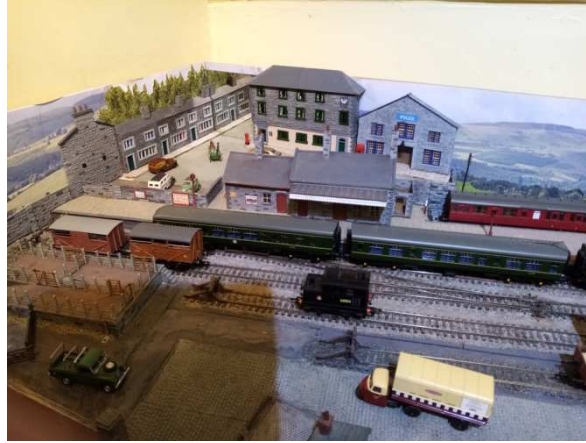


Grassington Town- By David McDowell



Grassington Town

The Model

The model is of a “what might have been” representation of the joint station at Grassington. It is modelled loosely in the late BR steam era but with a greater intensity of services than would have been prototypical. However, the lines “fat controller” has some odd ideas about what stock might have been tried to provide economical services for both passengers and freight. Train spotters should stand by their notebooks!



Grassington Viaduct

Factual History

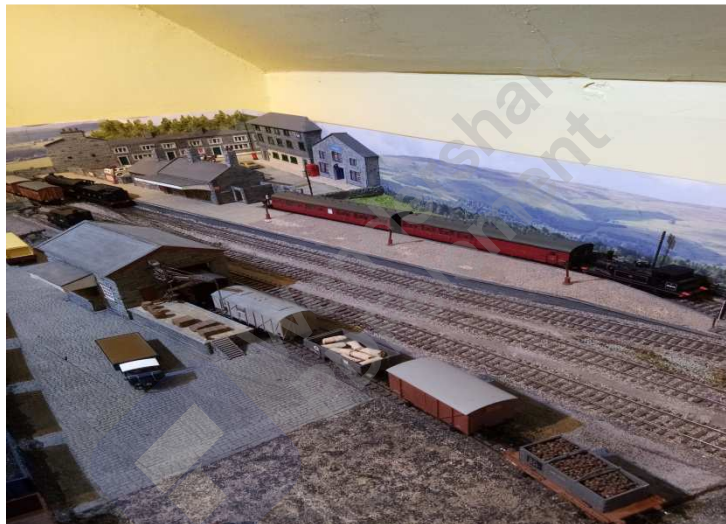
The railway came late to Grassington, and it wasn't until 1905 that the Midland Railway built a branch into upper Wharfedale terminating at Grassington and Threshfield. It was originally intended that the line should continue up Wharfedale and then tunnel into Wensleydale, making a connection with the Wensleydale line near Aysgarth and then extending northwards towards the industrial north-east. A through station was built to serve Grassington and Threshfield, which, whilst only just over a mile from the village of Grassington was inconveniently situated the wrong side of a steep valley. Passenger services only lasted until 1936 although the station remained open as a goods depot and excursion destination until the Beeching cuts of the mid 1960s. Most of the branch is still active carrying daily aggregate trains from the limestone quarry about three miles short of the old terminus. Grassington remains of this day a quiet Dales village with a rural and tourist economy.



Grassington Church

Fictional History

During the re-armament period prior to the First World War the old lead mines above Grassington were found to contain mineral wealth which was needed by the heavy industries of the north-east. To avoid the difficult route via the Midland Railway and with an eye to lucrative traffic the North Eastern Railway built a branch line towards Grassington from the North. The line diverged from the Wensleydale branch at Aysgarth and via a long tunnel gained access to upper Wharfedale. As well as serving the new mineral deposits it also provided passenger services to Buckden, Starbottom and Kettlewell before arriving at a new station convenient to the developing town of Grassington. Outsmarted by the competition the Midland Railway extended its branch to make a junction with the NE Railway near Grassington Town. With the increased mining activity and better communications Grassington developed into a thriving town. Although mostly single tracked the line through Grassington provided another connection, albeit involving a reversal, for freight between the industries of Lancashire and those of the north –east. It also provided a useful diversionary route for passenger services.



Towards Grassington Station



Grassington Signal Box