incurred, but the Treasurer stated that he was confident that 1993 could be a good year financially with an extra exhibition in August in Durham City, to look forward to. The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

The first exhibition of the year was at Kelham Island Industrial Museum, this was the venue for the 6th Annual Public Exhibition of the Sheffield Meccano Guild. The exhibition rooms used are opposite the main industrial Museum of Sheffield. The museum has an audio/visual display of the industrial life of Sheffield past and present. They also have the huge, three piston River Don Steam Engine, rated at 12,000 h.p., which was used in the steel rolling mills till about the 1960's.

The exhibition was attended by several NEMS members, who had a very good collection of models. Club member Charlie Archer had four models on show one being his 4-2-2 Locomotive and a Showman's Traction Engine. Jim Mortimer another member had on display a pair of models in white, blue and yellow parts; a Cruise Liner pitching and rolling in a polythene sea and an illuminated Dive Bomber with rotating cars. Mike Whiting a regular at Darlington caused brain ache all round with an incredible Meccano Solar System, with all nine planets represented. This was a good day for NEMS as the Chairman Joe Etheridge was to be congratulated as he was awarded 1st. Prize and the Sheffield Meccano Guild's framed picture, for his model of a Dockside Complex, comprising the dockside (wharf), typically square-sided and protected with chained bollards and tyre 'buffers' to protect the ships. A Dockside Locomotive, being a saddle-tank locomotive of 1952 Peckett 0-4-0 and built by William Peckett and sons of Bristol, a Dockside Crane, being a Stothert and Pitt level-luffing type. The Cargo Ship is a No. 10 set model, and this was accompanied by an ocean-going diesel Tugboat.



Joe with the Sheffield 'Trophy' and his Dockside Complex

The June meeting was again well attended by members with a good selection of models. Joe still high from winning at the Sheffield Exhibition had his Dockside Complex, and Ian Mordue had his Steam Excavator.

This was followed by the new exhibition in Durham, as Durham Cathedral was 900 years old that year, and to celebrate the event the City Council is hoping to promote 900 separate events throughout 1993.

As part of the promotion all sorts of clubs and societies in the North East of England were contacted with the suggestion that they hold some type of show / demonstration / display to form one of the 900 events mentioned. The Society was one of the clubs contacted, and as a result it was decided that we will hold an extra exhibition that year in Durham City under the "Durham 900" umbrella. The exhibition was to take place in the Town Hall, Market Place Durham City. We had from 8a.m. to 10a.m. to get ready, the time disappeared quickly since we were unfamiliar with the room, the table space and the power points. Matters were not helped by the arrival of a mobile unit from Radio Newcastle, who wanted to do a live interview with us and take a short tour round the exhibits. Still, the publicity was valuable, even with the interruption, by 10a.m. those who were exhibiting were stood proudly behind a very impressive array of models, literature and historic items. The club had 11

members at the exhibition, during the day we received around 300 visitors including American and Japanese tourists who were in Durham to see the Cathedral, but felt that the Meccano Exhibition was unmissable. All who were there felt that it was a most enjoyable day and despite the access difficulties, all considered the venue to be excellent and room used perfect for a small scale exhibition. Given the public interest that was generated (and the fact that we managed to make £85 profit on the day) we are hoping to hold another exhibition in 1994 at around the same time.

THE BRADLEY CUP

NEMS through a contact have been gifted a most remarkable Meccano “relic”. Through Mr. Dennis Goode, who was known to some members as a collector and dealer in Meccano, we have been given an EPNS trophy as the Bradley Cup. Mr. Goode was given the cup recently by a Mr. Bradley (not unsurprisingly!), who was a gentleman in his seventies or eighties. Apparently, and we still need to check the history out fully, the Mr. Bradley aforementioned was the uncle of another Mr. Bradley, who, at the age of fourteen was instrumental in the formation of the Middlesbrough Meccano Club in the mid-twenties - from the same source, we do in fact have a “team” photo of the club from that era. Tragically, the last mentioned Mr. Bradley was killed at the age of twenty in a motorcycling accident and we believe that the cup was donated to the club as a memorial. The cup was in fact a trophy for football, being inscribed “Middlesbrough Meccano Society, Bradley Cup, Football” and not Meccano modelling, which just goes to show the diversity within the active Meccano societies of that time.

Having received this unique item, some discussion ensued at the next Bedale meeting, concerning its future use and care.

Being unique, all felt that it would be inappropriate to change or add to any inscription on the cup. As the bakelite base was in a very poor condition it was decided to have a new base made with the NEMS on the front and a panel on the side for the winners names to be engraved on a silver plate.

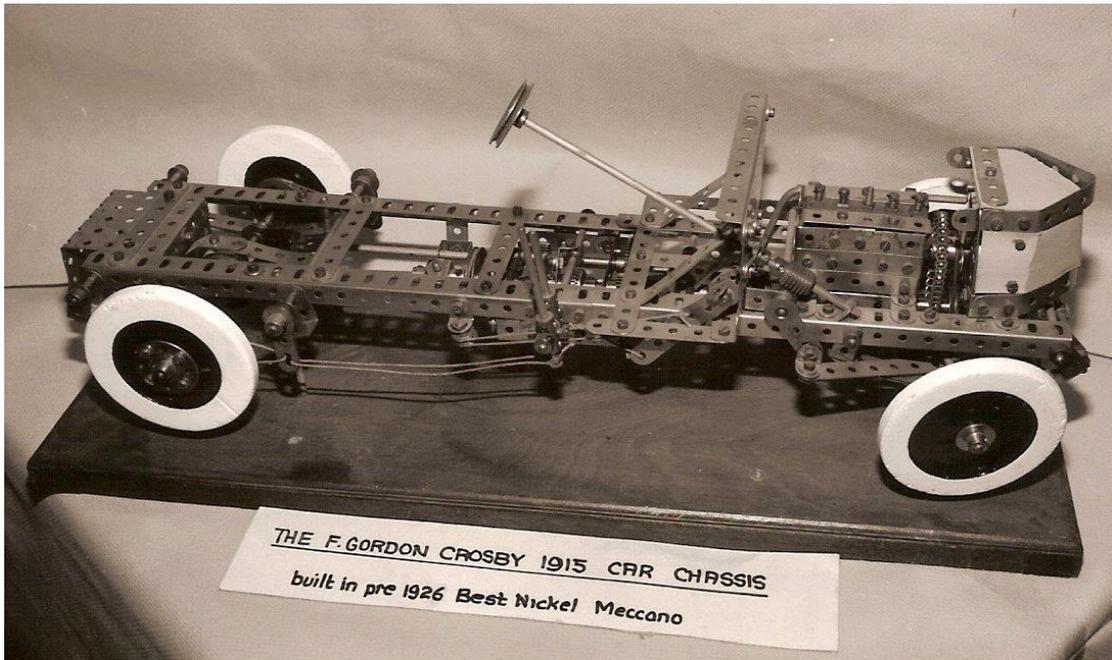
As to its use, it was felt that all members should have an opportunity to win this award and as such it was decided that the awarding of the cup would be linked to service to the NEMS specifically and Meccano in general, rather than a model making ability, for obvious reasons. The award will be limited to members of NEMS only, and decided at the annual exhibition. We are sure that as the years go on all members will see the award of the Bradley Cup as the recognition of a true Meccano, man who’s building skills may be limited but whose love of the hobby and the NEMS is not!

The Bedale meeting on the 11th September, there were fewer members than usual, but a good. Some of the members had the nerve to bring along the models which will grace the Darlington show, but needing improvements yet; the rest of the members just chickened out, preferring to keep their ideas and developments up their sleeves until the great day. But there was, as always, plenty to look at and discuss.

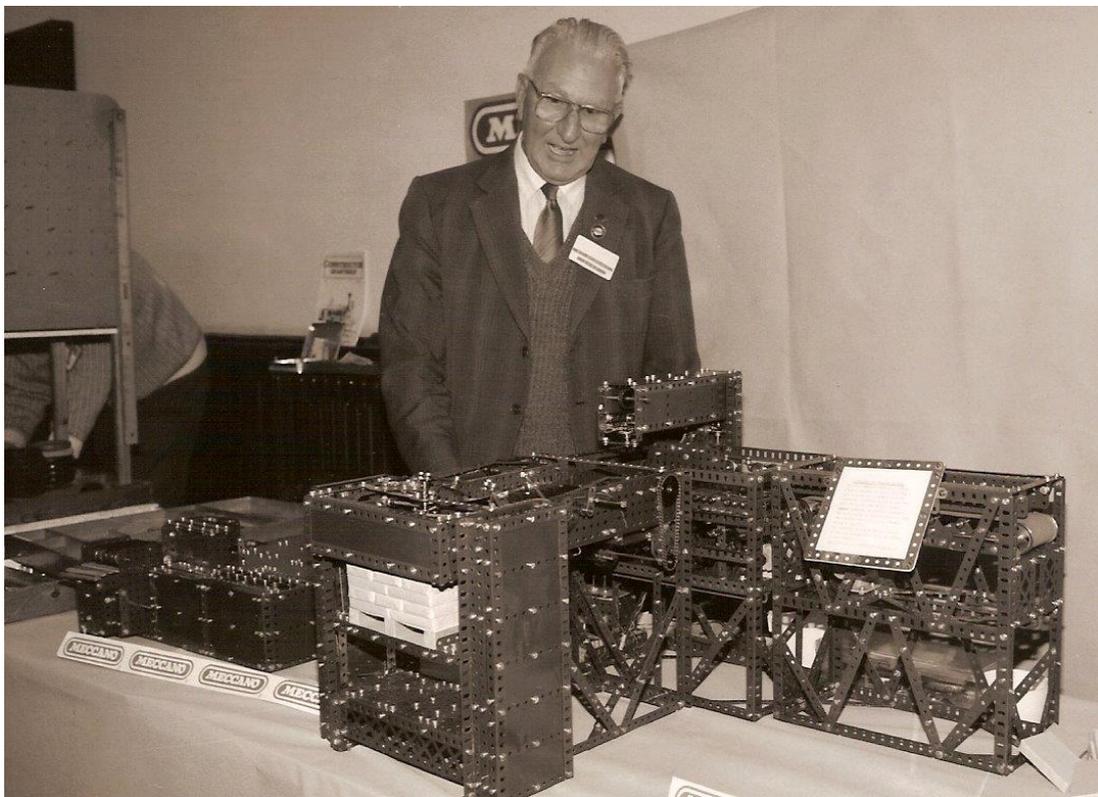


Bedale Meeting

The 1993 Exhibition, this was our 18th Exhibition and one of the most successful, both from a spectator aspect and model content. Not much table space was left, only one or two modellers having to spread out to fill any gaps left. The number of models was fewer than at some previous shows, but many were very large with cranes towering above the spectators which were in a steady stream all day from 10-00am. The models were of a very high standard, well distributed for height and length and gave the public a fine array of subjects that can be tackled by all ages, in Meccano.

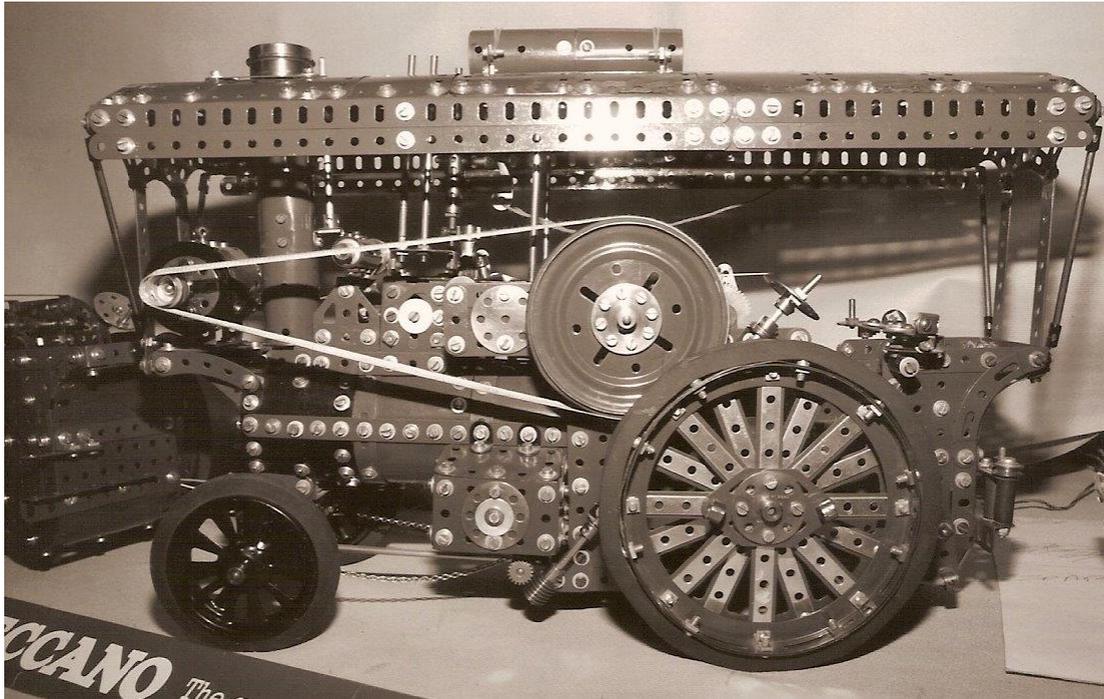


An Authentic 1915 Lea Crosby Motor Chassis by Frank Beadle



Bag Stacking Machine: designed to receive bags from a conveyor and position and stack them on to a pallet, 8 layers x 5 bags.

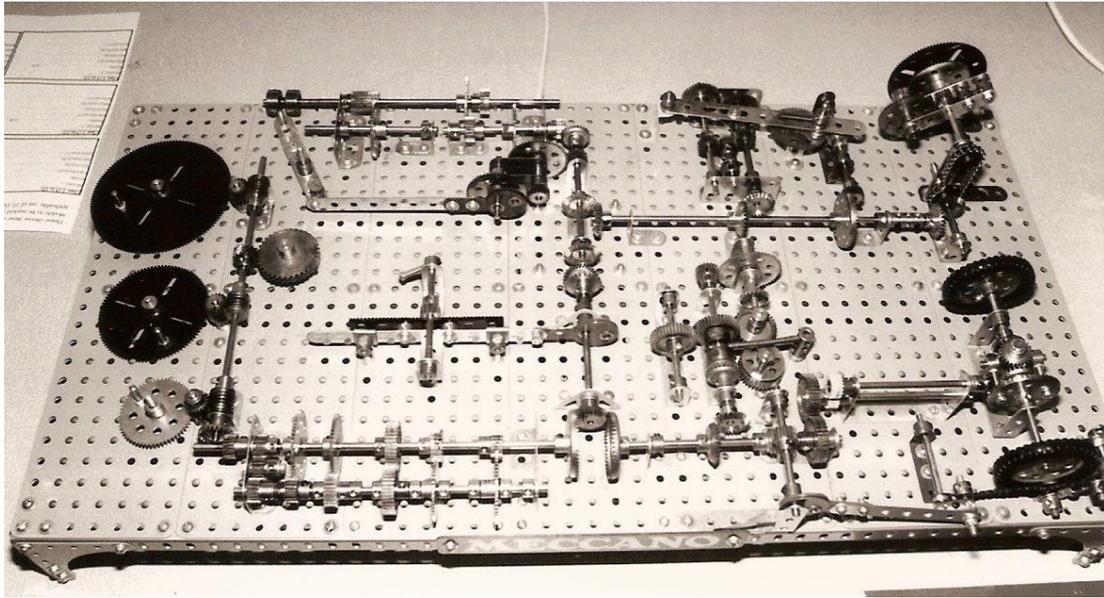
Built by Bill Butterfield



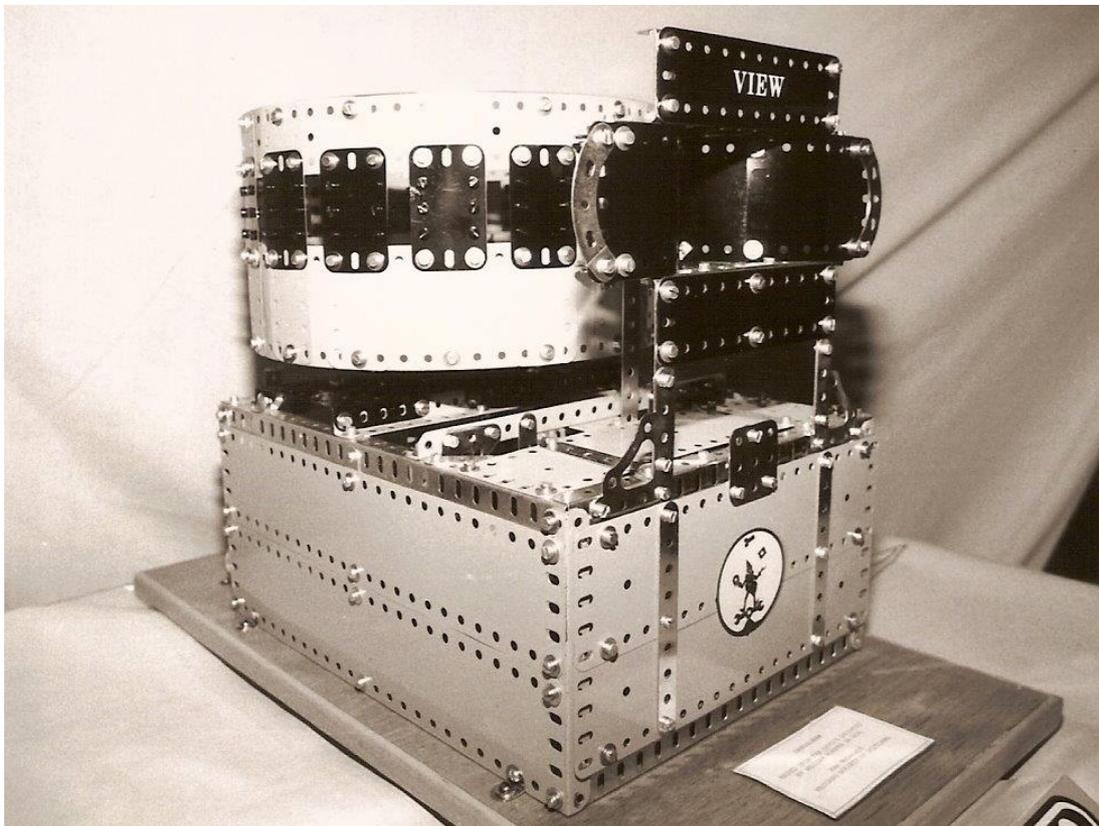
Marshall Traction Engine built by George Roy



Ball Bouncer built by John Linder



Gearing Demonstration Model built by Ian Mordue



Daedaleum built by Ken McDonald

A big help in advertising the Exhibition this year was a T.V. appearance on Network North Tyne Tees programme "What's On". This involved Bill Butterfield and Joe Etheridge going to the local studios on Tuesday 9th.

November with models, and a short interview with Dawn Thewlis a presenter with Network North. This was then broadcast on Thursday 11th November, before the Exhibition on the Saturday. The sales stands did a fine job, you could buy almost anything at reasonable prices, and it's no use whetting the appetite of youngsters whose eyes goggle at the models, if they cannot buy any Meccano to make a start.

The judging was as last year by ballot, as the points will show there was a very clear winner.

1 st .	Bob Middlemass: Glasgow Coronation mark 1 Tram	39 points
2 nd .	Joe Etheridge: Dockside Complex	28 points
3 rd .	George Roy: Traction Engine	19 points

Junior

1 st .	Barry Harker: Leyland Landaster Flatbed Lorry	60 points
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THE BRADLEY CUP

As mentioned earlier, the Bradley Cup was to be presented at the exhibition by Mr. Goode.

The Winner: Joe Etheridge.

N.E.M.S. and Atlascraft at the Metro Centre Gateshead

Following on from the exhibition we received a call from Jim Gamble on Friday 26th November, would anyone be available to help with a display of models, to be staged in the Metro Centre. With further calls from Atlascraft, Pam Courtney in particular, a time was arranged to meet. This was on Sunday 28th November at 2-00pm, in Town Square One on the upper level. As most of the Metro was closed on a Sunday then we had to arrange with the Security staff to be let in at 2-00pm. We were there, eagerly waiting for Atlascraft to arrive. After about one hour, they eventually arrived, in two vans, each with the Meccano logo on. Work started with the unloading of the purpose built stands for the models to go on. Once in place we started to unload the models, all packed in their own individual boxes, packed with paper and bubble pack. This was the first problem as some of the boxes were too big to go into the service lifts. We then had to arrange with Security to open the fire escapes and carry the models, up two long flights of steps. With most of the models in place, only one gave any problem, and that was a Grandfather Clock, standing over 6ft high. It would only run for a minute or two, but after slight adjustment by adding extra packing, under the base, all was ready for Monday morning.

The Metro opens at 10-00am on weekdays so we were there ready to start up the models. Within the first 30 minutes the local newspaper reporter was there with a cameraman, with a few words from Pam Courtney of Atlascraft, the cameraman found a young child to stand next to the models. This show was on at the Metro for one week, in all a very interesting week.

That is it for 1993 we now look forward to the next year which will be our twentieth year.

1994 March 19th AGM meeting Bedale, there was a respectable turnout, with just over 20 members appearing during the day. Some members were able to stay longer than others who had family commitments.

It was pleasing to see Bryan Reay back with us again (and as inventive as ever with his models). Also John Linder had made the long trek up from Telford with a small selection of his stock.

The election of officers were re-elected unopposed. There are some minor changes in duties. Barry Harker will be undertaking the role of “junior” reporter to replace Phillip Pratt, and Joe Etheridge is looking after the compilation of the magazine. The first exhibition of the year was at Gainsborough.



Guisborough Meccano Exhibition



Guisborough Meccano Exhibition.

As in most years this event was well supported by NEMS members

Our next outing was to “Lumex” 94 Exhibition of Meccano and model Railways, this exhibition was organised by NEMS member John Martin. On Sunday May 1st. He achieved a longstanding ambition by putting on, with much help, a large-scale Meccano and Model Railway Exhibition (“LUMEX” 94) at his school in Pickering, with fifteen or so members of NEMS who were kind enough to be present with models.

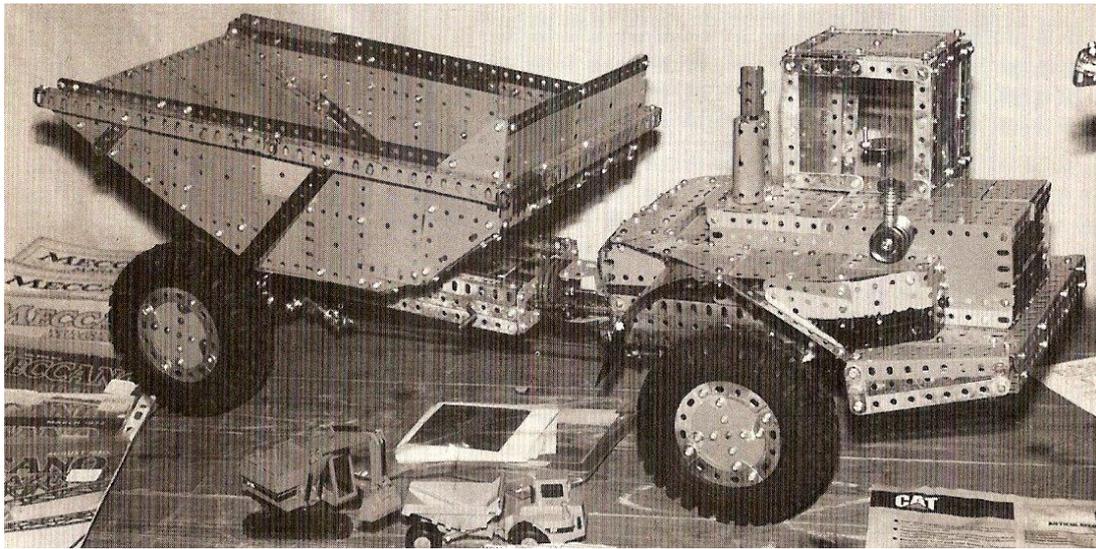
About 500 people attended the event, which was well advertised in the press, in the town and at the roadside, though the planned link with the North Yorkshire Moors Railway (posters at stations and flyers on all the trains that day) would have gone terribly awry had John Woollatt (wearing his NYMR shareholder’s hat) not gone out of his way to make frequent sorties troubleshooting. The event made £500 for music and drama projects at Lady Lumley’s School.

A lovely day, the sun shone on our venture, and so many of the public and exhibitors have asked for a repeat showing that you may hear more requests from John for NEMS support in this corner of Yorkshire.



A general view of Lumen 94

Our next outing was at the Sheldon Gala on the 11th June, the organisers of the Gala checked our requirements - we were to be housed in a marquee 24ft by 12ft. They had suitable tables (strong and level) and could supply power. Access on the day, for exhibitors, was from 8-30am and the keen ones amongst us were actually there at that time. Given that the official opening time was 10:30 am this appeared to allow more than ample time for setting up the most complex of model displays. Unfortunately, our marquee didn't arrive until 9-30 am accompanied by its dedicated band of scouts, but given the still significant margin of time before opening. The scouts had the marquee up by 9-45 am and we proceeded to fill it with the tables, on which to mount our exhibits. Our first (and perhaps only) difficulty, came when we realised our power supply for all the models was a single three pin socket. After much discussion and juggling with three way and four way adaptors and extensions, everyone was eventually serviced by the electricity they needed and shortly before 10-30 am all the models meant to run, started. The public had already begun to trickle in; the club had six members at the gala with a wide range of models. The trickle of visitors became a flood and during the day approximately 1500 people visited our tent. All in all it was an excellent day out for NEMS; we contacted a lot of people and showed them the pleasures to be gained from the hobby. Then off to Skegex 94 for another great weekend with a good selection of NEMS members at this exhibition. A special note should be made of one of our junior members, Barry Harker, with his D30D Caterpillar Dump Truck.

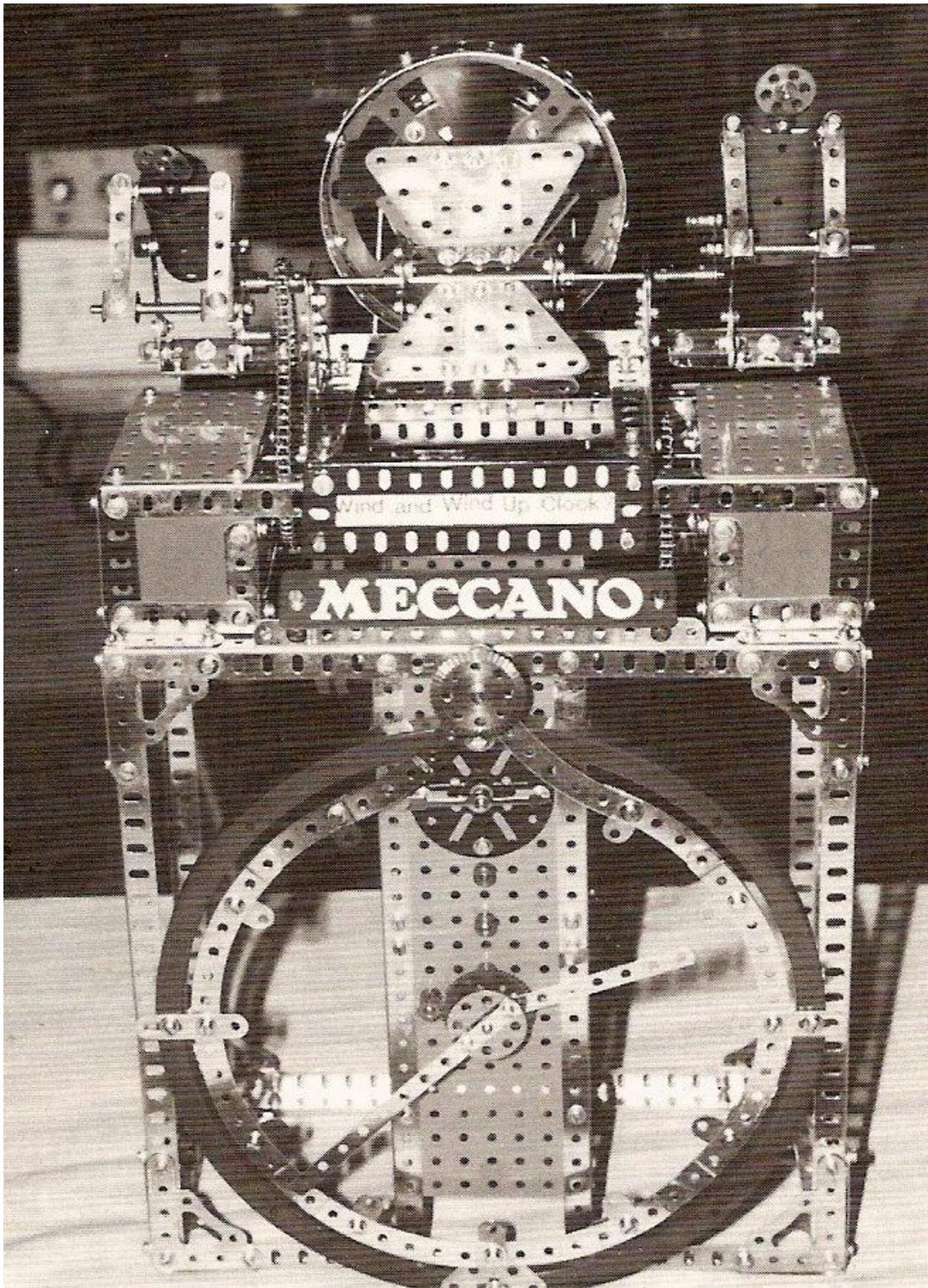


Barry Harker's Dump Truck

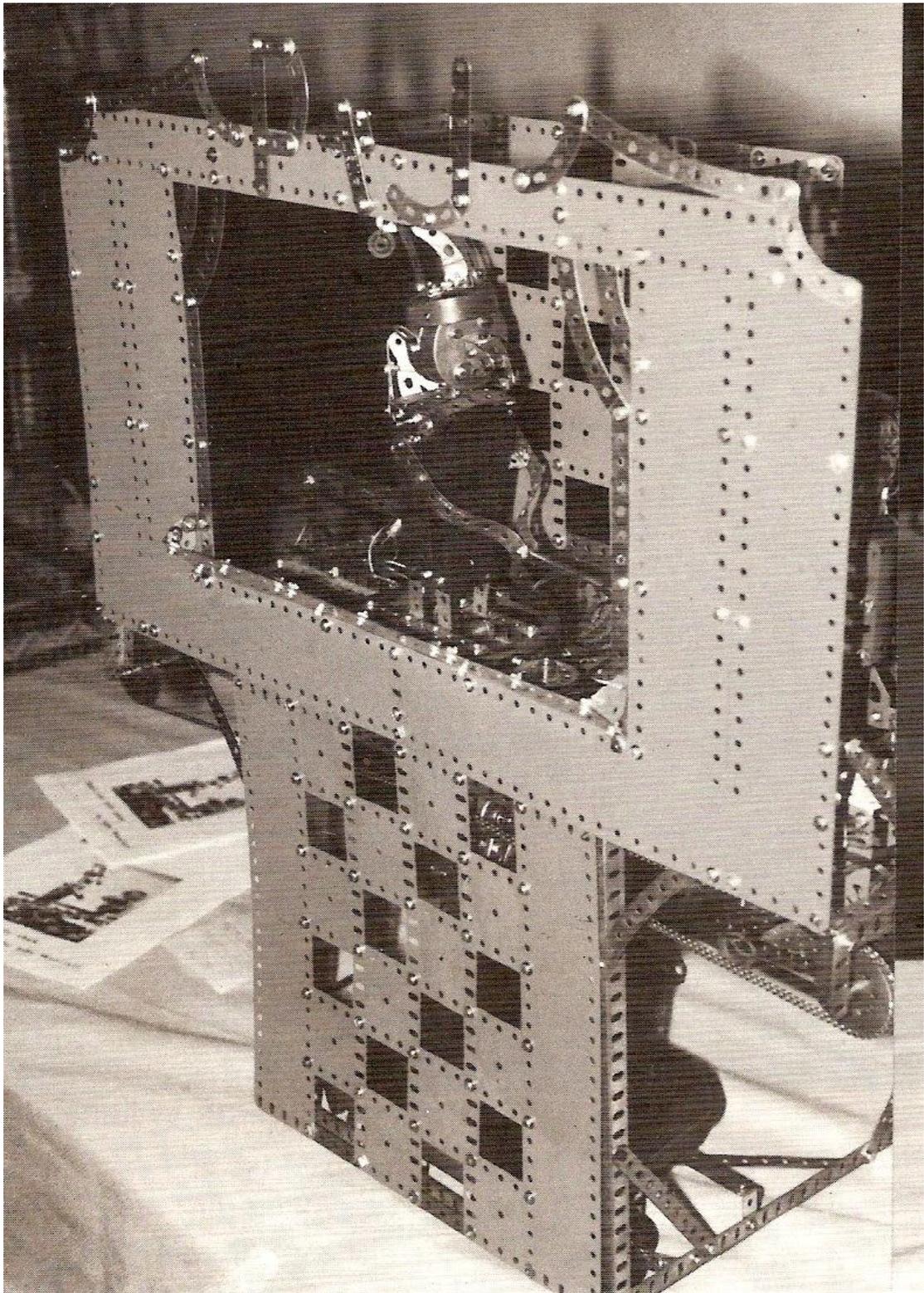
The Bedale meetings, it is now two years and a bit ago we decided to have a bash at quarterly meetings, to be held at David Dalton's stomping ground. There we could hope to attract some of our further flung members. It worked, for two years, but now the novelty seems to have worn off, though Bedale meeting is a great place for buying second hand and new Meccano. President Frank Beadle successfully centred NEMS in Darlington over many years, and out of that came our Annual Exhibition which is still a major event of the Meccano year, but we don't seem to have found the best way of bringing members together for regular meetings. One area of activity we are trying to expand is into public exhibitions, with our entirely Meccano show at Durham last year, John Martin's Lumex, recently, Shildon Gala, which was a great day, and one or two regular favourites. These summer events are often cheap entertainment for all the family; Skegness is not only a good, traditional English holiday resort but also provides a Meccanoman's party on the Saturday night. Perhaps we should support more galas, rallies and such, accessible around the North East, and keep the club meetings to, say just the four per year.

