
West Midlands' N' Gauge Club

Newsletter

Vol 22 Issue 2

June 2019



OUTWARD JOURNEY

I make no apologies for my raisin d'aitre, or the lack of nuts - in my prose, it's just that I prefer raisins and my nutritionist says I should have them as one of my five-a-day.

Just a reminder to all WMNGC members, that to be included in the next Members' Contributions section, your article should be with me by Friday 20th September.
Volume 22 Issue 3 *will* be published towards the middle of that month.

Newsletter dates for 2019/20
Autumn: September 2019
Winter: December 2019
Spring: March 2020
Summer: June 2020

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Assisted by : Jeremy Edwards

Exhibition Co-ordinator: David Griffin at
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From our Chairman

I'm writing this at the end of May having just had a great holiday in the NE of England based at Marske, followed by the Chippenham bus rally and exhibiting my *Layout on a tray* at Model Bus Federation meeting at Wythall Transport Museum. While I was away I've had pictures published and articles in magazines including one on K & B Models in the latest NGS Journal.

The most important news during my holiday was the damage to a model railway exhibition in a school building by young vandals which made the news all over the country. I'm glad the fund has continued to grow to help the modellers and traders try to repair any damage, but money cannot bring back the years of work that goes into building layouts. In all my years I have seen accidental damage done to some layouts and others have had some of their stock stolen, but never have I heard of deliberate vandalism and destruction as seen in this incident. It must be the worst nightmare for any exhibition organisers, and it is a really sad reflection of the society we live in today. The destruction meant the exhibition could not go ahead, meaning they had also spoilt the weekend for all the modellers and families who intended to visit the show.

Changing the subject then I'm pleased to say our club will be open as usual for members, visitors and guests as per the dates in this newsletter, so please pop in during a club meeting – you'll be made very welcome.

Layouts

Whartson Hall – The layout went to the Lutterworth show being transferred in David's and Jeremy's cars.

I was there the second day, along with other club members, and the layout was generating quite a lot of interest. Some of the coloured signals failed during the weekend – Len and Edgar have now fixed them. We need to find a way of better transporting the boards by building ends like we do when transporting "Waterstock". Phil had done a lot of work to the front scenery prior to the exhibition and it looks good. There is more scenery to finish, including the area around the road bridge, the station and the back scene. Dennis has 3D printed a kit to make the station "bus shelter" waiting room, David is working on the station steps and buildings.



Waterstock - Some general housekeeping on the layout has been carried out over the last few meetings:

- Linn has cleaned the track including areas not normally used on club days like sidings and engine shed yard.
- Richard has glued back most of the damaged signals, before we lose all the bits.
- Dennis has started to fill in gaps in boards with no hedges, which still have to be cut to shape.

Ken Jones - Happy Modelling

Exhibitions - Club Layouts

Our exhibition manager is David Griffin - contact davejgriffin@outlook.com

1. **Whartson Hall** went to Lutterworth

By Jeremy Edwards

On Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th of May Whartson Hall was present at the Lutterworth Railway Society's Model Railway Exhibition and Classic Bus Display.

Permanent staff were Jeremy Edwards, Dave Griffin and Mike Turner (complete with a range of chairs). On Saturday staffing was supplemented by Phil Hunt and on Sunday by Nigel Harrold. On Sunday 'The Chairman' Ken came as a paying visitor and then stayed to do Front of House and PR work (we gave him Mike's lunch as recompense).

The layout was quick to set up and even quicker to dismantle and, after initial bedding in, ran well all weekend. Unfortunately the signals on the anticlockwise circuit (station end) decided to fail after about the first 5 minutes possibly due to a faulty power supply.



We received many compliments throughout the weekend and spent a lot of time explaining whereabouts Mike lives and where the Sewage Works is situated.

Tysley Depot was extremely busy all weekend as there were a number of steam specials and a couple of diesel hauled specials running with extreme frequency. We also have a possible invitation to the Hinckley Show in October depending on transport arrangements.



JE

2. **Gibben Quarry** was at the West Bromwich show on Saturday 8th June.

Despite the rain the West Brom club had a good turn out at their Rail Exhibition in Bilston, with a good mix of traders and layouts including N Gauge layouts.



