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## “FMES Autumn 2024 Rally”

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On Saturday, August 31st, following months of careful planning, the Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers (NSMEE) hosted the Federation of Model Engineering Societies (FMES) rally at their Ruddington, Nottinghamshire headquarters. The event was blessed with ideal weather, as blue skies and sunshine prevailed throughout much of the day.



As the unloading commenced, visitors and host club members buzzed with excitement, eager to see the impressive display of locomotives and road vehicles.

The rally featured an impressive array of 33 model locomotives and vehicles for visitors to admire, including two 7¼-inch gauge steam locomotives, twenty-four 5-inch gauge steam and battery-powered locomotives, four 3½-inch gauge steam locomotives, two traction engines in 4½-inch and 3-inch scales, and an AEC Matador towing an RNLI lifeboat.

During the event, 57 FMES members received wristbands to access the host club's hospitality, and each visitor was given an NSMEE-branded mug for their tea.



Maidstone MES member Sue Parham deftly manoeuvred her 3.5-inch gauge Juliette locomotive along the extensive track at the NSMEE. Notably, Sue disclosed that she transports her locomotive in an oversized bag resembling a large handbag.

Visitors were greeted with an abundance of tea and coffee upon arrival. At lunchtime, the ladies of the NSMEE had prepared a superb buffet. Thank you, ladies.



In the afternoon, visiting members occupied both the raised and ground-level tracks at the Great Central Railway complex. To engage the public, the NSMEE offered rides on the ground-level tracks, allowing locomotive owners to share their hobby with the eager families in attendance.

Martin Parham, a member of the Maidstone Model Engineering Society, was enjoying a run on the ground-level track of the NSMEE with his 7 ¼-inch Stirling Single locomotive.

Tim Carr travelled from Wakefield to run his Sweet Pea at the Ruddington track. Thank you, Tim, for making the long journey - we appreciate you visiting and hope the trip was worthwhile.



John Richardson, a member of the Brighouse and Halifax Model Engineering Society, brought two impressive model locomotives to the event - his beautiful 5-inch gauge Royal Scot and a 5-inch gauge Midland 990 Class locomotive.



Model railroading encompasses a diverse range of interests, from traditional steam locomotives to modern diesel and battery-powered engines. Female enthusiasts are expertly piloting these advanced locomotives with skill and passion.

Jennifer Stevens, a member of the Harlington Model Engineering Society, is seen here driving her father's 5-inch gauge Class 37 locomotive.



Nigel Smalley is pictured here operating Tony Lee's 3-inch Burrell Traction Engine. Tony was unable to drive the delightful model from Banbury all the way to Ruddington, as the journey would have taken several days and required a substantial amount of coal.

The NSMEE hosted an impressive rally and concluded the event by serving a BBQ for visiting members and supporters.

The members of the Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers, as well as their supporters, deserve our sincere gratitude for their contributions. Additionally, we must acknowledge Tony Knowles, who collaborated with Peter Harrison of the FMES to bring this rally to a successful conclusion.