
West Midlands' N' Gauge Club

Newsletter

Vol 20 Issue 3

September 2017

OUTWARD JOURNEY

Report on TINGS



I make no apologies for my raisin *d'être*, or the lack of nuts - in my prose, it's just that I prefer raisins or not - depending on my mood.

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 15th December**.

Volume 20 Issue 4 will be published in late December 2017.

Future Newsletter dates

Winter: December 2017

Spring: March 2018

Summer: June 2018

Autumn: September 2018

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From The Chairman

Just back from another successful TINGS where the club had two of its layouts and three members' layouts. A busy weekend, but very enjoyable and thanks to all our readers who came and introduced themselves to us, as well as all the other people interested in our club, our newsletter and our layouts.

We send out over 250 electronic copies of the newsletter once a quarter and in the last newsletter we asked if anyone would help us with publicity. No-one came forward but undeterred we had an article published in the Model Bus Federation Journal and another one in a magazine distributed in parts of Worcestershire plus we have written a similar article for a Coventry based magazine. Publicity at TINGS for our group was very good with Tony & Jane's Ashburton layout being published in Model Rail Magazine, and Vince producing special boards for the event which drew a lot of people onto the stand. Thanks must also go to Claire who organised various fleeces etc. with our logo on, in time for the weekend.

Our goal is to get Whartson Hall built and running by TINGS 2018. The dates for next year's event are September 8th and 9th.

I'm coming to the end of my 20th year as chairman – still no volunteers to replace me – so a big thank you to everyone who over the years have helped to make the club so successful. My thoughts are to those who are no longer with us but whose contributions are everlasting within the club.

Ken Jones

LAYOUTS



Whartson Hall is having track laid – 3 continuous tracks running through a fiddle yard with operators in the middle. It will be about 10 feet long.

Waterstock is fully operational and is in use every club meeting.



EXHIBITION NEWS

by Dave Griffin

The International N' Gauge Show

Thanking all who attended for their support, food and cake was great, I think we can all agree it was a successful weekend.

Gibben Quarry made its debut at TINGS and went down well. We just need to check one of the tracks can be isolated, and it is now ready for further exhibitions. We are looking at building a box for it to make it easier to transport.



WMNGC 21 and still going strong

Tipton Hills ran well at TINGS – it was a replacement for another layout that was unable to make it.



We could have done with a couple of spare people but Vince enjoyed running the layout with some of his longer trains such as a HST, the Midland Blue Pullman and his Longmoor Military Railway set.

Ken's ***Tennis Court Sidings*** was well received by all at TINGS, and kept Dave busy for most of the weekend.



Phil Hunt showed his *GreenWood (Garden) Railway*, to much praise and admiration.



This private layout has to be seen to be believed, the Class 20 freight train goes *up empty* and *comes down full* - watch this space for news of its next public showing. See if you can spot the empty wagons at <https://youtu.be/yPqKXK4KVIw>

Ashburton, the full details of this popular layout can be seen in the September 2017 issue of MODEL RAIL Magazine, including excellent professional photography by *Chris Nevard* - was set up on Saturday morning by Lynn & Sylvia, Tony & Jane.



MEMBERS NOTICES

Ken Jones will be out with some of his layouts during the autumn. Christine and Rodney Hodge continue to exhibit their layouts. **Charlieville** complete with extension was at the Swindon event at the time of TINGS this year but we hope they will go to TINGS with it next year.

Derek Purves has confirmed that ill health now stops him attending the club – our best wishes go to him and his wife.

Mike Turner and Len Bane have been well enough to attend recent club meetings and it's great to see them back.

Jane Minchin helped by Tony is building a modern image layout and we might even see it in 2018.

Vince Painter is well advanced with his modified layout, to be called **Bescut & Walshed** (Blochescwic has been temporarily retired), we hope he will have it at TINGS next year.

CLUB LAYOUTS' NEWS

On the 16 Sept Dave and Mike took **Tipton Hills** to the Trent Valley Club show in Lichfield, once again it was well liked by the public, on the down side the hand held kpc controller decided to give up the ghost, so I purchased a cheap, used one to get us out the muck. All in all a great little show, with the club members helping us in with the layout. DG

Gibben Quarry, Tipton Hills and Waterstock are in use every meeting as members run their stock, and you too are always welcome to bring your stock to the club to run on one of these established exhibition layouts.



MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Charlotte and Jeremy's Canal Wharf Layout part 2

We have reached the stage of near-completion on the canal wharf layout. The area has been named 'Elizabeth Wharf' – Charlotte's middle name and most of the scenery is now in place. It is now a case of putting in little details and trying to populate the layout.



