



Dear Members,

Here we are almost into February and the Christmas period seems ages ago.

I had a nice time at the Stafford Dolls House Fair and met several club members as well as chatting to some complete strangers!

I have been trying to think of ideas for makes and projects. This year has several events that could be made into miniature scenes - it is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death (April 23rd 1616) so there will be lots of events celebrating his life. How about our favourite scene from Shakespeare? It's the Queen's 90th birthday, the Battle of Hastings (1066 as everybody knows!), 50 years since we won the World Cup (1966), WW1 continues with the Somme Offensive (1916). Any other ideas for things you would like to make are welcome.

Ann has suggested an evening on house wiring in 1/48th scale with J&S Lighting and will look into that for us.

In April we have a visitor, Barbara, coming from the Whakatani Miniatures Club from New Zealand. She will join us at club so we need to think of a special evening.

January meeting

Apologies from Jackie, Olivia, Thelma, Tina, Maureen & Bob and Kim.

We were a bit short of members this month so the planned planning meeting will be held next month. So please bring some ideas with you.

We were pleased to welcome back Lisa and Julie as full members. I hope they have an enjoyable experience with us.

The evening was spent making up the kits we had from club for Christmas. For some of us it was our first venture into 1/48th scale furniture. Straightforward but fiddly!

We had a raffle as usual but I'm not sure who won it. Please remember to bring at least one worthy prize (say around £5) to make the raffle attractive. It all helps to raise the funds we need to run the club. Lecture over!



Beverley



New member Julie Rockall (left) and Jill concentrating on their tiny furniture.



Gaynor helps Ann to assemble the shortbread biscuit kit from November

From your Hon. President – January 2016

Hi All

Here we go again. It was wonderful to have two new ladies to add to our membership this year – now eighteen, and welcome greetings to Julie and Lisa. We look forward to getting to know you much better.

For our February meeting we plan that everyone will receive a Valentine's card – including envelope, whether they live in a one twelfth, twenty-fourth or forty-eighth scale house! Please bring with you some small, sharp pointy scissors, your reading glasses or magnifying glass on stand if necessary, cocktail sticks and glue. Pointed tweezers are also very handy!

Making the smaller scale cards is very challenging but we do have all evening in which to do it. If you have any "cut outs" or "mini printables" of your own do bring them along.

We will also have a list for you to sign up to - volunteering to take a practical session – please take some time to think through what you can offer to teach including what kits/materials you will be able to provide for the session.

See you on the 17th Feb.

Gaynor

Email: gaynor.fryer@talktalk.net

Dates for your diary

April 2nd & 3rd Miniatura at the NEC

April 16th Pudsey Civic Hall, Pudsey, Leeds

June 12th The Imperial Rooms, Imperial Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3NL

April to November Dolls House Collection Houghton Tower, Preston PR5 0SH
Historic house & gardens and 27 piece antique Dolls House Collection



Next Meeting

February 17th.

Gaynor will lead the evening in making Valentine's Cards in three different scales. See above for more details.



Julie's bed. It came with the wonky leg...



Lisa's 1/48th armchair



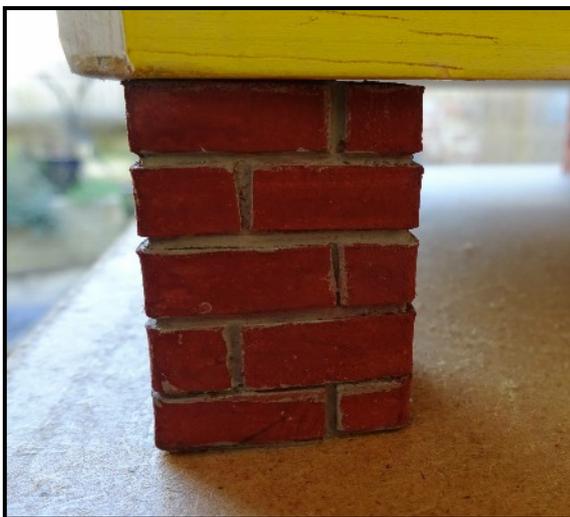
and Jill's 1/12th scale Hall Table

We were in Dolls House & Miniature Scene magazine again this month with a picture of our Christmas Dinner and a close-up of the brooch I had from Canada.

Last month there was a full page featuring Jackie Bowcott at Wedgwood.



If I hadn't joined the club I would not have done this...



I needed to build some brick pillars to support my Music Shack. At the Stafford Show I saw some self-spacing brick slips on the Romney Miniatures stall so I gave them a try. I bought the weathered variety but thought that they were perhaps a bit too weathered, some were too broken up to use. I made a mistake in that I did not get the corner bricks so the corners were hard to form. I ran out of slips and continued by making my own out of card. Both methods were very effective and not hard to do. Would I use the slips again? Yes, but they need more planning in advance.



Paul asked me to make some curved stone walls out of Fimo for his 'N' gauge model railway. Using skills I have learnt from the club I made a mould from a shop-bought straight piece of walling (on the left in the picture). I used a two-part RTV molding putty called Castaldo Quick-Sil. A similar material is MinitMold from www.angiescarf.co.uk or www.oaktreedollshouseminiatures.com

I then pressed Fimo into the mold and carefully turned it out before forming the curved shape then baking it in the oven.

If 1/48 scale is not challenging enough then try N gauge - 1/144 scale!

If you can share some tips on things you've tried, techniques you've learnt or places to visit please send them to Beverley so we can include them in our newsletter.