

SHEFFIELD MECCANO GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Number 4 August 1983

Chairman: Richard Bingham

Treasurer: Dave Penney

Secretary: Peter Mason

As promised (or threatened if you like!) in the last newsletter, we have now got our membership list more organised; in this issue you will find a list of names and addresses of payed-up members of the Sheffield Meccano Group. The subscription year ends before the next meeting, so your next round of subs will fall due then. The membership fee is currently 3 for adults and half price for juniors up to the age of 18 years.

The next meeting has been arranged for Saturday 15th of October, 1983, at the same venue as last time: Norton Church Hall, Norton Lane, Sheffield. If anyone wants a map to show them how to find it, please let me know. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Peter Mason.*

### Members list 1982-1983

The people in the following list have paid their subs for the year ending September 1983. If you think there are any errors in this list please let us know, particularly if we have your address down wrongly. If you know of anyone else who might possibly come to our meetings please invite them along; visitors are always welcome. We intend to do a bit of local publicity before the next meeting to try to get more Sheffield people in.

K. Ashton,  
J. Beaumont,  
R. Bingham,  
A. L. Brown,  
M. Burgess,  
F. Clarke,  
G. Coles,  
J. Coles,  
M. Cotterill,  
R. Everitt,  
F. Grant,  
A. Grimshaw,  
R. Johnson,  
J. Martin,  
P. Mason,  
T. McCallam,  
J. McDonald,  
A. Partridge,  
D. Penney,  
R. Portus,  
B. Sage,  
T. Spooner,  
V. Taylor,  
C. Thomson,  
P. Wadsworth,  
D. Wilkinson,  
D. Wright,

### Dates for your Diary

24th September	North Midlands Meccano Guild meeting, Thurgarton.
15th October	Sheffield Meccano Group meeting, Norton.
12th November	North East Meccano Society exhibition, Darlington.
27th December to	Meccano exhibition at London Transport Museum
2nd January	(Covent Garden)

The exhibition at Darlington is always a very enjoyable occasion, with a good turnout of models of a high standard and a creditable showing from the young enthusiasts who abound in the North-East area. The public support the exhibition enthusiastically too. Last year everyone taking along a model was awarded a nicely printed certificate, so you definitely ought to go along!

The exhibition at Covent Garden is a new venture by four London area clubs, and as you see they are arranging to man the exhibition for several days over the Christmas period you will appreciate the amount of effort going into it. If anyone is in that area during the holiday it should be well worth attending.

## Sheffield Meccano Group meeting - 23rd April 1983

The spring meeting was held in what is now our usual hall at Norton, which was well filled with models brought along by members and visitors. As usual there was a good display of new and second-hand parts for sale, together with the results achieved by the members in bolting a few of them together (some people think it must be as easy as that to cobble together a supermodel in an evening!)

### Models on Show

Bernard Sage showed a single-deck tramcar, as seen on the streets of Sheffield in times gone by, a digital clock, a synchronous clock and a most appealing mechanical tortoise. Bernard seems to be making a speciality of Meccano animals.

Frank Grant displayed the latest state of his automated Meccanograph. This now moves on automatically at the end of the pattern, using an electro-magnet to lift the pen off the paper and gearing to advance the paper roll.

Dick Portus showed his large scale model of the type of steam agricultural engine for which Lincolnshire was famous until the beginning of this century.

Mike Cotteril showed a synchronous mantle clock in blue and yellow, and a another synchronous clock in red and green.

Vernon Taylor showed two models of his own construction - a tank and a sports car (both in red and green) - and two dealer's display models from those halcyon days when (it seems) every corner toy shop had at least a Meccano windmill with flashing lights, or a giant blocksetter if there was room!

Jim Gamble brought some items from his amazing collection - a tramcar in blue and gold, a 1930's style sports car, and a miniature version of the famous blocksetting crane.

Mick Burgess and Simon Swailes brought along a fork-lift truck, a heavy duty road tractor unit and a stock car, together with a model made from a number 2 special aeroplane kit from before the war.

Tom McCallan put on a display of fairground models, always a favourite Meccano subject. It included a Waltzer ride in red and green (green to match the faces of the paying customers as they stagger off!), a Cake Walk, and a Showman's engine to provide the power.

John McDonald showed his now famous Lysander model with its six-foot wing span (I am sure I was not the only onlooker to have made the Airfix plastic kit Lysander many years ago). Also on show were a partly completed armoured car, and a Cascavel armoured car.

Dave Penney showed his level-luffing, automatic-grab crane which he has been keeping in hiding at home because of the sheer effort of transporting it. The model is based on the original by

Eric Taylor, and was constructed mainly by the aid of applying a magnifying glass to photos of the original. The luffing mechanism includes a rather curious curved rack strip whose part-number escapes my memory for the moment.

David Wilkinson showed "Mr Fox, the Bell virtuoso", which is one of Andreas Konkoly's distinctive models, a Texas wheelie and a gear arrangement.

John Martin showed the start he has made on what is to be a version of Supermodel 27 (Giant Dragline), to be powered by steam, together with his superb miniature model of an Midland Railway express loco and coach.

Barrie McKenzie put on a fine display of historic Binns road products on the stage, including items such as the Princess Elizabeth that we have read about in the books but not often seen in the metal.

Roger le-Rolland showed a mechanised cartoon of a dog wagging its tail in the park, together with a quaint 1903 Renault car and a miniature traction engine.

Roy Everitt showed a model of a world speed record breaking car, the Mercedes-Benz T80 of 1939, together with a very neat single-cylinder steam engine in yellow/blue/black.

Alan Scargill showed his fairground aeroplane ride (beware of low-flying aeroplanes!) and another machine with automatic flashing lights and contra-rotating rides.

Geoff Coles showed a mill engine based on an old manual model, turned out in immaculate red and nickel, using channel segments for the flywheel, and a very nicely proportioned steam car built round the Meccano steam engine. This chugged around the floor quite happily apart from slipping occasionally on the polished parquet, which is not a surface the original would have to encounter!

Julian Coles showed a Super Sentinal undertype steam lorry incorporating a 1929 Meccano steam engine (which fits very nicely into this type of model with its vertical boiler), very faithfully modelled in red and green. He also showed an American style multi-wheeled concrete mixer lorry, making use of white plates from the Meccano "rainbow years".