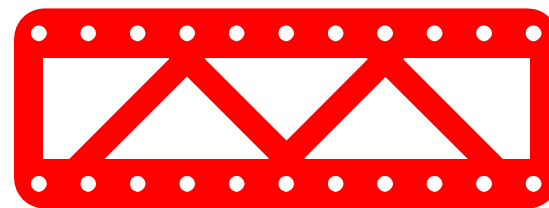


Our club recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Here are some highlights from our history...

SELMEC



**SOUTH EAST LONDON
MECCANO CLUB**

1975

• **FOUNDING** • • • • •



Chris Warrell writes to *Meccano Magazine Quarterly* suggesting the idea for a club in south east London. They duly place an announcement in their January 1976 edition.

1976

Chris receives four letters of support and encouragement, but didn't get the same response from the Secretary of the Holy Trinity Meccano Club. He didn't see the need for another club nearby, and suggested Chris join his instead!

• **24TH JULY: FIRST MEETING** • • • • •

The club's first meeting is held at Chris's parents' house. Eight people were present—some are still members today!



The club runs its first events stand at the Memorial Hospital fete in Shooters Hill, in the rain with no power!

1978



At the suggestion of Stan Bedford, meetings move to the Salvation Army Hall in Welling.

1977

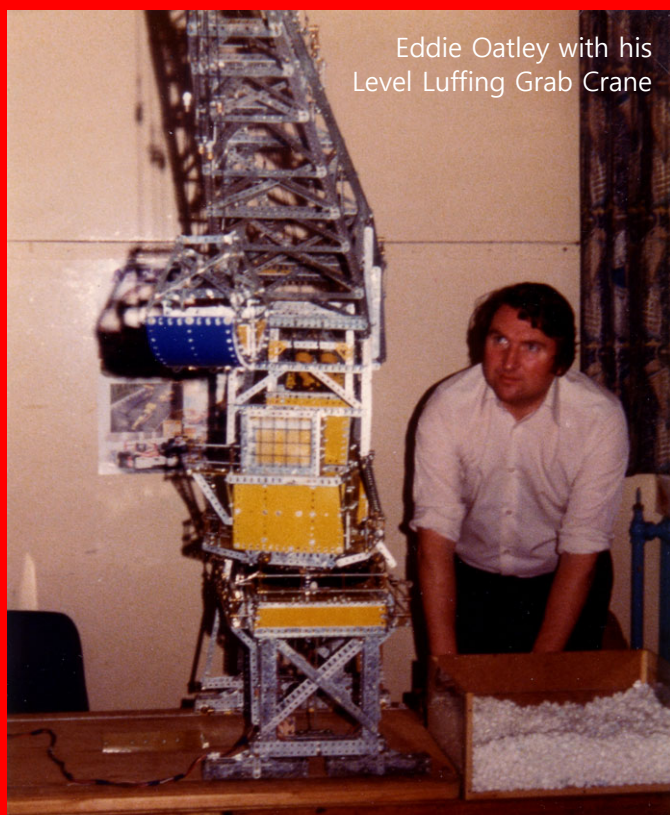
The second and third meetings are held in a small upstairs room at St. Luke's Church Hall in Eltham.

EARLY MEETINGS

1979

• 29TH SEPTEMBER: FIRST EXHIBITION •

With 16 members, the club holds its first annual exhibition at Sherard Hall in Eltham. The financial risk pays off: 366 visitors attend, with 15 so impressed that they join the club that day!



Eddie Oatley with his
Level Luffing Grab Crane

MECCANO[®] EXHIBITION



SOUTH EAST LONDON MECCANO CLUB EXHIBITION

TO BE HELD AT
SHERARD HALL, ELTHAM, LONDON SE9
(OFF COURT ROAD)

ON SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 1979

COME AND SEE THE
AMAZING WORLD OF **MECCANO**

OPEN FROM 11.00am to 4.30pm
ADMISSION: ADULTS 20p CHILDREN 10p



John Adams operating a Meccanograph



Geoff Davison's
Tramcar

The club's junior members
 Front L-R: Geoffrey Routledge, Roy Thompson, Paul Bedford
 Middle L-R: Neil Carter, Peter Allen, Gary Westbrook
 Back L-R: Unknown, John Adams, Garry Douglas, Neil Bedford



1980

• 12TH APRIL: ELECTIONS • •

The club elects its first officers: Adrian Ashford, Geoff Davison and Chris Warrell.