The club was well represented at the annual Hurworth Craft Exhibition on the 1st October, with four members attending, and also at the Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition at Portobello Town Hall Edinburgh, with Charlie Archer, John Woollatt, Barry Harker and Joe Etheridge, whose model won 3rd Prize.

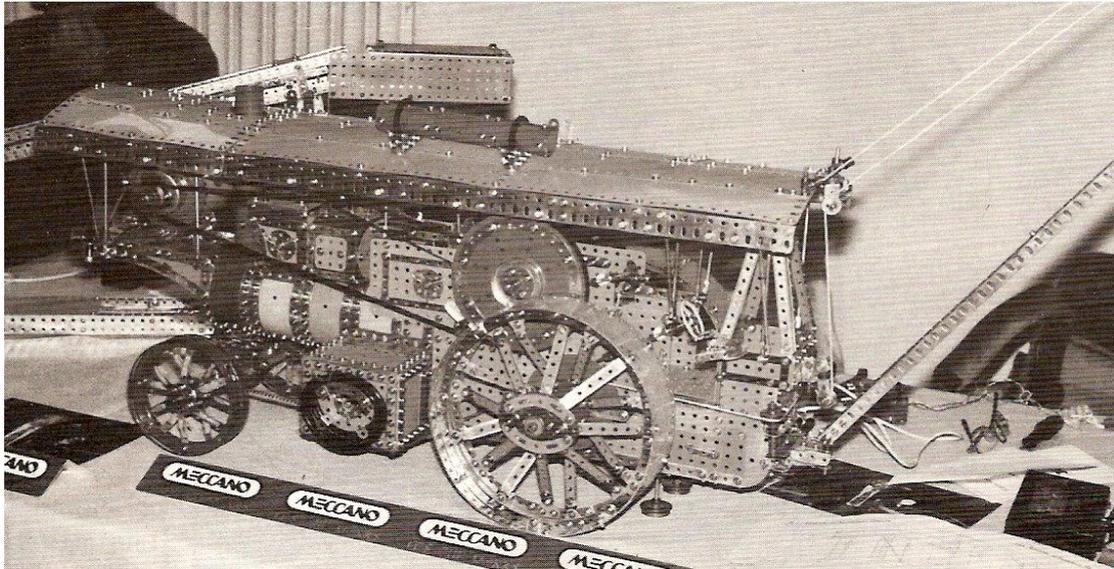
The 1994 Exhibition in the Arts Centre Darlington, this was our 19th Show



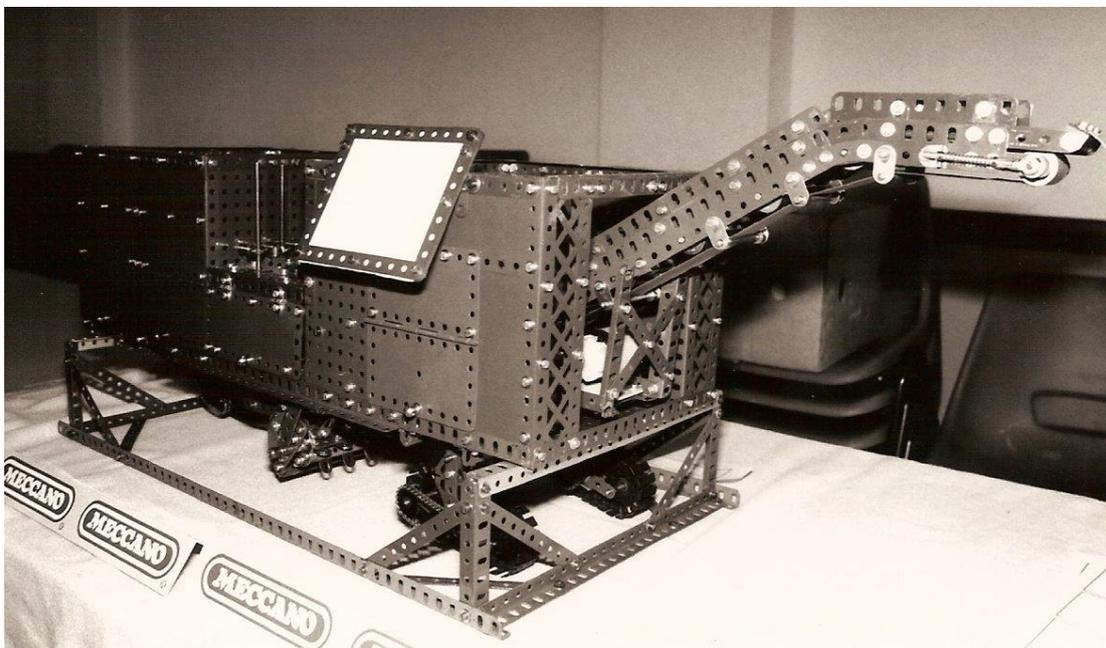
Wind and Wind up Clock built by Ian Mordue



**Punch and Judy Show built by John Woollatt.
John may have further plans to take the model further forward, this
we must see!**



A Burrell Showman's Engine built by Joe Etheridge



**Road Planing Machine built by Bill Butterfield
Featuring three steerable tracks, cutting drum which is also
adjustable for height, and a front discharge conveyor**



**Hammer Head Crane built by Bert Hutchings.
This model is for children to operate, and is always very popular with
the children**

Now to the prizes for the exhibition, the judging was as usual now by ballot.

Senior

- 1st. Bob Robson: Ping Pong Ball Mining Complex
2nd. Bill Butterfield: Automatic Bag Stacking Machine

Junior

- 1st. Barry Harker: Caterpillar D25D Artic, Dump truck.

The Bradley Cup

This year the Bradley Cup was presented at the exhibition by the club President Frank Beadle. The winner this year was: Ian Mordue.

This was again a very good show and we now look forward to the next year. 1994 has been an industrious one for the Society. During the year members exhibited at a total of nine events, the main long distant ones involving journeys to Portobello in Scotland, to Skegness and Sheffield, with local events at Hurworth, Shildon, Guisborough, Pickering, Sunderland and Darlington.

1995 we are now starting our Twentieth Year of activities and this is going to be one of the busiest years we have ever had. It was March 1975 when the Society was formed from five prospective members, we certainly have progressed, it seems to have settled down to a 60 to 70 membership which is not a great number when one considers other clubs, but just the right membership perhaps to maintain a steady continuity and not create more paperwork than we can manage.

Our AGM meeting on the 4th March was again a well-attended meeting with a good display of models. At the meeting we had a long discussion on how to celebrate our twentieth year. Most members were of the opinion that some type of event should be organised. The main views were for a Buffet Meal after the November Darlington Exhibition, where most members will be attending.

At the AGM meeting the same committee was all re-elected again for a further year.

The exhibition year got off to a good start with a week-long display of models in the Cleveland Centre Middlesbrough, this was an exhibition of seven days, exploring science, engineering and technology.

Given that this involvement allowed us to spend a week in the middle of a busy shopping centre, at no cost, telling the world at large how wonderful Meccano is as a miniature engineering medium, how could we refuse? At the AGM meeting prior to the show, which ran from the 13th to the 18th March, we firmed up a rota of members who were to man the stands during the week and provision of models. We had been allocated around

40 feet of table space and this was easily filled by Ian Mordue, Joe Etheridge and Charlie Archer. In addition to the models, we also decided to run a simple speed building competition throughout the week to provide the “hands on” element that is essential in this type of show. Meccano Toys Ltd very kindly provided a prize.

Guisborough Young Peoples Meccano Exhibition

On the 8th April, eight of our members exhibited models at this annual exhibition. Held this year in Sunnyfield House.

Although the public attendance wasn't large, considerable interest was shown in all the models and we may, as a result, gain some new members. Once again we were treated very hospitably by the organizers who treated us with a hot meal and cups of tea.

This exhibition was tinged with one sad point. It may be the last exhibition in the North East to be attended by Bill Butterfield, Bill and his wife Janet are moving to Grimsby later in the year.

Harrogate Model Engineering Exhibition 20th/23rd April

This was attended by various members of the Society on one or more of the three days of the exhibition. Our stand was a little island amongst table after table of finely machined models. There were members of the North Midlands Guild also in attendance and between us we filled all the table space.

Seaton Holme Exhibition 29th & 30th April

This show was the exact opposite of Harrogate, but just as pleasurable for different reasons. We were looked after royally by the staff of the Seaton Holme Discovery Centre in a room which was absolutely perfect for a small intimate exhibition. The visitors were varied, as Seaton Holme is a heritage centre as well as an exhibition area. In the two days we had around 250 visitors who kept us busy but not rushed.

Shildon Gala Day 10th June

This was our second year at Shildon. The committee had gone to a lot of trouble to make the day interesting for the residents of Shildon, however they were thwarted by the weather which was cold wet and dismal all day, and which led to the show winding down well before the scheduled closure. This said the visitors to the Meccano tent were enthusiastic and enjoyed our show.

Skegex 1995

This was again well supported by NEMS. This was a good show as always, with public attendance markedly increased, this was the first time Friday was included and this appeared popular with exhibitors. There were lots of overseas visitors but fewer actually exhibiting models.

Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition

This was held in Portobello Town Hall, with only three members from NEMS. This was all in all a good show with exhibits of a commendably high standard, both as to variety and construction, and very inspirational. NEMS wins in Portobello, our congratulations goes to George Roy who won first prize with his Traction Engine, belt driving a Foster Threshing Mill and a Ransomes Baler.

North Eastern Meccano Exhibition Darlington



Exhibition Cake by Harry Harker

This was a special show as it was now in to our 21st Year and for our 20th

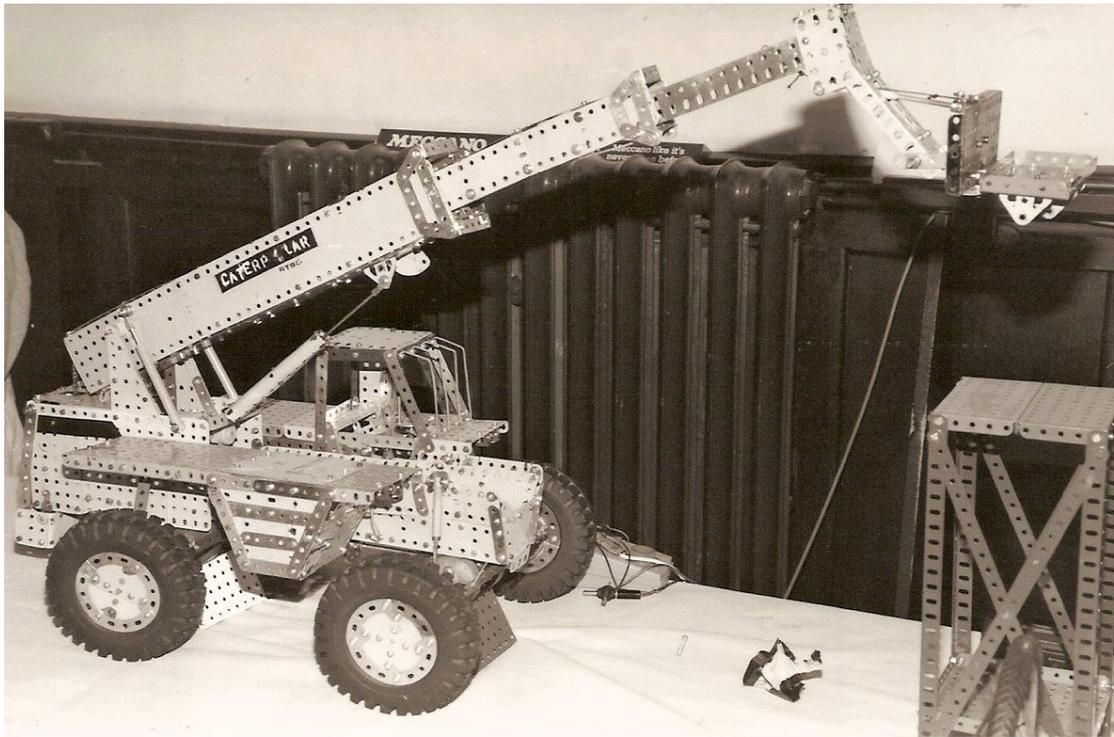
Show it was decided to hold a buffet after the exhibition, at 5.00pm. All exhibitors to be invited, to stay and hope they will enjoy this event.



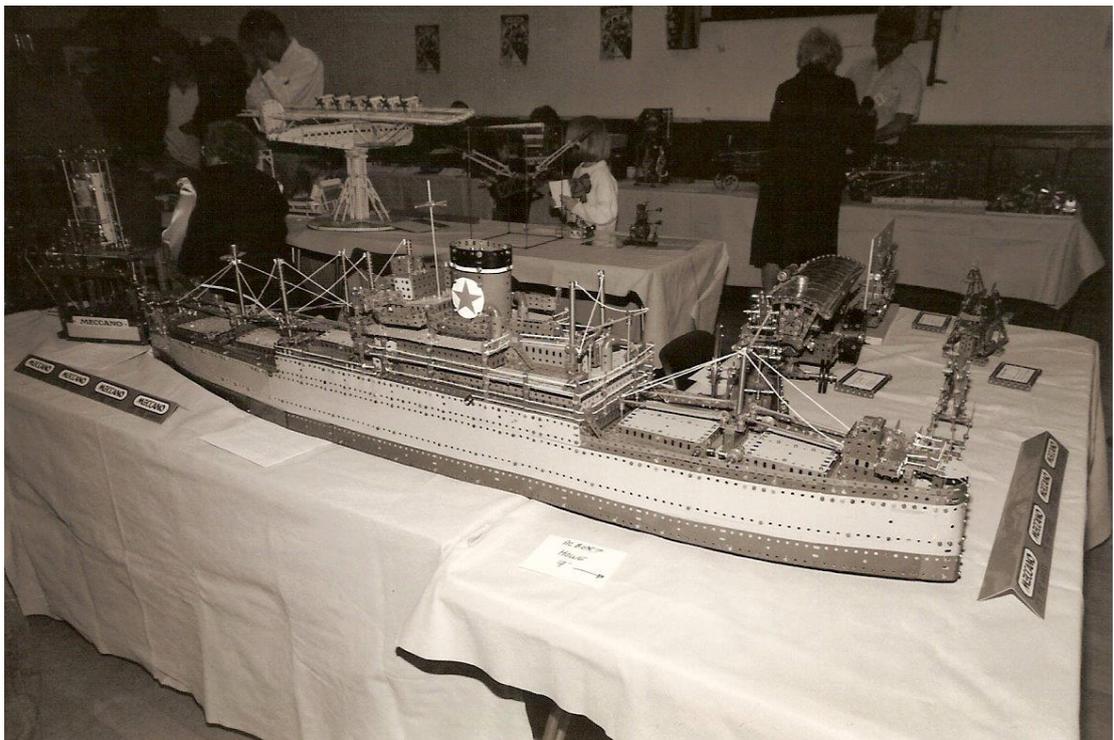
**6 cylinder Marne Engine and a C.34 Chinook Twin Rotor Helicopter
Built by Frank Beadle**



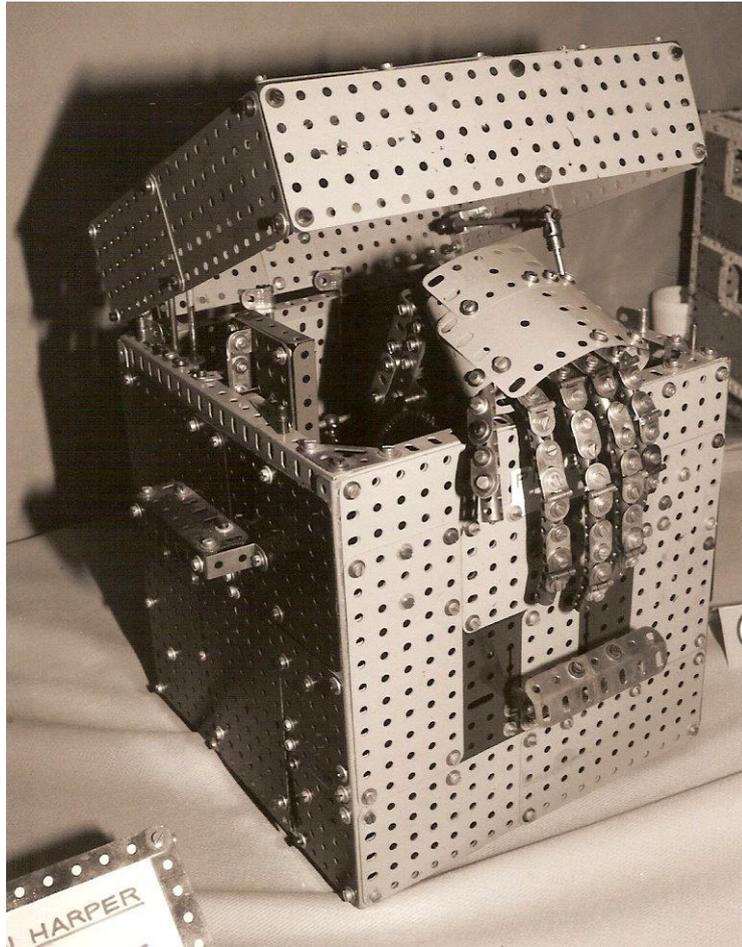
**Kientz's 19th Century Single Cylinder Oscillating Steam Engine
Built by Bob Middlemass**



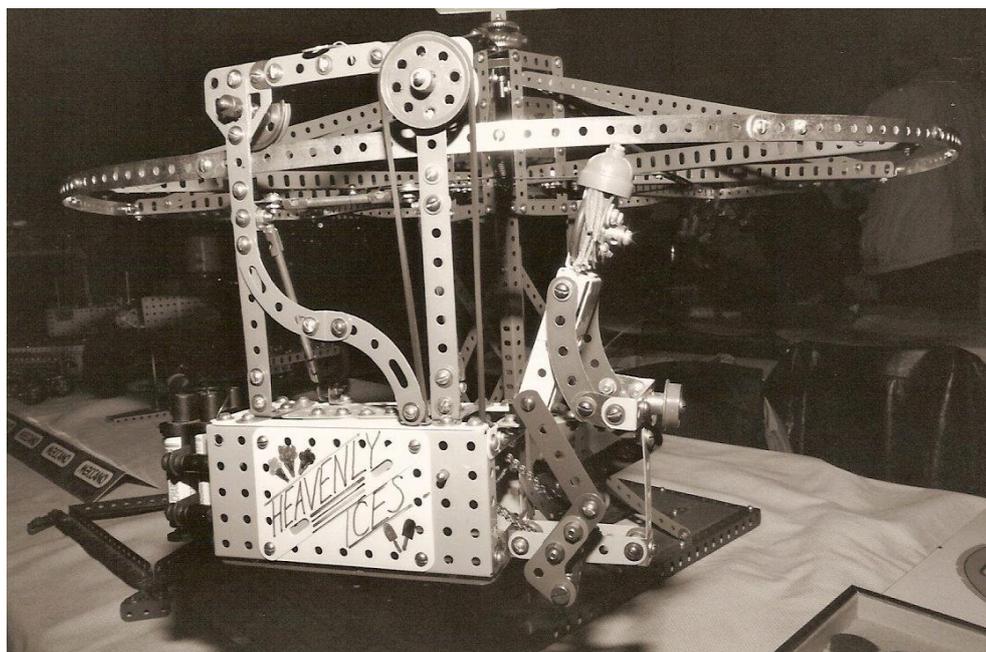
Telescopic Handler built by Barry Harker



**Cargo Ship MV California Star
Built by Owen Jones**



Sleeping Meccano Man built by Brian Harper



Heavenly Ices Monorail Principle Model built by John Martin

After a reasonable start with a few modellers in the hall by 9-30am the hall then very quickly started to fill and by the end we had 36 modellers with a total of 82 models. It was particularly pleasing to welcome such a strong and enthusiastic support from Meccano Societies all over the country.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

1st Prize: Owen Jones - Cargo Ship MV California Star
Joint 2nd Prize: Brian Ashton - Shooting Gallery & Crane Grabber
Rob Mitchell - Robot Arm
Joint 3rd Prize: Barry Richardson - Blocksetter
George Roy - Harvest Past.

The Bradley Cup

This year the Cup was presented by Joe Etheridge to the Club President Frank Beadle.

In closing this special exhibition a big thank you to all the members over the years that have helped with the exhibitions and model shows, that have kept this Society going, and also to the members of other clubs in their support at the exhibitions over the years.

This was one of our best exhibitions and it was mainly due to the members for supporting it in the way you did.

That was the end of 1995, without doubt the past year has exceeded all our expectations and we can safely say it has been one of the most successful years that the Society has had so far.

As is our usual practice, a total of 4 club meetings were held throughout the year, usually at Aiskew Chapel Hall Bedale, and all of which had a reasonable attendance.

During the year members exhibited at a total of eleven events, the main long distant ones involving journeys to Portobello in Scotland to Skegness and Sheffield, and with all the local events, with two new ones, the first of these was the S.E.T. Exhibition in Middlesbrough at the Cleveland Centre. The next new venue was at the Seaton Holme Discovery Centre, Easington Co. Durham. In all, a year of immense satisfaction, and due entirely to the whole-hearted efforts of the members.

1996

The start of our 22nd year was as usual the January club meeting at Bedale which was as usual very well attended by members.

The spring issue of the club magazine was a little bit special as it contained the full building instructions of Bev Carss brilliant Spiro -

Meccanograph which he displayed at the November exhibition, this was the first time we had published full building instructions for a model. The AGM was held on 9th March and was again a well-attended meeting. At the AGM it was agreed that membership fees would be held at the same level - £6.00 for adults, £3.00 for student members, and £1.50 for junior members. The same committee was all re-elected for a further year.

Set 96 Cleveland Centre Middlesbrough

The first show of the year; ‘Set 96’ held in the Cleveland Centre from 18th. To 24th. March. This was our second involvement with the Set event. Our show linked in with a variety of events, all aimed at the promotion of Science and Technology. We again ran a competition for a prize kindly supplied by Meccano Toys Ltd.

Beamish Museum

The second show was a new venue for us, Beamish Museum held on the 20th. & 21st. April. The museum has a high profile and an appearance by the Society got us “into” the museum’s publicity arrangements. Ian Mordue and Joe Etheridge attended a press call which resulted in newspaper coverage over most of the North East, and ended with Frank Beadle and Joe going to the studios of Channel 3 North East and an interview with Kathy Secker. The exhibition itself was a great success with over 1500 people calling in, and most importantly for the club five new members who are proving to be real assets to the Society.



Part of the report that was in the news paper

Seaton Holme Easington Village.

This was our second show in Easington, on the 27th / 28th April and again we filled the hall with models. This is now a regular event on the calendar, not the best of attended shows, but the hospitality and the surroundings are good.



Part of the model display at Seaton Holme

Lumex 96 Pickering

Lumex 96, or the John Martin show. This was John's second fund raising exhibition for the school where he teaches, a great day out.

Shildon Gala

The Shildon Gala, 8th June, this is now a very well established member of our regular exhibitions. This year the weather was good, as a result the attendance was around 4000 on the day. As we are in a tent, this did become a little congested at times

Chester - le - Street Steam Rally

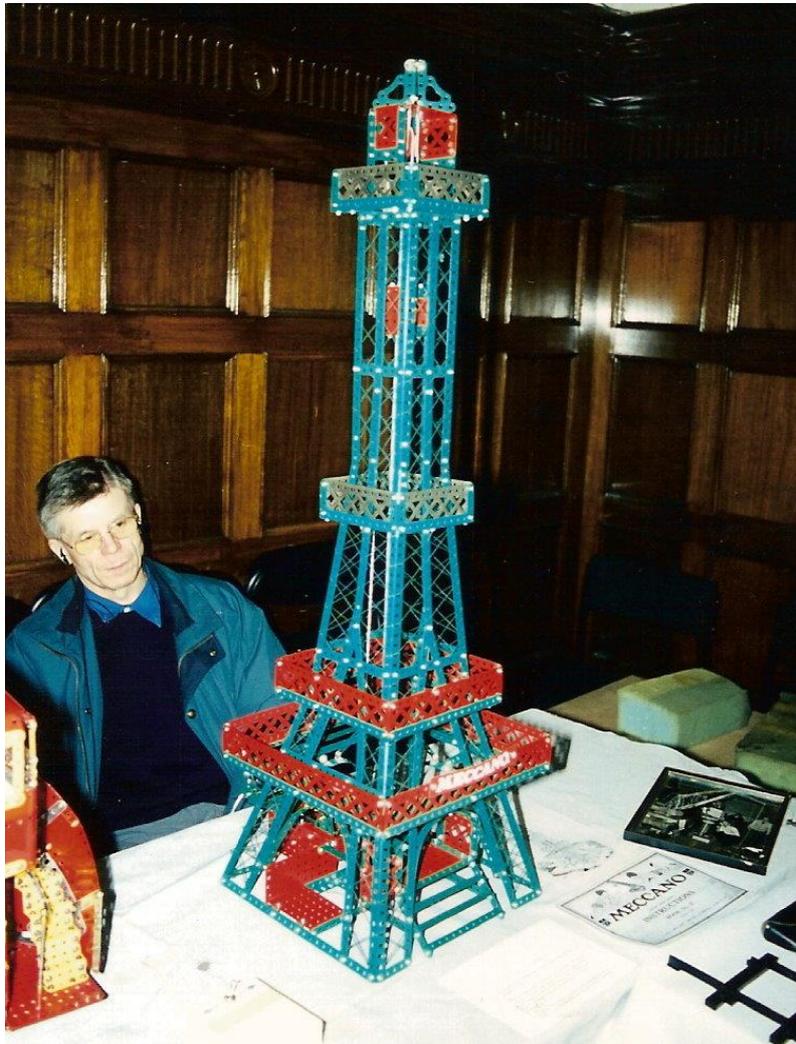
This was in July, and was again a new event for the club, and proved to be a good arena for the Society. For this show we were in a large marquee, with good weather the attendance was high around 10,000.

Monkwearmouth Station Museum

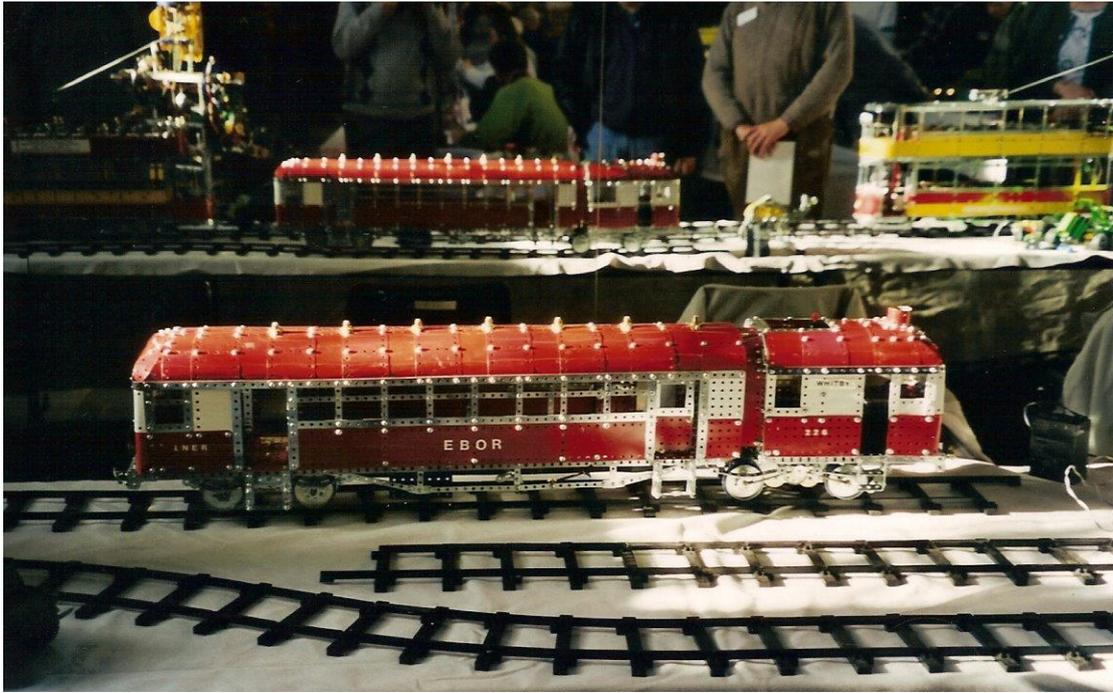
Another new venue at the Station Museum on the 17th & 18th August. This venue was generated by our presence at Beamish. This venue was a little like Seaton Holme an excellent venue with very good hospitality but few visitors.

Darlington Exhibition 1996

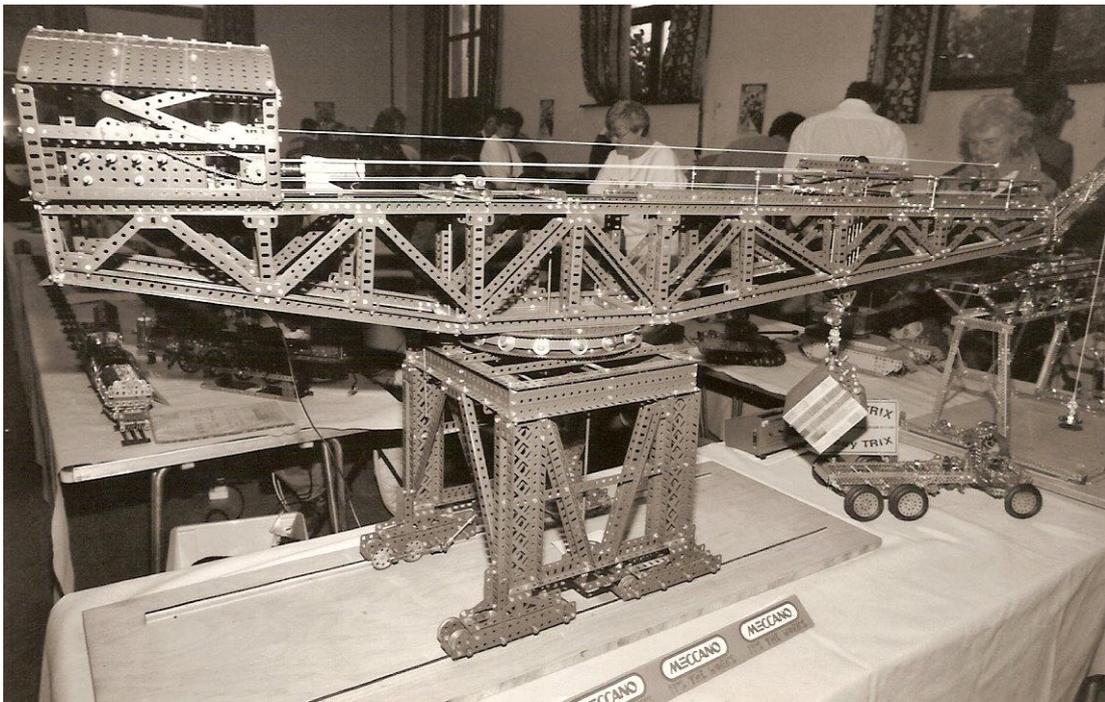
As this is our 21st show, the number of models was fewer than at some previous shows, but several were on the larger size and with one or two members putting on one man shows with up to ten models. The models were of a high standard, well distributed for height and length and gave the public a fine array of subjects that can be tackled by all ages.



