
West Midlands "N" Gauge Club

Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 3

Autumn 2013

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

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HEADCODE

Welcome to the autumn issue of 2013.

First, my thanks go out to all the people who contacted me following my request for help in sourcing brass angle section in the last newsletter. I am particularly indebted to a man known only as 'Pete' who suggested (via Ken Jones) that I try Eileen's Emporium and to David Smith who suggested 4D modelshop. Both of these sources were used and came up with the goods and a remarkable service experience from both. As a satisfied customer I have taken the liberty of providing a small 'plug' for both these concerns elsewhere in this newsletter.

This issue, we have the updates on the layouts, some updates on Club members various activities, Chairman's notes as ever, advance notice of the AGM and a couple of pictures from TINGS.

Volume 16 Issue 4 should appear in December 2013.

Copy deadlines are notional and don't really exist, but if they did they would be as follows for the next four issues.

Winter '13/14 Issue: 9th November
Spring '14 Issue: 1st February
Summer '14 Issue: 11th May
Autumn '14 Issue: 17th August

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I'm now out of sequence writing this part for the newsletter, but as the editor said copy dates are flexible I'm using this as my excuse. As I write this and autumn is approaching I have my coffee table layout up and running in the next room following its appearance at the International N gauge show where two other members had layouts on show and the club exhibited "Tipton Hills". All these layouts generated a lot of interest and we ran out of brochures about the club and "Tipton Hills" before lunchtime on the Saturday. Fortunately Mike Turner spent Saturday evening printing off some more ready for the Sunday.

Autumn will see me having some 5 of my layouts out at exhibitions including my T gauge layout and my z gauge layout so I had better start checking they are all in working order.

Many model railway enthusiasts restart work on their models as the nights get longer, and I'm determined to have my tray layout finished by the end of the year as I haven't done anything to it since May.

Whatever modelling you're going to be doing remember it's your layout and is meant to give you enjoyment not sleepless nights.

Best wishes

Ken Jones, Chairman

Chairman: Ken Jones

0121 777 7062

Email: westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Edgar Mason

THE CLUB LAYOUTS

Waterstock . . .

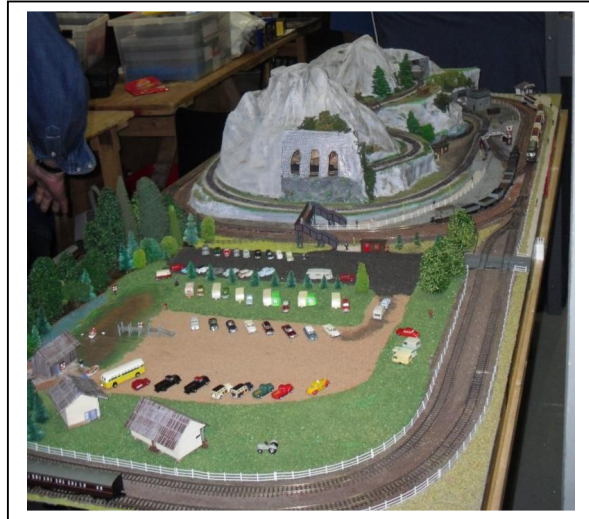
As mentioned last quarter, the plan to run this layout every other week hasn't worked so now both our layouts are run each week and stopped when the permanent way people, builders, scenery personnel and electricians want possession.

This layout continues to run well and is testament to the members who built and wired it all those years ago. The track in the fiddle yard that moved during the warm weather appears to have moved back into place now and normal service has been restored. Ken has been able to stand down his rail replacement bus service at last. Anthony Butler has begun to construct the signal gantry for the shed end station approaches. Now that he has been able to source the brass material he has begun by constructing a jig to ensure that the various components go together square and level. Its effectiveness remains to be seen.

Tipton Hills...

This layout is also run as required but having attended two shows during September including The International N Gauge show, the team have been trying to finish off scenery details. It certainly looked well at TINGS. Special thanks to everyone involved in getting this layout ready.

On the right is a view of Tipton Hills that you don't normally see. Do you know why?



Whartson Hall...

Whartson Hall has now been turned round so that Mike Turner doesn't need to squeeze between the wall and the layout. It would appear that the cake and choccy biscuits during tea have been catching up on him perhaps? Mike continues to deal with lining up the 14 fiddle yard lines to the rest of the layout so that a simple movement of the giant traverser fiddle yard will be all that's required to change running stock. He's written much more about the layout on our website www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

CLUB MEMBERS

Derek Purves

Derek is on the mend after his eye operation and may be able to visit the club in November. We all wish him well and hope to see him then.