This image from TINGS 2017 (left) - spot the differences with this from West Brom Show (could this be the start of a new feature? Ed)



DG

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

SKETCHFORD somewhere on the W.C.M.L

Part 2

By Nigel Harrold

Since the last newsletter, progress on Sketchford has been a bit slow, which is down to



me in deciding to make changes to the layout yet again. But the changes will make the fiddle yard a lot more simple to operate with less to go wrong. I decided to make these changes after taking a good look at layouts at shows, and seeing how the fiddle yards were set out, decided mine was too complicated.

These changes mean the layout will be operated from within the middle, and not from either end, so only one control panel needed,

not two, less point work, and a lot less wiring. So with work being carried out on altering the fiddle yard boards and making boards for either end, to go between the front scenic boards and the fiddle yard boards, there has not been a lot of work done on the scenic boards. I intended to have the scenic boards more or less completed by now.

But at least the middle and right scenic boards are 90 - 95% complete with just a bit more scenic detail to do on them. To finish the layout all I have to do now is complete the scenic boards, lay track to the fiddle yard and end boards - add point motor's and wiring (yeah no problem).

Should all be done (fingers crossed) for TINGS in September. I must admit, that in building this layout it has been a

big learning curve for me, with previous layouts not getting beyond track laying and wiring.

So when and if I decide to build another layout, I shall do my homework and with a lot more planning and design going in to it.



NH

WMNGC 23 and keeping the trains running

CHARLOTTE STREET

Episode 2 - *By Jeremy Edwards*

I have opted to use Peco Code 80 track for Charlotte Street with Electrofrog points. I have only used Code 55 track for the diorama layout and felt that the Code 80 was a little more versatile; I was also keen to use weathering and fine ballast to try to negate the optical effect of the taller rail section. Elizabeth wharf used Peco Setrack and I found the tight radii, wide spacing and dead frogs were a drawback. All points were medium radius as that permitted me to have a reasonable length of run-around loop (3 57 foot coaches in comfort). Track was assembled and once I was happy with the arrangement I tacked it down in a few key places with Copydex adhesive; this meant that I was able to lift pieces if I needed to.

Once all was in place and tacked down I connected up power feeds to each section, joining them up in a fashion that gave one complete live section to allow me to test the track with a loco. One piece of track required replacing and the used adhesive was just peeled off the board. This meant that weathering and ballasting could take place. Initial weathering involved spraying the whole track area with a coat of Humbrol Acrylic Matt Dark Brown spray paint to colour the rail sides and sleepers in an overall dirty brown colour. Once the rail were cleaned up the colour gave the rail sides a much more realistic look than the use of 'rust' colour would. Ballasting was completed with Chinchilla Sand fixed with the standard diluted 50/50 PVA once platform edges were in place and the rest of the edges were defined with thin strips of masking tape.

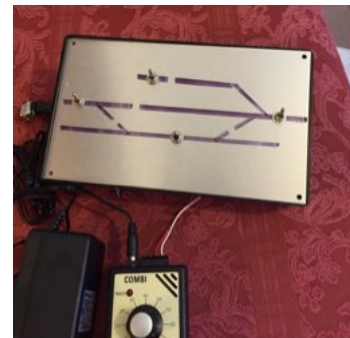


Initial ballasting completed prior to filling in blemishes.

Electrical control is DC Analogue – which I understand well and can set up complex systems if required. In this case I purchased a new controller (Gaugemaster Combi) and a couple of plugs. I had plenty of old wire from a previous project and rescued some switches and an unused box from the same source. There are three sections, each switched, and an isolated piece of track at the end of the bay platform all controlled by simple on-off switches. The control box

plugs into the layout using a

9 pin D plug and the controller connects to the box by a separate plug. This allows safer transport of the layout.



Control box with Combi temporarily wired in place

WMNGC 23 and keeping the trains running

The next step was to construct an off-scene storage area or 'fiddle yard'. I decided that the standard form of 'fiddle yard' was probably not suitable for my purposes so I decided on a cassette system. To enable simple and effective track alignment I opted to use aluminium angle rather than track – the end of the track on the layout led into a short section made of two pieces of angle. These would then clip to the end of the appropriate cassette with small bulldog clips providing electrical connection too.