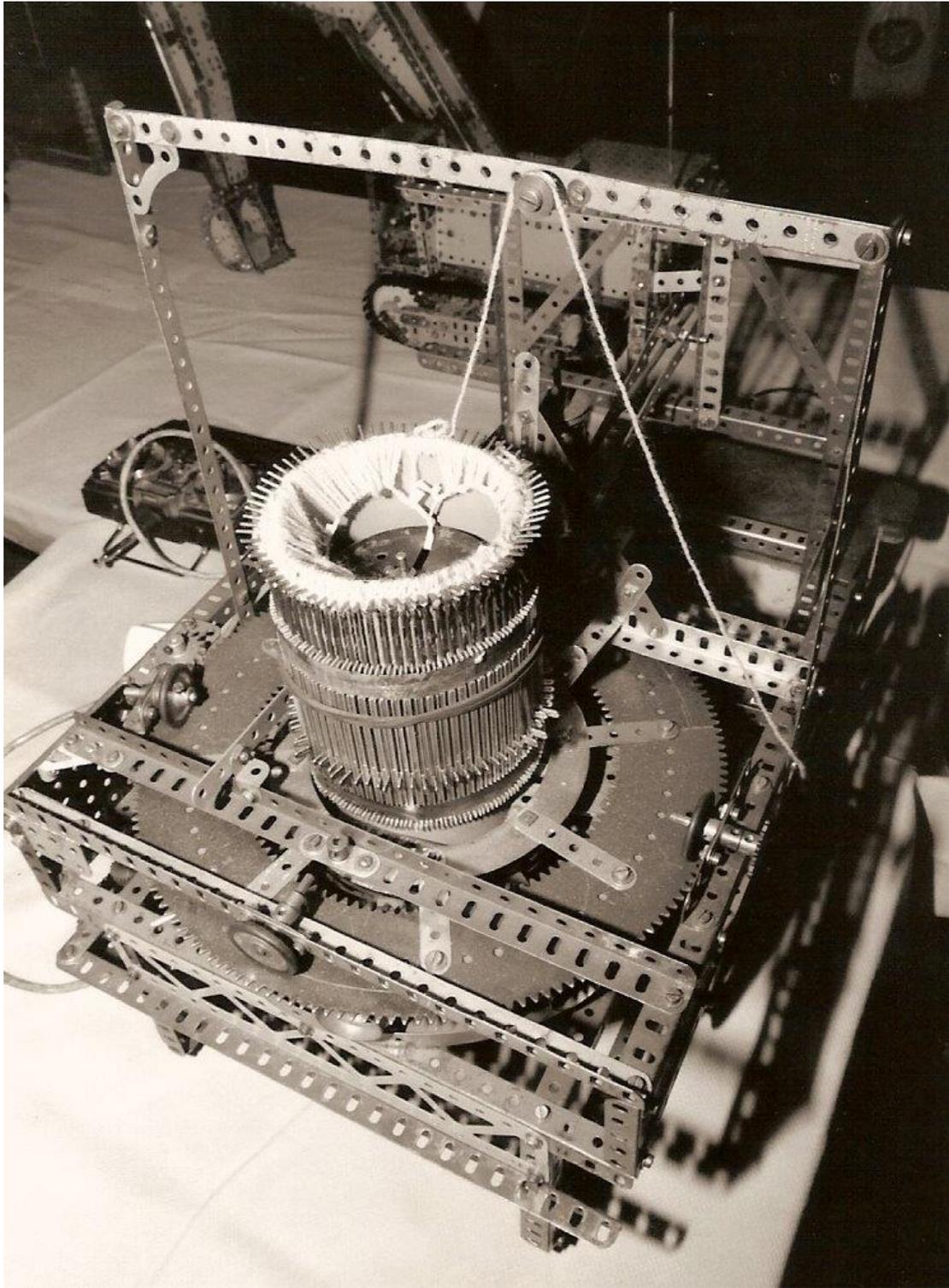
Dennis Edward with his Eiffel Tower



Sentinel Steam Rail Car & Tram by John Herdman



Giant Blocksetting Crane by Barry Richardson



Circular Knitting Machine by Bryan Reay



Dennis Weston with his Automatic Loom

The 21st Consecutive show that we have had in Darlington since the Society was formed. Another successful show with a good turnout of modellers and public.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Senior

- 1st. Dennis Weston - Automatic Loom
- 2nd. Rob Mitchell - Lego Basher Mk. VI
- 3rd. Owen Jones - Battle Cruiser H.M.S. Renown

Junior

- 1st. Alan Milburn - Low-loader with load
- 2nd. James Judkins - Fire Engine

This year the Bradley Cup was awarded to Barry Harker

In closing, our congratulations goes to Dennis Weston, who not only won the first prize, but also performed most confidently on an excellent T.V. interview, and all this on his first appearance at Darlington.

As mentioned, these are just some of the shows that we have been involved in during the year. In all, a year of immense satisfaction, and due entirely to the whole - hearted efforts of the members, not forgetting the ladies of course. As for 1997, we feel sure that this promises to be another very busy and exciting year of Meccano activity.

1997 The first meeting was at Aiskew Chapel Hall Bedale on the 11th January, and was well attended with a good arrangement of models. This was followed by the AGM meeting on the 8th. March and was again a well-attended meeting. At the AGM it was agreed that membership fees would be held at the same level - £6.00 for adults, £3.00 for student members, and £1.50 for junior members. The same committee was all re-elected for a further year.

Beamish Museum

April 19th & 20th this is now a well-established member of our regular exhibitions this being our second visit to this very high profile museum. As in the previous year we were in the Porter room, which is situated above and to the rear of the pub.



One side of our display at Beamish

Seaton Holme Easington Village

This is now a regular show this was on the 31st May & 1st June. As in previous years we were looked after very well, but not the best of attended shows.

Sildon Show

The Sildon Gala on the 14th June, as last year the weather was good and the attendance was very good.

Beamish Museum

This was our second visit to the North of England open air museum, and again this was a well-attended show.

July was a very sad month for NEMS that we reported the death of two of our long standing members.

Arthur Ing, leader of the Guisborough Young People's Meccano Club, and NEMS member, passed away on 3rd July.

Bill Butterfield, it was with deep regret that we record the sad death of Bill on the 22nd July. He came into Meccano by joining the North Eastern Society in the late 1970's. His guidance and experience of life soon saw him elected Chairman, then for two years as the President of the N.E.M.S. He was always a hard worker and responsible for the organisation of the Exhibitions at Stockton in the 1980's.

Meccano has lost a great personality who gave much to the hobby.



Bill Butterfield

Hurworth Craft Exhibition

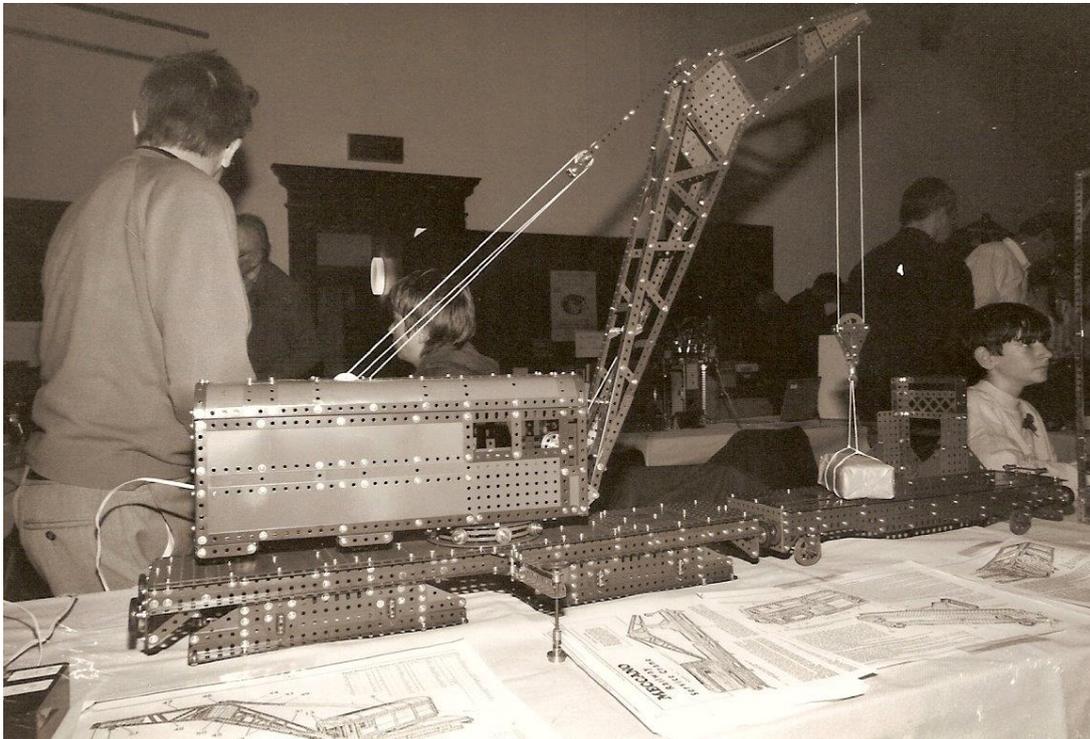
This was on 27th / 28th September and was as usual attended by several of our members.

Meccano Society of Scotland

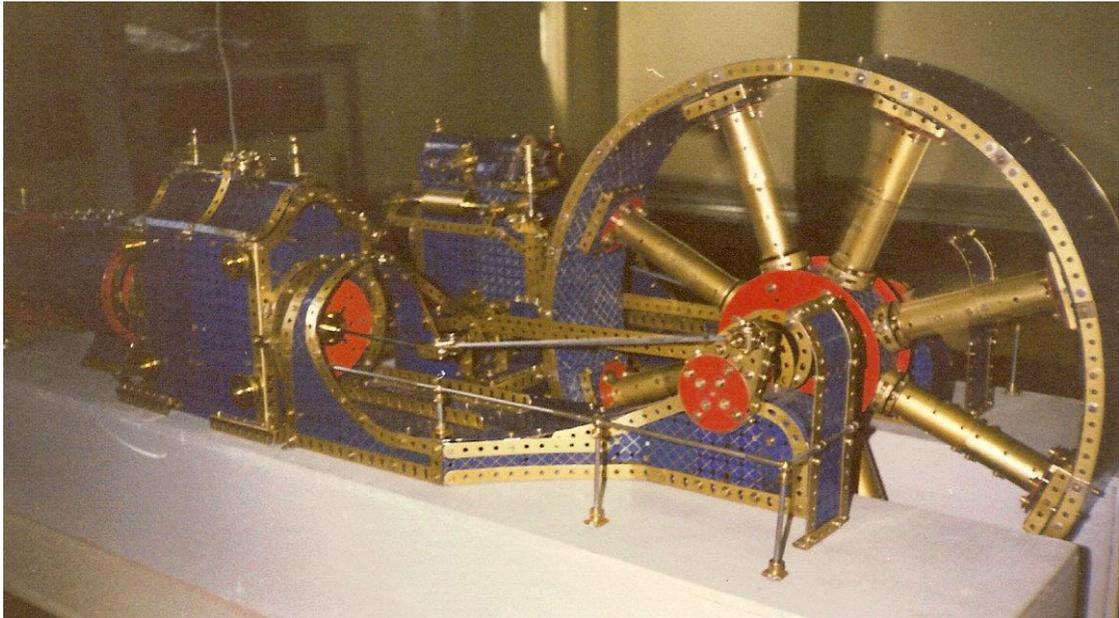
This exhibition was held in the Marryat Hall in Dundee, on the 4th October and was as in the past well supported by NEMS members with Joe Etheridge winning third place with his display of American Locomotives.

N.E.M.S. Darlington Exhibition

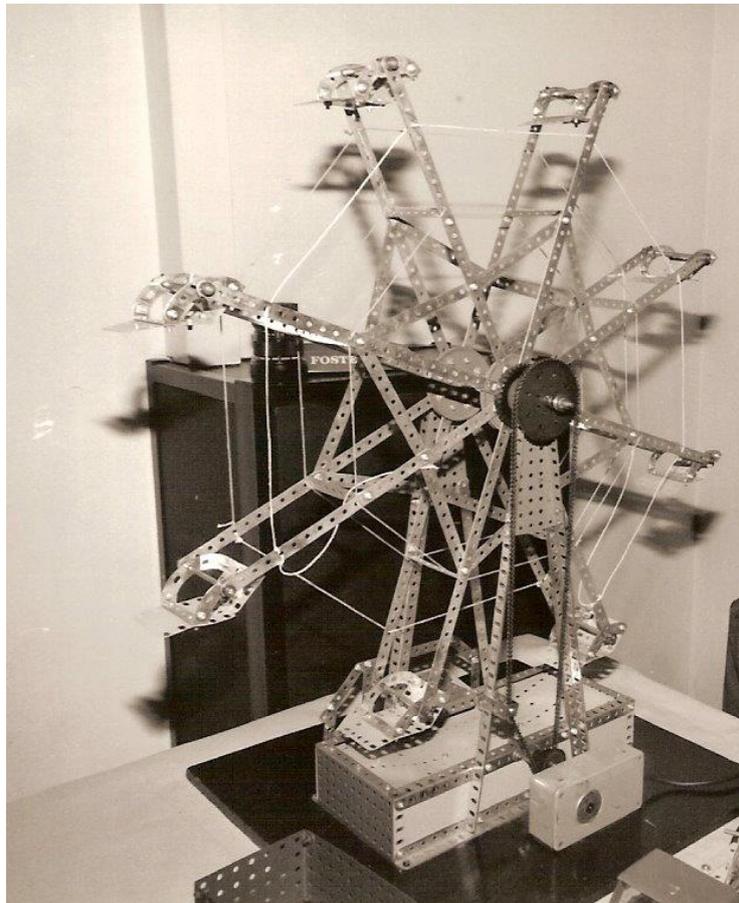
November 8th This was our 22nd Exhibition and one of the best attended by modellers, with no table space left, and some models left in the cars or placed on the floor.



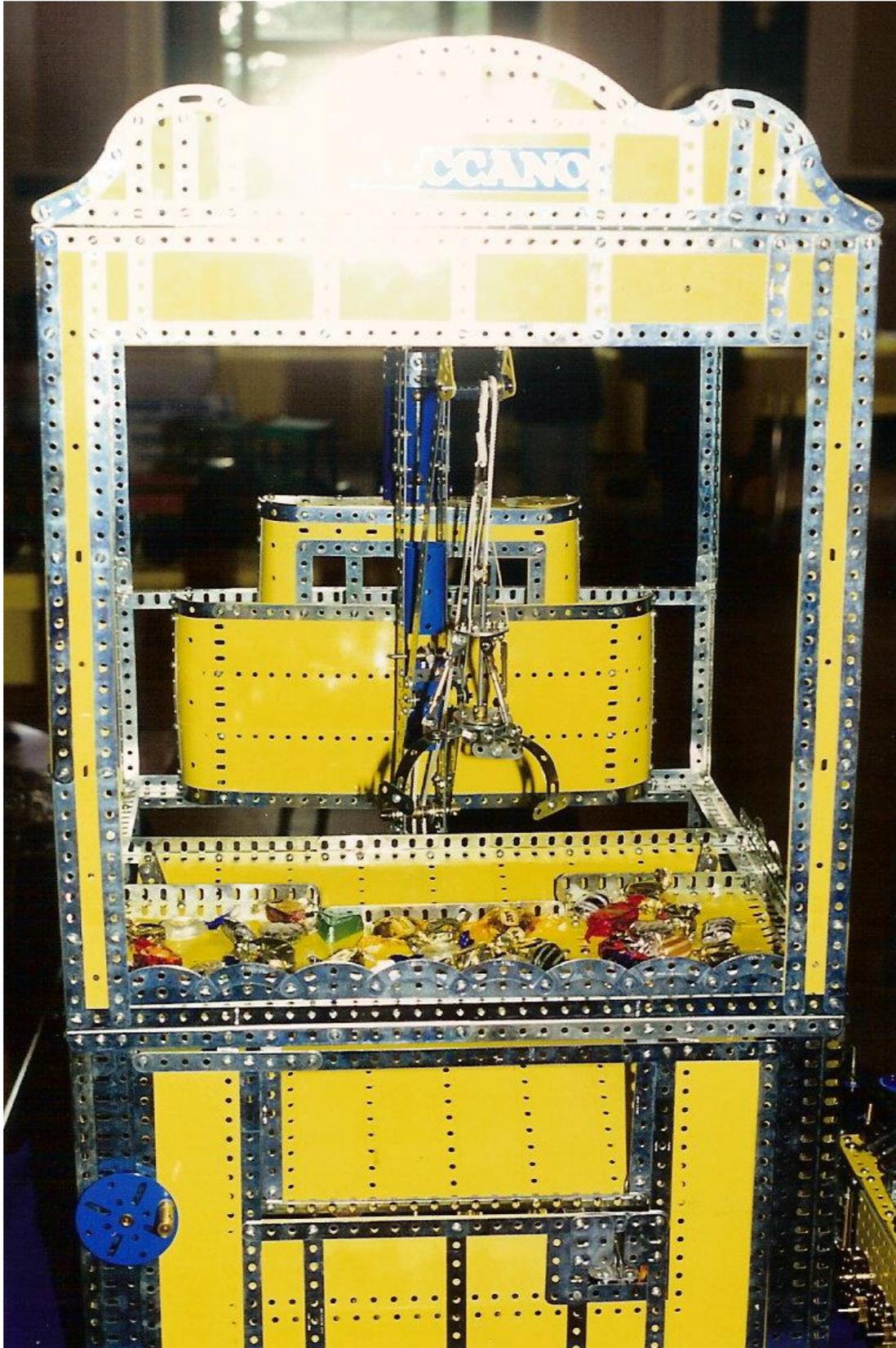
Dennis Edward with his Railway Service Crane, based on a No. 10 set model, with remote control with individual motors



Corliss Valve Engine built by Frank Beadle



Charlie Archer's Dealers Display Model of a Ferris Wheel



Brian Ashton's Sweet Grabbing Machine

A total of 37 modellers displayed 96 models, with the models of a very high standard, and evenly distributed in the hall. Although by 9.30 am space was at a premium, most models were in place.

Prize winners Senior: 1st. John Herdman
2nd. Dennis Weston
3rd. John MacDonald

Juniors: 1st Harriet Miller
2nd. James Judkins
3rd. David Miller

This year the Bradley Cup was awarded to David Dalton



Harriet Miller Junior 1st Prize Winner

It has to be said - one of the best NEMS Exhibitions ever! Our past achievements gave us a hard act to follow, but we did it!! With thanks to

the members for their support. What a bumper list of 96 models with 37 modellers we had this year, so ended the 22nd Autumn Exhibition.

1998 The first meeting on 24th January was as usual at Bedale. As is our fortune the weather for the January meeting was marvelous, and by midday table space was at a premium. It must rate as one of our best attended meetings to date. There were a variety of models on display and a wide selection of goodies to peruse over as we were joined by John and Mary Linder as well as the regular appearance of Mike and Carol Rhoades. The day showed that a good attendance provides opportunity to discuss ideas and problems, all in all a very enjoyable day.

The AGM meeting on the 7th March again at Bedale this was well attended with 22 members present though the number of models on show was slightly down. At the AGM it was agreed that membership fees would be held at the same level - £6.00 for adults, £3.00 for student members, and £1.50 for junior members. The same committee was re-elected for a further year.

Beamish Museum

This was our first major exhibition of the year on the 10th / 13th April, this was over the Easter weekend, and well attended by members.



Models at Beamish

Seaton Holme Easington Village

This was on the 9th & 10th May and was as usual a well-attended by members, but not by the public.

The next club meeting was on the 2nd June, and was also well attended by about 20 members, another enjoyable day out and it was refreshing to see new faces.

Shildon Gala

The Shildon Gala, 13th June as in previous years we were in a tent on Hackworth Park Shildon, and the attendance was very good.

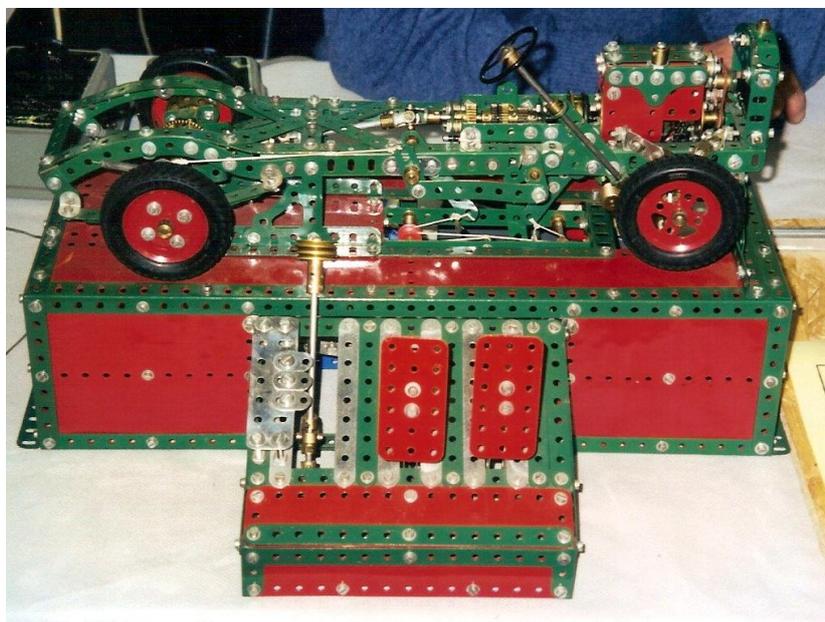
Beamish Museum

On the 27th & 28th June our second visit again this year, and as usual we filled the Porter Room with models.

September was another sad month for NEMS. It was with deep regret that we record the sad death of John Woollatt on the 12th September. He was greatly missed, along with his fine models, built in his own unique style. John left his own mark on the Society, as the mascot we use on the front cover of the magazine was designed by him for our new style magazine in the spring of 1992. Meccano and the Society have lost a great personality who gave so much to the hobby.

Darlington Exhibition

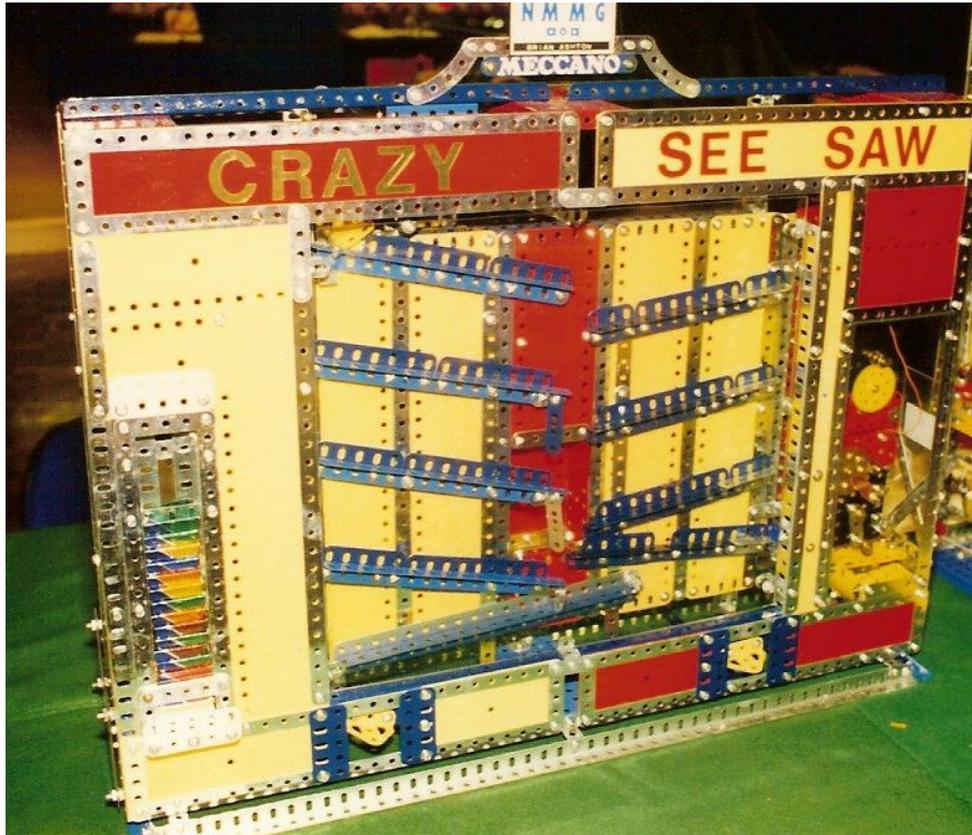
This our 23rd Exhibition was on the 7th November, and once again we had a good turnout, with a reasonable response from the public, with the weather a little better.



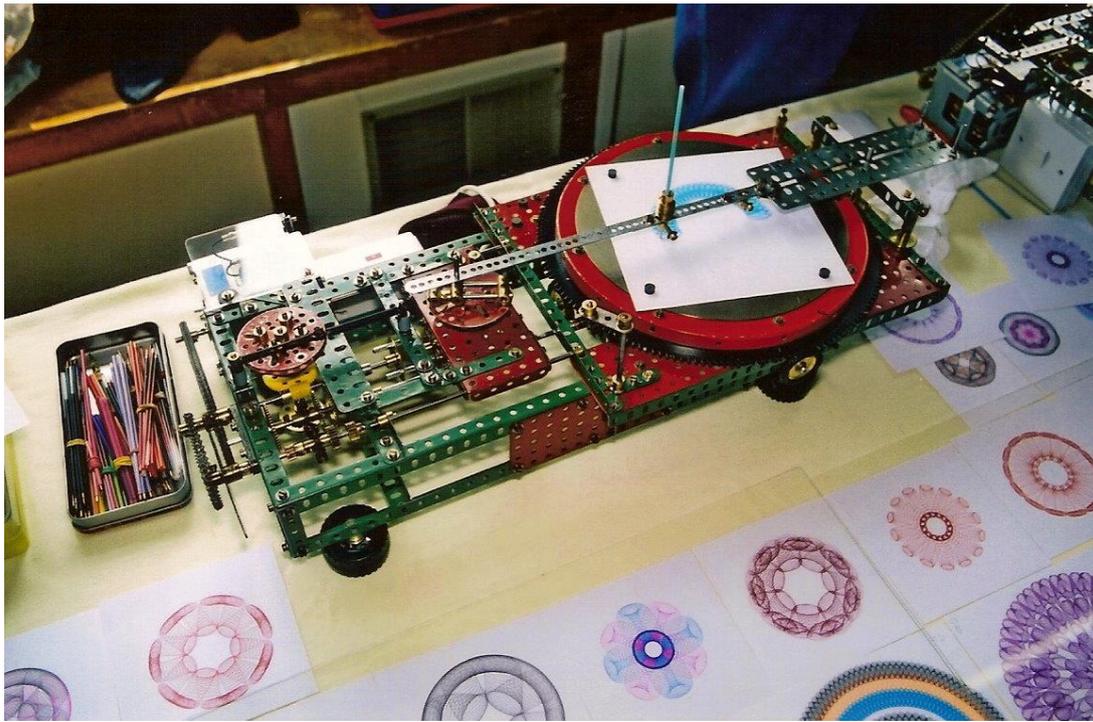
Demonstration Car Chassis by George Roy



Highway set Models & Army Set Models by Charlie Archer



Crazy See-Saw Ballgame by Brian Ashton



Meccanograph by Les and Anne Nightingale

Once again our exhibition was very successful, thanks to all who attended, modellers and families. We had more 'novelty' models this year, causing great interest to the public. The models were of a high standard. Now to the prizes for the exhibition, judging was as usual by ballot.

Senior

- 1st prize John MacDonald - Display of Army vehicles
- 2nd prize Joe Etheridge - Display of Railway Breakdown Cranes
- 3rd prize Mike Whiting - Ping Pong Ball Roller

The winner of the Bradley Cup this year was John Herdman.

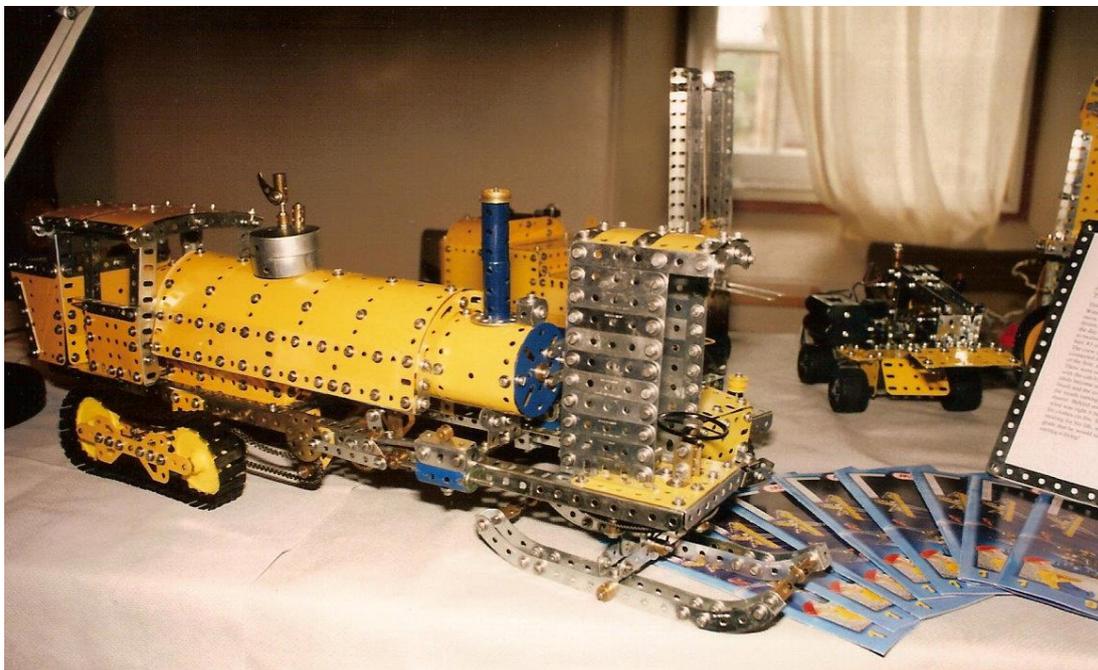
Once again we had a very good year with more exhibitions, and good attendance at club meetings, considering the distance that many have to travel. The Society's Magazine has been held at sixteen pages during the year, all in all a year of immense satisfaction, and due entirely to the whole - hearted efforts of the members, not forgetting the ladies of course.

1999 The day for the winter meeting on the 9th January dawned fine again and about 18 members attended. Mike and Carol Rhodes could not attend as Mike was not well. A good selection of models was displayed and John

Thorpe set up his stall offering a selection of parts for sale. A short business meeting centred mainly round forthcoming exhibitions at Beamish and Pickering. Club members were reminded that individual third party insurance was available through the club for a nominal charge. Next the AGM meeting on the 6th March and about 25 members attended though the number of models on display was less than usual. Mike and Carol Rhoades could not attend again but we understand that they are back on the road. John and Mary Linder had made one of their forays north with a wide selection of parts on offer. There were no changes to the committee at the AGM meeting.

Beamish Museum

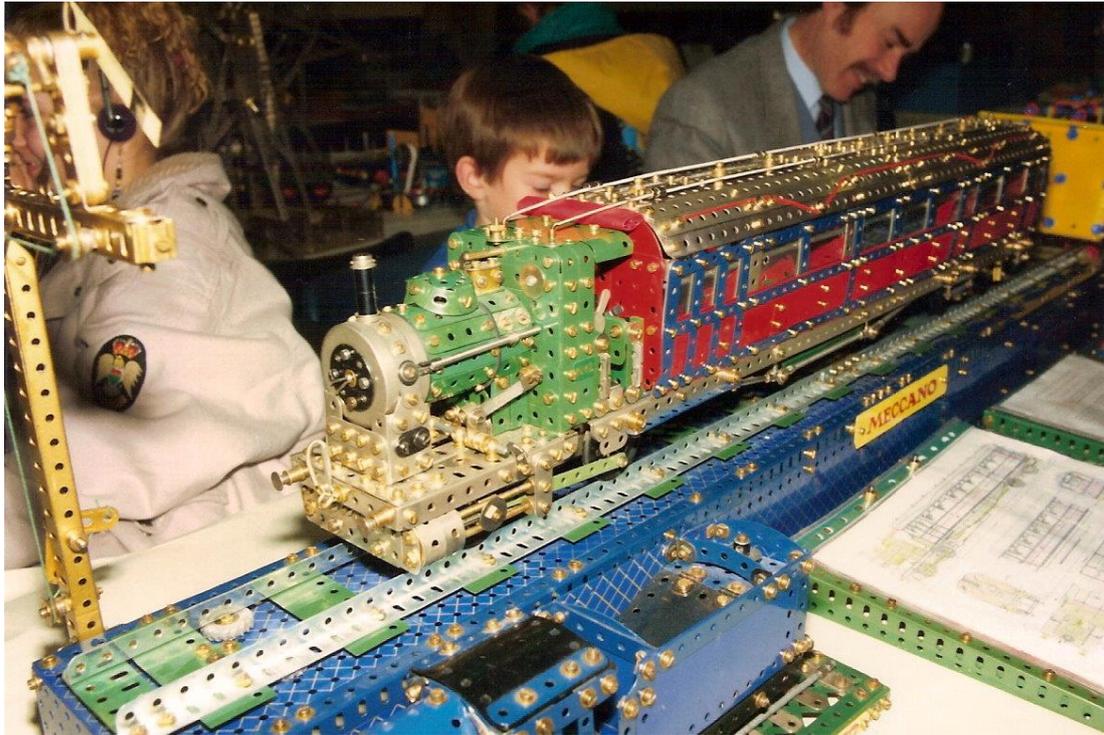
Our first exhibition of the year and as usual this was over the Easter Weekend and as in the past we filled the Porter Room with models over the weekend.



Part of the model display at Beamish Museum

Lumex III

This was our 3rd Exhibition at Lady Lumley's School Pickering, and was organised as in the past by John Martin. This exhibition was again a well-attended show.



John Martin and his son with one of John's models

Club meeting on the 8th June, we managed to escape the many thunderstorms in recent days and about 22 members met to show their models and have a chinwag. The meeting was rather different in that most of the models were only partly built and there was a good discussion amongst members regarding techniques and solutions to problems. This is what the club is for, so if you have a problem with a model, bring it along and pick someone's brains. It was also good to see junior members present and we must encourage this.

Just a note on one model, Ted Field had made the long journey across the Pennines and had the gearbox from the No. 10 set Gantry Crane with which he had been having a problem or two. As we have all found out most manual models need a degree of adaptation to get them to work properly.

Shildon Gala

The Shildon Gala 12th June this now well established event. The weather was good; as a result the attendance was around 4000 to 5000. As we are in a ten, this did become a little congested at times. As in previous years we filled the tent with a good selection of models.



The front of the tent at Shildon

Skegex 1999

As in most years NEMS was well represented at this the biggest show of its type. Our congratulations must go to Dennis Weston who won third place at Skegex this year.