MECCANO CLUB'S EXHIBITION SUCCESS

Where dreams come true

HUNDREDS gathered at Sherard Hall in Eltham on Saturday to see the South East London Meccano Club's first-ever exhibition.

The various models on display ranged from a 16 foot long transporter bridge and cranes to a gravel digger and steam engines.

All the 15 club members took part in this unusual exhibition, along with a number of people from other clubs.

About 350 people went along to see the 50 models on display — and many were so impressed that they asked if they could become club members.

Said the club secretary, Mr. Christopher Warrell, of

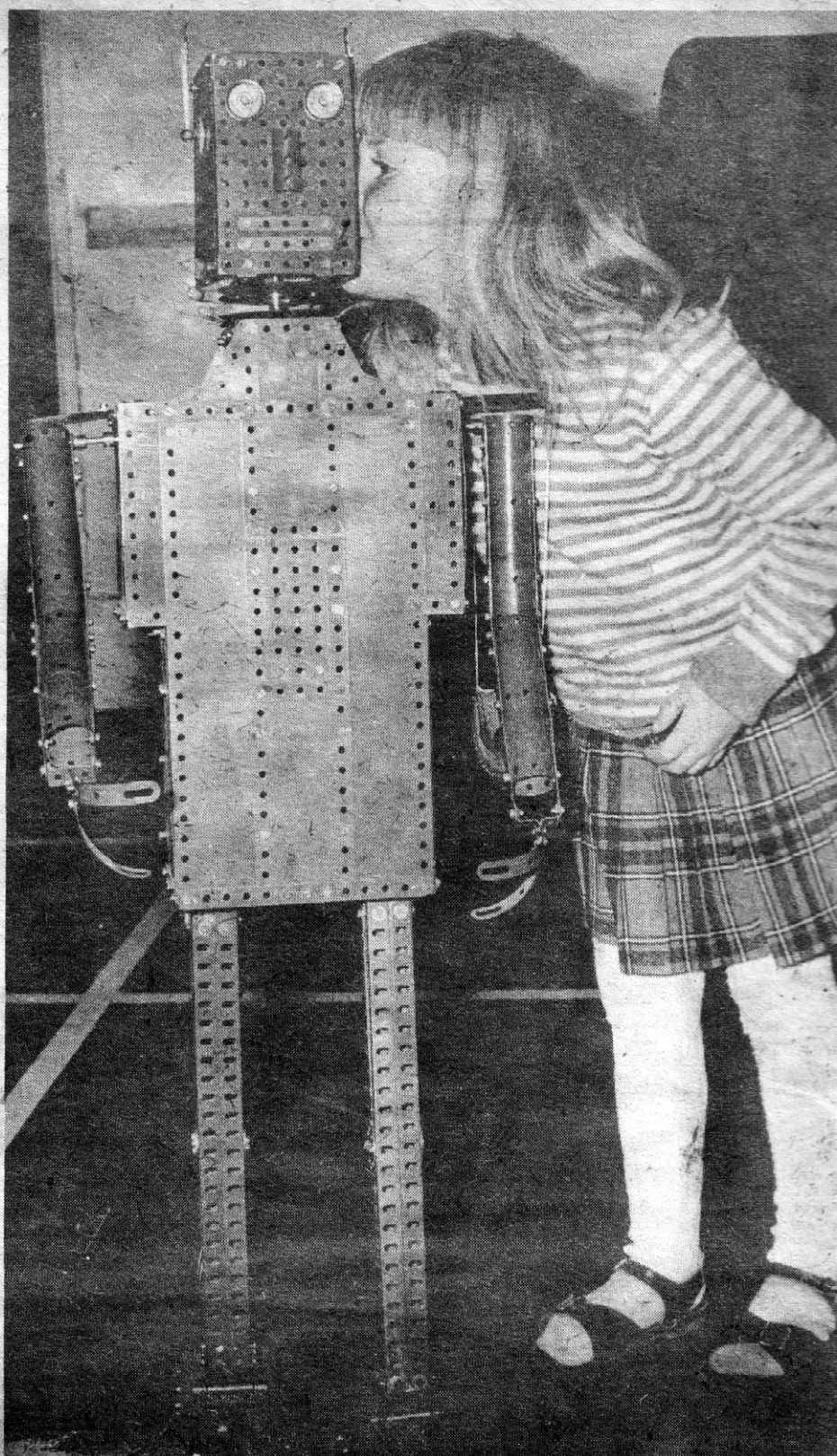
Beechill Road, Eltham: "The afternoon was a great success and we hope to make it an annual event."