Episode 3

For backscenes I initially fixed up pieces of mounting board vertically and then rounded the corners off using thin A4 card trimmed to appropriate height. The backscene was constructed to match the height of Peco sheets and I fixed some 'sky' sheets as the first step. On a previous layout I had used Townscenes backscenes on top of the sky paper – albeit the roofline version. These are still available through Freestone Models so I purchased a Town Building sheet in N. Looking carefully at this I realised that although sold as 'N' the buildings were nearer 4mm scale so I reduced the size in the printer/copier that I have (if I remember correctly I used about 75% size). These would be fixed in appropriate places on the backscene. The narrow board meant that I didn't have space for low relief buildings or much detail at all so I relied on providing some sort of effect to suggest the town/city.



Scenic works began just after tracklaying was complete as the platform edges needed to be in place before ballasting could start. I decided to construct the platform from a mixture of Peco brick edging and mounting board; this allowed me to construct the platform, raised areas and roadways from a single sheet avoiding joins. From experience with constructing platforms for a layout for another club I knew that the platform edges are designed to be used with the foam underlay and are therefore a couple of mm too tall so I reduced the height by trimming the flange off the bottom. Colour was provided using Humbrol Dark Navy paint which is a reasonable colour for dark blue brick and the mortar courses were slightly highlighted with ecru coloured artists acrylic painted on and wiped off again. Strips of mounting board were then used to criss-cross between the walls and later on the backscene to support a mounting board surface.

Since much of the top surfaces involved paper or card there was an increased risk of warping the surface if water came into contact. On the Elizabeth Wharf layout I had tried painting the surface with dilute PVA but this caused the surface to warp anyway and I needed to remove it and treat both sides make it flat again. My solution here was to use cheap tester pots of emulsion paint from Wilko at £1 a pot. I selected two colours: a grey for tarmac and platform surfaces, a brown (a bit bright) for ground level and non-tarmac surfaces. Once the surface layer had been laid I sealed it and

WMNGC 23 and keeping the trains running

then coated it with a thin layer of filler which was sanded smooth(ish) and painted. My grey is a little dark so I used a very pale shade as an initial coating; this could then be treated with a series of weathering treatments. Firstly I applied a coat of Humbrol Dark Grey enamel wash rubbed back with paper towel which gave a general shade that I was happy with and it wasn't even over the whole surface.

Building construction actually started much earlier as I had constructed the station building from a Metcalfe Country Station kit. Whilst perhaps the ideal material for constructing buildings is probably textured plastic sheet I am working to a relatively strict budget at this stage so card and paper is my main construction material. The



model was given a set on nameboards from my computer and some posters and signs from a Scalescenes sheet. To avoid 'rolling my own' chimney pots I purchased some cast pots from Langley Models and suitably fitted and painted they look far better than the kit offerings. I also made an attempt to weather the building to make it look a bit grubby and not 'country-like'.

At the other end of the layout, the opening to the storage cassettes was concealed by a Scalescenes product (I already have a number of their surface papers downloaded – these were used on Elizabeth Wharf), this time their Arch Bridge kit in double track form. I'm not totally happy with this part of the layout scenery; I used mounting board for the 'thick' card and I think it is too thick for N, it also didn't cut well free-hand. I replaced the deck with a long piece of card to be the roadway putting a pavement on one side. A pair of Scalescenes 'Retaining Wall' downloads provided the rear edge to most of the station with some backscene buildings providing a backdrop. The retaining wall was a little bit disappointing as I found accurate cutting of the mounting board that I was using rather a problem. Some dirtying up with weathering materials has helped a great deal and some plant life may well hide some of the poorer bits.

The signal cabin in the photo is a temporary affair as it is an ex GWR one that I had from a previous layout and will be replaced.

The basis for the goods yard area was textured plasticard; I wanted cobbles or setts but the smallest scale I could get those for was 4mm/00 so I used coursed stone instead. This was cut to fit and was painted initially in the ubiquitous Halfords grey primer. This was then washed with various lighter grey paints to break up the even colour.



A selection of structures were to be added to the goods yard area, the first was a Ratio 'hut' taken from a coal yard set.