Dennis working on his prize winning loom

Bowes Museum

Bowes Family Fun Day this was on the 21st August and was another new venue for us. The main problem was that our part of the show was on the first floor of the museum and the use of the lifts was a little bit of a problem, but with some help from the staff all was well in the end, and being in one of the main art galleries we had a good day with plenty of visitors.

Club meeting at Bedale on the 4th September. What a beautiful day, the sort of day you should be sitting in the garden sipping lemonade and watching the world go by. No Way. Its Bedale day can't miss that can we? Maybe the weather had something to do with the fact that the turnout was not as good as normal. Maybe some people were still on holiday or maybe they were sitting sipping lemonade, but whatever the reason they missed a good day.

Durham City (Houghall College)



Barry and Joe in the marquee at Houghall College This was a family fun day over the week end of 11th / 12th . September

Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition Marryat Hall Dundee

This was on the 25th September, and once again it was well supported by NEMS members with super exhibits. We seem to enjoy our visits to Dundee and the quality of our models is always very high. The highlight this year was the dockside crane by Joe Etheridge which took first prize.

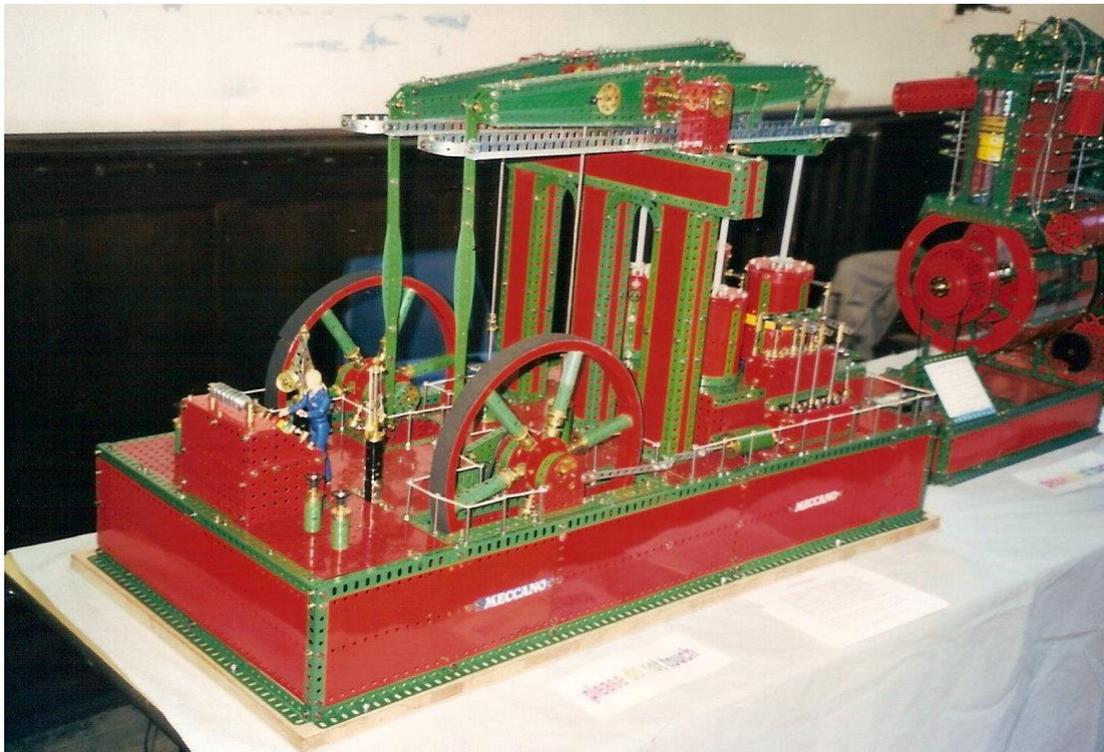
Newcastle Discovery Museum

This was the Society's first Newcastle upon Tyne Exhibition at the Discovery Museum. The date being Saturday 23rd October followed by a half day exhibition on Sunday 24th October.

We were in the Great Hall which was a very large room in comparison to for instance The Porter Room at Beamish. However the room turned out to be ideal giving plenty of space for the public to closely inspect the models without falling over each other and there was plenty of room for the demonstration of models when required. Although the Hall was on the fourth floor plenty of trolleys were available and a high speed lift enabled all modellers to transport their various contributions quickly and easily, both days were quite busy.

Darlington Exhibition

This was our 24th Exhibition and again a very successful one, both from a spectator aspect and model content, with no table space left by 11.00am.



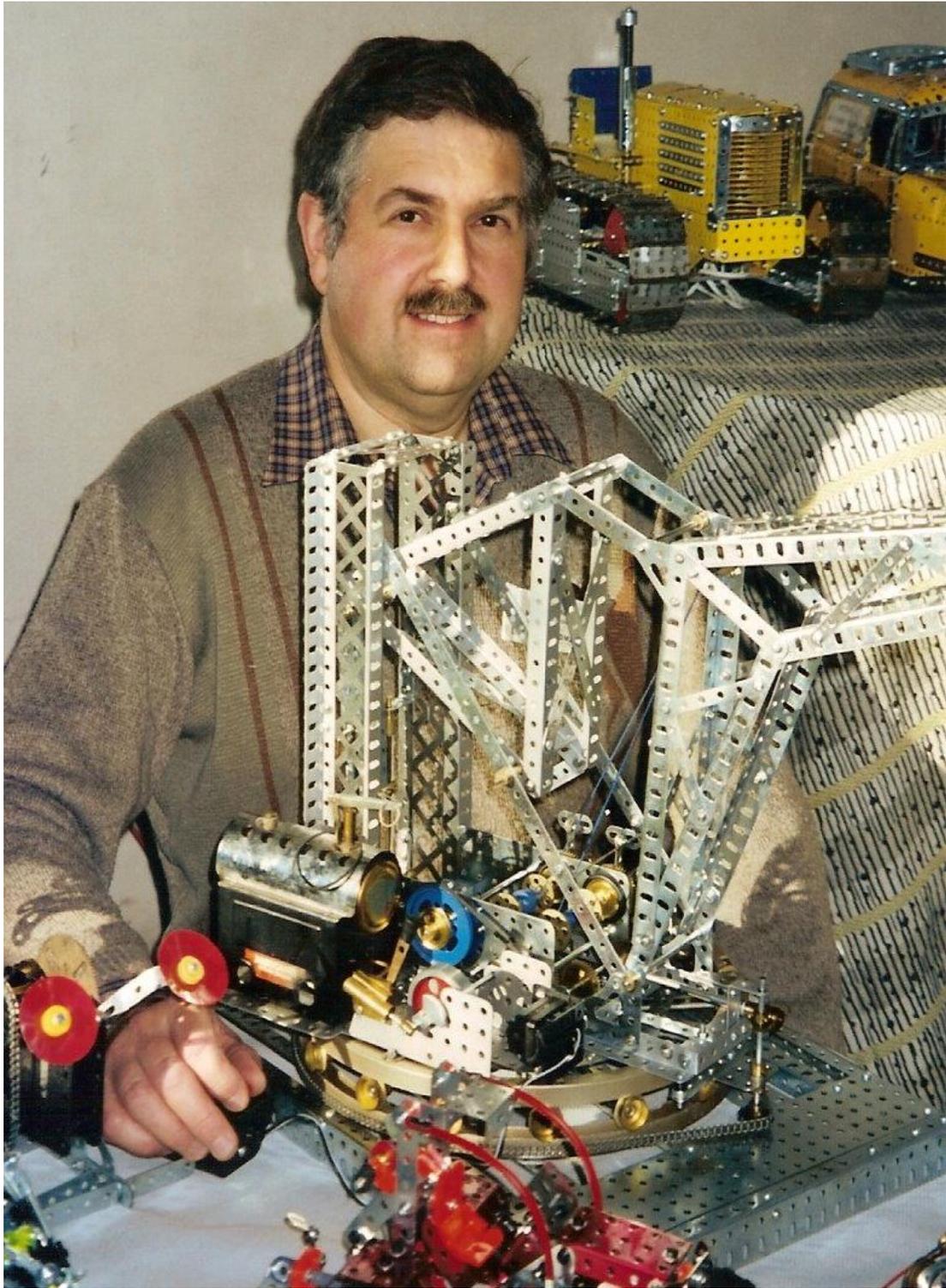
**Double Beam Engine based loosely on the Ryhope Pumping Engine.
Built by Barry Richardson**



Joe Etheridge demonstrating his models to John Thorpe



**S.A.M. mark two Robot built by Bryan Reay
With one of John Herdman's trams in the background**



**Pontoon Crane (powered by steam & electric motors
Built by John Herdman**

The models were again of a very high standard, and we hope were evenly distributed in the hall and the judging was as in previous years by ballot.

Senior: 1st. Barry Richardson - Double Beam Engine
2nd. Joe Etheridge - Dockside Complex
3rd. Dennis Weston - Automatic Loom mark 3.

Junior: 1st. Harriet Miller - Grab Crane with remote control unit
2nd. Richard Watson - Racing Car
3rd. James Davy - An 8 wheel drive Locomotive

The Bradley Cup winner this year was - Dennis Weston

We are reaching the end of the year, also the end of a millennium, so let's look at some dates over the latter part of the last century. The first date that comes to mind is, 15th. May 1863 the birth of Frank Hornby. At the end of the nineteenth century Frank was making toys for his sons from sheet metal cut by hand. The next date is 9th. January 1901 a provisional patent was taken out, but no product name was given. By the end of 1901 offices were found at 19, James Street, and a name had been found for his construction system, Mechanics Made Easy.

On the 17th. June 1908 the sale of Elliott and Hornby's business to Meccano Ltd. And the name was born, and we move on to 1914 with the opening of Binns Road. The 1920's with the nickel period, and the birth of Frank Beadle and Dennis Weston, what a period for the future of Meccano. We move on through the first red and green period 1926 - 1934 and into the blue and gold era. On the 21st. September 1936 sees the death of Frank Hornby.

The post war years and further change of colour to the second red and green era. The birth of Joe Etheridge and Barry Richardson and in 1946 Joe gets his first Meccano set. The 1950's and 60's see further changes to Meccano, and in 1966 the M.M. is 50 years old.

The next date of importance is March 5th and the start of **N.E.M.S** with Frank Beadle, Joe & Sally Etheridge, John Mallon and Alan Dodd. October sees our first ever display of models in the Nationwide Building Society in Darlington. On the 11th. December 1976 the first N.E.M.S. exhibition at the Baths Hall Rooms in Darlington. The 1970's sees the birth of Barry Harker a future junior member.

By March 1980 we find Meccano Ltd., with financial problems and goes into receivership, and an era comes to an end. But N.E.M.S goes on, we are now into our 25th and another successful year and exhibition and yes Barry Richardson has at last won the N.E.M.S. cup. That's it for 1999.

January 8th 2000 Club meeting at Bedale. A new Millennium dawns and the sunshine brought a very good turnout for our first meeting of the century with about 25 members dropping in. A good display of models

was on show which provoked a number of talking points during the day and those hunting for that extra part were well catered for by John Thorpe and John Herdman.

March 4th Club meeting and the AGM. Another year has passed and the AGM meeting rolls round again with a good attendance of 25 members present during the day. A good display of models was on show with railway loco's seeming to be the current fashion. John & Mary Linder were on their annual pilgrimage North and provided us with their usual wide selection of parts with additional goodies on offer from John Martin and Ian Mordue including many unique replicas and specials from Ian which further extend the possibilities of realism in modelling.

The business meeting was the AGM and the main points are Subscriptions to stay at the current rates. The librarian to request copies of reciprocal club magazines to be sent to him to add to the library. It was agreed that we should mark the clubs Silver Jubilee, probably at the Darlington exhibition or a Bedale meeting, and any suggestions are welcome.

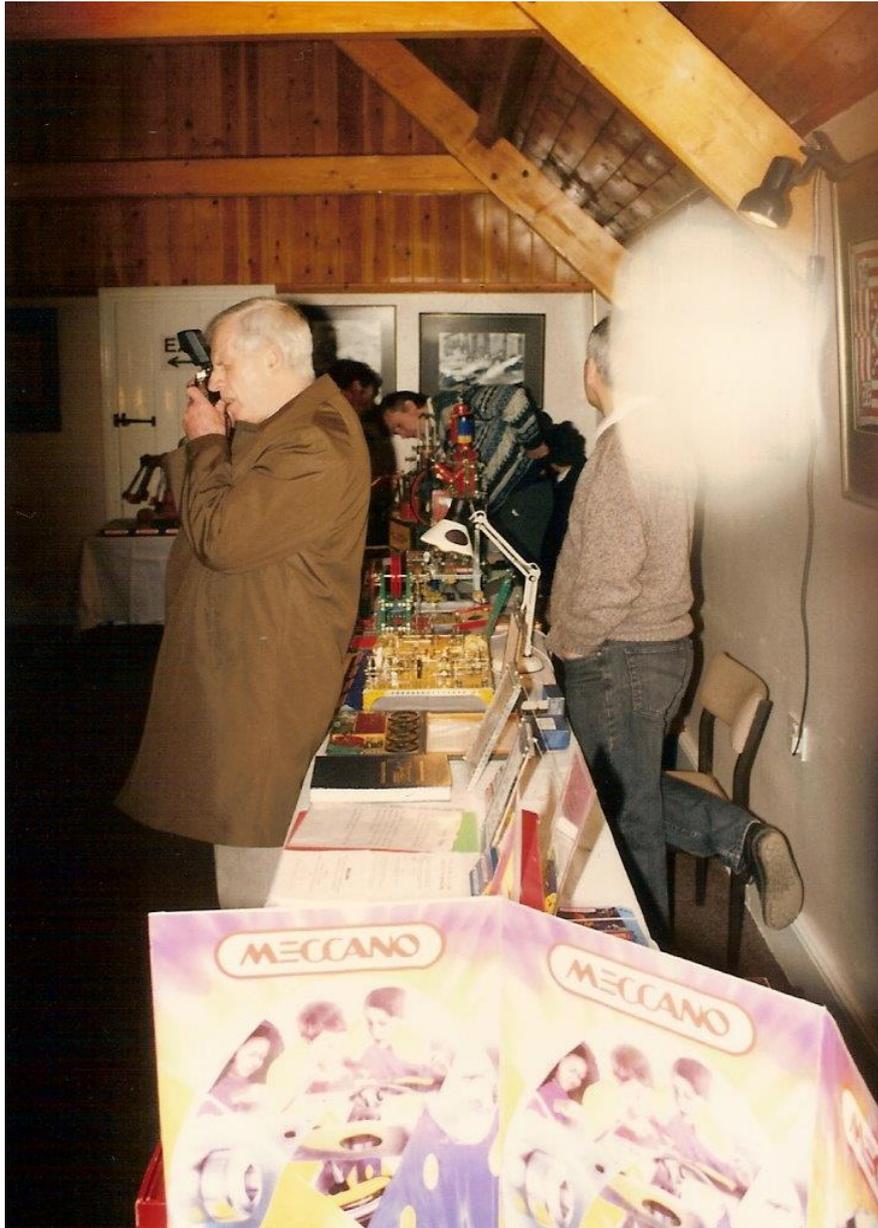
It was with deep regret that we record the sad death of Dennis Weston on the 4th March. He will be greatly missed, along with his prize winning Automatic Loom. A generous aspect of his manner was that he was always ready to help others work out problems, be it Meccano or otherwise. He was working on an advanced Braiding Machine when illness overtook him again and he passed away on March 4th Several members of N.E.M.S. represented the Society to share memories of Dennis with his wife Freda and the family.

Preston Hall Museum

25th March this was our first exhibition of the year. The club was invited to put on a display as part of a hobbies fair. The museum is similar to Beamish in that it has a street showing life in the past but is much more compact. The club had six members displaying a selection of models, and the turnout from the public was surprising as it was on a Saturday. From opening until closing there was a steady stream of visitors and considerable interest was shown with the usual FAQ's. Staff at the museum were more than helpful in arranging tables and a supply of tea and coffee, a good day out.

Beamish Museum

This was our Easter Weekend at the museum on from the 21st to 24th April and was as usual a well attend show with the Porter Room full of models all weekend.



Part of the Beamish exhibition

Making Their Debut at Beamish This Year NUTS' N ' BOLTS



This is a new group, formed only this year. Led by the extrovert Billy Bushwheel accompanied on vocals by Paula Pulley, this group has taken the pop world by storm. Other members of the group include Terry Trunnion on keyboard, “mad” Freddie Faceplate on drums and the Bellcrank twins Bill and Ben on guitars. They are managed by that well known Meccano nut Barry “the bolt” Richardson who is also responsible for building them up from scratch.

Seaton Holme, Easington Village

May 6th / 7th as at past shows we were looked after very well, but as in previous years not the best of attended shows.

June 3rd Club meeting at Bedale had a rather poorer attendance of 15 members due to holidays and possibly the rather cold and wet weather and there was a notable lack of models on display but this did not deter the usual free and easy atmosphere and exchange of ideas. John Thorpe had made the journey up the M1 to provide a good selection of parts with others available from John Herdman, including most of the new French parts.

The business meeting dealt mainly with forthcoming events and it was also agreed that the next meeting (9th September) would be the official 25th Birthday with a buffet meal.

Beamish Museum

The weekend of 24th And 25th June saw our second visit of the year to Beamish Museum and a very well attended exhibition by exhibitors and visitors it was too. On Saturday, no less than six members in the cramped conditions of the Porter Room next to the stables at the Museum's Town Area, and although the weather was not at its best the public turned up by the tram load. In fact because it was also a special weekend for Girl Guides and Brownies the Museum was opened early at 9.30am and we had to set up our displays in record time. We were kept on our toes all day.

On Sunday with a change of exhibitors we still had six members in the Porter Room. An enjoyable weekend seemed to be had by exhibitors and visitors alike and we look forward to being invited for another return visit. Perhaps someday the Museum will award us with the use of the Cookson Room, this being a far lighter and better exhibition area than the Porter Room.

Skegex 2000

NEMS was well represented as usual by six members, with several other members of the club attending as visitors over the weekend and no doubt left with lighter pockets and heavy carrier bags full of goodies from the large selection available.

Tarkea East Durham & Haughall College

Again another trip to Durham, Haughall College with several members showing a good selection of models.

Bowes Museum

Our second visit to the Museum again we were in the main art gallery, and with several members there.

25th Anniversary of the N.E.M.S.

On Saturday 9th September 2000, about 35 members, including several wives, assembled in the Aiskew Methodist Hall in Bedale, where we hold our normal quarterly meetings.

This was however to be a special day, there were less models than usual but members were handing in items for the Auction laid out on two tables, with a further two tables reserved for the Buffet Meal. Members chatted or purchased parts from John and Mary Linder, whose van was used by Dave Dalton to collect the food for lunch. On his return a mouthwatering spread arranged by David was set out by the ladies who had tea ready also. Everyone enjoyed a most delightful meal, ending in

the highlight of cutting the 25th Anniversary Cake by the trio of Frank, Joe and Sally who were there at the first meeting in Darlington in March 1975. The cake was the superb craftwork of Sally Etheridge, the icing in Meccano colours through the years and depicting the figure on the front of the present magazine.



Frank, Joe and Sally cutting the cake.

Frank Beadle as founder and President gave a review of the past 25 years from the first meeting which was the result of an advert in the local NE daily. The other two who were at the inaugural meeting were John Mallon and Alan Dodd. Frank ended by saying he hoped there would be a similar gathering to this in the year 2025 to celebrate the 50th. Year!!!



The 25th Anniversary Cake by Sally Etheridge



Part of the Buffet Meal

During the afternoon the scheduled Auction took place being conducted by Barry Richardson with just the right amount of wit and humour, selling all manner of items from old sets to magazines and parts lots, all at good prices through Barry's persuasion. We never found out who submitted the 10 Collars as a sale item!!!

The entire day ended about 4.00pm., and was a most enjoyable and memorable event, the club thanks Joe Etheridge and others who did the organisation.

The Meccano Society of Scotland

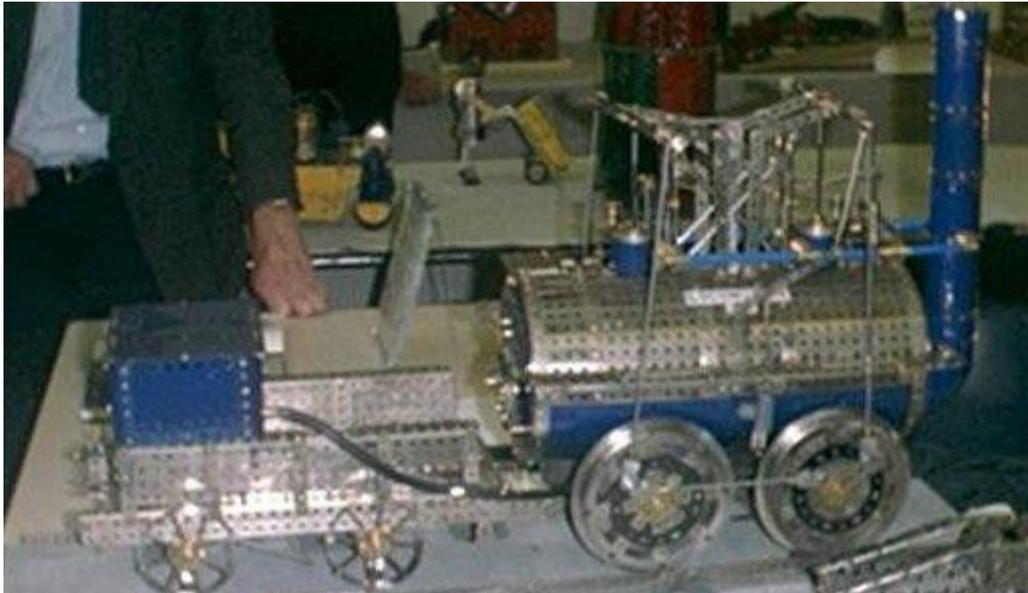
This was the third time the Society had held its annual exhibition in the Marryat Hall, Dundee on the 30th September. Once again it was very well supported by the public, in this case augmented by delegates from an Educational Institute of Scotland conference, which was being held in the adjacent Caird Hall.

MSS was ably supported by NEMS in the persons of Ian Mordue, George Roy and Joe and Sally Etheridge.

N.E.M.S. Annual Exhibition Arts Centre Darlington

This was our 25th Exhibition on November 11th and again a successful one. Not much table space was left, only one or two modellers having to spread out to fill any gaps left.

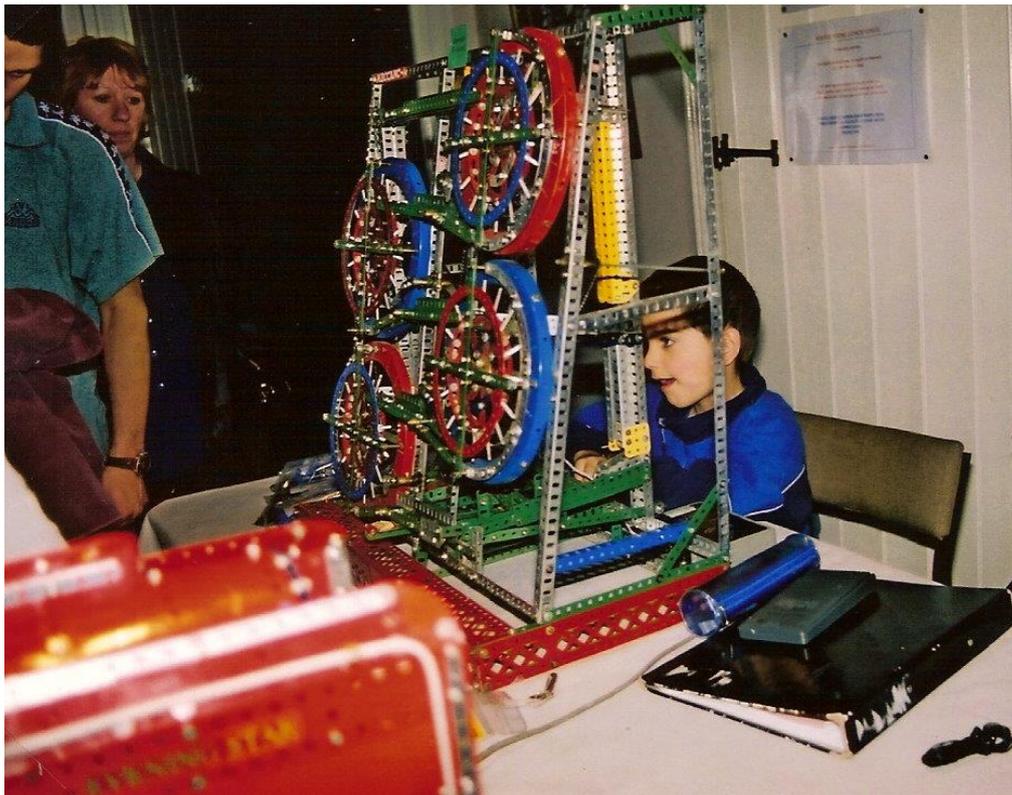
The number of models were fewer than at some previous shows, this was due in part to the recent weather with one or two regulars held up by floods in parts of the country.



Locomotion No. 1 built by Frank Beadle



The Swing Bridge Newcastle-upon-Tyne built by Dennis Edward



Ball Game built by Rob Miller



Floating Dock Crane by Ted Field



4 - 4 - 0 Passenger Locomotive built by Harriet Miller

Adult Prize Winners 1st. John Ozyer-Key - Foden 8 x 8 Mobile Crane
2nd. Dennis Edward - Swing Bridge
3rd. Barry Richardson - 'Nuts & Bolts' Pop Group

Junior Prize Winners Joint First

Harriet Miller - 4 - 4 - 0 Locomotive

Richard Watson - Train on Track & various other models

The winner of the Bradley Cup this year was Barry Richardson

The models were of a very high standard, well distributed for height and length and gave the public a fine array of subjects that can be tackled by all ages, in Meccano, and so ended our 25th Exhibition.

The start of a New Year 2001 and this will be possibly one of the busiest years yet.

As most of you know this is the 100th. Year of Meccano, it was on the 9th January 1901 when Frank Hornby took out a provisional patent for "Improvements in Toy or Educational Devices for Children and Young People", *i.e.* 'Mechanics Made Easy'

Another new year the first meeting on the 13th January, all the talk was of the New Millennium - but this is more special to Meccanomen as it is 100 years since Frank Hornby invented the system. At our first meeting about 20 members enjoyed a good day discussing projects and reveling in the boxes of goodies that John Thorpe had brought along following a recent find of a large stock of new French Meccano. As well as the models on display spare parts were on offer from John Martin and Ian Mordue.

The business meeting dealt mainly with forthcoming events. A discussion took place as to how we should celebrate the centenary. A suggestion was made by Barry Richardson. Can we as a club mount a small display from the different eras of Meccano; this can be in the form of models, parts, sets or books. This display to be mounted at our November Exhibition with part of it in the restaurant area, John Martin has kindly offered to organise this display. Joe Etheridge also indicated that we will possibly have a larger room in the Arts Centre, close to the foyer this year so the exhibition should be more accessible to the public.

The AGM on the 3rd March with about 20 members attended. John Thorpe was on hand to supply all the parts we thought we had but had been used up when it came to build that new model. Although the number of models on display was less than usual there was a good deal of discussion on various building problems.

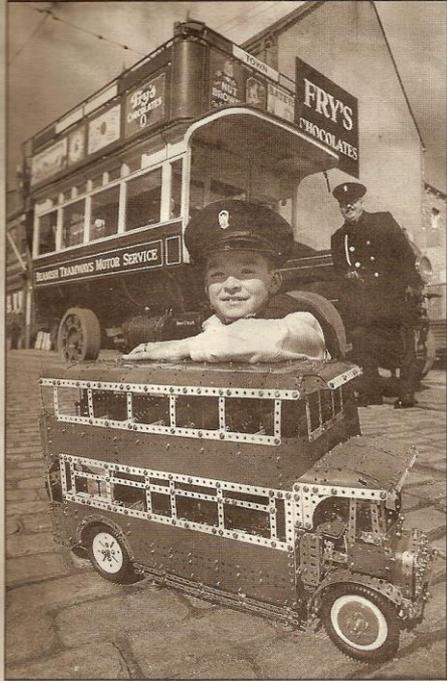
Following the AGM, it was agreed that membership fees would need to be increased by a modest amount to meet escalating costs. The present rates have been held for at least 10 years so a small rise is not unreasonable. The rates of membership for the year March 2001 to March 2002 are as follows: members - £7 per annum, students - £3.50 per annum and juniors - £2 per annum. The same committee was all re-elected for a further year.

Beamish Museum

The first show of the year the Easter Weekend 13th/16th April. The museum has a high profile and an appearance by the Society got us into the museum's publicity arrangements. First was the Hartlepool Mail which had a half page article on Joe Etheridge with two of his models featured, this appeared on Tuesday 21st April. Then over the Easter weekend the Northern Echo, The Evening Chronicle and the Newcastle Journal all had photos and details of the show, this newspaper coverage will cover most of the North East.

LOCAL NEWS

EVENING CHRONICLE, Saturday, April 14, 2001



Toy that has built up a cult following

HUNDREDS of Meccano enthusiasts have visited an exhibition to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the children's toy.

Devised by Frank Hornby, who was also responsible for toy trains, Meccano was patented in 1901 and is still in production today.

The show, at Beamish Museum, is to show how its attraction for young and old has stood the test of time.

Meccano mad Ian Mordue says his hobby is more to do with engineering and problem solving.

Ian is secretary of the North East Meccano Society and has spent more than £20,000 on the metal toy. Over 40 years he has dedicated thousands of hours on building dozens of models.

A spare bedroom in his house in Durham City has been converted into a Meccano workshop.

The exhibition is until Easter Monday, 10am to 5pm.

On show will be a large range of models demonstrating the versatility of Meccano. With historic model and exciting up to date exhibits.

For Society details or the exhibition call Ian on (0191) 3849381. Beamish Museum is on (0191) 3704000.

LOOKALIKES - Daniel Spence, eight, of Peterlee, with a 1920s London bus made of Meccano, beside Beamish's real old bus

The article from the Evening Chronicle

The exhibition itself was a great success with an average of around 3,500 to 4,000 people calling in, and most importantly for us we may have got some new members.

**Seaton Holme
Easington Village Co. Durham**

May 12th / 13th as in previous shows we were well looked after, but again not the best of attended shows. It was at this show over the weekend that Joe was inadvertently taken to hospital for a few days, it was thanks to the members who helped Sally with the models and looked after the show over the weekend.

June 9th Club meeting in Bedale, this was well attended with a good selection of models and ample supplies of parts available from John Thorpe and Ian Mordue. There was little business to discuss other than the display for the November Exhibition and this was going well.

Beamish Museum

June 23rd/24th again a well-attended show with lots of visitors. Although we were kept quite busy one or two members were able to sneak out once or twice to have a ride on some of the trams.

**Bowes Museum
Family Fun Day**

August 11th Museum & Grounds to be opened from 9:15 am and this was an early start. As in previous years the museum staff were on hand to help with the models into the lift and up to the main exhibition room, another good day out.

September 8th. Club meeting at Bedale another good attended meeting. The theme of this meeting was obviously traction engines with no less than 3 on display. Note we shall have to organise a traction engine pulling competition.

N.E.M.S. Exhibition Arts Centre Darlington

November 10th well, this was the BIG ONE, an exhibition to celebrate 100 years of Meccano. This year we used a different room in the Arts Centre, and seemed to have been a great success, especially with the exhibitors, and the room was much warmer!

The end of the hall was dominated by quite an exceptional display. This was divided into two sections, by a pillar. On one side was a display of

sets and models, from Mechanics Made Easy right up to the 1940's including all the different eras. On the other side was sets and models from 1950, covering all eras up to the Nikko products.



Model Display on the outside of the room.



Barry Richardson at one end of the main display.



Part of the display with a No. 10 Set



The display with some of the newer sets



The centre of the display with the club trophies



Centre part of the room with the model display area

The display of sets etc. was organised by several members, John Martin, Ian Souter and Barry Richardson, being the main instigators. A big thank

you to them, for such a fine display. Included was a collection of Meccano Magazines, including a sample of all the different years of the magazine. It is doubtful if such a display so comprehensive of all Historic Meccano has even been assembled in one hall before, and was a sight to behold.

The Bradley Cup winner this year was - Joe Etheridge

This, the 100th Year of Meccano, during the year members have exhibited at various events, the long distance ones involving journeys to Dundee in Scotland, to Skegness, The Henley Gathering, The National Tramway Museum at Crich plus several local events. A great year all round.

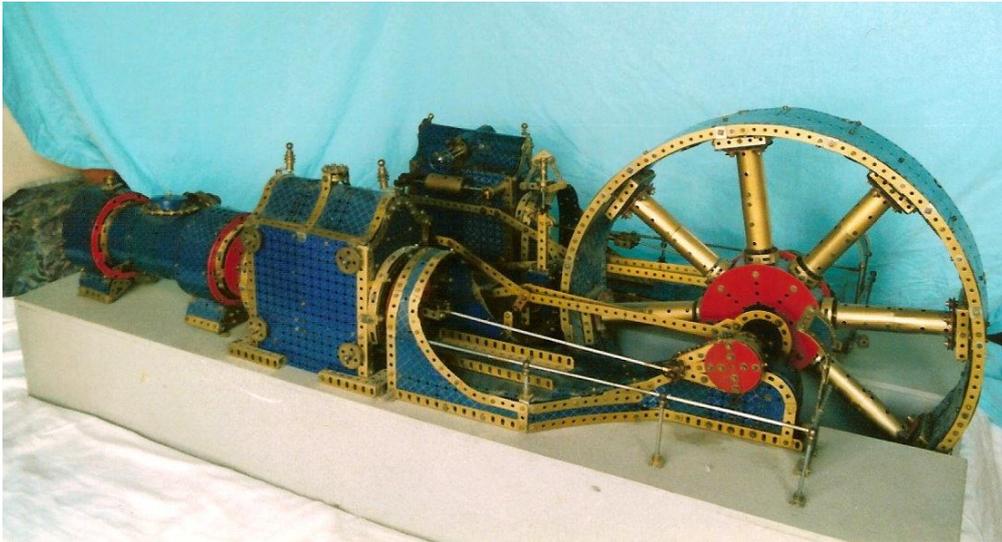
2002 Another new year and we looked forward to the current year's programme of events.