Mike Turner

Many of you will know by the lack of hair left in our webmaster's head that Mike has been pulling it out by the clumps in exasperation at the lack of help from his former IT provider regarding access to our own site. This total lack of help has meant that we have now moved away from them to an independent host [no not that type of host] and at the same time renamed the site in line with our club name.

Our new website is <http://www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk/> and because Mike now has access and some hair left he has even updated it. On opening this site you will hear a sound effect of a train - confused - I was - but Mike quick as always told me it's a way of telling the site is working - very clever.

Ignore the blank newsletter pages - they are there in case our newsletter editor has time to produce a larger edition - Mike is really on the ball now. In fact if you still go to our old site which I won't mention because Mike will tell me to wash my mouth out - it automatically takes you to the new site. I know I've just tried it and opened every page before writing this.

Mike says that he has some tidying up to do, I don't know if that means going to the barber or the website, but I want to thank him on behalf of us all for doing all this for the club. Ken Jones.

Ken Jones wishes to thank every one of you, whether it's helping with Tipton Hills before the exhibition, being at the exhibition or just popping in to see us during the weekend - you all played a role in making the INGS a success for Tipton Hills and for the club.

Thank you all for such positive feedback about our layouts, our well organised caterers and the general fun we had over the weekend

Ken will not be at the club now until the AGM, please email him with any agenda items etc.

Anthony Butler Would like to pass on his thanks to all the people who contacted him following his request for help in sourcing brass angle section in the last newsletter. He is particularly indebted to a man known only as 'Pete' who suggested he tried Eileen's Emporium and to David Smith who suggested 4D modelshop. Both of these sources were used and both came up with the goods and a very good service experience from both.

BRANCHLINES AND BYWAYS Ramblings off the cinder path

More Bachmann N Scale Models Released

Bachmann has released five more models in its 'close to' N scale bus & coach range.

379-501 Maidstone & District - Bristol VRT Double Deck Bus

379-518 ? Yellowway ? - Harrington Cavalier Coach - (this model was previously advertised as being Valliant!)

379-561 Birmingham - Guy Arab II Double Deck Bus



379-563 Devon General - Guy Arab IV Double Deck Bus

379-572 Bristol Omnibus - Bristol Lodekka FLF Double Deck Bus

Also, Oxford have made some recent releases...

NBP003 Padfields

NVW005 RED / WHITE

NVW007 GREEN / WHITE

NVW008 YELLOW / WHITE

NVW004 vw camper Senegal red

NVW009 bay window van Regatta blue

NVW010 bay window pick up pastel white

NVW012 bay window camper lime green / white

NTRAC002 Fordson green

NTEA002 Ferg red

NRF007aec greenline modern

NCT002 Citroen 2cv

NBP002 Pantehnicon pickfords

NBL001 Crosville Bristol

Ken Jones.

TRIP WORKINGS

Tipton Hills is booked for the Solihull MRC exhibition on Saturday 9th November. David G will be discussing arrangements for this trip working at the next couple of meetings. The Solihull exhibition will be held at St. Mary's House, Hobs Meadow, Solihull. B92 8PN. 1000 – 1630.

Christine Hodge will be exhibiting **Charleville** at Warley NEC 23rd and 24th Nov 2013.

Waterstock is booked for the Warley Show at the NEC in 2014. This trip working will also be a separate agenda item at our AGM on December 7th. This is being co-ordinated by David G and Rodney.

Our near neighbours **Cradley Heath MRC** have their first ever exhibition on Saturday 19th October from 10 until 5 at Cradley Heath Community Centre, Redall Rd, Cradley Heath.

They promise a good selection of scales and eras from N to gauge 2, steam, transition and contemporary. Some of the layouts are new to the exhibition circuit and worth coming to see. The traditional "Big lump of home made cake", tea and coffee, available all day.

Why not take the morning to pop in and support them before you come up to Tipton in the afternoon? (I'm going – Ed.)



Tony Minchin Operating 'Arley' at TINGS



Mynoras Farm, a Ken Jones layout in a coffee table.
Again at TINGS

OPERATING NOTICES

The AGM will be held on Saturday December 7th commencing at 2pm.

Ken has distributed copies of the minutes of last year's AGM. Please print them off locally and bring to the meeting.

Ken is now also happy to receive agenda items for this years AGM.

2013 PROGRAMME

All meetings are held at Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall, Park Lane West, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8LD, On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in each month, from 2pm to 5pm.

Meeting dates for the rest of this year:

October		19th
November	2nd	16th
December	7th (AGM)	----

Any changes to these dates will be notified on our website or in our (mostly) quarterly newsletter.