This was painted initially with Halfords grey primer followed by a coat of artists acrylic in a fawn/beige to represent mortar. A variety of brick shades were then dry-brushed on top followed by a wash of 'dirt', which was partly removed with a cotton bud. The roof was painted in a grey and individual tile areas were picked out in different shades followed by similar weathering.

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The other area to be considered was to the front and right of the goods yard area. I posted on the N Gauge Forum in Facebook for suggestions, receiving several interesting replies. I finally decided to grass the area over and add a Metcalfe Models Nissen hut, some fencing, a grounded coach body with the potential for some trees in the fenced off area.

JE

Ken's Private Bits

Model buses

The latest vehicle to reach Ken's collection is repainted Graham Farish Bristol RE coach which has been prepared for Ken by Malcolm Hall. It will join the full size version on the Royal Blue Run in mid-June.



Malcolm is also working on a model of Scarlett Pimperl which needs transfers before being handed over to Ken, but a preview was shown to Ken – it is a half cab coach with Harrington fin.

And on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day:

'Chairman Ken' has also been working on his 1935 cutlery box. The buildings are in place, the house has just been built – it's a Kleiwe kit. The swimming pool is ready – A Vollmer kit, and the grass and flower beds mainly from The Model Tree Shop have been sorted. Next to finish is the stationery display of 1:143 rolling stock using modified N gauge track and he is working on some form of 12 mm track to show the other wagons. Currently the idea is to build his own track from parts 3D printed by Dennis.

The Dutch Barn is a 3D kit from the internet. The steps from the drive to the house are from P & D Marsh.

Still to do are trees, people, and French vehicles.

The German N gauge loco which will run on this layout has been repaired and serviced by Ken Daniels. An original 1960s advert for these French

Rail Route rolling stock has been acquired as has some rolling stock in original boxes from France.



KJ

Phil's Grand Tour

Last Year I managed to persuade my better half to accompany me on a few railway themed excursions, starting with the Kids getting me a train driving experience on a narrow gauge railway in Sherwood forest.

The railway itself is only a small affair with two stations, the top station has some play facilities for the kids and a section of track going down the hill, making sure you avoid the tree half way down the journey. At the lower station this is a run round halt. The experience was to get used to the controls on the way down hill and then drive the train back up the hill, making sure you had enough pressure to get up the gradient. Overall you had a few trips including stoking the boiler, if no passengers waiting you took the empty train down the track etc . Experience lasted about 40 minutes.



The next trip we went to Dorset, as the weather wasn't good I persuaded Margaret to go to Peco-rama for the day. We did the normal things of going round the model



shop and taking a journey on the garden railway and having tea in the Pullman Car.



We did visit Corfe castle and travelled there in style by using the Swanage Railway, which was a bit odd as we passed through Corfe to get to the railway.

At home there's always something to do on Whartson Hall!



PH

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Exhibitions - Members



Club members, with exhibition layouts, have had quite a long season this year. Ken had Nigel's class 20 locomotives running on Salverton at the end of May. He can now get on with his latest layout, as his next exhibition is not until August.

Jane and Tony at West Bromwich had a lovely day with Fellows & Minchin Modern Freight Depot.



Vince keeping up interest

Tiny people

From Hardy's Hobbies 3D Printed Models
Seen on FB, tried a few, loved them, ordered a few more.....
Painted with acrylics, using very fine artist brush, and a very well (ap)ointed cocktail stick.



Other business

Suppliers

Recommended by fellow Club Members (*usual warnings*):-

TENNANTS - Where our very own 'shop Ken' works

<https://www.tennentstrains.co.uk/>

Hardy's Hobbies - tiny people etc - watch out Dennis, you have competition *Ed*

<https://hardyshobbies.co.uk/>

Metcalf Models - <https://www.metcalfemodels.com/product-category/n-scale-kits/>

The 2nd series of the Great Model Railway Challenge is on Ch 5 in the Autumn.

CREDITS:

All images in this issue are submitted, in the main, by the author of each article, any copying, scanning or pasting etc, blah, blah, are at your own risk - GDPR apply.

GET YOUR OWN CAMERA

RETURN JOURNEY

MEMBERS' NOTICES

1. A reminder that our Exhibition Manager is David Griffin, contactable at:

davejgriffin@outlook.com

2. DIARY DATES

Club Members exhibiting at **TINGS** this year, the weekend of 14/15th September, are:

Nigel with **SKETCHFORD** *making its first major public appearance*, Jane & Tony with **Fellows & Minchin Freight Depot**, Ken Jones with **Waterfall Junction** and not forgetting **Whartson Hall** our newest Club layout, manned by various members throughout the weekend.