January 12th Club meeting at Bedale. Fair weather blessed us again at this the first meeting of the year. There was a good turnout of members but not so many models. Quite a few members passed through but didn't stay for the meeting. John Thorpe seemed to be doing a good trade with his usual large selection of spare parts. There was little new business raised at the meeting other than discussing future events.

Not long after the Bedale meeting we heard the very sad news of the death of Frank Beadle the founder of N.E.M.S. and club President.

Nickel Period to Nikko Period, Frank always referred to the Meccano system. When asked to his age or date of birth, Frank always replied, "I was born in the Nickel Period" He was a great loss not only to the Meccano world but also to Scouting as he was awarded medals for his work, and received the Silver Acorn in 1976 for his outstanding services, and by then he had become Assistant District Commissioner. He had been a scout master for 52 years.

At his funeral, the Meccano Club were represented by Joe and Sally Etheridge, Ian Mordue, Barry Richardson, John Herdman, Mike and Carol Rhoades and John Mallom (one of the club founder members).



Just one of Frank's many models built in blue and gold

The AGM meeting on the 2nd March. This was very well attended with a good selection of models. At the AGM a tribute was paid to Frank for all his work for the club. Officials elected were as the previous year. Subscriptions were also as the previous year.

The first exhibition of the year was at Beamish Museum over the weekend of April 13th 14th this as always was very well attended.

May 11th / 12th we were back at Seaton Holme, Easington Village, Co. Durham. As in the previous years this was not a well-attended exhibition by the public.



The June 8th Club meeting and the theme for this meeting was a model from a No. 5 set. This was very well attended by members with a good selection of models. John Brown also paid us one of his visits, with a selection of his unique Meccanographs.

Following the club meeting in March and again at this meeting, it was the feeling of members, that the club acquire a commemorative trophy in the memory of Frank Beadle, the club founder. A proposal was made that all members make a donation of £5, towards the cost of the trophy.

June 22nd / 23rd Back to Beamish Museum for the weekend again we filled the room with a good selection of models.



Barry Richardson with a collection of his models at Beamish Museum

August 10th Bowes Museum Family Fun Day, as in previous visits, we were up in one of the main art rooms. This was a well-attended exhibition.

The September 7th Club meeting at Bedale was attended, by around 20 members. The theme for this meeting was models from a No. 6 set. The range of models showed to good effect changes in the system over the years - particularly the range of parts included.

There was little new business raised at the meeting other than discussing future events and the Frank Beadle award. Barry Richardson also informed all that the final arrangements had been made for the auction of Frank Beadle's Meccano collection.

Saturday 28th September the auction of the late Frank Beadle's collection. This was originally planned to be in Frank's house / garage. The venue was later, and most wisely, altered to the nearby Scout Hall in the Cockerton Green area of Darlington. Frank had a long and happy association with the local Scout troop and the hall provided an ideal venue. Viewing was from 11am and the five groups were expertly laid out in strict chronological order and labelled in accordance with the

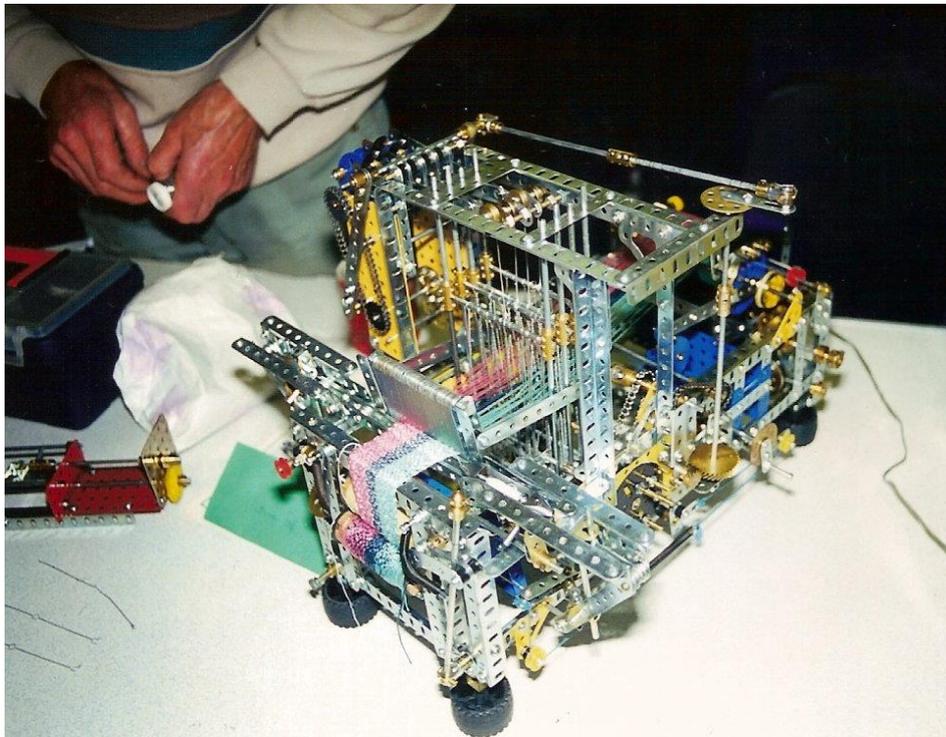
previously published list, the auction started promptly at 12.30 pm. The organizer / auctioneer was Barry Richardson ably assisted by Frank's son - in - law as clerk and Joe Etheridge on hand to display the individual lots. With bidding fairly brisk throughout, lots were sold reasonably quickly with interest maintained throughout.

An excellent auction ended around 4.00 pm., Barry and company did Frank proud, and we were all suitably grateful.

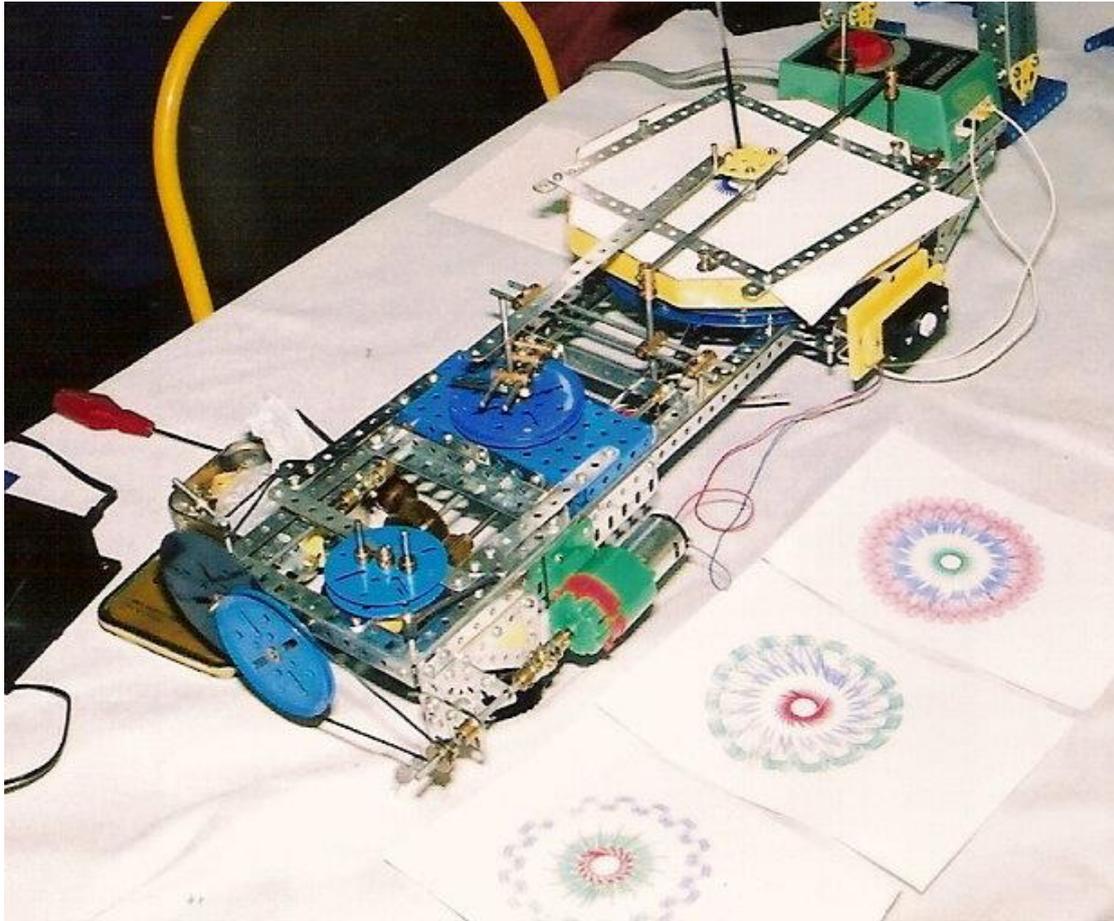
Oh, on the day of the sale the street round the corner the route in from the A1 was cordoned off by police and most had to take a detour! Someone had been murdered! Well - I don't think it was anyone heading for the sale! But I bet you this - that Frank will be remembered in those parts long after little local upsets like that are well forgotten!

N.E.M.S. Exhibition Arts Centre Darlington 2002

This was our 27th Exhibition and again a successful one. After last year's Centenary display, and in the larger room, we were a little concerned that we may not fill the hall, but as usual we did, eventually having to ask some people to squeeze up a bit.



Working Loom by Brian Ashton



Meccanograph by Les Nightingale



Beyer - Garratt locomotive by Joe Etheridge



WINNER OF THE Great North Run by Barry Richardson

This was the first year for our new cup the Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy, and we would like to thank Jean Beadle for her agreeing to select the first winner, this year was George Roy.

Adult Prize Winners - 1st. Dennis Edward - Model of the "Turbinia"
2nd. George Roy - Showman's Traction Engine
3rd. John Herdman - Tram and Bus Display

We only had two junior modellers this year -
Thomas Forth and Richard Watson, who both received Certificates

The Winner of the Bradley Cup was - Ted Field

In closing this exhibition a big thank you to all members over the years that have helped with the exhibition and model shows, that have kept this Society going, and also to the members of other clubs in their support at the exhibitions over the years. This was again a successful one.

November 30th a new venue, toy fairs are held several times a year in the large sports hall of the Gateshead Stadium, NEMS was invited to provide a display of models at the toy fair. The club was represented by four members with models over 8 tables. The nearby refreshments ensured that we had a steady flow of questions and comments and it was one of the busiest Meccano days the club has had for some time.

All in all, it seemed an excellent venue and the number of tables could easily be increased to 12. If the Discovery Museum invites us back when their refurbishment work is completed, we could have two very good Tyneside venues, which we believe has been the objective of our Society for some time.

December 7th Bishop Auckland Discovery Centre, this was situated just off the bottom area of the market square. This was another new venue for the club, but as with the Discovery Centre at Seaton Holme, Easington, this was not that well attended by the public.

Another year is over, one which seems to have been a steady year with the normal run of things taking place with several new venues another great year for the Society.

2003 Another year - how they seem to pass as you get older - and the weather was kind for our January meeting after a few days of snow and frost enabling about 25 members to attend. Most had remembered the theme for the meeting - a No. 7 set model, and a wide selection from various periods were on show with no duplicates. John Thorpe was on hand to supply those missing parts. It was also decided at the meeting that the theme for the Exhibition in November will be to have all 20 models from the No. 10 set instruction leaflets.

March 1st Club meeting and the AGM at Aiskew Chapel Hall Bedale. This was another good meeting with about 20 members present, with the theme of the meeting being models from a No. 8 set. We had a good selection of models in various periods. At the AGM meeting it was confirmed that at the exhibition it would have the theme of all the No. 10 set models. There was no change in the committee, and no change in the subs.

Beamish Museum

The first show of the year 12th / 13th April and as usual a well-attended show.

Seaton Holme

May 9th / 10th Back at Seaton Holme, Easington Village, Co. Durham, as with most of the previous shows this was again very poorly attended by the public.

June 7th Club meeting at Bedale. Another fine day at Bedale welcomed about 20 members - including 2 new members to the June meeting. We were also pleased to see John Thorpe back as most had not had the opportunity to stock up since Darlington. A good selection of No. 9 set models were on display together with some No. 10 models ready for Darlington. It was also a reminder that the September meeting will be a preview of all No. 10 set models and it is hoped that all will be on display.

Shildon Gala

The Shildon Gala 14th June back again to this well established event, the weather was good as we were in a Scout Marquee as in the previous years. Again the attendance was very good and we had a little congestion at times.

Beamish Museum

June 21st / 22nd. Our second show of the year at Beamish and as usual we filled the room with a good selection of models.

September 27th NEMS Club meeting at Aiskew Chapel Hall Bedale. What a marvellous summer it has been and the sun shone at Bedale for the September meeting. About 25 members attended throughout the day with some coming and going. Most took the opportunity to stock up for the winter from John Thorpe with other parts on offer from John Herdman and Ian Mordue, who also had some nice motors on offer at very reasonable prices.

The day was meant as a preview for the Darlington exhibition of the No. 10 set models and 12 were on display. The remainder were completed or well on the way to completion so all twenty will be on show as planned. It is not intended that the models will be working at the exhibition, as time and space will not permit the adjustments that will be needed after transport, but they will be displayed to the best advantage.

As a result of the 10 set models being displayed at the meeting there were only 2 other models to view, a theme for the January meeting next year was made and it will be Cranes!!!

After lunch we had the auction of parts, sets etc. under the capable hands of Barry Richardson, and this raised about £9 commission for club funds. The business meeting discussed the future of the magazine, particularly the cost and quality of photocopying. It was suggested that the club purchase a laser printer to produce the magazine direct from the computer and it was agreed that the costs and benefits would be investigated further with a report back to the January meeting for a final decision to be taken.

Darlington Exhibition 2003

November 1st The exhibition at the Arts Centre, Darlington, we have moved back into the Dance Studio at the Arts Centre this year. Well if you missed this exhibition, you missed one of the best shows ever. Yes we did get all 20 of the No. 10 set models on display, with the last one going on show at 9.45 am. This must be a first for N.E.M.S. Many thanks to all the members who helped with this display of models.

The following photos are all of the display of the No. 10 Set Models.







Well that is it all 20 No. Set models on display, it was a year's hard work but what a great display this was.

Now for the rest of the show we filled the rest of the room with models about 120 on show with modelers from Scotland down to the Midlands, a great day for all.

Prize Winners:

- 1st. Russell Carr - Bentley BR2 Rotary Aeroplane Engine
- 2nd. John Herdman - For his display of Trams and Buses
- 3rd. Joe Etheridge - Beyer - Garrett Locomotive

The Winner of the Bradley Cup - Fred Thompson

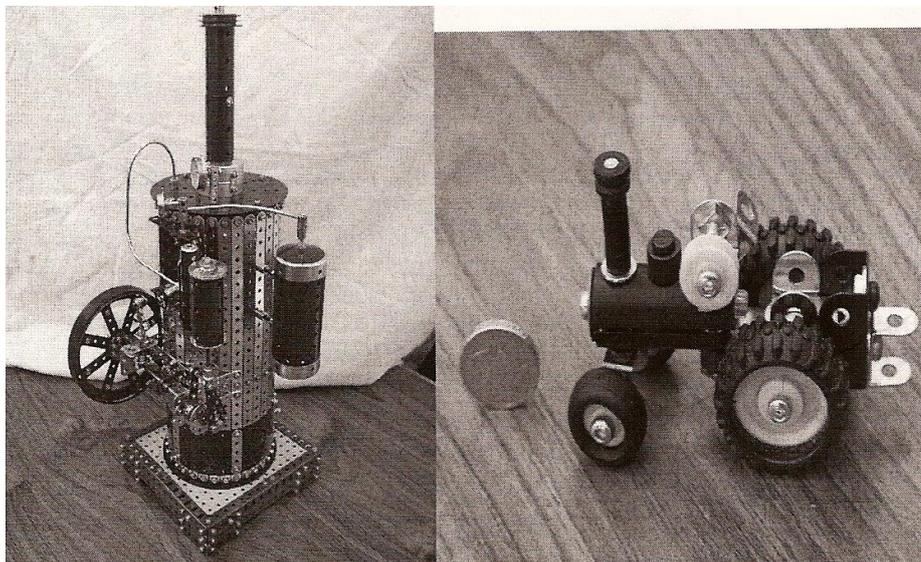
The Winner of the Frank Beadle Cup - John Herdman.

2004 The start of another year with the first meeting at the Aiskew Chapel Hall Bedale on the 10th January. The theme for the meeting was cranes, and a wonderful variety turned up. I can't mention them all, but included in those display were a couple of John Herdman specials, a cathedral crane (used by builders from around 1000 AD onwards to haul the large blocks of stone up to the top of large buildings, generally churches and similar). John also displayed a motorised tram breakdown crane. A couple of instruction book cranes were also shown, one from the crane kit by Barry Richardson.

The business part of the meeting dealt mainly with the club magazine, and it was hoped that members have noticed how well the pictures are displayed. We, as a club have purchased a black and white laser printer, so text and pictures should be of better quality in the future.

A theme for the AGM meeting in March is steam engines; any sort of steam engine will do, stationary or moving, large or small.

The AGM meeting on March 6th. was as usual a well-attended meeting, with the theme being steam engines.



Just two of the steam models from the March meeting.

The AGM part of the meeting passed over quickly with no change in the committee or on the subs for the next year.

Beamish Museum

April 17th / 18th The first show of the year, with the museum that has a very high profile. This is now one of the best established members of our regular exhibitions, as with all visits to the museum, this was a well-attended show.

Seaton Holme

May 22nd / 23rd Again another visit to Easington Village and as with most of the other shows this was very poorly attended by the public.

St. Cuthberts Church Hall Darlington

June 5th a new venue in a nice setting, complete with church bells, for the weddings, and not for us, with marvellous weather to boot. About 20 members put on a good show of models; unfortunately public attendance was sporadic, but we think sufficient to cover our costs. Whilst a day in June cannot be compared with a day in November, the possibility of using St. Cuthberts for our annual exhibition from 2005 will be discussed at the September meeting. John Thorpe and Mike and Carol Rhoades provided a good selection of spare parts and other goodies for members and the public. The club also thanks Sue, Vera and Sally for (wo)manning the kitchen and providing refreshments, a great day for all.

Beamish Museum

June 19th / 20th our second visit to the museum this year and again we had a good turnout of members and the public.

Skegex 2004

July 2nd / 4th this was again well attended by NEMS members over the weekend. Models might be classified as Big, Historic or Clever, occasionally all three.

September 11th Club Meeting Bedale, the lure of goodies at the club meeting and auction drew the crowds!! With about 30 members present during the day. The theme for the meeting was railway items, and a good selection of models were on show. A surprising number of simpler models had been built but as one gets older, these seem to have more appeal.

There was a very large entry for the auction so Barry had to re-arrange his lunch hour so that he could clear the lots in his usual efficient way. Bidding was brisk and the club funds are better by £29 as a result. The business meeting was short, and mainly concerned the decision, confirmed at the meeting, of the move to St. Cuthberts Church Hall for our annual exhibition from November 2005. The Arts Centre is just becoming too expensive.

Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition in Perth

NEMS was well represented at this exhibition. The morning of Saturday 25th September dawned dreich, dank and drizzly, and a dull drive in poor visibility towards Perth with lights on and windscreen wipers going did little to raise the spirits. The Lesser Town Hall was a busy place, even at quarter past nine, and a bit of squeezing had to be done to find space for all the exhibitors. Prizes were awarded on the basis of members votes, as is normal practice. This latter exercise calls for a considerable amount of work in rounding up all the votes and then assigning the nominated 1st, 2nd And 3rd the outcome was a first prize for NEMS member Joe Etheridge. Second prize went to Ken McDonald; third prize went to Bobby Middlemas.

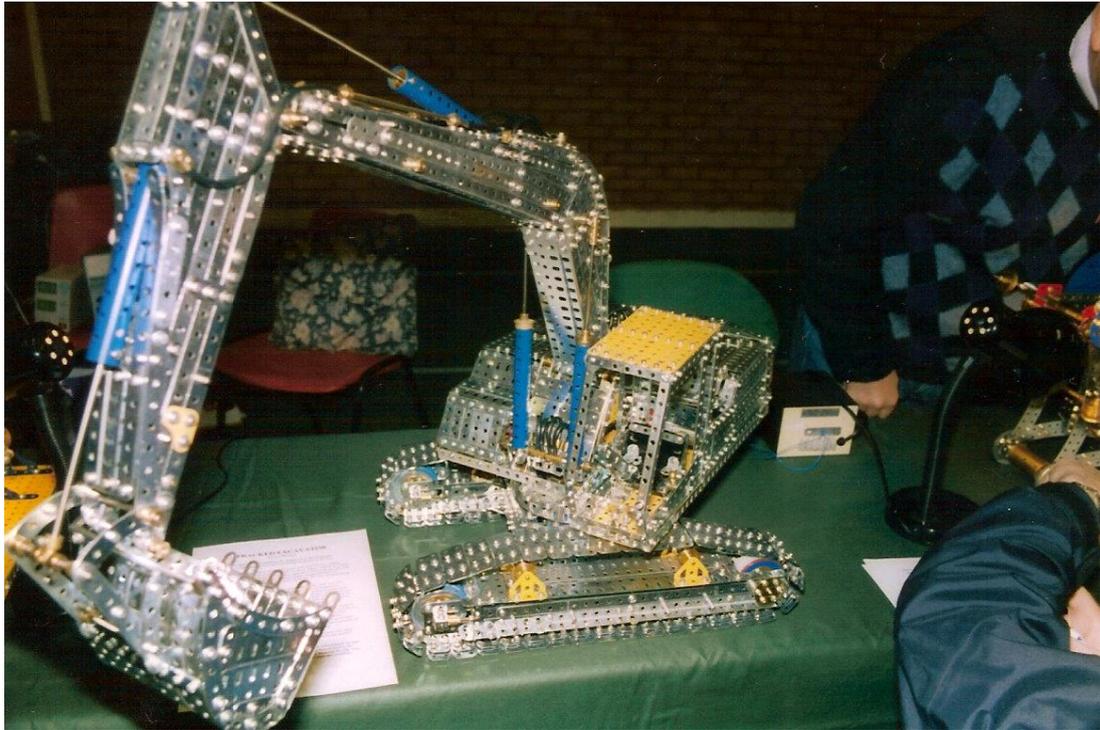
Darlington Exhibition

November 6th this was our last Exhibition in the Arts Centre, the first at the Arts Centre was back in 1987. So next year we move to St.Cuthberts Church Hall, Darlington Town Centre.

Once again our exhibition was very successful, thanks to all who attended, modellers and families. The hall was comfortably filled with a variety of models and there seemed to be a steady flow of paying visitors during the day.



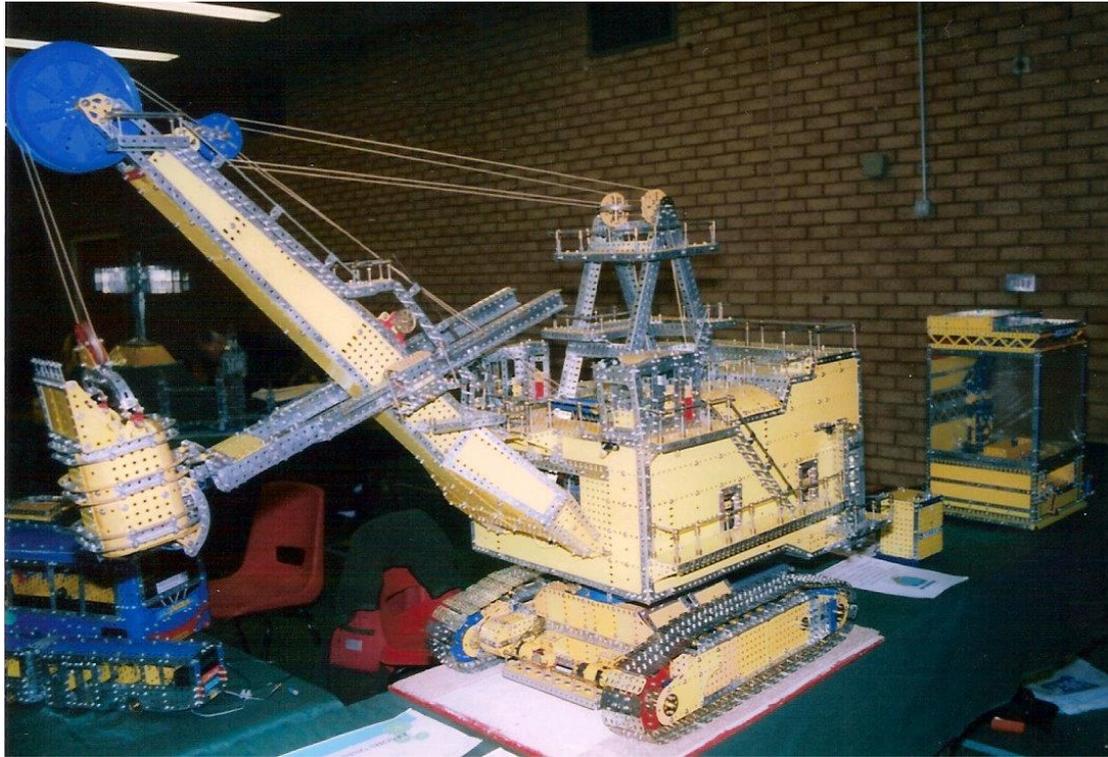
John Herdman's Stretched Reliant Van!!



Ian Mordue's Tracked Excavator



Joe and John next to John's display of buses



Joe Etheridge's P & H Mining Shovel which won 1st. Prize



The prize winners from the left: Brian Chaffer with the Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy, Joe Etheridge 1st. Prize, Ken MacDonald 2nd Prize, and George Roy with the Bradley Cup

The period after the exhibition is always a quiet one, another year is over, one which seems to have been a steady year with the normal run of things taking place with one or two new venues.

2005 A another new year, the first meeting in January coincided with one of the worst storms in recent times, with roads closed due to accidents, fallen trees and flooding so some of the usual stalwarts were unable to attend. Nevertheless about 15 members attended throughout the day. John Thorpe had fought his way up the A1 with his usual comprehensive selection of parts and trade seemed to be fairly brisk.

March 5th the A.G.M. meeting at Aiskew Chapel Hall, Bedale. This meeting was also nearly the victim of wintry weather, but fortunately the sun shone in time and a record 36 members were counted.

The A.G.M. there was only one change and that of the Magazine Editor, after about 13 years as Editor Joe Etheridge resigned, and asked Barry Harker to take over as editor. All officers were re-elected and the subs fixed at £8 and students, juniors at £4 for the next year.

The first exhibition of the year was at Seaton Holme, but this year John Herdman and Joe Etheridge have been invited to put on a display of models in a large glass cabinet. This was to run for about 4 weeks.



MECCANO MAGIC: John Etheridge and John Herdman with their creations. Picture by MARIE HUGGINS, D10331

Meccano magic on show

MODEL lovers will be in their element if they go along to an exhibition now on show.

Scale Meccano models are on display at the Seaton Holme Discovery Centre, in Hall Walk, Easington Village.

The popular venue is hosting an exhibition of models made by the North Eastern Meccano Society.

The exhibition features a large range of models made from Meccano, which was devised in 1901 by Frank Hornby, the man who invented Dinky Toys and Hornby trains.

The society was formed in 1975 and has more than 70 members.

Seaton Holme Discovery Centre is open every afternoon, Monday to Friday, from 1pm until 4pm, and admission is free.

The exhibition runs until Thursday, April 28, and for more information, contact the centre on (0191) 5273333.

**Cutting from the local paper
Beamish Museum**

April 16th / 17th again this well established member of our regular exhibitions. A well-attended show with lots of visitors. Although we were kept busy one or two members were able to sneak out once or twice to have a ride on the trams.



Blayne Richardson with some of his granddad's models

Exhibition at Neville Parade Newton Aycliffe

June 4th there was a new venue for our June meeting, this was a first for us to have a club meeting with a small public exhibition at the same time. Members can arrive to set up from 9am and we will hold our club meeting at 10am to enable the hall to be opened to the public from 11am. It will run until 4pm and refreshments will be available for most of the day.

Skegex 2005

NEMS was again well represented as usual with a good number of members displaying models and other members attended as visitors over the weekend and as usual would have left with lighter pockets and heavy carrier bags full of all those parts for that next model.

September 10th Club meeting Aiskew Chapel Hall, Bedale, as normal this was a well-attended meeting, the theme for the meeting was fairground items, and a good assortment of models were on display. The main part

of the meeting was to finalise the main details of the Darlington Exhibition. This was to be at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Market Place Darlington, and was a new venue for our exhibition.

Harrods of Knightsbridge - October 2005

Nikko, the owner of Meccano at the time decided to re-launch the Meccano product and decided that the best place to do this would be in the famous Harrods store in Knightsbridge, London. They had been sent photographs of models which had been displayed at various exhibitions throughout the country and selected a handful which they would like to support this project.

The models were to be sent to Harrods by courier and would remain on display in the store throughout October. Two of the models chosen were the Sunderland "Feltham" tram and the Tardis, both built by our member John Herdman. John is not sure whether any other of our members were approached as it was all quite hush-hush at the time and done by telephone and so there is little written record of the event. During the event there was a press day which was attended by Trevor Baylis of Clockwork Radio fame together with Geoff Brown, Rob and Wendy Miller and various other well-known Meccano enthusiasts from around the country. The event was deemed a great success. When John and Sue paid a visit to Harrods to see the display they noticed a good selection of models from around the country including RMS Titanic and the Subaru Impreza both by Darren Bonner and single and double deck Birmingham Corporation buses by John Sleafoed. There was even a large model of the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, however sadly not the one built by Brian Chaffer!

N.E.M.S. Exhibition St. Cuthbert's Church Hall 5th November

This was a very good show for a new venue, and the use of kitchen facilities was a big help. A big thank you to John and Sue Herdman for all the hard work they have done to make this show one of the best, also to thank Vera Richardson and Linda Chaffer for their work in the kitchen.

Competition Results:

1st. Ian Mordue - South Shields Titan Blocksetting Crane

2nd. Ian Perrins - Steam Ploughing Engines with a Balance Plough

3rd. Was awarded equally to Ken McDonald - Automatic Racer
Rob Mitchell - Electric Steelworks
Joe Etheridge - Blocksetting Crane

The Bradley Cup - Awarded to Brian Chaffer

The Frank Beadle Memorial Cup - Awarded to Ian Perrins

2006 Another new year the 1st Meeting was on the 14th January at Aiskew Chapel Hall, Bedale. The theme for the meeting was “Flight” and a great selection of models were on show, and not just restricted to the recent M & S Spitfire model! Attendance at the January meeting was among the highest we have had, with a good 30 members present, and probably a few more who attended only part of the time. There was little business to discuss other than forthcoming events.

March Meeting and AGM

4th March, another year gone, and time for the AGM again. After a wintry week, which threatened snow and cast doubts about travelling, all roads to Bedale were clear on a lovely, sunny, but cold day. An excellent 34 members took advantage of this window in the weather and were present for the meeting. The theme this time was “Architecture” and a varied selection of models was shown, and not a Big Ben in sight.

The AGM meeting, the Chairman and Secretary reports were given and the committee was re-elected en bloc. The Club is in a healthy position thanks to a successful exhibition at St. Cuthberts producing a profit of £240 - much of it was due to the ladies in the tearoom, who were deservedly thanked. The subs can be maintained at the current rate. After the meeting an auction was held which raised about £33 for club funds.

Fortunately the A.G.M. does not last too long because the highlight of the day is the Auction. Chief auctioneer Barry Richardson spends what seems all afternoon selling all and sundry in the Meccano field to an audience who probably has more money than sense.

Beamish Museum

April 22nd / 23rd the first exhibition of the year, again a well-attended show with lots of visitors. Our Meccano exhibition is the first special event of the year that Beamish holds. This year was to be different from previous years. The club had traditionally displayed models in the Old Town area of the museum. The main advantage of this location was its proximity to the tram stop. Without fail, once the tram had arrived, then the exhibition hall would be full of people keen to view the models. From 10am to the last tram at around 5pm there would be a constant flow through the exhibition hall. In fact on occasions, there were possibly too many people in the room.

The new location was in the resource centre, which although on the main walkway through the museum was squarely located between two tram stops. The resource centre is a brand new building that allows access without the need to climb stairs. There was naturally a certain amount of apprehension on whether this location would be overlooked by the public on the day.

We needn't have worried about people finding us; the fact that it was such a nice day, and museum visitors were taking the tram to the far end of the museum and then walking back through the attractions, following the walkway, had actually helped enormously. There was a great deal of visitors to the exhibition, though we would have concerns if we exhibited when the weather wasn't so good.