For more information, contact

Ken Jones: tel: 0121 777 7062

Email: westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.ngaugewmg.co.uk

Please use the **rear entrance** to gain access to the church hall. If you are in doubt, please ring first, especially if you are travelling any distance.

TAIL LAMP by TB

It has been said that starting is the most difficult part of any endeavour, and modelmaking is certainly no exception. For authors and journalists, the blank sheet of paper being stared at on the desk has indeed been known to strike terror and to leave the mind completely blank. These days of course, the blank pc screen at least offers some hope: File, Edit, Select, Format, Options, Window, Help - it says along the top of the page. (Click on 'Help' – not a sausage! So no ideas for this column this quarter.)

The modelling equivalent, though similar, is likely to be different for all of us. For some it will be the newly opened kit, beautifully boxed and with a colour picture of a professionally assembled model on the label. Peep inside, expectantly lifting the first layer of tissue, there nestled within, the almost treasure-like brass and nickel silver etches, layer upon layer glinting under the anglepoise. Sparkling castings of white metal or brass individually wrapped like confection in more tissue. Who could risk spoiling such a feast for the eyes? So you replace the lid again - best to wait until more experience and courage are gained.

Others will know that the problem is in the wood; the neat bundles of 2x1, cut to length perhaps by B&Q, and the ply or chipboard sheets, also pre-cut to order. Thinks... 'Now, one 4x1 for the terminus, one 3x1 for the fiddle yard, and that odd bit there to make the corner turn.' The experienced onlooker could probably create your planned layout in his mind's eye simply by studying this pile of component timber on the floor of the spare room.

It is all planned and pre-cut but the baseboards will not make themselves. You have to get on with it.

There are a few cures however for when the muse has flown. Having promised the local club exhibition co-ord that you will exhibit at his show the month after next usually does it, but can be so stressful that you will welcome the Monday return to work as something of a break. Of course, having to rush may also compromise the quality of your output too.

You **MUST** make a start though, once you've overcome your initial fears you will find that you build inertia and everything will largely go well, you'll then find it difficult to stop, unless goaded by tea and cake. If you are a beginner, don't worry, a little care and enthusiasm usually finds solutions to problems and you will have learned some valuable lessons. If you are really stuck you can always ask 'that chap you met' on the next club night.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Chairman or indeed any individual club member. On the other hand - they might. May also contain nuts.



EILEEN'S EMPORIUM
Suppliers of tools, equipment and materials for model makers
Unit 19.12, Highnam Business Centre, Newent Rd., Gloucester, GL2 8DN
[Click here to visit our website - sales@eileensemposium.com](http://sales@eileensemposium.com)

CRADLEY HEATH MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

**1st ANNUAL
MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION**
CRADLEY HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE
REDALL HILL ROAD
CRADLEY HEATH
WEST MIDLANDS

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2013

Approx 15-20 quality layouts in gauges N to 0 plus....
Modelling Demonstrations and trade stands.
Free parking, Wheelchair friendly venue, Refreshments
Adults £4:00 Concessions £3:00 Family (2+2) £10:00



Email: CHMRC@hotmail.co.uk

<http://tinyurl.com/CradleyHMRC>

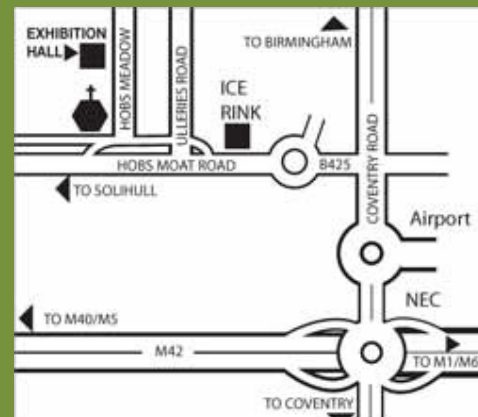


**Exhibition 2013
9th November**

10:00am - 16:30pm

Admission Prices:
Adult **£2.50**
Senior **£2.00**
Child **£1.00**
Family **£6.00**

Where will it be held?...



LOCATION

St Mary's House, Hobs Meadow
Solihull B92 8PN

Motorway: M42 Junction 5
Railway: Olton Railway Station
Airport: BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL

The 71 and 72 buses stop in front of the nearby ice rink.
The 58, 60 and 900 all stop on the A45.
Bus information available from:
Network West Midlands on 0871 200 22 33
or <http://modelshop.co.uk/>

FREE car park next to exhibition



ADDRESS

The Arches, Tower Hamlets,
120 Leman Street,
London E1 8EU

TELEPHONE
020 7264 1288

OPENING TIMES
Mon to Fri 9:00-18:00, Sat 9:30-18:00

<http://modelshop.co.uk/>