For the full TINGS 2019 list see:

<https://www.meridiennexhibitions.co.uk/events/the-international-n-gauge-show/clubs-and-layouts>

For Ken

Sat 17th August - Milton Keynes exhibition **Tennis Court Siding**

Sat/Sun 14/15 Sept - TINGS **Waterfall Junction**

Sat 28th September - Eurorail exhibition **Kenstadt**

Sun 13th Oct - Zedex **Kendorf**

Sat 19th Oct - Wombourne show **Kenstadt**

Sat 26th Oct - Birmingham show **Salverton**

For Rodney & Christine

Hawkins Halt on September 6/7/8th - Swindon

For Jane & Tony

Milton Keynes:- 17th August - **Arley Station**

TINGS:- 14th & 15th September - **Fellows & Minchin Freight Depot**

Telford:- October 5th - **Arley Station**

Arden Hall Birmingham:- 26th October - **Doniford Halt**.

Other business:

1. Don't forget the excellent video from TINGS 2018

<https://youtu.be/xZzvs0MpPqk>

50 minutes of TINGS 2018 - almost like being there - watch out for West Midlands' members in starring roles!

2. STOP PRESS NEWS from **OXFORD DIECAST**

Taff & Eloise, from Oxford Diecast, *have just released these details for the new N Scale items in the next catalogue.*

No bus or coach models it this time, and all are versions of vehicles already made or announced:

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Oxford Releases 2-2019 / June-September 2019 Catalogue

1:148 Scale

Oxford Agriculture

NFDE011 Ford 400E Van Fordson Tractors Q3/2019

Oxford Automobile

NMOS006 Morris Minor Saloon Clipper Blue Q3/2019

Oxford Emergency Vehicles

NMA004 Mercedes Ambulance Scottish Ambulance Service Q3/2019

NTRAIL010 Mobile Trailer AA Q3/2019

Oxford Commercials

NFT024 Ford Transit Mk5 Royal Mail Q3/2019

NSDF002 Shelvoke & Drewry Freightlifter British Rail (Crimson) Q3/2019

Oxford Haulage

NSHL16FR Scania Highline Fridge Trailer Steady Eddie Q3/2019

NVOL4007 Volvo FH4 Semi Low Loader Cadzow Q3/2019

NVOL4009 Volvo FH4 Semi Low Loader G F Job Q3/2019

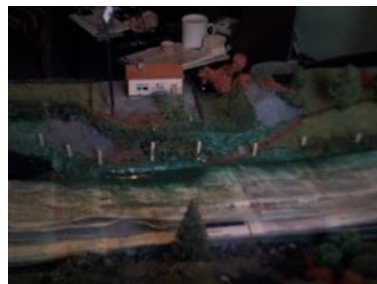
Oxford Omnibus

NTRAIL014 Mobile Trailer Southdown Q3/2019

ERRATUM FROM LAST ISSUE

Early days, 4 images of a new layout from James Dunn

(***NOT Jim Webster*** as reported in the last issue)



Let me know if you find any more, please email me at art1san1957@icloud.com

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NO PROFIT IS MADE FROM THE DISTRIBUTION OR PRODUCTION
OF THIS FREE NEWSLETTER Ed.

Our largest, exhibition-standard layout *Waterstock*
(*With Whartson Hall out on show*)



Bring your own stock for a long run out on either layout

NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

Meetings will be held at:
Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall
Park Lane West
TIPTON
West Midlands
DY4 8LD

2019 PROGRAMME

Meetings – 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month (except December!)

June	1 st	15 th
July	6 th	20 th
August	3 rd	17 th
September	7 th	21 st
October	5 th	19 th
November	2 nd	16 th
December	7 th	AGM

Again all meetings will be from 2-5pm. If in doubt, please ring first.

For more information:

Call Ken Jones on 0121 777 7062, email westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Or visit our website at www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

Any changes to these dates will appear on our website or in our quarterly newsletter.

Please use rear entrance at church hall.