Newton Aycliffe

June 3rd this was our second visit to Neville Parade, for a club meeting and exhibition. The club meeting taking place just before we opened the doors to the public. As the previous year we put on a grand display of models, but the public was very thin on the ground.

Friday 23rd / Saturday 24th June. We were invited to a railway show at the Salvation Army Temple in Sherburn Hill, near Durham City. Model railway shows are always good because they feed you!! This event was not too busy either although those members who attended did have a good time. The Salvation Army will not allow Sunday events, hence the need for a Friday turn-out from 1pm until 8pm.

Skegex 2006

June 30th / July 2nd this was again well attended by NEMS members over the weekend, with a good selection of models.

Exhibition and Workshop at the World of James Herriot Museum in Thirsk 25th July

Ian Mordue was contacted by the curator asking him to do a small workshop for children at the museum. Ian confirmed that he would put on a workshop and a small exhibition for visitors to the museum. The Meccano connection with James Herriot is the fact that, apparently, he was inspired to become a vet having read an article in the December 1931 issue of the Meccano Magazine. Ian also exhibited the magazine as part of his show.

12th & 13th August. For the past two years we have been invited to the model weekend at the National Railway Museum in Sheldon (Locomotion). Our members join railway modelers in the main museum hall amongst full size railway locomotives and other exhibits. This year our members managed to fill 24 tables with Meccano models much to the delight of the large number of visitors present on both days. Next year the museum has asked us to hold a giant Meccano exhibition in May.

September 9th Club meeting Aiskew Chapel Hall, Bedale, and the theme for this meeting was all things Naval, 'Shiver me timbers'. Members of N.E.M.S set sail for the club's September meeting.

Due to a long standing commitment, that old salty sea dog John Thorpe had set sail for Scotland and was unable to provide members with access to a range of new and second hand Meccano parts. However, Long-John Herdman, Captain Ian Mordue, and Jolly Barry Richardson were on hand to assist with a treasure chest full of parts.

Club members had obviously been busy over the summer months and a fine regatta was on display throughout the day.

14th / 15th October a new event this year was at the Manor College of Technology in Hartlepool. This was a charity event with railway modellers, craft stalls etc. Visitors were few and far between, however the food was cheap and tasty with tea and coffee provided free of charge. Space was limited so we split the days between those attending who all enjoyed their day out.

21st / 22nd October. John Herdman was asked to take his model Dalek and other Dr. Who models to the National Railway Museum in York, to take part in a special themed event that they were holding. John and Sue only did the Saturday and had a most enjoyable day with visitors by the thousand! John Thorpe accompanied them with his Tornado Jet.

Darlington Exhibition 2006

November 11th Again we were back at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall. Last year was a very good show, but this one was even better. For the historians in the club, this was our 30th. Exhibition in Darlington with the first show being in the Baths Hall (now demolished) on the 11th December 1976. John and Sue Herdman did a great job in the organization of the exhibition. In addition we would specifically like to thank Linda Chaffer and Vera Richardson for their work in the kitchen and also Fred Thompson for his work in publicising the event in Darlington and getting us into the Northern Echo.

Competition Results

- 1st Dennis Edward - Doxford Opposed - Piston Marine Diesel Engine.
- 2nd. John Thorpe - Tornado Jet Aircraft.
- 3rd. Brian Chaffer - Ping Pong Ball Machine.

The Bradley Cup
Was Awarded to Dennis Edward

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy
Was Awarded to John Brown

Another great show with 25 exhibitors with about 71 models, also we had a Children's Play Area, thanks to Sally Etheridge for this new part to our exhibition. Can next year be any better?

25th / 26th November Our final show for the year at Blyth Community College jointly held with Blyth and District Model Railway Society at their annual event. It was a most enjoyable event with plenty of visitors and free lunches.

2007 How good can each year get? The first meeting of the year was on 13th January with snow covering the gardens of some members. It was our luck that the weather at Bedale held with the week previous being noted for high winds and road closures. If our counting is correct it was near record attendance with 30+ members present. John Thorpe was on hand with a good selection of spares with others on offer from John Herdman.

Tanks a lot or a lot of tanks! The model subject for the meeting was military and tanks predominated. The business meeting dealing mainly with future events.

Our next meeting was the AGM on March 3rd this was a well-attended meeting with a good selection of models, with the subject for the meeting being an industrial model. On the business side of the meeting, we had a new Secretary / Treasurer with Fred Thompson being elected into the position. We all thanked Ian Mordue for his work for the club over the past years.

Beamish Museum

Our first exhibition of the year was at Beamish Museum on the 21st / 22nd April. With another year flown by we were back at Beamish. The Resource Centre meeting room was to be used again following our successful event there last year. It is a newly built ground floor room with good facilities including wheelchair access and toilets, indeed several wheelchair bound visitors attended our event over the weekend. Carla Hunter who was to look after us for the weekend promised access from 8.45 am on the Saturday and she did not let us down, nor did we have any embarrassing alarm situations as happened last year!

The event was well attended on the Saturday, but the Sunday was quieter, although the room was never devoid of visitors which meant the time still passed quickly. We were visited by the press on Sunday and an article appeared in the Newcastle Journal on Monday along with a colour photograph of John Herdman's Dalek. It is a shame that this publicity came after the event, however we did get some press coverage before the weekend.

All members went home quite happy if not very tired, and our host, Carla admitted she had enjoyed the event so much she is volunteering to work at the event next year. She did say the cakes kindly baked by Sally did help influence her decision.

Locomotion The National Railway Museum at Shildon

At the 2005 Model Show our display must have been to the museum's liking because we were invited back in 2006. We had a really good turnout of members in 2006 and the museum staff had to plunder their rooms for extra tables to accommodate our display. At this event, the museum manager took Joe Etheridge and John Herdman to one side and asked us if we would be willing to stage a Meccano only exhibition. "I would want it to be BIG" he said. So Meccano-motion was born and a date agreed.

Again this did not go smoothly at first. We "spread the word" by announcing it at Oxton in September 2006 and giving leaflets out at exhibitions over the winter. Then towards the end of January John decided to drop the museum manager a quick line to see how things were going. Disaster! The manager was on long term sick and they knew nothing about Meccano-motion! Thankfully the Bank holiday weekend in question was still free in their diary and they were happy to go along with our plans.

By mid-March we had over 20 people wishing to exhibit, including four

from the North Midlands who kindly offered to support us despite the long distances involved. Rob and Wendy Miller had even agreed to run a “children’s corner” which pleased the museum as they have regular tables set aside for children to use. John optimistically asked the museum to order 70 tables for the event and trawled the market stalls for cheap green material to make table cloths as N.E.M.S. had never put on an event of that size before. Our annual Darlington show only ever runs to 50 tables at its best.

The exhibition weekend soon arrived. The weather was not brilliant, but did not stop exhibitors from turning up. In fact everyone who had booked tables arrived to claim them. The 70 tables were snapped up in record time and once again the museum staff had to plunder rooms to ensure Wendy had plenty of space to set out her metal and plastic Meccano part boxes to await eager young builders. Eager they were too. The two tables always seemed to be surrounded by young modellers and quite often a queue would form as youngsters waited for a position to become vacant so that they could start their creation. All modellers earned themselves a chance to win a metal or plastic Meccano set of their very own and a member of the museum staff was asked to pick two winners out of the box at the end of the weekend. Two lucky youngsters will now, hopefully, be creating their own models at home! The event was an enormous success, and the museum was happy too and they have invited us back for the same weekend next year.

Club Meeting / Exhibition Newton Aycliffe

June 7th Back at Neville Parade for another club meeting and exhibition, as at previous meetings a good display of models on show. The club meeting dealt with forthcoming events. The doors opened to the public at 10:00 am but as at previous exhibition’s, the public was very thin on the ground and not many visitors all day.

Skegex 2007

This was to be one of the best shows for NEMS, with about 8 / 9 members, showing a good selection of models, but pride of place must go to Ian Mordue for his Block setter, First prize and the Issigonis Shield.



IAN MORDUE'S FIRST PRIZE WINNER!

Scottish Society Exhibition at Scone

September 8th / 9th for the third year in succession members of the Meccano Society of Scotland were to be found loitering with intent. The tent in question was a marquee on the field of the SVTEC site at Scone Palace and the intent was to make the annual display of Meccano. This was well supported by NEMS with a good selection of models.

Meeting at Bedale on 15th September, on arriving we found the car park taken over by a tractor and trailer used by builders next door so it was a bit of a struggle getting everything in the hall. Never the less every one found parking and about 25 members attended during the day.

The model subject for the meeting was transport so most models had wheels of some description.

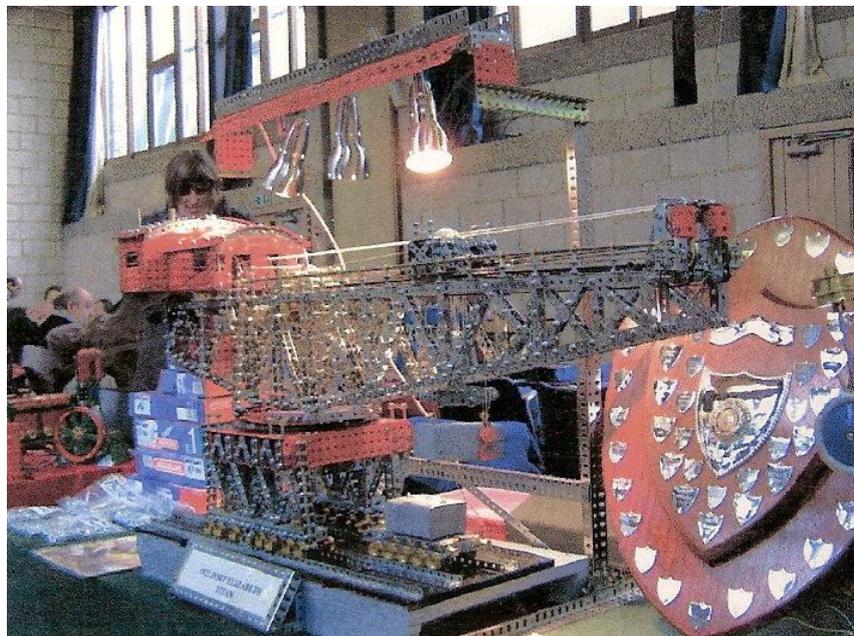
Following the short business meeting dealing mainly with future events, a successful auction was held even though the auctioneer was sorely taxed at times to extract bids.

Darlington Exhibition 2007

November 10th Looking back over the reports of the last few years, have all started by saying that each year was better than the last, but it just gets better each year.



Demag CC40000 Crawler Crane built by John Hornsby



Ian Mordue's prize winning model of a 1922 Titan Crane

Prize Winners

- 1st. Ian Mordue - Steam Titan Crane.
- 2nd. John Hornsby - Demag CC40000 Crawler Crane
- 3rd. Brian Chaffer - Festiniog Fairlie Locomotive

Bradley Cup

This year was awarded to Tim Roylance

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy

This year was awarded to Joe Etheridge

Another great year comes to an end with more exhibitions each year it just gets better.

So into **2008** and the start of another year for NEMS. The first meeting of the year was on the 11th. January, this was also the start of our January competition. Each participating member had to build a self-contained walking or running model that would cover the distance of 10ft in the shortest possible time. Due to his experience with walking machines, John Herdman was selected as the judge.

After several rounds it was down to the 'Spennymoor Stomper' and the 'Hurworth Hound'. Both models were placed on the start line, Fred's model pointing towards the exit door. John counted down and the beasts were unleashed. The Spennymoor Stomper made good progress, slowly covering the distance. The Hurworth Hound passed in front of the Stomper and proceeded to go underneath the tables at the left hand side of the track closely followed by Fred. Further seconds passed and still Fred did not reappear from under the table, (though a faint muttering and cursing could be heard) leaving the Spennymoor Stomper to romp across the finishing line to claim first prize.



Spennymoor Stomper

To celebrate what had been a highly amusing and entertaining event all eight walking models took part in what can only be described as a one off melee.

The meeting this time models were fewer due to some having brought only their “walking” models. Over the day about 20 members attended but our trusty dealer John Thorpe was unable to attend and our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery. Nevertheless a few members had brought a fair selection of bits and pieces together with a collection of recent Xmas releases at reduced prices and trade was brisk. Novelty models formed the theme for the meeting and a good variety were displayed.

The short business meeting mainly discussed forthcoming events but it was noted that several members still had to pay 2007 / 8 subscriptions and articles for the magazine are needed.

March 1st Club meeting and AGM, Bedale, a nice sunny day after a stormy week brought about 25 members to Bedale for the AGM. In the absence of a dealer trade centred round a few members who had a selection of parts for sale. The theme for the meeting was a passenger carrying model.

The AGM meeting, all officers were re-elected unopposed. The Treasurer reported on a very good year with a good profit from the exhibition. Accounts were circulated and approved. A vote of thanks was extended to the ladies who manned the refreshments which contributed to the funds. It was agreed to keep subscriptions at £8, renew the Club’s insurance and purchase a small trophy to be awarded to the winner of the annual race. Following a discussion on the magazine dates were fixed for 20/2, 20/4, 20/7 and 30/11 so that it was issued between meetings. After the meeting an auction was held with the expert in charge and about £15 was raised for club funds.

Beamish Museum

26th / 27th April our first exhibition of the year. And as usual we filled the Resource Centre Exhibition Room with a good selection of models, and well supported by the public. The weather was poor this year which did keep numbers down a little and although attendance was steady we did not see the manic peaks of visitors which have occurred in some years past.

N.E.M.S. Exhibition at Locomotion Shildon

25th / 26th May this was a great success, with all of the tables filled with models. On the Sunday we were visited by the BBC Look North TV, which recorded several interviews with members. The programme was put out on the Sunday evening show. On the Monday we were inundated with visitors to the museum, about 3,500 people attended the exhibition.

Club Meeting and Exhibition at Newton Aycliffe

7th June, with 13 members showing models, we filled most of the tables, but as in previous years the public was very thin despite the advertisement by the hall.

The club meeting was held at 11am that day. The winners of the 2007 (racing competition) and the 2008 (walking competition) were presented with engraved glass and a small bottle of whiskey. The rules for the forthcoming 2009 tug of war competition were discussed and agreed. There being no other business the club meeting was closed.

21st / 22nd June the Durham County Vintage Collectors Society held a show at Ferryhill Station and the Society was invited to attend. During this weekend Joe Etheridge, Brian Chaffer and Tim Roylance exhibited their models although the weather was rather inclement.

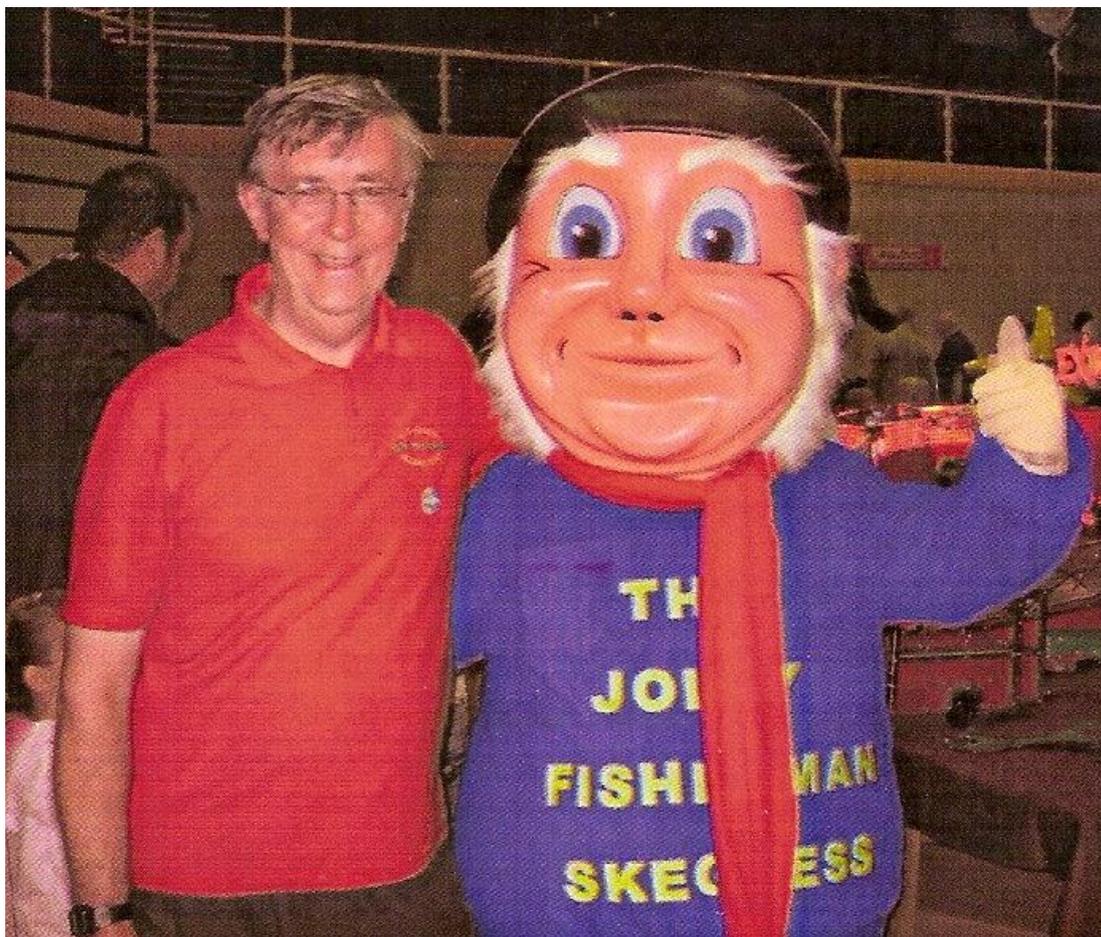
28th June Crook Community Partnership who run a Community Hall in Crook Market Place asked the Society to attend a family fun day although space was limited. Two club members attended, Barry Richardson and John Herdman. Attendance by the public was quite steady and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

9th / 10th August A few members made a further trip to Locomotion Shildon. This is not a NEMS event as it is the Museums own Model Mania weekend. We are joined by model railways, model boats, model aircraft and several other hobbies at this very busy gathering

16th / 17th August with a few days' notice we were invited by David Poole who runs Toy Fairs at various locations to attend his event being held at the Bowes Railway in Springwell, Gateshead. This is a new venue for the Society. The event was attended by 5 members. A lot of interest was generated and in between the sunbathing sessions we were able to watch engines pulling passengers in converted Guards Vans up and down the track. Several visits were made to the assembled Toy Fair stalls just in case there was any Meccano lurking.

Skegex 2008

4th / 6th July As in previous years the NEMS was well represented at Skegex.



Club Vice Chairman Barry Richardson meets up with an old friend at Skegex

6th September club meeting at Bedale. The sun shone after a rainy week and about 25 members managed to negotiate flooded roads to Bedale. Trade again centred round a few members who had a selection of parts for sale. The theme for the meeting was an electric powered vehicle. The short business meeting mainly announced forthcoming exhibition dates but an apology was given for the late change in the date for the meeting. Hopefully next year's dates will be arranged so that a clash with events is avoided. After the meeting an auction was held with the expert in charge and £15.50 was raised for club funds. All lots sold so the auctioneer is still in his post.

Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition

13th / 14th September, as last year this was held with the 'Farming Yesteryear' show in the grounds of Scone Palace just outside Perth.



Sally Etheridge and would be Meccano boys

NEMS was well represented at Scone with a good selection of models.

Darlington Exhibition

8th November, St Cuthberts Church Hall, it was a great day with a good selection of models and plenty of support from members and the public on the day.



1925 Austin 7 Box Saloon built by Harry Harker



George Roy admiring Barry Richardson's Giant Beam Engine.



Anne Seaton sitting behind Bob's Stanier "Duchess" class City of Sheffield 6249 Locomotive.



Linda Chaffer, Vera Richardson, Sue Herdman and Sally Etheridge

The Bradley Cup Winners 2008

Prize Winners

1st. Bob Seaton - "City of Sheffield" Locomotive

Joint Second

2nd. Rob Mitchell - Automatic Lift

2nd. Brian Chaffer - Ball Lift Roller

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy
The winner this year was - Barry Richardson

The Bradley Cup

This year we broke with the tradition and awarded the cup to four of our members wives for the work and support given over the years.

For their work thank you

Linder Chaffer, Vera Richardson, Sue Herdman and Sally Etheridge.

29th / 30th November the Blyth and District Model Railway Society once again invited us to take part in their annual exhibition at Blyth Community College. Several members made the journey northwards and a very busy weekend was enjoyed.

14th. December At the last minute the North East Die Cast Club asked us to fill a small space at their Toy Fair at Bowburn. To accommodate them John Herdman took along a few models and set up an exhibition in the foyer - underneath the Christmas tree!!

19th / 20th December another North East Die Cast Club last minute event! The Club were given an empty shop in Peterlee shopping precinct and asked the Society to join them. Again this was a fund-raising for their chosen charity - the North Air Ambulance. Joe, Brian and Tim attended over the two days and apart from being flooded out overnight and Brian showing his skills with the mop it all went well.

Another year over with loads of new venues with 18 meetings and exhibitions this must have been our busiest year yet.

2009 The start of another year for NEMS our first meeting on January 10th. Another fine day - cold but bright - brought about 25 members to the meeting. Trade again centred round a few members who had a selection of parts and sets for sale, after trawling the January sales on offer. It was nice to welcome back Ken and Albert after a long absence

from our meetings. The theme for the meeting was a stationary model but of course the main draw of the day was the tug of war challenge. The contest has got to be the highlight of the Meccano year - and it was only January 10th. First and foremost we had an excellent turn out this year with fifteen entries, almost double the amount we had last year. The lure of a small trophy and a bottle of whiskey had obviously encouraged members to work long and hard during the winter months. Once again we had a diverse variety of vehicles entering the competition, reflecting the amount of time, Meccano to hand, and sheer ingenuity of the competitors. The winner this time was - The Dark Side of the Force built by Rob Mitchell. The short business meeting mainly announced forthcoming exhibition dates at Beamish, Locomotion and Darlington.

7th. March AGM meeting at Bedale, it was at this meeting that we had a change of committee members. After 21 years as Chairman Joe Etheridge and Barry Richardson as Vice - Chairman both have decided to stand down at the AGM. Both Barry and Joe would like to thank all members for their help and support over the years. They both think it is time to take a back seat now and give their support to the new Chairman and Vice - Chairman. After the meeting the Committee had a new look:

Chairman & Exhibitions Secretary - John Herdman

Vice - Chairman - Tim Roylance

Secretary / Treasurer - Fred Thompson

Librarian - David Dalton

Magazine Editor / Mailing List - Barry Harker

At the end of the meeting Barry Richardson made the proposal that the vacant position of Hon. Life President should go to Joe Etheridge for his work for the club over the past 34 years, this was agreed by the members present, the meeting then closed.

Beamish Museum

18th / 19th April this was our first main exhibition of the year, once again we filled the Exhibition room with models, and a good support from the public on the day.

Locomotion Shildon

24th / 25th April Once again we fill about 70 tables at the Museum with one of our biggest displays of models.



General View at the front of the Museum.



John MacDonald with his Army Transport models.



Joe Etheridge with his Colliery Complex and Dockside models.

Bridge Mania!

It was in early December 2008 that a TV production company, Plum Pictures contacted Ian Mordue, asking if the construction of a 40 foot span, man-carrying bridge, using only Meccano is possible. This was to be part of the “James May’s Toy Stories” that featured five other construction systems.

Ian then had several meetings with the production team and a design was chosen, after a lot of discussion. By the end of May Ian had received the first detailed drawings of the bridge. He then set to work to undertake a trial build of one 2 foot section. Ian was then informed that the build itself was to be undertaken within Liverpool University by a group of volunteer structural engineering students.

The students worked away through the early part of June to complete the swing bridge portion, but by the middle of the month it was apparent that the work was behind schedule. As a result Ian was asked by Plum Pictures if he and some colleagues from the NEMS could help out by building some sections. Frantic emails rushed round the country and by Friday the 19th June, a good wedge of Meccano had arrived at his house for Joe Etheridge, Barry Richardson and Brian Chaffer to work on. We all sat in Ian’s lounge most of the Friday working away on a section each. A film crew arrived at Ian’s house on Saturday 20th to film us “saving the day” by helping with the build. Between the 19th and 27th June we managed to complete 6 sections between us, and on the 29th June Ian and Joe drove down to Liverpool in a hired van, to be filmed coming into the University like the Seventh Cavalry to save the day.

The students were obviously successful in their labours, and during the week commencing the 3rd August, Ian was contacted by Plum Pictures, and asked to attend the grand reveal on Saturday 8th August. There was certainly an air of excitement and expectation at the bridge site, which was down by the waterside, just in front of the Liver Building. A large area of the quay had been barred off and suitably intimidating security people stationed inside the barrier to keep people out.

James May mounted the bascule bridge and the operators released the valve which started water flowing from the saddle water tank. James May, somewhat tremulously, tested the movement of the bascule and by degrees rocked it to a level position across the canal. The students had fitted some hand rails to the side of the bascule which gave James something to grip while standing at the end of the bascule waiting for the swing bridge to arrive. The cordless drill winder worked flawlessly and brought the swing bridge round to a perfect meeting with the bascule. James May remembered his instructions well and as he stepped from the bascule to the swing bridge he released the valve of the water tank at the

end of the bascule. Slowly and majestically the bascule (with the aid of the people controlling the guy ropes) rolled back to its original position, demonstrating effectively the “Bridge of No Return” principal i.e. you can only cross from bascule to swing and not vice versa. James got to the pivot point, he then faced a 19 foot walk along a 14 inch wide surface standing approximately 15 feet above the canal surface. At that point he had to lose the handrail and complete the walk. There was some obvious shaking of the bridge accompanied by some language from James which may not get broadcasted, but suffice to say he got to the bank end of the swing bridge unscathed where he was warmly welcomed by Edwina Currie. The final act was for the two of them to release the Liver Bird, a two foot high Meccano representation of the famous Liverpool symbol. It slowly raised its wings under spring power as James and Edwina released a catch that held them folded, so ended a very successful, if long day. Ian’s original optimism for the ability of Meccano to create such a bridge was upheld.



At last! The first tentative step forwards on to the span and a bit of a wait before there is any movement



The structure surmounted by a nicely modelled Liver Bird specially created by Meccano Ltd.

Newton Aycliffe

Our June meeting and Exhibition in the Community Hall, saw 12 or so modellers set up, and there was a steady - if small - number of visitors throughout the day. The short business meeting mainly dealt with forthcoming exhibitions and the competition for 2010.

Skegex 2009

3rd / 5th July NEMS was again well represented at this the UK's biggest show of its kind, and as in other years most left with more Meccano than they came with.

Bowes Railway Museum

15th / 16th August, back at Bowes Railway in Springwell, Gateshead for the Toy Fair, and a lot of interest was generated by our display of models.

Kirkleatham Hall

15th / 16th August this was another new event being held in the museum. As well as a model display Sally Etheridge had her children's play area, which was well used over the weekend.

Berwick upon Tweed

This was on the Saturday and Sunday of the August Bank Holiday. Throughout 2009 Berwick upon Tweed is commemorating the greatest ever Railway Engineer, Robert Stephenson, on the 150th. Anniversary of his death in October 1859, along with his finest work, Berwick's own Royal Border Bridge opened in 1850.

As part of the commemoration a Model Railway Event was scheduled to be held at the Swan Centre for Leisure, Tweedmouth, and Berwick. NEMS was approached by the organiser who invited us to display at the event. The Society was represented by John & Sue Herdman, Joe & Sally Etheridge and Ian Mordue. This proved to be a good weekend and the food from the Café in the Leisure Centre was very good.

5th. September club meeting Aiskew, Bedale, again this was a well-attended meeting with 25 / 30 members attending.

Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition Scone

Just before any of our members left for Perth we got the words 'Scone Cancelled. The grounds behind Scone Palace were standing in water, thanks to heavy rain in the preceding days and, being only a few feet above a loop of the Tay, the water wasn't in any great hurry to drain. So after years of good weather, it's a quagmire, and the shows off.

3rd / 4th October the Durham County Vintage Collectors Society held a show at Hurworth and the club was invited to attend. This was a similar show to the one at Ferryhill Station.

Darlington Exhibition

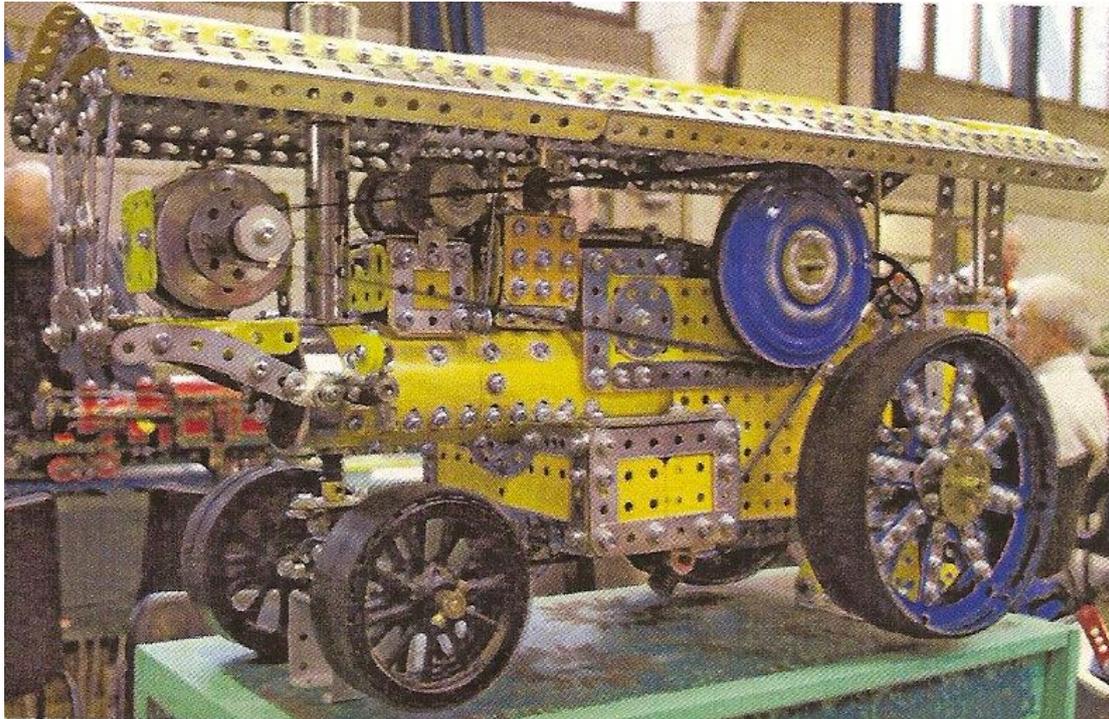
24th October this was the first time we have moved the date of the exhibition from November to October in about 32 years.



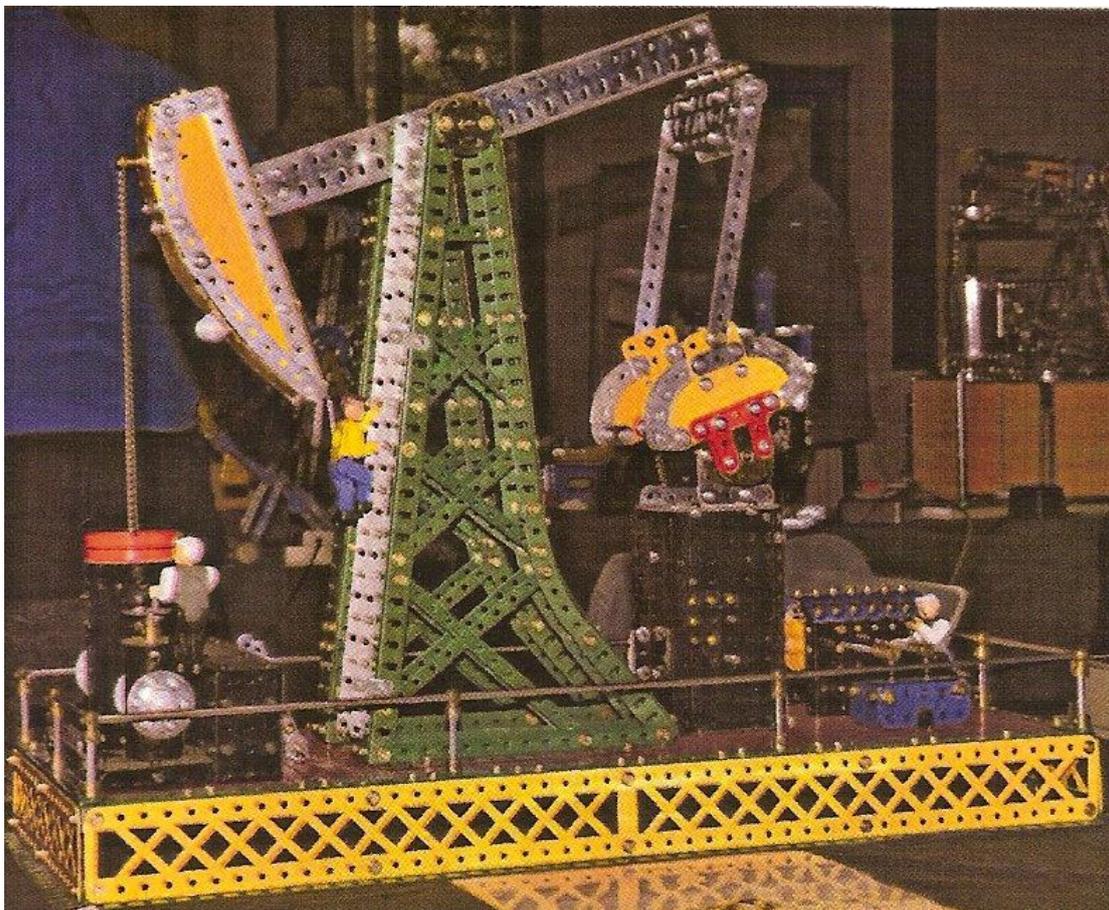
“Turbina” built by Dennis Edward



Ian Mordue demonstrating his Liebherr Container Crane to Rob Mitchell



Burrell Showman's Traction Engine built by Fred Thompson



Oil Well Pump (Nodding Donkey) built by Barry Richardson.

