



## Scalefour Society Press Release

### *"St Merryn – building a finescale layout"*

Title:	St Merryn – Aspects of building a finescale model railway
Author:	South London Area Group of the Scalefour Society
ISBN:	978-0-9561273-0-3
Size:	A4
Format:	Full colour printed and illustrated on glossy paper
Page count:	96 printed pages
Cost:	£10.00 plus £1.75 post and packing (UK addresses)
Available:	Scalefour Society Trade Officer, 120 Hayhurst Avenue, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 0BD

"St Merryn – building a finescale layout" is the latest book published by the Scalefour Society. It tells the story of the inspiration, planning and building of a 4mm finescale layout, based on a "might-have-been" station serving a North Cornish town in the summer of 1954.

The book was launched at the Society's premier exhibition, Scaleforum, at Leatherhead Leisure Centre on 25 & 26 September 2010, where it was an instant hit. Displayed alongside St Merryn itself, it has already sold more copies than expected to the audience that having "seen the layout", wanted to "read the book".

The origin of the book was a series of occasional articles in the Society's journal, Scalefour News, over recent years dealing with various aspects of the layout. From these came a high quality, fully bound book, lavishly illustrated with colour photographs, diagrams and sketches. The text is an easy and inspirational read, making this book a pleasure to own.

Written and photographed by the members of the South London Area Group of the Scalefour Society, the book tells the what, how and why of the creation of this realistic slice of history. This was no small feat in itself, as none of the Group claim to be modellers of the Guy Williams or Geoff Kent standard and view themselves rather as, to coin a phrase, "average P4 modellers".

The Group decided that the book should discuss and illustrate how pursue their modelling interest through the layout without the suggestion that this was the best or only way of doing so. It was also apparent that it would give a welcome opportunity to address some topics, such as presentation and operation, that are often not given the importance that they deserve.

The structure of the book is based on a series of copiously illustrated essays of whatever length seemed to be necessary to deal with the various issues. The group realised that there are also many smaller details on the layout which had attracted favourable comment. Short cameo pieces on these have



## Scalefour Society Press Release

### *"St Merryn – building a finescale layout"*

given variety in the book and, very importantly, help show how the layout was placed in both its model and prototype context.

The overall approach covers not just the immediate modelling techniques that were used but also the attitude towards the creation of a finescale layout. That has meant describing the research, operational approach, reliability, experiences of exhibiting and a raft of other practical issues that were addressed along the way – including any lessons learned by getting some of it wrong first time around!

Areas covered within the book include baseboard design and building; setting the railway in a historical context; construction of key buildings; converting RTR locomotives and rolling stock to finescale; and operation and exhibition. There is even a discussion of how to undertake 1:609.6 scale modelling, but a the reason for that is explained more fully in the book.

The techniques discussed are relevant to many finescale layouts in whatever scale. The Scalefour Society hopes that reading the book, or seeing the layout in the flesh will give encouragement to modellers to pursue with enthusiasm their own modelling.

South London Area Group is a small and highly informal group that meet regularly on a Monday evening in Leatherhead, Surrey. Although St Merryn is not the only way of building a model railway, it is the way this group of "average P4 modellers" have chosen – and, after all, it is only a hobby. The Group welcomes Scalefour Society members who share its philosophy and approach and may wish to consider joining their local area group. The Group can be contacted at: [slag@scalefour.org](mailto:slag@scalefour.org).

For any further information, or an electronic copy of this document, please contact the Scalefour Society Marketing Manager at [marketing@scalefour.org](mailto:marketing@scalefour.org)



## Scalefour Society Press Release

### *"St Merryn – building a finescale layout"*

*The new book on St Merryn covers more than just locomotives*



*The busy station approaches and goods yard*





## Scalefour Society Press Release

### *"St Merryn – building a finescale layout"*

*Converting RTR rolling stock is covered in the book*



*A view of the station forecourt and coal merchants*