One Meccano enthusiast is 29-year-old Adrian Ashford, of Shooters Hill, who is a member of the three-year-old club.

Adrian proved that building with Meccano is hardly child's play when he displayed his model fire engine on Saturday.

He spent about 500 hours working on it and used more than 1,000 nuts and bolts and hundreds of metal sheets.

Adrian said: "It's certainly not just a hobby for children — many older people enjoy building with Meccano too."



Little Caroline Hussey, from Sidcup, gives Horace the Mechanical Man a big kiss. Horace belongs to Mr. Geoff Pollock. K5975/35

Pictures: John McNulty

KENTISH TIMES, 2ND OCTOBER 1979

Window displays created by the club are installed in the Chislehurst and Welling branches of the Britannia Building Society.



1982

• MECCANO DISPLAYS • • • • •

A joint venture with the West London Meccano Society sees Meccano models displayed for a week at the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

1983



With membership expanding and the hall in Welling bursting at the seams, the club moves to Sherard Hall in Eltham.

1984

A free plug on ITV's Six O'clock Show sees 523 visitors attend this year's exhibition.



SIXTH ANNUAL
MECCANO
EXHIBITION



Large
display of
working
Meccano
models

REFRESHMENTS

**SHERARD HALL,
COURT ROAD
ELTHAM, SE9**

SAT. 6 OCTOBER 1984

Open: 10.30am - 4.30pm

Adults: 50p Children & OAPs: 25p

SOUTH EAST LONDON MECCANO CLUB

Some of our refreshment ladies
L-R: Joyce Ashford, Jean Warrell,
Ivy Bedford, Vi Palin

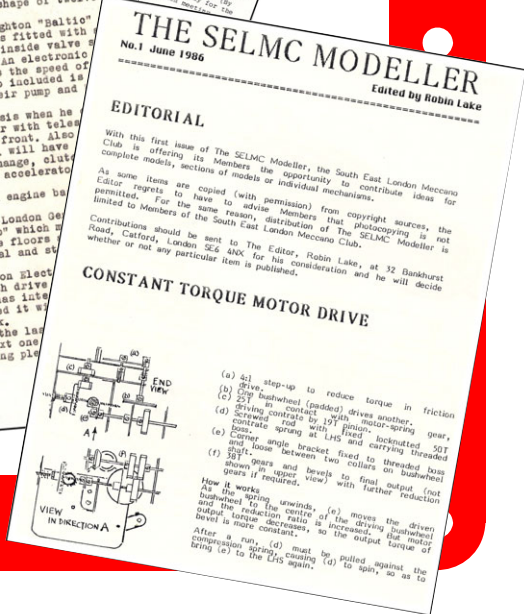
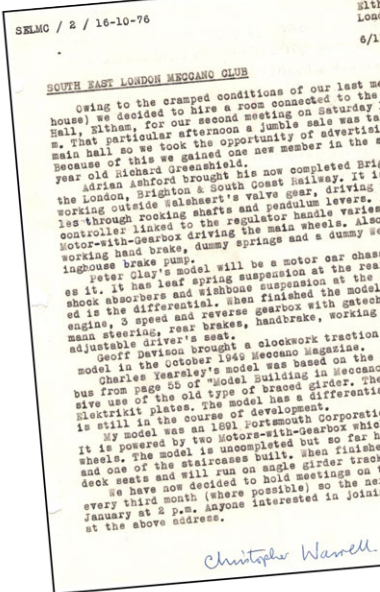


The club committee.
L-R: Chris Warrell, Frank Pycroft, Robin Lake

With 'walk-about'
model tours at
meetings becoming
impractical, seated
model talks are
introduced.

1987

The *SELMC Modeller*,
edited by Robin Lake,
becomes the latest of
many club newsletters
published over the years.



1986

NEWSLETTERS

A move to the Citizen's Gallery in Woolwich for the exhibition proves to be far from satisfactory. With only 300 visitors attending and the hassle of hiring tables, the exhibition makes a loss.

13th ANNUAL
MECCANO EXHIBITION



Large display of working Meccano models
REFRESHMENTS

**CITIZENS GALLERY
POWIS STREET (Opposite Co-op)
WOOLWICH SE18**

**SATURDAY
19th OCTOBER 1991**

Open 10.30am — 4pm

Adults £1 Children 50p
Family ticket £2 (2 Adults + 2 or more children)
SOUTH EAST LONDON MECCANO CLUB

1991

Due to rising costs, meetings move to St. Luke's Church Hall in Eltham, despite a lack of parking and a flight of stairs to contend with.