Ballasting is now complete. I was hoping to use Chinchilla bathing dust (or sand) but initially I had trouble finding any so I used bird sand, which is a little coarse in reality. Using a blend of acrylic paint I toned the ballast down to a certain extent and the colour is not unlike the colour Edgar used when weathering the ballast on Gibben Quarry. As the station and wharf are meant to be in a run down condition, I used green scatter material to represent weeds on the track in several places and used black paint to colour the area around the coal bins.



The station platform is a pack of Peco edging covered in mounting board and I have used Scalesscenes downloadable paper to surface it. The shed/hut on the platform is a Ten Commandments product painted up in about 4 different colours. A lot of the usual features are either Ratio or Peco.

I had obtained, through Rodney, some building kits; I have modified two to make low relief buildings for the street and then used some mounting board to create the flat roofed café and shop. Charlotte was insistent that we had a café so it is called Charlotte's Café.

A house move has intervened and stopped progress although, at the time of writing, the layout is in situ in the combined Railway Room/office/dressing room.



WMNGC 21 and still going strong

I have some people to paint up to add plus a signal to build and install. I shall be adding some scrub/bushes and some trees as finance permits and hope also to experiment with static grass in one or two areas. As I said in the first article, this is a test bed and practice piece for a bigger project. For about 3 weeks the layout resided in a friends garage and a little of the paper and card has suffered slightly but all is repairable.

Operationally the layout is goods only. When I was first building it I used my autocoach and 64xx to start a passenger service but now I have choked the platform with weeds and run just freight. The runaround loop holds 4 wagons and a brake van, which is just about right. If I built the layout again, for interest I would probably add more sidings and have a 3 road fiddle yard rather than 2 roads. I can now pop into the railway room, plug in and run a train when I feel like it.

In addition to various Facebook groups, I have been documenting the construction of the layout on 'N Gauge Forum' and was asked to try to get some 'waterline' shots from the canal.



What of the future? There are plenty of details to try my hand at but the next project is to build a small city terminus based around Cyril Freezer's Minorities plan. This, as currently planned, would only have passenger facilities and would run into a cassette style of fiddle yard. It would sit on a row of IKEA storage units with the fiddle yard hanging over the end onto the landing. The aim would be to build to exhibition standards, have a set of suitable legs available and possibly an extension.

JE

In other news:

Oxford Diecast latest arrivals:-

Cars

NAP003 Austin Princess (Late) Carlton Grey/Lt Grey £3.50

Commercial vehicles

NCMP007 CMP Southdown £5.50

NMB002 Mercedes Actros Curtainside Pollock £11.50

NVOL4006 Volvo FH4 Walking Floor A W Jenkinson £11

Farming & Construction

NFARM001 Livestock Trailer £4

NFARM002 Farm Trailer £4

Military ground vehicles

NCMP001 CMP 1st Canadian Infantry Div £5.50

Public Service vehicles

NMA001 Mercedes Ambulance Wales £5.50

Thanks to Ken for the update.

Rodney & Christine continue with their programme of exhibitions.

November *Warley MRC NEC Exhibition*

RETURN JOURNEY

*ERRATUM: **Gibben** Quarry - multitudinous apologies for incorrect spelling in previous Issues, this Issue's picture confirms this to be correct!*

Please email me, with any other erratum to art1san1957@icloud.com

LATEST MOVIES

both clean, cleared of raisins and approved for all raisinable age groups - by the relevant authorities.

From WMNGC at TINGS 2017

taken with my humble 5S, other smartphones are available, just click on a link, if you have the electronic version of this newsletter.

GreenWood Railway <https://youtu.be/yPqKXK4KVIw>

Tipton Hills <https://youtu.be/mknD917axx8>

Critical comments are welcome - they will probably be ignored, but send them anyway - we may be up for a BAFTA next year, or another visit to TINGS - coming soon...TINGS the Sequel - 2018

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NB. The next issue will include, amongst our regular items, more images from TINGS 2017, erratum from this issue, the delayed, and eagerly awaited, yet again, again I know.....Part Two of our article on Heritage Railways - also any and all submissions gratefully received.

Any views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Chairman or any individual club members, on the other hand - they might.

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Our largest exhibition-standard layout *Waterstock*



NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

2017 PROGRAMME

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

Meetings – 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month

January	7th	21st
February	4th	18th
March	4th	18th
April	1st	15th
May	6th	20th
June	3rd	17th
July	1st	15th
August	5th	19th
September	2nd	16th
October	7th	21st
November	4th	18th
December	2nd	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 Website www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

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

Please use the rear entrance at church hall.