



IPMS STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS MODEL CLUB

About 160 miles north of London lies the city of Stoke-on-Trent, or the "Potteries" as it is known locally. This is the home of the British ceramics industry, famous examples being, Wedgwood, Moorcroft and Royal Doulton. There was also a long history of coal mining, and a fair to middling football (soccer) team. Sounds pretty industrial and urban doesn't it? However, barely 10% of the county of Staffordshire is urban, with large areas of arable and dairy farmland, although the more moorland areas support sheep farming. North Staffordshire is a beautiful area, with a varied landscape on the edge of the Peak District National Park. We also have Rudyard Lake, a beauty spot that provided the writer Rudyard Kipling with his name (his parents met there). Reginald Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire was also a local boy.

To the north east of Stoke is the village of Endon and it is here in the Methodist Church that we have met weekly since our formation in 2004, supposedly to make models but it does seem as if we spend most of the evenings drinking tea and coffee and indulging in frivolous banter. As Endon is within the Staffordshire Moorlands, our moniker is the emblem of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. The badge includes the curlew, a common local moorland bird, and the Staffordshire Knot taken from the county's ancient armorial coat of arms.

The club members, there are about twenty of us, hail from the immediate locality, Stoke, Endon, with the furthest coming from Rushton, a small village as far north in Staffordshire as is possible. We also have a few very keen members who cross the county boundary from Cheshire.

The club has very eclectic modeling tastes for such a small group! We build everything from dinosaurs, ships from 1/700th to 1/72nd scale, Military Vehicles in 1/72nd, 1/48th and 1/35th, Aircraft of all eras in 1/72nd, 1/48 and 1/32nd including injection molded, short run resin and vac form, Sci-Fi and fantasy figures and vehicles, Civilian Vehicles, Figures, Dioramas and even a few scratchbuilt pieces. Much "kit bashing" is undertaken using various aftermarket items such as photo etch, resin conversion or detailing sets, decals and even the new 3D printed products.

We regularly attend the annual Scale Model World in Telford as well as several other shows throughout the country