14th ANNUAL
MECCANO MODEL EXHIBITION



WORKING MODELS
REFRESHMENTS

SAT 17 OCT '92
Open: 10.30am - 4.30pm

**CHRISTCHURCH HALL
SHOOTERS HILL SE18**

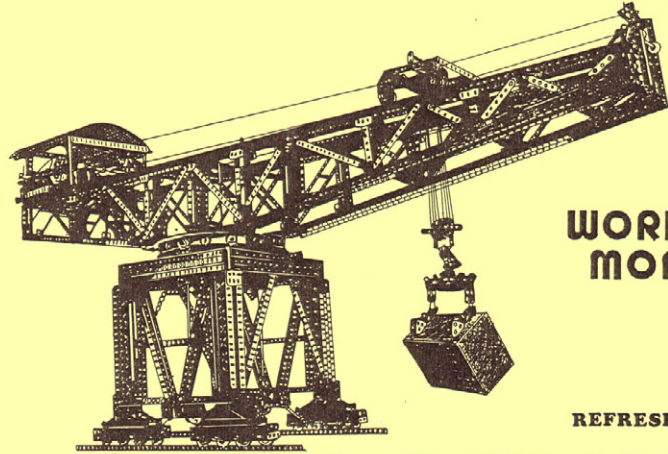
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) £2.50
Adults £1.00 Children & OAPs 50p
SOUTH EAST LONDON MECCANO CLUB
Proceeds to Christ Church funds

1992

A financially attractive profit-sharing arrangement means the exhibition moves to Christ Church hall in Shooters Hill.

Nigel Pope offers the use of the 3rd Bromley Scout Hall for the exhibition, with the Scouts providing refreshments.

19th ANNUAL
MECCANO
MODEL EXHIBITION



**WORKING
MODELS**

REFRESHMENTS

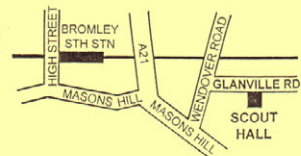
SAT 18 OCT '97
10:30 - 4:30

3rd BROMLEY SCOUT HALL
GLANVILLE RD, BROMLEY
JUST OFF A21 - NEAR BROMLEY SOUTH STN

Family (2 adults + 2 children) £3.00
Adults £1.20 Children/OAPs £0.60

SOUTH EAST LONDON
MECCANO CLUB

PROCEEDS TO
SCOUT FUNDS



Club members outside
St. Luke's Church Hall in Eltham



1996

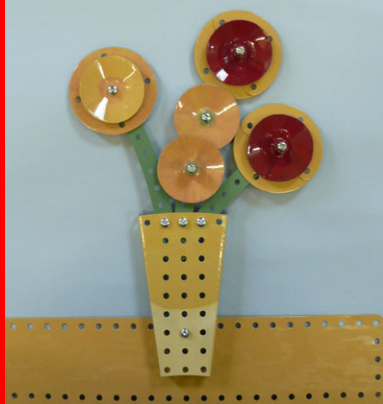
20TH ANNIVERSARY

2001

Geoff Carter, disappointed by the lack of models appearing at meetings, introduces the Secretary's Challenge, a feature of meetings which continues today and has resulted in an amazing variety of models being shown.

