

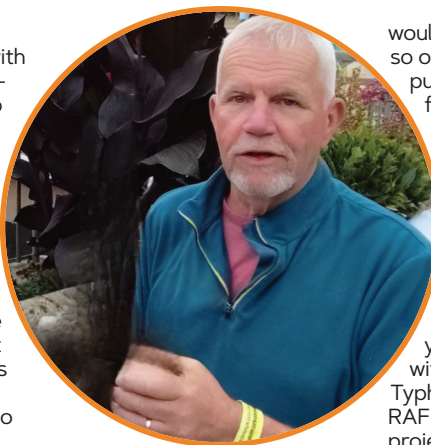
A Conversation with **BELVOIR MODEL CLUB**

By Mike Beckett

On a very wet September day, I met up with John Tinkler who is the branch secretary of Belvoir Model Club and club chairman Chris Clay, who would tell me all about the Belvoir Model Club.

"It started out as Grantham Model Club, amalgamated with Newark and then, in the mid-eighties, broke away back to Grantham Model Club. In 1989, it was decided to change the name to Belvoir Model Club as at that time there were only two people from Grantham with the rest coming from outlying villages and mostly from the Vale of Belvoir. It was also at that time that Grantham was being termed as 'the most boring town' so we wanted to move our name away from something that would not encourage members to join," John told me.

"To set up a website would be quite costly so my son Jack established our Facebook link on 14th February 2021." The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Railway Club on Huntingtower Road in Grantham. Members pay £10 a month for their membership. They are affiliated to the International Plastic Modellers Society (IPMS), founded in 1963, which has over 5,000 members in the UK. Each November, the IPMS holds Scale Model World (SMW) at the Telford International Centre, and this is regarded as



the major event for modellers from all over the world. I asked what the most commonly constructed model kits are and also what materials are normally used to construct them. "Web use, magazines and books for research generally. Polystyrene plastics are the most commonly used materials, however, new materials are coming onto the market all the time such as resins and metals," John said.

"As to the models themselves, probably the most popular is aircraft, then armour, figures, ships, boats, cars, and growing fast is sci-fi. Members choose for themselves what they

would like to make, but every so often we work together to put on a display, like a farmyard scene, and apart from the smell, it does look very authentic. Each model is built to a scale, and what that scale is depends on what you are working with. For instance, armour is usually 1:35, but you can choose whatever scale you would prefer to work with. We are working on Typhoons that are currently in RAF service. The scale for this project is 1:144 and everyone is working on them with different squadron markings and colours. Although traditional models are still very much at the fore of model making, sci-fi is slowly becoming more involved in this hobby, and this is probably an area in which we can encourage younger modellers to join us," they told me.

The club has done well with its model making in the past year. It has won Best in Show, Best Display, Best Sci-Fi and Best 1:48 scale Aircraft giving them a clean sweep – something that they have never done before. Pretty good for a club with 16 members. But what has also come across from my two sources of information is that it