



White Horse Model Club member Mr David Cossins with part of his private army

WANTED — HOME FOR A RAILWAY STATION

by Geoff Smith

Model enthusiasts in the Vale of the White Horse are trying to track down a home for a railway station.

It is their large layout of Banbury station — seen by nearly 2000 visitors at an exhibition at Uffington over Easter — which is causing the problems.

As the model progresses, sections of the layout are kept in sheds, garages, and attics of members of the White Horse Model Club. But the club secretary, Mr Derek Witts, says: "We urgently need somewhere to keep the assembled layout, and would be grateful of any offers of premises to rent."

The reconstruction of Banbury station in miniature is a three-year project financed by the club and worked on by a number of members. The tracks and

the points are complete, and the next step is the scenery, said Mr Witts.

"The station is a fine example and helps with our 'models in action' aim of getting as many members of the club as possible involved in model operation."

When the club set up its display at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, there was a wide range of models to be studied, from large radio controlled aeroplanes and powerboats, through to smaller aircraft and cars painstakingly made by the young club members.

In the car park outside the hall, 18-year-old Ian

Melville of 411 Woodfield, Wantage, put a radio controlled racing car through its paces, he changed the clutch inside two minutes — it is a piece of cork in a brass cylinder — and said: "It takes me about an hour to put a car like this together from a kit."

"My main hobby is radio controlled flying, but I turn to cars if it's too windy to fly."

While visitors toured the exhibition, some club members carried on modelling, using some of the equipment which they can borrow free from the club. The equipment includes a model engineering lathe, air brush and compressor, balsa stripper, wire bender

and a radio frequency monitor.

The main reason for the success of the club — it has a growing membership of more than 100 — is the wide range of models produced. "We are not confining ourselves to just aeroplanes or railways," said Mr Witts.

"It is amazing how wide an interest our members have in just about every kind of model making, and how much keenness is shown by the growing junior section, which is helped by the adults." The club, which meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Memorial Hall, Uffington, also has its own flying field on the Ridgeway, near Sparsholt Firs.

Anyone wanting more information should contact Mr M. Spackman of 411 Woodfield, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9JL.



Andrew Smith, 15, of East Hagbourne with one of his model aircraft, a World War One biplane

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