



Photos by the author unless otherwise credited. ABOVE LEFT: There has been a show at Folkestone devoted mostly to military vehicle modelling, almost as long as Euro Militaire, but previously as Trucks & Tracks. This year's show is on 27th February. (Photo: Natalia Claringbold, Kudos Media). ABOVE RIGHT: The MAFVA Zone at the On Track show. In the foreground Bedfordshire MAFVA stand and WW1 Display. (Photo: Natalia Claringbold, Kudos Media).

The MAFVA column

News and views from the Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicle Association

John Ham provides a retrospective view of the society's jubilee year.



RIGHT: MAFVA visit to the Castlemartin Ranges with members on top of a RTR Challenger 2. (Photo: Jon Mordecai, Sheffield MAFVA).

BELOW: A behind the scenes visit for MAFVA members to the Duxford Vehicle Wing Workshop during the 2015 Nationals. In the foreground is a ground up M3 White Scout Car restoration in progress.



In weak November sunshine, two bands of armed Viking warriors faced each other shouting challenges in a strange Mancunian brogue. Then with a clashing of wooden swords on wooden shields the combatants, hacked lustily at one another. This was the annual spectacle at the Northern Militaire Show in Manchester, one of less than a handful of UK model shows in the 1970s. Here, I signed up as a MAFVA member with Gary Williams, whom we sadly lost in June last year, after a lifetime devoted to the Association. His passing was our biggest set-back for our 50th birthday year, yet it illustrates that MAFVA is above all a Friends Association with the aim of promoting our hobby of military modelling. Gary would have been very pleased to see how much we managed to pack in to our Jubilee Year.

Indeed, we began in 2014 with our branches in South Wales, Cambridge and London setting up projects for a MAFVA commemorative calendar, a diorama of Muckleburgh Camp in Norfolk, and a MAFVA history, respectively. The first event of



ABOVE: A panorama of the MAFVA Nationals Jubilee Show at IWM Duxford. The 2016 Nationals will be held at nearby St Ives (Photo: Jim Chandler Warwicks MAFVA).



ABOVE LEFT: German 17cm Railgun scratchbuilt by ASCV Wombourne/South Staffs MAFVA member Graham Taylor at the Wombourne Show, which also celebrated its 50th Birthday in 2015. Sadly, Graham had his lifetime's work of very good quality models stolen recently, details on <https://www.facebook.com/graham.taylor.7127>

ABOVE RIGHT: Dragon Wagon with M12 GMC, one of the photos from Simon Ward in the MAFVA Calendar produced by S. Wales. (Photo: Simon Ward, Cambs MAFVA).

the year was the On Track show at Folkestone, the MAFVA Zone and Competition occupying the whole of the lower hall. With close proximity to the Channel and as one of the earliest model shows in the calendar, this has always been a popular with UK modellers and traders, and from Continental Europe. Our AGM followed closely, hosted by Northern Home Counties MAFVA, perhaps not the most popular event for members but necessary for the administration of our Association.

Two popular events were our special visits to venues of military interest. These are sites which are not easily accessible to the general public and are an extra benefit of membership. For 2015 we had trips to the REME Museum Reserve Collection at MOD Bordon, and to the Castlemartin Ranges in South Wales to view the Anglo-French Exercises. In June, we held our MAFVA Nationals at IWM Duxford. Hosted by Cambridge MAFVA, but with input from many branches this has always been a good show for meeting other members and our traders. As the regular military vehicle show is not planned to be held again next year, in 2016 the National Show will be at the nearby Cambridgeshire town of St Ives.

Other branches, Essex, South Wales and London also hosted their shows, Essex's Present Arms in conjunction with the Military and Flying Machines Show, at Damyn's Hall aerodrome. Elsewhere, many MAFVA clubs arranged enjoyable trips to UK events such as Tankfest, but also to overseas shows and museums such as at the Deutsches Panzermuseum Munster, the National Military Museum of the Netherlands, and the AMPS Show in the US.

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ABOVE: Ford V8 tractor with cookhouse trailer of WW2 vintage at the Netherlands National Military Museum near Utrecht. BELOW: Moscow 2015 RS-24Yars mobile ICBM at May Victory Parade, a personal MAFVA Jubilee celebration visit. More to follow in 2016...

