West Midlands' N' Gauge Club



Newsletter



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

hen I announced at the end of 2019 that this would be my last year as chairman, I didn't expect that would mean we would be isolated in our homes because of coronavirus. No-one could have predicted that, and it's not the best way to celebrate our 25th Anniversary year. We hope Howard from "N Gauge Now" will come and see us at the club when things get better.

Behind the scenes we have been trying to keep contact with everyone. Mike Turner has updated the website, Vince has been producing interim newsletters and I've been circulating messages etc.

As I write this I don't know when restrictions on mass meetings and social distancing will end, this might mean we have to delay our AGM. Some have sent me messages of concern about this.

S o, I will be staying on as Chairman until we are able to have an AGM, hopefully as usual in December, but if not as soon as things get back to normal.

Meanwhile we hope all our readers and their friends and families are coping with all the problems the virus has brought to our way of life, either as individuals, families or groups.

Stay safe Ken Jones

Our Interim Newsletter has gone out during the past few weeks and I would like to apologise, in advance, for the repetition of certain articles from those, which will appear in future Main Club Newsletters. *Ed*



Chairman: Ken Jones on 0121 777 7062 westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

> Treasurer: Edgar Mason Assisted by : Jeremy Edwards

Exhibition Co-ordinator: David Griffin davejgriffin@outlook.com

Editor: Vince Painter art1san1957@icloud.com

WMNGC

25 YEARS

1

NEWSLETTER DATES



Autumn: September 2020 Winter: December 2020 Spring: March 2021 Summer: June 2021



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 18th September**. Volume 23 Issue 3 *will* be published soon after *Ed*.

CLUB FINANCES - Members please read asap

During this coronavirus epidemic all preserved railways, charities and other organisations are struggling for money and we are no exception except our needs are much smaller. While there have been no club meetings, we have still had to pay bills like rent and insurance. To give you some idea of these costs if we get back in August, we will have paid out nearly £300. If we don't get back until January next year, we will have paid out some £900. If we are forced not to have meetings until a vaccine is found then we will fold as a club because we don't have the cash in our bank account.

So now is the time to be honest with everyone, and whilst it would be nice for many readers of this newsletter to make a donation to the club, that is probably an expectation too far. If we get back together between now and January, we will have to increase costs to members to pull back our losses. If we don't have club meetings until January or until a vaccine is found then as from next January, we will be asking members to donate a minimum of £10 per month to keep the club going.

We haven't finalised the details yet as although we can charge for attendance at club meetings, we cannot force people to give donations and we don't want to. Nine members paying £10 a month will cover current annual costs, more members contributing will give us a working surplus.

I f you would like to make a donation now, however small, to improve our cash flow then please contact Ken our chairman.

Thank you – Edgar Mason & Ken Jones

CLUB LAYOUTS

W ith the club closed nothing is happening to the layouts, so they will need to be checked over and the track cleaned when we get back together.

If we are back before The International N Gauge Show then our priority will be Tipton Hills which is booked to attend the show. It is still boxed up from an exhibition it last attended but nonetheless it needs to be set up and checked over.

However, when we do get back there may still be social distancing rules to follow, and we are currently looking at all options on how to manage this.

We have no idea when model railway exhibitions will start again. It therefore seems pointless to list the exhibitions our members are due to have layouts at while we still have restrictions on mass gatherings, which include model railway exhibitions, so check with sites like UK Model Shop Directory before planning your visit.

The latest exhibition to be cancelled is Zedex which was due to take place in October.



MEMBERS' LAYOUTS

In Happier Times...



FELLOWS & MINCHIN

Freight Depot being tended to by Jane Minchin and Linn Dempster, standing in for Tony Minchin, at TINGS 2018

BESCUT & WALSHED TMD and Old Steam Yard By Vince Painter, tended by Philip Hunt

And to the right lower is Ken Jones' SALVERTON being looked after by Dave Evans at TINGS 2018



Hopefully we can still get this at the next



Joke of the day

NEVER LIKED THE TROLL WHO LIVES UNDER THE LOCAL RAILWAY BRIDGE.

HE'S MY ARCH ENEMY

UNKNOWN AUTHOR

Carrying on the Legacy

By Claire Fisher and Richard Young

Those of you from Club will know that my dad passed away in January 2020, following a battle with cancer. He had been in the process of building a DCC layout in my old bedroom and had been dismantling the track temporarily to do some scenics at the time. CF



The layout in my old bedroom, with track taken up and hills being built

In the following weeks we deconstructed the layout and moved it to my house, where it was stored in pieces in the garage. The move itself required a van to be hired and we hit several challenges in its deconstruction as I had never taken it apart before, and also the lack of power-tools (most had been left to me, and I had already moved them to our house.)