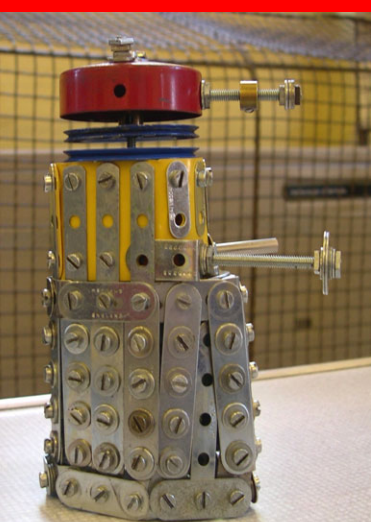


Tim Surtell's *Sunflowers* for the Work of Art Challenge

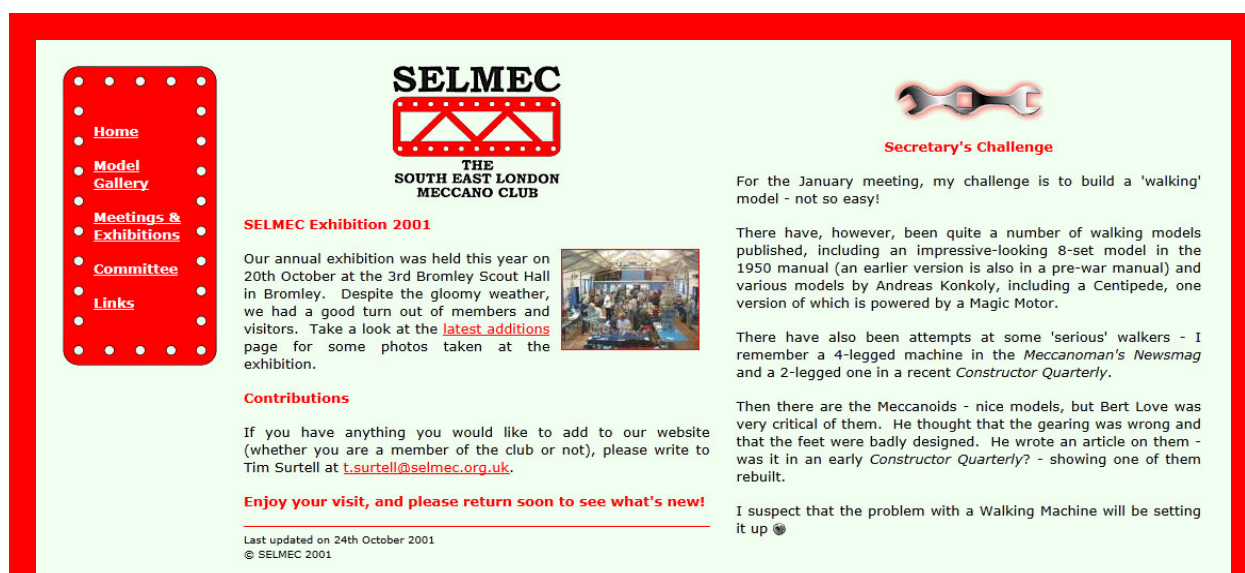


Geoff Carter's model of the Forth Bridge for the Landmarks Challenge

The club website is started by Tim Surtell. Features such as articles, a model gallery, and exhibition videos are soon added.



John Gay's Dalek for the Film and TV Challenge



WEBSITE



Club members in the garden at Sherard Hall in Eltham

2008



Cathy Warrell cutting the birthday cake

30TH ANNIVERSARY

2006

The exhibition returns to Sherard Hall in Eltham.



Matthew Lecoq, two, plays with some of the models on display

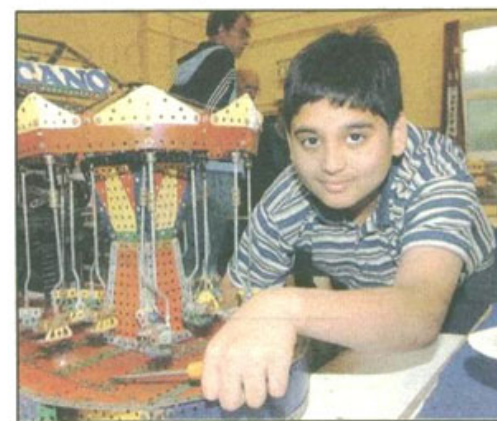
Model-makers exhibition hailed a 'great success'

MODEL-MAKING enthusiasts and Meccano fans gathered at the annual south east London Meccano Club exhibition.

More than 150 fans of the nuts and bolts building toy gathered at the Sherard Hall, United Reformed Church, Court Road, Eltham, on October 16.

Many of the club's 50 members displayed models from the smallest of vehicles to a huge steam-powered factory.

This was the first time the club has held its exhibition in Eltham since 1990. Organiser and club founding member Chris Warrell described it as a "great success".



Azlan Degia, 12, makes a last few adjustments to his merry-go-round

NEWS SHOPPER, 27TH OCTOBER 2004

2004

Old Bexley School PTA invite
the club to their summer fete.

● OUTSIDE EVENTS ● ● ● ● ● ●



Brian Leach and Chris Fry

The club attends the first of
many Great Get Togethers
held by Greenwich Council
across the borough.