Prize Winners

Adults

- 1st. Brian Chaffer - The Juggler
- 2nd. Barry Richardson - Wally the Wizard
- 3rd. David Williams - Ballveyor

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy
The winner this year was - Ken McDonald

The Bradley Cup
This year's winner - Geoff Rowlinson

Juniors

Special Achievement Award - Lewis Staples
Commended Modeling Medals - Logan Wood
Samual Scott
William Scott

The club has to say a big thank you to John and Sue Herdman for all the hard work putting on this exhibition. Also to Vera Richardson, Linda Chaffer and Sally Etheridge for all the support. As to the exhibition it was a great day with a good selection of models and plenty of support from members of the public.

5th December North East Die Cast Club asked us again to fill a small space at their Toy Fair at Bowburn.

19th December another North East Die Cast Club, as the previous year they were in an empty shop in Peterlee shopping precinct and asked the Society to join them. Again this was a fund raising for the Great North Air Ambulance.

During this past year we have probably had more exhibitions than any other year with duplication of events on at least two weekends with quite a few new venues coming to the fore. We have also gained some valuable new members along the way.

2010 The start of a new year with our first meeting on the 9th January, at Bedale. The snow has almost disappeared but a belated meeting resulted in a good turnout of about 25 members. John Thorpe was on hand with a comprehensive selection of parts and literature with other goodies available from various spots around the hall. There was a good display of models based on the farming theme with tractors predominating.

The main event of the day was the now annual competition, this year it was a Clockwork Robot capable of taking many small steps over a distance of 3ft. After 6 rounds we have two for the final the Durham Dancer and Herr Stomp. At about six inches from the line it was neck and neck, then in a last grasp effort and probably mindful of the parts box, Durham Dancer just managed to cross the finishing line about ½” ahead of the Herr Stomp. It really was that close.

Congratulations to Barry Richardson the trainer of the Durham Dancer who has received his second Crazy Inventors whisky glass and a bottle of whiskey. The short business meeting dealt mainly with domestic matters and forthcoming events. The way that the calendar for the year is shaping up this year looks as though it is going to be just as busy if not busier for our members. For instance a new exhibition venue at Wensleydale Railway in Bedale is likely to go ahead this year.

24th January A small display with the N.E.D.C.C. Toy and train fair at Bowburn Community Centre.

6th March club meeting and the AGM. The promise of an auction resulted in a good turnout of 31 members for the meeting, with a good few remembering the theme of “Space” for the meeting. John Thorpe was in attendance to supply the spares needed. At the AGM the accounts were approved and all officers re-elected. Barry Richardson proposed that something should be done to mark the 35th Year of the Club, and it was agreed that it be marked at the September meeting in a similar way to the 25th. Mike Rhoades had made a donation to the Club, and members were asked to think about ways to usefully utilise this. Barry conducted the auction with his usual skill and raised about £27 for the Club. His record remains intact!!

13th March a small display with the N.E.D.C.C. toy and train fair this time at North Lodge School, Chester - le - Street, with several of our members present for the day.

4th April Easter Sunday back at Bowburn Toy and Train fair.

Beamish Museum

10th / 11th April Back at Beamish Museum for our annual Exhibition in the Exhibition Room. As in previous years we filled the room with models, and had a good support from the public over the weekend.

9th May A small model display with the N.E.R.C. at Wilden Terries Washington

Locomotion Shildon

30th / 31st May this is now a regular exhibition at Shildon and the largest show we have in the North East.

Newton Aycliffe

5th June this was our joint exhibition and club meeting, with about 15 members showing models, we filled the room, but as in previous years the public was very disappointing on the day.

12th / 13th June Kirkleatham this was part of a general display by model clubs. The club was represented by Fred Thompson and Joe and Sally Etheridge. Sally had her children's play area.

19th / 20th June Ferryhill Station with the Durham County Vintage Collectors Society. Club filled about 6 tables with models.

Skegex 2010

2nd / 4th July the Society was well represented at the show. Our congratulations on behalf of all Club members must go to Brian Chaffer on his successful Skegex winning place when he scooped third prize with Jimmy the Juggler. A worthy winner indeed, for a model which was innovative and totally Brian's own design and creation and works so well over long periods.

Locomotion Shildon Modelmania

7th / 8th August this is a model display put on by the Museum the Club was allocated six tables which were filled over the weekend.

Bowes Railway

14th / 15th August this was a toy fair organised by the Museum, again only a small number of tables was allocated to the Club.

Monkwearmouth Station Museum

During the six weeks of the school summer holidays the Museum was holding a static display of toys and one of these included a glass cabinet full of Meccano sets and models supplied by Ian Mordue and Barry Richardson.

The Society was also asked to provide a one day exhibition of working Meccano models on Tuesday 17th August. Joe Etheridge and John Herdman took a good selection of models to fill tables in both the main Booking Hall and the now glass covered former platform area. The event was really busy with a lot of fascinated children many of whom took great delight in being exterminated by the Dalek.

31st July / 1st August Wensleydale Railway, Bedale Station, the Club was invited to put on a Meccano display in the Station over the weekend.

28th / 29th August, Another railway exhibition with the Blyth and District Model Railway Society. This year it was held at the Parks Leisure Centre, Howdon Road, North Shields. As with previous years only 5 to 6 tables for the Society to display on.

4th September Club meeting Bedale. The sun shone on us for our 35th. Anniversary meeting with about 30 members attending. Unfortunately there was a poorer turnout of models and few entries for the clockwork theme. Prior to the lunch prepared by Sue, Vera and Sally quizmaster Barry officiated over a Meccano based quiz which was won by George Roy. Tim Roylance was nearest with the tiebreak question to take the other prize. Following lunch the usual auction took place with, unusually, Barry having to withdraw a couple of lots but, as they were fairly common MM's with a reserve, this wasn't really significant in his record of selling everything. After the auction the Society President Joe Etheridge cut the cake, which was made by Sally. A short meeting dealt mainly with forthcoming events.

5th September Bowburn toy fair as at all the toy fair's only a small number of tables are allocated to us.

11th / 12th September the Meccano Society of Scotland annual exhibition held at Scone Palace with the Scottish Vintage Tractor and Engine Club with the kind permission of the Rt. Hon. Earl of Mansfield. The Meccano Society of Scotland was pleased once again to accept the invitation to attend. As has become the custom, members of NEMS exhibited at the show over the weekend.

2nd / 3rd October, Hurworth Place, with the Durham County Vintage Collectors Society, with two or three members attending over the weekend.

9th October NEDCC toy fair at North Lodge School, Chester Le Street, again only a small number of tables available.

Darlington Exhibition

23rd October, once again we had a good turnout, with a good reasonable response from the public.



Fred Thompson's :- Rainhill Trials loco's



John Herdman ;- The 21st. Century Bus.



Ann Seaton A collection of small models



Brian Ashton :- Arcade Game Grab a Sweet

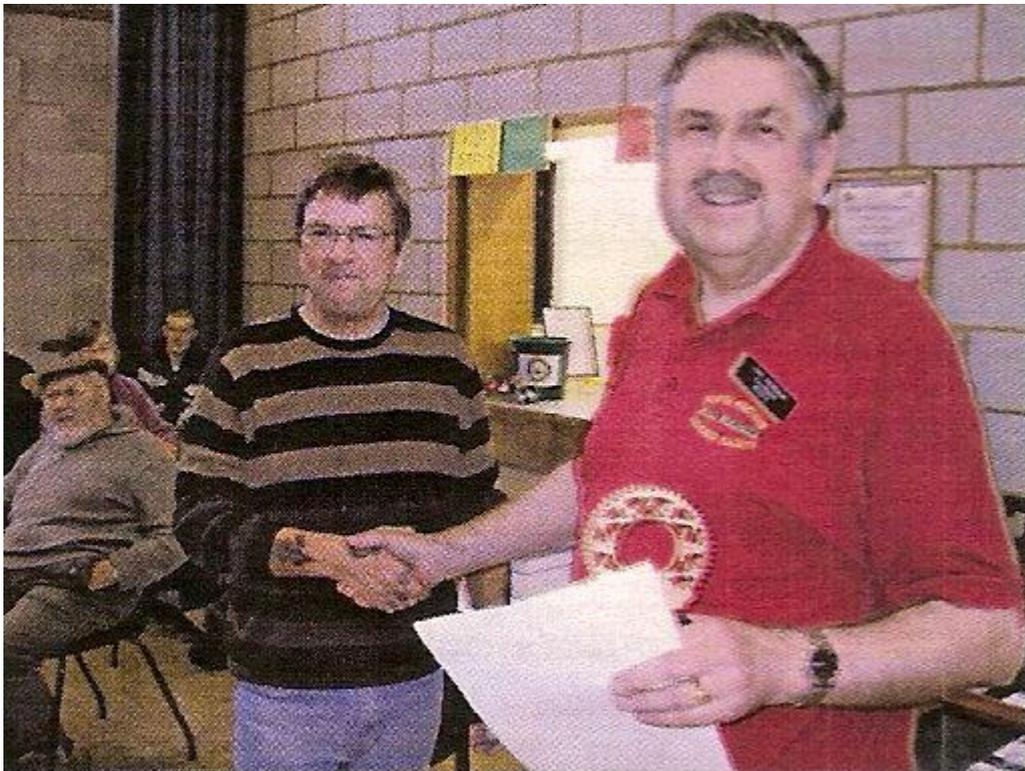
Now to the prizes for the Exhibition.

- 1st. Brian Chaffer - Baltic Tank Locomotive
- 2nd. Norman Brown - 150 Ton Pontoon Crane
- 3rd. Rob Mitchell - Servetti's Trolley Factory

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy
The winner this year Rob Mitchell

The Bradley Cup
This year's winner - Harry Harker

Juniors
For Commended Modelling
Samuel Scott
William Scott
Logan Wood



1st. Prize Winner Brian Chaffer

Once again our exhibition was very successful, thanks to all who attended, modellers and families.

To end the year we had two Toy Fairs at Bowburn the first on the 7th. November, and the second on the 19th December.

Now into **2011** 8th January our first meeting of the year. The promise of another tussle between models and decent weather after the previous few weeks resulted in a good turnout of members for the January meeting, most of who had also remembered the theme of miniature models and brought along. John Thorpe and Linda were in attendance to supply the spares needed.

NEMS 2011 Competition Drag Racing

All through winter tension had been building as the finest Meccano minds in the North East wrestled with this year's competition, how to build the fastest drag racer using a maximum of four Tension Springs (part No. 43) as the source of power? There were eleven entries in this year's competition, as per tradition the competition was to start at 2pm. After several knock out rounds, the three way final was between the Fellside Flyer (middle lane) trainer John Herdman, Flatfish Hooves (right lane) trainer Rob Mitchell, and the Nickel Nondescript (left lane) and the trainer Dennis Edward. The dragsters tore down the carpet at phenomenal speed and crossed the finishing line within half a second of each other. The judge retired to view the video evidence. A few minutes later, after it was obvious that no bribes would be forthcoming the judge announced that first place had gone to the Nickel Nondescript, second place to the Fellside Flyer and third place to Flatfish Hooves. Congratulations to Dennis Edward second time winner of the NEMS Crazy Inventor whisky glass and bottle of whisky. Well done to everyone who took part and in particular thanks to Logan for being the judge on the day.

22nd / 23rd January The exhibition year started early, we were asked by the Bishop Auckland Scouts if we would join in a Model Event which they were holding at their Scout Hut. John and Sue Herdman should have been joined by Joe and Sally Etheridge on the Saturday but when Joe arrived it was obvious he was suffering badly from a heavy cold and with the help of John and Sally they bundled him back into his car and sent him home. For a backstreet venue in a small country town the event was extremely busy on both days. John and Sue were joined by Geoff Rowlinson on the Sunday.

23rd January Joe did however recover very slightly to enable him to attend the Bowburn Toy Fair event on the Sunday which clashed with the second day at Bishop Auckland.

22nd February At fairly short notice we were asked to make a return visit to Monkwearmouth Station Museum. John and Sue Herdman, Brian and Linda Chaffer and Joe and Sally Etheridge attended this event, which also turned out to be quite busy as it was held during the school half term holiday.

5th March The club meeting and AGM at Bedale. Again this was a well-attended meeting. The theme for the day was a road vehicle with less than 4 wheels.

At the AGM part of the meeting no change was made. The end of the day was the auction with our great auctioneer Barry in charge.

12th March North East Diecast Collectors Club, Toy Fair at North Lodge School the toy fair was attended by Bob & Anne Seaton, Dennis Edward and Joe & Sally Etheridge. It was at our Darlington Exhibition in October 2010 when members of N.E.D.C.C. approached Bob & Anne Seaton with an invitation to attend the toy fair with Bob's model of the "Duchess" class 4 - 6 - 2 locomotive 'City of Sheffield'. The model was given centre place on the stage.

2nd April the Club was asked to attend a Toy Fair at Bowes Railway Museum.

3rd April the Bowburn Toy Fair.

Beamish Museum

16th / 17th April For a number of years now the Club has been invited to exhibit at the Museum at the beginning of the Museum's official "Summer Season". This year was slightly different in that we were invited to attend as part of the Great North Steam Fair which was being held there over four days from 14th to 17th April. We were to attend in common with some other exhibitors.

We all agreed that this had possibly been one of the best attended events we had staged at this location and all in all it seemed that everyone had an enjoyable weekend. Paul Foster, Events Co-coordinator from the Museum suggested that we hold our exhibition at the same time as the Steam Fair next year as the two seemed to complement each other very well.

Locomotion Shildon Meccanomania

29th / 30th May Back for our biggest show of the year as with the other years we filled over 70 tables with models, and also the Children's play area which was run by Rob & Wendy Miller.

Again it was well attended with a wide selection of models, both static and motorised, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the public and modellers. The visitors arrived at the museum in a steady stream throughout the two days. There was a lot of interest from prospective juniors who had Meccano at home and it is hoped to see them at the Darlington show in October with a model of their own.

Skegex 2011

1st / 3rd July as with previous years this big event was well supported by NEMS members over the weekend.

9th July Club and Exhibition at the Neville Community Centre, Newton Aycliffe. As in previous years the public was very thin with not many visitors on the day.

Carlisle Harraby Community Centre N.E.M.S. Summer Exhibition

23rd July the idea to hold an exhibition in Carlisle was born out of a conversation on the drive back to Cumbria following the AGM at Bedale this year. Norman Brown and Tony Staples agreed that another venue with space to hold a sizeable exhibition would be nice and that Tony had the availability of such a place could be the ideal solution! Well that was back in the spring, the event was duly organized, the exhibition happened.



A general view of the exhibition

Our members from the Carlisle area thanked everybody who came to exhibit or who have helped along the way and were so instrumental in making the event a great success! Although we were somewhat disappointed in the poor response from the public.

3rd September Club meeting at Bedale, we had a good turnout even though the roads and traffic did its best to keep us away. It was as if everyone knew what lay ahead, as it was an early start and the meeting was held before lunch. A discussion on the Darlington show was the main topic, the decision was made to increase the charges for the public entries to £2 for adults and O.A.P to remain at £1. A list of remaining shows left in the year was read out, no other business so the meeting recessed for lunch. Many of the members went off to the chip shop except one no names mentioned to avoid embarrassment (Joe) went off to hospital instead as he took a tumble on the uneven road. There is no truth in the rumour that he prefers the food in Northallerton Hospital but in the end, both he and Sally went home hungry. Everything turned out O.K. in the end Joe will be back on his feet again in a couple of weeks. Although slightly late, after the lunchtime break the auction began

4th September the N.E.D.C.C. Bowburn toy fair, with only 2 / 3 tables available only one Club member attended.

10th / 11th September Tanfield Railway Steam Gala, we had a small display of models over the weekend.

10th / 11th The Meccano Society of Scotland annual exhibition held with the Farming of Yesteryear, at Scone Palace, Perth. The rally held with the kind permission of the Rt. Hon. Earl Mansfield. NEMS was well represented at this exhibition.

15th October N.E.D.C.C toy fair at North Lodge School Chester le Street as with the other toy fairs at the school we were on the stage area in the main hall.

Darlington Exhibition

22nd October this was another good exhibition, and it is quite evident that those who did attend had a most enjoyable day which is reward enough for all the hard work everyone puts into it. Talking of hard work we must not forget the work put in by “the Wags”, Vera, Linda, Sue and Sally both during and on the days leading up to the event that ensured that all members and visitors were kept well fed and watered during the day.

Prize Winners

Adults

1st. Brian Chaffer - Scammell Constructor

2nd. Bob Seaton - 1930 LMS Beyer - Garratt 2-6-0-0-6-2 Locomotive

3rd. Tim Roylance - Rotating Big Wheel

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy
The winner this year - Fred Tompson

The Bradley Cup
The winner this year - John Herdman

Juniors
For commended modelling
Andrew Hern
William Scott
Samual Scot

After a good show we have to congratulate the model winners and in particular Brian Chaffer who has managed to pull off a hat trick of First Prizes in the Senior Competition with his wonderful creations.

10th December. Our last show of the year with the N.D.C.C. this was held in an empty shop in Peterlee Town Centre.



Scammell Constructor built by Brian Chaffer.



Hulett Ore Unloader built by Joe Etheridge

Following a busy and successful year of exhibitions, during which we gained some new members and friends, a lot of members will now be looking forward to a quieter time over the winter in which to create more fantastic models for next year.

2012 Into a new year the first meeting on 14th. January. The Society got off to a really good start for the New Year as we welcomed two new members to what was already a busy meeting. At one point in the afternoon almost 50 heads were counted in the small hall at Aiskew which we gradually seem to be outgrowing. We are trying to resolve the lack of space, however we are really spoilt by the low cost of this hall.

The meeting started with a discussion on proposed dates for the shows at the start of the year. This followed by a general discussion on whether or not to have a meeting at Newton Aycliffe this year following the poor turn out last year. This went to a show of hands and the decision was taken that John go ahead with this booking. The rest of the meeting concerned the restructuring and financing of our magazine.

Norman Brown put together a package of changes re NEMS Quarterly. At the meeting Norman Brown was elected as Magazine Editor. Our grateful thanks at this stage should go to Harry and Barry Harker who have produced the magazine jointly since 2007.

21st/ 22nd January. A few days after our meeting on 14th January John Herdman was contacted by the Bishop Auckland Scout Group - for whom we had given an exhibition as part of their Model weekend in January 2011 - to see if we could help them out again on the following Saturday and Sunday. They had invited a group of slot racing enthusiasts to put on a display but had been let down at the last minute. As it was the Oxton meeting weekend and John Herdman was not going to Oxton he was the only member available and agreed to attend with Sue on both days. As last year a very enjoyable weekend was had. They were well fed and the Scout Group were extremely grateful to the Club for helping them out at such short notice. Maybe we could claim some "Brownie" points for that one?!

3rd. March the AGM meeting another really lively meeting with somewhere in the region of a least 45 members attending. After the AGM in which there were no changes to the Committee we had the usual lively and quite boisterous Auction led by our Chief Auctioneer, Barry Richardson, which we are sure went down well with everyone.

Prior to having lunch a few members went to see the new hall which David Dalton had found for us, and we were all impressed with the building and in particular the large car parking area. It has been decided

to hold the next meeting there as we are no longer holding the Newton Aycliffe Exhibition/Meeting and this will be held on Saturday 26th May because the Locomotion Exhibition this year is being held on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend which of course would have been our normal meeting weekend.

10th March N.E.D.C.C. Toy Fair at North Lodge School Chester le Street once again a small model display at the toy fair.
Also on the 10th / 11th Model Event at Locomotion Shildon small Meccano display.

18th March Carlisle Toy Fair this is a new venue for us again only space for a small display of models.

Beamish Museum

28th / 29th April this year back in the Exhibition Room once again we filled it with a good display of models.

13th May Bowburn Toy Fair a small display area only with one member present.

The June meeting (which was held on 26th May this year!) at our new venue in Bedale seemed to be a roaring success. We have therefore booked the same Hall for our next meeting on the 1st. September. We are always on the lookout for new themes to make our meetings more enjoyable and Harry Harker has suggested that we should try a "Collectors Theme" as well as a model building theme so that people who collect, more than build, can have a chance to exhibit their prized collections. So the theme for the September meeting would be a Number 5 set. Not a model built from the set but the actual set itself, from any era.

Locomotion Shildon Meccano Magic

3rd / 4th June This Exhibition at Locomotion seemed to go well despite the fact that it was held over the Queen's Jubilee weekend. We still managed to fill almost 80 tables and so far we have not had complaints from anyone!

Skegex 2012

6th / 8th July this, the largest show of its kind in the U.K. was again well represented by NEMS. Our congratulations must go to Joe Etheridge for his 5th place in the show also to Brian Chaffer for coming joint 8th. place.



Joe photographed alongside his award winning model of the Newport Bridge Middlesbrough at Shildon

Carlisle Exhibition

21st July at the Harraby Community Centre which was a real success as more visitors attended than last year and we gained one new member on the day. We managed to fill the Hall and those who visited all seemed to be impressed and enjoyed their visit.

4th / 5th August Locomotion Shildon small display of models as part of Modelmania.

16th August Monkwearmouth Station Museum Sunderland this again was a good success and we filled both the front and back rooms of the museum.

25th / 26th August Blyth and District Model Railway Society annual exhibition held in North Shields. A small area for us to display models.

1st.September this was our second meeting at the new venue for the Club and this was well attended. It was to be the first club meeting that our President was missing from.

He was at the International Society of Meccanomen's meeting at the Henley Gathering. This year he was awarded the Golden Spanner by the International Society of Meccanomen. As most of you will be aware this is one of the highest honours which can be bestowed in the Meccano world.



Joe receiving the Golden Spanner Award from Andre Welti

8th / 9th September Meccano Society of Scotland Annual Exhibition, Scone Palace, Perth. The Society held its annual Show, once again under the auspices of the Scottish Tractor and Engine Club, at Farming Yesteryear in the grounds of Scone Palace. Alan Blair's efforts must again be acknowledged in making this possible. NEMS was well represented at this event. Our congratulations must go to Joe who was awarded 2nd. Prize for his model of the Newport Bridge, Middlesbrough.

Darlington Exhibition

27th October this was another successful show. The hard working ladies in the kitchen, once again made enough to cover the rent of the Hall which means that the door receipts and dealers fees will give us a good profit once the price of the prizes and trophies has been deducted.

Prize Winners

Adults

- 1st. Ian Mordue - French Knitting Machine
- 2nd. Joe Etheridge - Newport Bridge Middlesbrough
- Joint 3rd. Brian Chaffer - Ball Roller &
Barry Richardson - Fishguard Titan Blocksetting Crane

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy
The winner this year was - Norman Brown

The Bradley Cup
The winner this year was - Joe Etheridge

Juniors
For commended modelling
Logan Wood
Tyler Wood
Samuel Scott
William Scott



Ian Mordue with his prize winning French Knitting Machine.

What a year for our Hon. President Joe Etheridge, wide acclaim from the Meccano Community and the public alike for his excellent model of the Newport Bridge, Middlesbrough, which was very well travelled by the end of the year. Joe's engineering skills were greatly appreciated by fellow Meccanomen as Joe's bridge won him 5th place at Skegex 2012, and his model was voted 2nd place favourite by fellow club members at the Darlington Exhibition, and also at the Meccano Society of Scotland's exhibition. On top of all this Joe was awarded the Bradley Cup at the Darlington Show.

If all this was not enough, all this success was quickly followed by Joe being awarded what surely must be the highest accolade that can be bestowed upon a Meccanoman, the Golden Spanner award, by the International Society of Meccanomen. Following all this success within

the Meccano community Joe's public profile was raised further by two other events. The Northern Echo published a half page spread featuring Joe and his bridge, this was quickly followed by yet even more publicity for Joe and his bridge in the form of a TV crew calling in on Joe and Sally at their home in order to interview Joe about his model for an item scheduled to appear on the ITV Tyne / Tees / Border News programme. All this extra late publicity helped attract a great crowd to what was to be the bridge's last public appearance at the Bowburn Toy Fair on the 16th. December. Within the first two hours of opening over 200 people had come through the door, a remarkable end to what surely must go down as a red letter year for Sally and Joe and also N.E.M.S.

2013 After all that another new year, our first meeting was on 12th January. It was good to see so many people at the first meeting, there was a good selection of models on show, especially those built for the "tyred / tired" theme. Our congratulations go to Barry Richardson for his winning model of the tyre depot.

At the meeting we once again discussed the donations which the members and sellers give to the charity who operate the Dales Centre Hall which we are presently using. It was decided that instead of placing donations anonymously in the boxes provided by the Centre, future donations would be given to our Treasurer who would add these to the rent cheque so that the charity were aware of where the funds were coming from. John was pleased to say that members and sellers donations amounted to £35 meaning that we were able to give the Charity a cheque for £65 instead of the agreed £30

We also discussed the annual subscriptions as these will almost certainly have to rise at the AGM in March, and it appeared that the majority, if not all, of the members present agreed that a rise to £10 would be acceptable. This subscription has not risen since 2005 and any increase will be voted on at the AGM.

The annual January Bedale challenge was a lively affair with ten entrants this year. On a cold and frosty morning in early January the cream of the North East's Meccano modellers and friends gathered at a top secret location to compete for the hallowed title of NEMS Crazy Inventor 2013. In keeping with tradition, a simple but ingenious assignment had been set. This year competitors had to build a model powered by a number one clockwork motor that would travel ten feet, reverse and then travel back to the starting point in the shortest possible time.

This year Barry Richardson was volunteered to oversee proceedings. In all, between SMG and NEMS ten entries lined up for the chance to win the hand crafted crystal whisky glass and a bottle of the finest whisky.



Under starters orders and awaiting the drop of the chequered flag! After several knock-out rounds and two semi-finals, the final was between the Nickel Nag built by Dennis Edward and John String fellow's (aka John Herdman) dual cord mechanism. Silence fell on the crowd. All that could be heard was the drone of a clockwork motor steadily turning gears and screwed rods. John Stringfellow mopped his forehead with his handkerchief; Dennis looked at his wristwatch, his feet and his wristwatch again. Suddenly the room was filled with the sound of a loud click as contrate gear engaged pinions and, much to Dennis' relief, The Nickel Nag made the return journey home. So ended the NEMS 2013 Crazy Inventor competition, Dennis Edward (codename Turbinia) had secured his third victory.

20th January A small display of models at Bowburn Toy Fair.

2nd March Club meeting and AGM at the Dales Centre, Bedale. This was the first AGM in the new Hall, was another well attended meeting with all table space filled and with a huge variety of models. The model theme this time was a building site and the previous winner, Barry Richardson, picked Joe Etheridge's wonderful creation as the winner. After the A.G.M. in which there were no changes to the Committee, with the only change in the subscriptions, which are now set at £10 for adults and £5 for juniors. There was the usual boisterous auction carried out by resident Auctioneer Barry "The Gavel" Richardson.

16th / 17th March The exhibition season started in earnest with a visit to Locomotion in Shildon as part of their Model Motion exhibition which included railway layouts, other modelling crafts.

A further visit was made to Monkwearmouth Station Museum in Sunderland.

20th March we were invited to the Farrington Academy on the outskirts of Sunderland for the day to entertain the pupils ranging in ages from five to eleven. Sally took her plastic Meccano to set up a children's building area at one side of the hall and our normal model display was on the other side.

This was rather hectic as every class in the school took turns to visit the event, having approximately thirty minutes each, and as one class was filing out of one set of doors another was entering by the second set. We were informed by the teaching staff at the end of the day that the event had gone down extremely well and the children would be talking about it for some time to come.

Beamish Museum

13th / 14th April Our annual visit to Beamish Museum took place, and what an Exhibition it turned out to be! On the Saturday the Museum reported that they had had the highest attendance in the history of the Museum. We would like to think that was because of our presence, however there was also a live steam event being held on the same weekend! The Sunday was also busy - although not quite as manic.

5th May Bowburn Toy Fair as with all shows of this type only a small display of models.

Locomotion Shildon

Meccano Magic

26th / 27th May Once again we filled 80 tables with a very good selection of models over the weekend.

8th June the club meeting at the Dales Centre, this was like most June meetings, a little quiet due to holidays but compounded even more this year by several members being incapacitated for one reason or another. However this did not stop those who did attend from having an enjoyable and lively meeting. We were particularly pleased to learn that the donations made by members to the Charity who run the Hall amounted to £40, even though the numbers were so depleted.

The model theme for the meeting had been chosen by Joe Etheridge and was a “Keep Fit” model. This was won by Bob Ord (again!) and yet again-he came up with an unusual subject matter for the August meeting of “Cranked”. Interpret this one any way you wish!

Carlisle Exhibition

22nd June this was as in the past held at the Harraby Community Centre. The hall was filled with a good selection of models. The public was very thin with the numbers down on last year.

Skegex 2013

5th / 7th July this was as in the past years well supported by NEMS members, although some members had a very adventurous journey to Skegness, but all arrived ok.

Whick-Ex 2013

5th July on the Friday of Skegex Barry and Vera Richardson were to visit John and Sue Herdman, as none of them were travelling to Skegness this year. Various signs were made and as the weather was favourable, the Exhibition was to be held in the garden of 51 Ancaster Road as it was thought that the attendance would not be particularly high - this being the first event.

The back door of the house was signed as being “Benson and Hedges Theatre”. The garden shed became “Buzy Suzzies Ice Cream Parlour”

It was felt that the exhibition had been a success and a larger venue may be considered for next year should any other waifs wish to attend!!

3rd / 4th August Locomotion Model Mania again we had only a small area for our models.

13th August Monkwearmouth Station Museum, again we filled both the front and rear rooms at the Museum.

31st August Our September meeting held one day early this year. This was a very lively one and saw both rooms at the Dales Care Centre full to bursting! The highlight of the afternoon, following the short meeting, was an auction with Resident Auctioneer Barry Richardson taking charge. Over 60 lots were sold; some being for Club funds and others donated items which raised funds for the benefit of the Dales Care Centre charity. These helped us raise a record £45 to add to the normal rent cheque. As usual Barry did a great job as Auctioneer.

The model theme for the meeting, chosen by Bob Ord, was “Cranked” and a large selection of models fulfilling this theme was exhibited. Bob

chose Barry Richardson (again!) as the winner for his model of the Running Man. In accordance with the rules Barry has in turn chosen the theme of “Mining” for the January meeting.

Meccano Society of Scotland

Exhibition at Scone Palace

7th / 8th September Once again our Club was represented at this exhibition, they were also joined by John Sharp, a member of the West London Meccano Society, and probably the furthest travelled visiting exhibitor to date.

Darlington Exhibition

26th October Another year and another show. A new section to this year’s show was in the junior section with the Great Engineers Schools Challenge. Pupils aged between 8 and 11 and three schools took part, Deaf Hill, Wheatley Hill and Vane Road, Newton Aycliffe. Various models built using parts from the 10 Model Set, and a range of other models using 1970’s plastic Meccano.

Deaf Hill School with 6 Models

- 1st. Lucie & Ellie
- 2nd. Joe & Bethany
- 3rd. Jay & Jacob

Vane Road School, Newton Aycliffe with 5 Models

- 1st. Was by modeller No. 3
- 2nd. Was by modeller No. 2
- 3rd. Was by modeller No. 1

Wheatley Hill School with 4 Models

- 1st. Holly & Megan
- 2nd. Aminah & Quinn
- Joint 3rd. Kane & Ethan, and Lily, Gemma & Ellie

The overall winning school was Deaf Hill.



The Junior Prize Winners

Adults

1st. Bob Seaton - 1922 Southern Railway "Baltic" Tank locomotive
Joint 2nd. Brian Chaffer - Equilibrium Balance Crane &
Ian Mordue - "Willeme" CG 8 x 4 Mobile Crane

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy
The winner this year was - Geoff Rowlinson

The Bradley Cup
The winner this year was - Danny Bell

The Exhibition this year was a very successful event. We would like to thank everyone who took part and helped to make this event such a success. In particular our thanks to the kitchen staff - Vera, Linda and Sue, for working so hard on the day to keep us all fed and watered. We would also like to thank Harry and Kath Harker for their involvement with their local primary schools which resulted in a large display of children's models which filled the foyer of the Hall. We badly need younger members to join the Society and encourage them in our hobby. Hopefully Harry and Kath's initiative will go some way to fulfilling this.



A selection of models from the 2013 Exhibition

22nd. December Bowburn Toy Fair again this was a small display of models.

2014 Now with only one year to go to our 40th Anniversary, the first meeting was on 11th. January. This was a very lively meeting with what appeared to be a record number of attendees. We welcomed two new members on the day, first being a local resident Gordon J. Bland and the other being Sebastian Munden who some may recall was a member 12 or 13 years ago when as a teenager and used to come to meetings with his father and brother. It was also good to see that Rob Mitchell, with the help of Lesley made it to our meeting after his serious cycle accident on the day after our Darlington Exhibition in October. He even managed to “hobble” to the Fish Shop and back!

The meeting itself was kept relatively short as the annual Bedale Challenge was to take place in the afternoon. We discussed the posting of the Quarterly Newsletter and those members present did not object to having the Newsletter folded in order to save postage.

The model theme for the January's meeting was a mining model, this was won by Joe Etheridge for his Coal Seam complete with tub and pit pony. Joe then chose Architecture as the theme for the next meeting on the 1st. March. A model theme in respect of the World War One Centenary was also discussed and it was decided that that could take place at our Locomotion Shildon Exhibition at the end of May.

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the death of John Mitchell on the 30th. December 2013. John had been an active and enthusiastic member of our Society for several years though in recent years he has not been in the best of health. His funeral was held on January 9th and was attended by Joe and Sally Etheridge and John and Sue Herdman.

The annual Bedale competition, this year's simple but fiendish task was to build a clockwork tortoise to travel a distance of 10 feet in the longest possible time. All in all eleven competitors took part in this year's competition. As well as the healthy but friendly rivalry between members of NEMS and the Sheffield Meccano Guild (SMG) a long distance proxy entry was also received from Chris Shute. After the Club meeting, competitors retired to the dealer's room to get the competition underway. After the track was carefully marked up entries were lined up behind the starting line ready for the off. After about twenty minutes it was obvious that the two slowest models were 'Slow, Slow, Slower and the 'Derbyshire 'Toytorse' . At this point it was decided to move these models onto a wooden board and run the final part of the race over a distance of about six inches to determine the winner. Even on the new surface it rapidly became apparent that deciding the winner between the two models was going to be a time consuming affair. So in the spirit of good sportsmanship Ian Mordue (owner of Slow, Slow, Slower) and Bob Seaton (owner and trainer of the Derbyshire Toytorse) agreed on a draw.

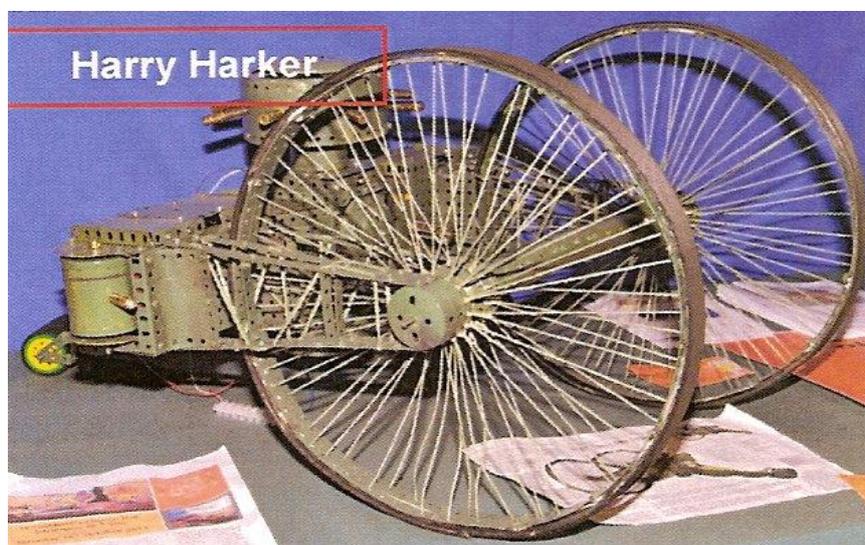
1st March Club meeting and AGM, after a rather cold start we had a pleasant sunny day for our meeting. As seems to have become the norm The Dales Centre was packed with members and their models and space was at a premium by mid-morning.

After lunch at the chippy the AGM was held, the accounts for the year were presented by Fred Thompson and show a very healthy position which should mean that subscriptions should be able to remain at £10 per annum for the foreseeable future. The accounts also show that The Dales Centre charity benefited in the sum of £155 over the year. Furthermore we can report that collections at exhibitions held over the year in aid of The Great North Air Ambulance amounted to almost £550. The Air Ambulance has recorded their gratitude for this continued support. The Committee members were individually re-elected.

The model theme for this meeting called for an Architectural model and was won by Rob Mitchell for his model of a Lidl Store, as is the custom Rob then chose the theme of bridges for the June meeting. Following the meeting a lively auction took place with over 60 lots changing hands to raise valuable funds for the Club.

Beamish Museum

12th / 13th April Our annual Beamish Exhibition which was part of the Museum's Great North Steam Event. An extremely busy two days were experienced. From favourable comments which we have heard from visitors to our exhibition it was obvious that it was well received and an integral part to the whole Museum event.



Locomotion Shildon Meccano Magic

25th / 26th May this was our second major exhibition of the year, on the last Bank Holiday weekend. The weather was slightly against us on the Monday as it was the only really bright day of the weekend and numbers were slightly down on the Sunday as people headed for more outdoor attractions. However over the two days we had almost 2,200 visitors and the Museum were more than happy with the numbers - so much so that they immediately asked us to do a repeat performance on the same weekend in 2015.

7th June the meeting was on a pleasant sunny morning, by 9.15 the car park was already half full of eager members. Was it the price of reduced price Meccano or the possibility of 15 minutes of fame following the advice of the imminent visit of a reporter from the Dalesman Magazine. After-lunch the auction of the late John Mitchell's Meccano took place, presided over by our usual auctioneer, Barry Richardson. This went well and we raised a substantial sum for the sole benefit of John's widow Jean. This was followed by the reporter from The Dalesman arrived just as we were finishing bidding on the last lots. The reporter, Helen Johnson, had contacted John Herdman a few weeks earlier through her husband, who is one of our "sleeping" members with a view to compiling an article on the Meccano hobby for inclusion in a future copy of The Dalesman.

14th / 15th June A small model display at Tanfield Railway Vintage Transport Weekend.

Skegex 2014

4th / 6th July As in previous years this the largest Meccano model show in the U.K. This year we must congratulate two of our members, Norman Brown for his 4th place with his model of an AEC Mammoth Major 8 Wheel Tanker, and in 8th place Ian Mordue and his model Spider Crane.

23rd / 24th July at the Stephenson Railway Museum, North Shields. This was a new venue. The space was limited but with 5 members putting on a good display of models.

2nd / 3rd August Locomotion Shildon, part of Model Mania, as table space is limited only two members there on each day.

6th August Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens this was another new

venue for us, with a lot of help from the museum staff we got all our models up to the exhibition room with 4 members showing models.

19th August Monkwearmouth Station Museum as in the past we filled the front and back of the museum with models three members attending.

6th September Club meeting Bedale, was a busy event as has now become the norm. Apologies for absence were received from Bob Ord who was not well enough to attend and Bob and Anne Seaton who were attending another Meccano event. Also John Thorpe who was on holiday in France. This was probably not a bad thing as a flood at the hall a week or two prior to our meeting meant that the bottom room floor had been damaged and was not fully useable.

The theme at this meeting chosen by Rod Mitchell was Bridges and Rob chose the two bridges built by Fred Thompson to be the winners because of the interesting mechanisms incorporated therein. Fred in turn chose the unusual subject of Children's Playground Equipment for our next meeting.

Chief Auctioneer Barry Richardson presided over another auction which saw good prices attained and a healthy amount raised for club funds.

7th September Bowburn Toy Fair a small display of models.

The Great Engineers School Challenge

This was the second year that this has taken place. Last year only three schools took part, and we had the models that the children built at our Darlington Exhibition. This year with seven schools taking part, it was decided that the school challenge was going to be too large to be held at the Darlington Exhibition, so the Railway Museum Locomotion at Shildon was asked if it was OK to hold the challenge there. This was arranged for Wednesday 22nd. October, and as this was a mid-week day, the schools involved were able to organise a day trip to the museum. Work started in early September with several of us going into the schools as advisers to help the children.

On the 22nd. October the models built by the children were put on display, with the schools arriving at the museum for 10.00am. The judging of the models was done by three independent engineers, two from local engineering firms, and one from NEMS. After a great day out at the museum Locomotion all the schools left by two o'clock to make their way back to the schools. A great day out and well organized by the Harker family.

The winning School was Deaf Hill Primary School.



Darlington Exhibition

25th October this was another successful event. We filled every available table including a small overflow into the foyer of the Hall.

Prize Winners

Adults

1st. Peter Hylton - Liebherr MK 88 Crane.

Joint 2nd Brian Harper - Roller Coaster & Norman Brown – AEC Mk V
Petrol Tanker

The Frank Beadle Memorial Trophy

The winner was Ken McDonald

The Bradley Cup

This year's winner: The Harker Family for all their efforts with local schools.

Great Engineers Special Award

This year's winner Bob Ord
(This was a new trophy this year)

Juniors

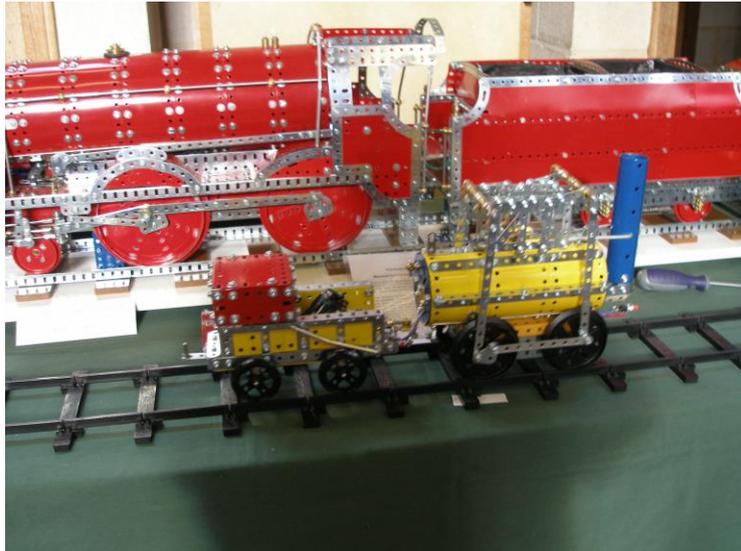
For commended modelling
1st Samuel Scott - Washing Machine
2nd William Scott - Dumper Truck
3rd Kira Wells – Tractor



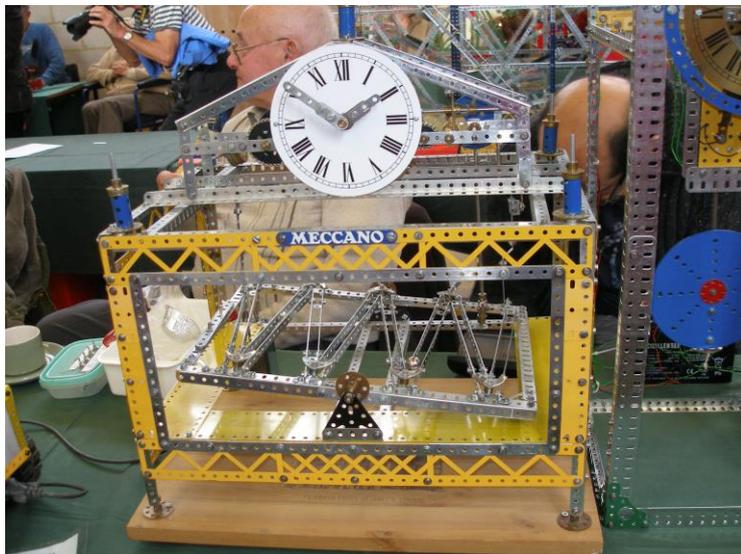
Brian Harper looking bemused by Peter Hylton's prize winning model Liebherr MK 88 Crane



Brian Chaffer's Equilibrium Balance Crane



Two of Bob Ord's Locomotive's



A Rolling Congreive Clock built by Geoff Rowlinson

6th December. This meeting replaced our January meeting and was a very enjoyable one and most members seemed to enjoy the day. The theme for the day was chosen by Fred Thompson as he was the winner of the last meeting, and had chosen Children's Fairground models as the theme for this meeting - chose Bob Ord as the winner. He also is a prolific winner in this section! He also comes up with unusual themes and this time chose Witchcraft!

After lunch a short meeting was held, and the main topics for discussion were the dates of our meetings for 2015. The other main point raised was the raffle which Harry Harker had kindly instigated some time ago to enable the Club to raise additional funds for the Club's 40th anniversary

celebration in June. As a considerable amount had already been raised members agreed that it was now appropriate from future raffles to go towards helping Harry with financing the Schools Meccano Project rather than go directly into Club funds.

The business meeting was followed by the now infamous Bedale challenge which this year involved ping-pong balls. This year the annual competition was to propel ten table tennis balls a distance of three feet into a bucket in the shortest possible time would be declared the winner.

After the several preliminary rounds the final round and the title of 'NEMS Crazy Inventor' would be fought between George Roy with Trigger and Barry Richardson with the Bedale Bazooka. The final score, ten to George and six to Barry. Congratulations to George Roy for being a very worthy winner. It was however evident during the event that it was to be a close run thing as there were several ingenious and very accurate creations in action on the day.

That was the last meeting of the year and now into 2015 our 40th year.

In addition to all of the aforementioned exhibitions there are several Club members who take part in various events on their own as representatives of the North Eastern Meccano Society. The first person who springs to mind is George Roy who, together with Marion, spends most weekends during the summer months visiting Steam Rallies throughout the North and sometimes even further afield exhibiting his magnificent threshing set and various models, including his large collection of "miniatures" inspired by Bernard Perier.

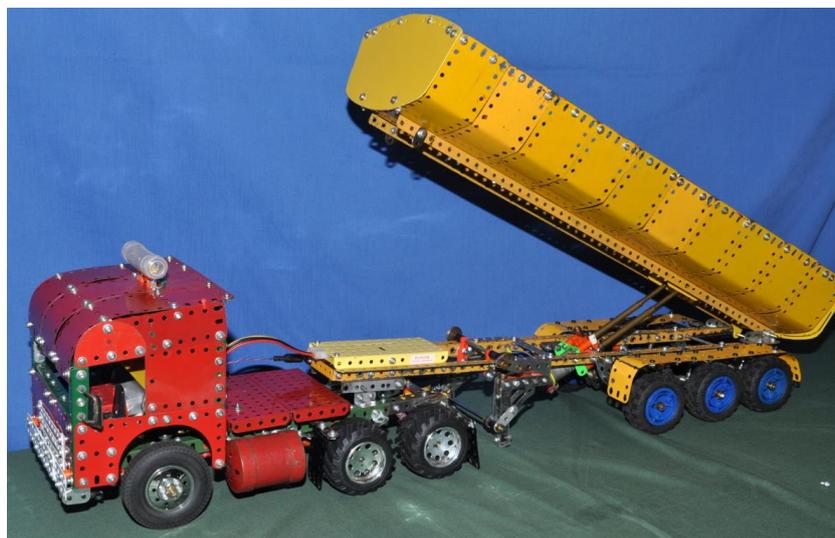
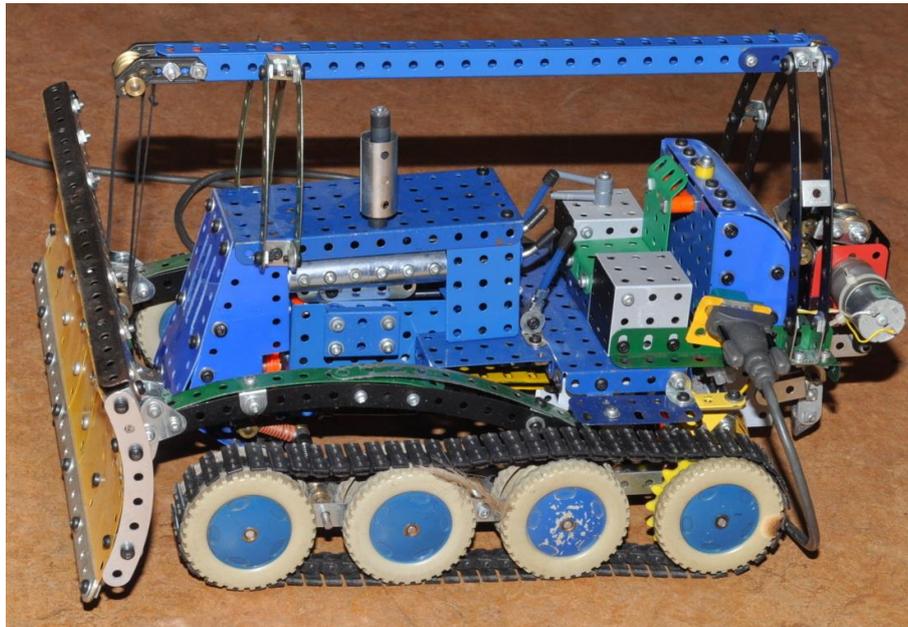
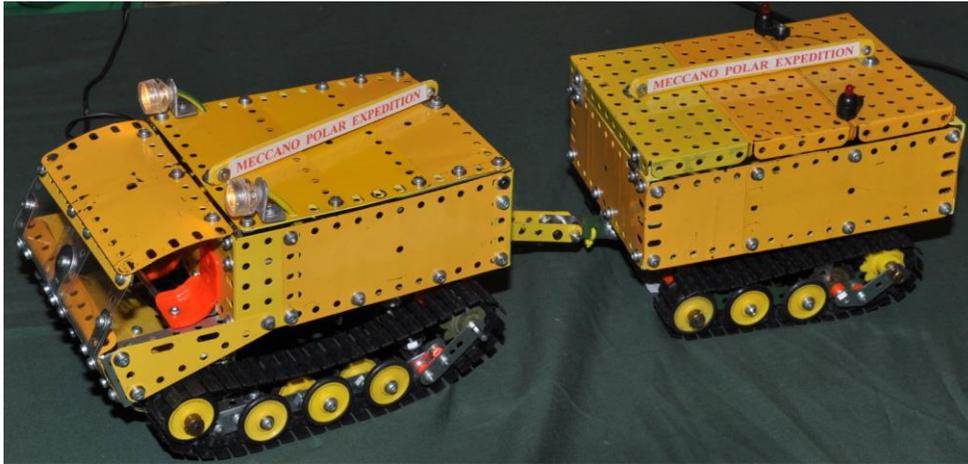
Harry Harker and his family - as well as being involved in the School Challenge - display at Historic Vehicle events as members of a local historic club. As a builder of model trams and buses John Herdman has regularly exhibited at Crich Tramway Museum and also at the new N.E.L.S.A.M. at the old Sunderland Airport. He was even accompanied by Brian and Linda Chaffer on one of his visits to Crich.

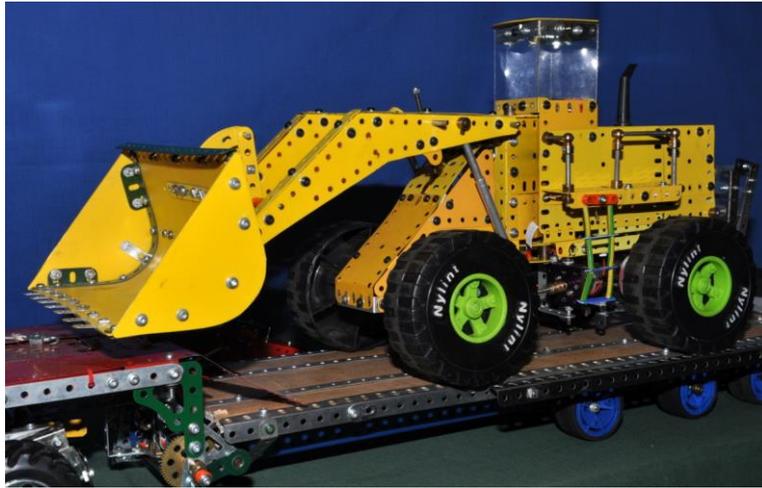
There must be many more members who represent the Club at these smaller events and the Club's grateful thanks should be recorded to them on this occasion.

I apologise to any member that has not been included, or I have missed out, please find a collection of photos at the end.

Joe Etheridge

A collection of models by Brian Robinson

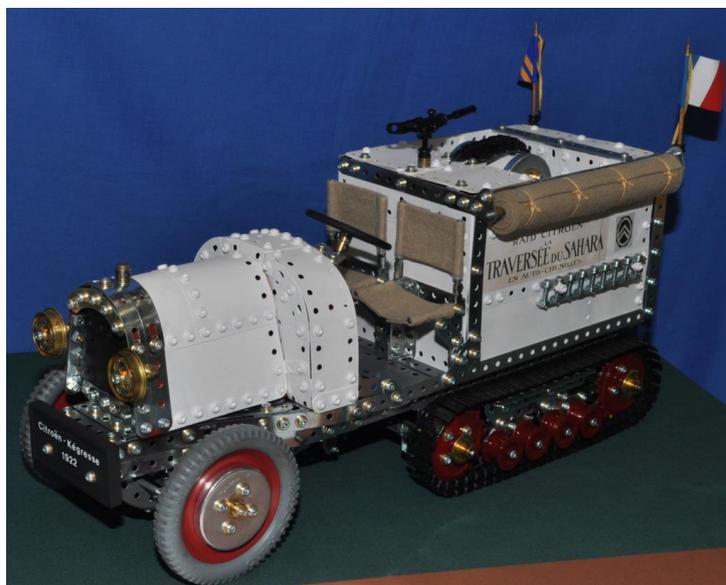




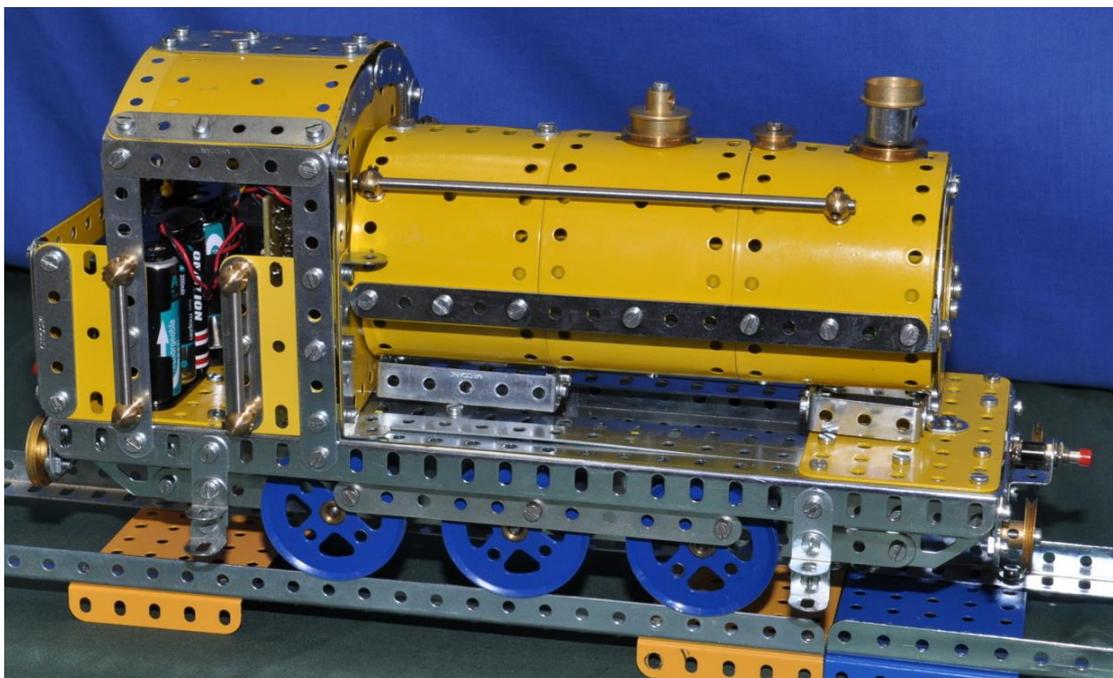
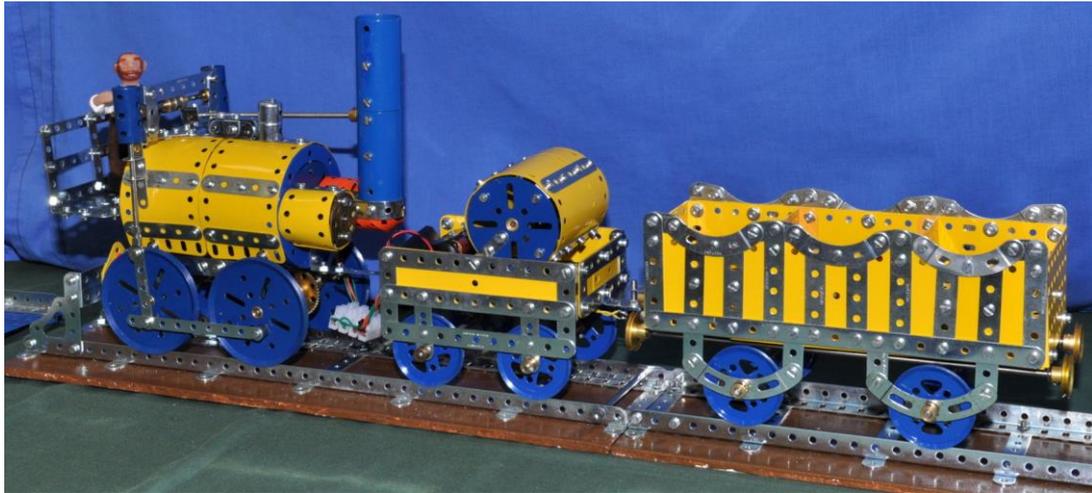
A collection of models by Colin Milne



A model by Ian Brennan



A collection of models by Robert Ord

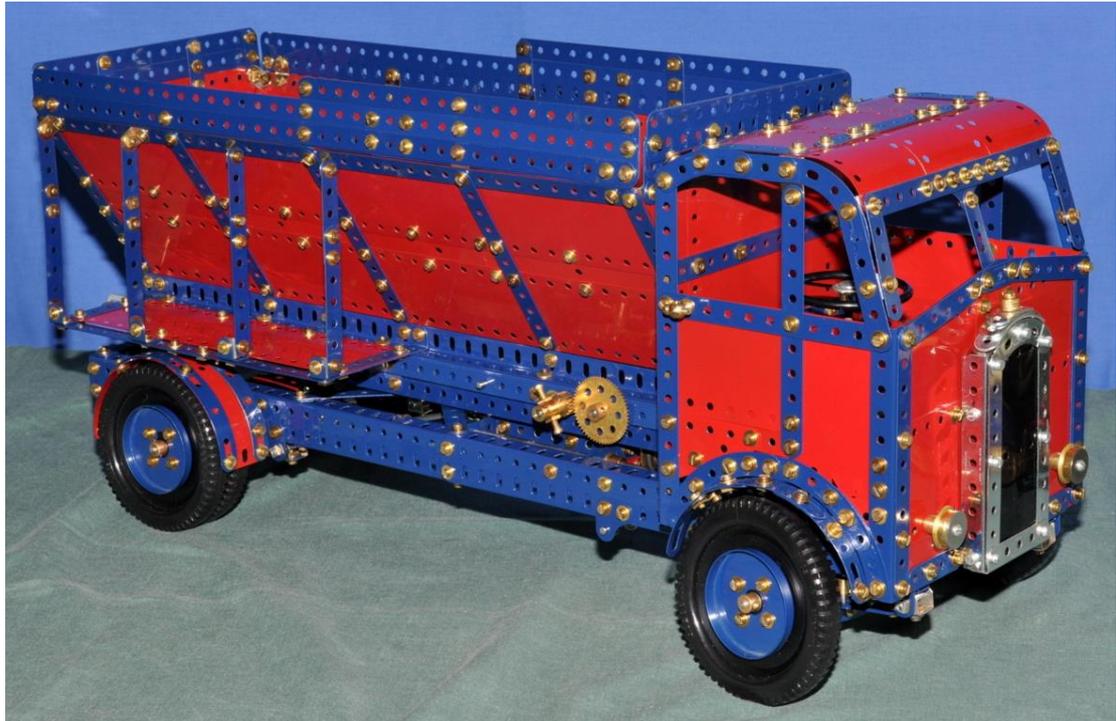


A model by Danny Bell



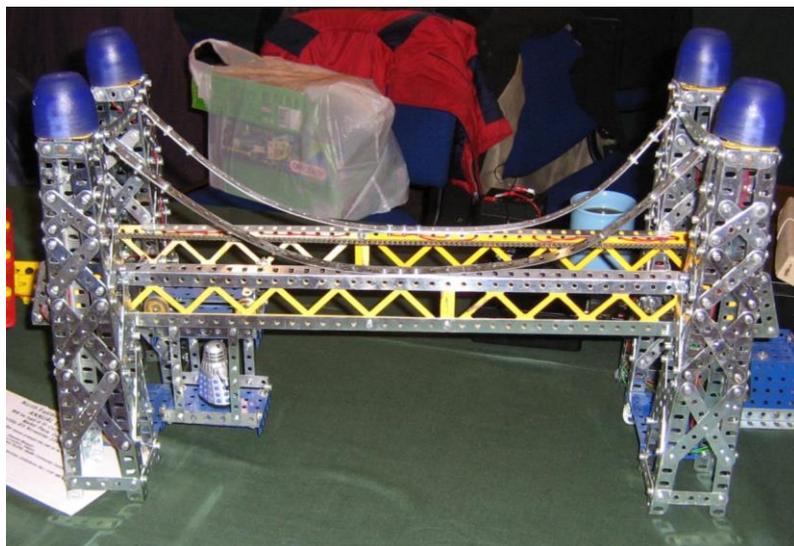
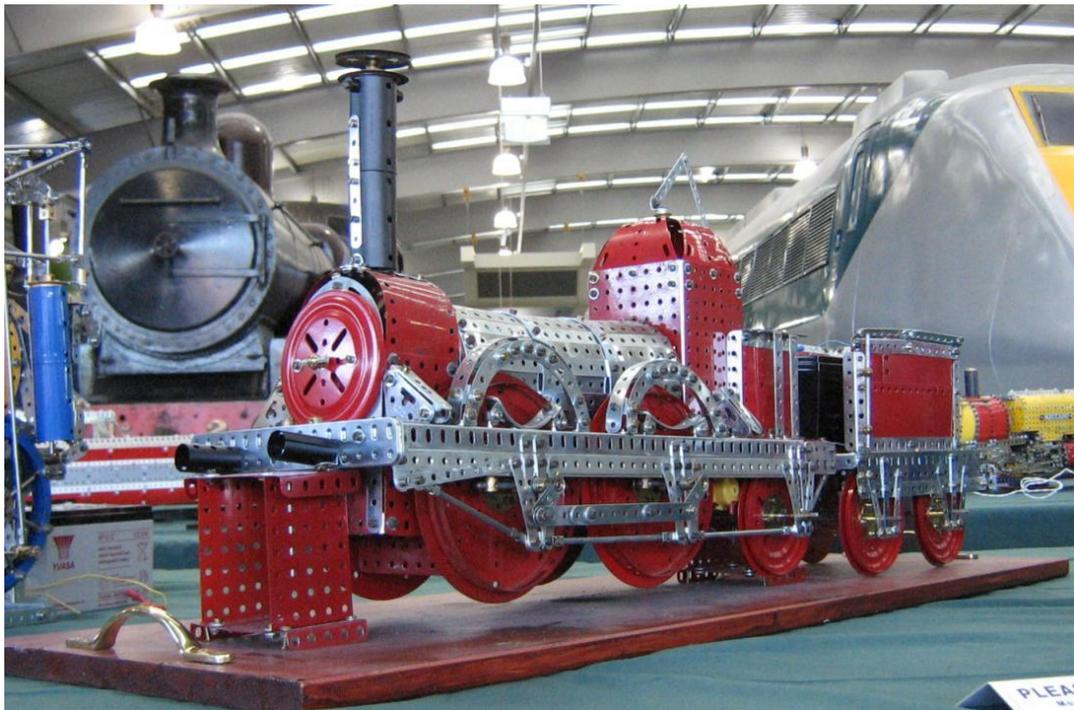
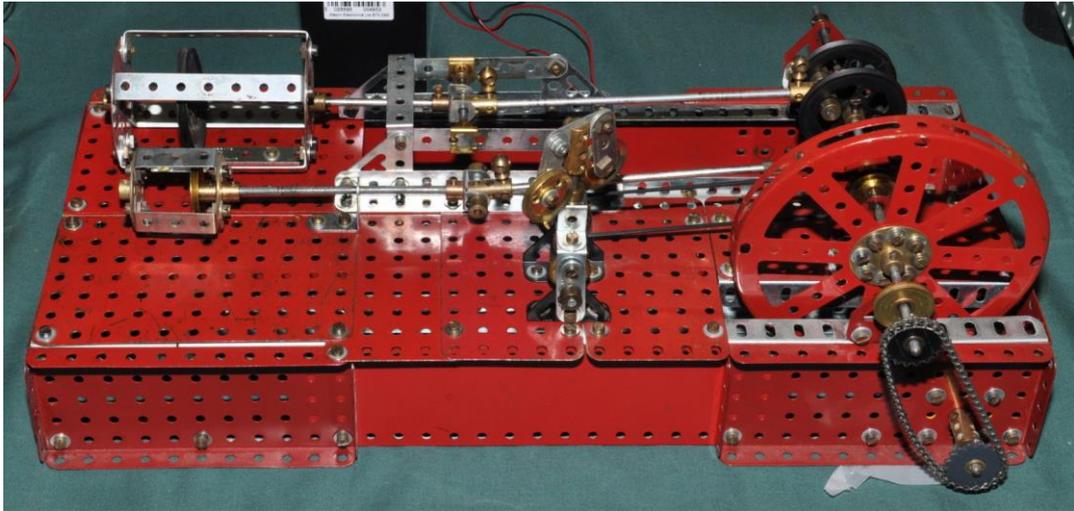
A collection of models by Norman Brown





A collection of models by Tim Roylance







**Well that is it
40 YEARS OF THE NORTH EASTERN MECCANO SOCIETY
40 GREAT YEARS**