Peter Clay

2009



The Mayor enjoys
Frank Paine's models

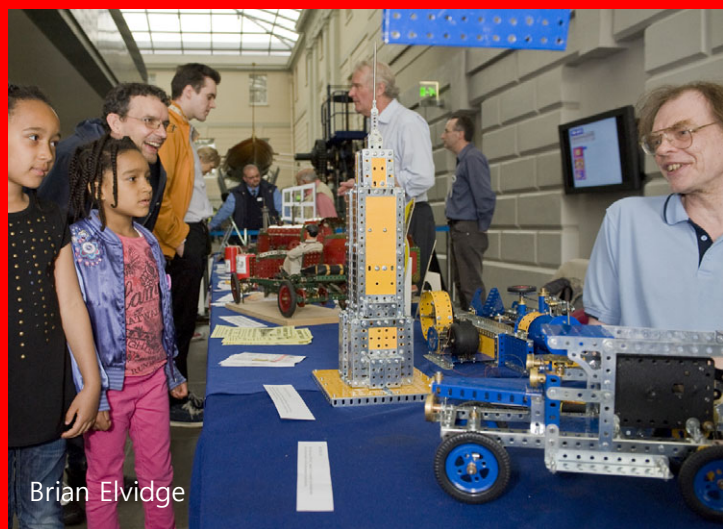
Photo: Greenwich Council



Brian Leach with his Belly Fruit Machine



Chris Warrell's HR1 London Tram



Brian Elvidge

Photo: National Maritime Museum



Frank Paine

Photo: National Maritime Museum

M

SOUTH EAST LONDON MECCANO CLUB

MECCANO SHOW 2010

Sat 16th October • 10:30 – 4:30 • Eltham United Reformed Church

Working Meccano Models
From trains and planes to boats and cranes

Raffle
Win Meccano prizes!

Sales
Buy Meccano sets and parts

KIDS GO FREE!
when accompanied by an adult

Adults: £3.00
Children/Seniors: £1.50

How to get there
The show will be held in Sherard Hall at Eltham United Reformed Church, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5AD

Eltham Parish Church

Well Hall Rd

Eltham

Eltham High Street

Passey Place

Post Office

Eltham United Reformed Church

Mottingham

Court Rd

Find out more at www.selmec.org.uk

2010

Club members build themed models for a show at the National Maritime Museum's 1930s Festival.



2012

With the club making a name for itself, the touring SELMEC Meccano Show gets invited to many more annual events.



Allen Berman demonstrates his robot at the Medway Festival of Steam and Transport



Walking Race winners Chris Warrell, Brian Elvidge and Brian Leach



John Gay with his and Cathy Claydon's models at the Crossness Pumping Station Model Engineering Day

Inspired by the London 2012 Olympic Games, the club holds its own MeccanOlympics, staging events such as the Ping Pong Put.

MECCANOLYMPICS
ELTHAM 2012

Not an Xbox 360 in sight

Nearly 500 visitors poured into the United Reformed Church's halls in Court Road for the South East London Meccano Club's annual show in October to look at the vast array of working Meccano models, Chris Warrell writes.

Crowds gathered to cheer on the models in the four MeccanOlympics races, staged throughout the day.

The 'Push-of-War' in which models tried to push each other off a table, was won by Alan Wenbourne with a very low geared model, apparently being pushed by two plastic men. Runners up were Chris Fry and Ralph Laughton.

The 'Ping Pong Put' was won by Chris Fry whose model scored a direct hit into the target. Runners were up Brian Leach and Chris Warrell.

The sprint with models powered by

clockwork "Magic" motors was won by Alan Wenbourne, with silver to John Gay and bronze to Douglas Windibank. A walking race, for models powered by a clockwork motor, to walk unaided was won by Brian Elvidge. Runners up were Chris Warrell and Brian Leach.



For future events see www.selmec.org.uk.



Chris Fry and the winning shot.

SE NINE, NOVEMBER 2012

Chris Fry wins the club's Tour de France-inspired Bicycle Races.



2015

The club runs its first Make It With Meccano workshop at the Great Get Together.



2014

2013

The 150th anniversary of Frank Hornby's birth is celebrated with a month-long display at the Eltham Centre.

FRANK HORNBY
150
1863 - 2013



The Meccano Show introduces the Meccano Creative Challenge and attracts a record attendance of 600 visitors.



2016



Club meetings move to
Falconwood Community Centre.

40TH ANNIVERSARY



Club members at Falconwood Community Centre