The layout rebuilt in its new home. The track is still in the bags, sorted into one bag per baseboard section.

e eventually got the boards and frame apart and loaded into the hire van, after getting stuck on the stairs, when we realised that the frame didn't fit round the curved staircase!

A couple of weeks prior to the Easter weekend we reassembled the baseboards in their new home. This Easter bank holiday weekend I started trying to piece the track back together to its original plan.

The layout itself is built onto x4 Ikea desktops, each measuring 3x2ft, held in alignment by



dowels and clips. The assembly of the boards was designed to be easy to disassemble and reassemble for any trips to exhibitions. There is a simple wooden frame to support these boards, on x4 Ikea height adjustable desk legs.



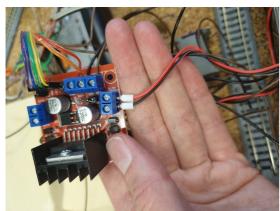
The layout as it is today, with track partially laid back down and many 'spare' pieces.

ssembling the baseboards was fairly simple, however relaying the track, despite images I had taken before deconstruction, was like a jigsaw puzzle. To complicate it more, as the track had not been completely laid at the time of my dad's passing, photographs I had weren't complete. I knew that the track had once been complete, as we'd ran trains on it prior to

Christmas, so I was relying on memory and looking for clues in the pieces of Kato track. Its runs on two levels, with two reversing loops and several sidings.

s it stands right now, the track is 80% laid (I still need to locate the rest of the pieces to complete the higher level loop and the far right hand inner loop). The wiring I have no idea on, I need to eat several large volumes on DCC wiring, to work out the plan there. Many of the pieces have wire droppers already through the baseboard, but not all of these were connected when I took on the layout.

One of the other challenges I have is that my dad was building a lot of the components from scratch using Arduinos and other electronics. I have some already attached to the various pieces of the layout and several drawerfuls besides to identify.



A handmade component, currently of unknown purpose.

To be continued.....eventually......

MEMBERS' SUBMISSIONS

An interesting project (Sherlock Holmes rides again)

When I first got back into railway modelling I joined the Sutton Coldfield Railway Society. Here I met Rodney Hodge. Rodney was, at the time, disposing of the modelling paraphernalia of an N Gauge modeller who had sadly passed away. I bought a couple of wagons and an autocoach for a very reasonable price. Shortly afterwards Rodney presented me with two shirt boxes full of bits and pieces which I purchased for a nominal fee. One box contained loads of bits mainly from a number of Peco engine shed kits in N, these were left over from a project to construct a warehouse. The second contained what appeared to be loads of odd bits and some instructions for a Ratio station building kit; it also contained this partly built model.



I thought at the time that it might prove useful for a station building at some time. It came with one chimney fitted and a large canopy for one side. I was unsure about what it was, who manufactured the kit etc. When I started planning a permanent home layout I knew I needed some serious station buildings as I needed a main building plus some buildings for two island platforms. I had a Faller 'Mittelstadt' N gauge kit which

I hadn't built from a previous incarnation so I put that together for the main building, anglicised it a bit and gave it some serious weathering. I thought this building would go well on an island platform.

The first step was to find out what it was, so I took the above photo and posted it up on the N Gauge Forum Facebook page. Several answers came forth suggesting perhaps a Vollmer or Kibri kit, and a trawl on eBay showed nothing in either range both modern or past product. Someone then said bits looked like Teignmouth Station. A second search based on that information showed a kit with a similar roofline. It was indeed a kit of Teignmouth Station by Heljan, but the only one made was in 00. A conundrum – how? what?

A careful examination of the spare bits and pieces showed that indeed it was constructed from a 00 kit for Teignmouth. The roof had been carefully modified to remove the toilet extension and extend the main roof. Walls had been carefully sliced at the top of window and door openings, then the excess carefully removed from the top section of the walls between the windows and doors. All had then been glued together, the doors and windows either modified or replaced with N gauge items (I'm not sure which) and then a backing of thin plastic sheet fitted to the back to provide strength. One chimney had been fitted and slots cut to fit more.

Prawbacks: it was stone and my big building was brick, I couldn't get suitable chimneys to match the one fitted as I think it was partly scratch built, the canopy was too big and there was only one available. In the box there was one Ratio canopy kit partly built to go on the other side – presumably for the road side entrance.

Remedies:

Step one, give the whole wall sections a coat of Tamiya 'deck tan' colour, windows and doors painted in Humbrol enamel 'chocolate' colour. The roof was painted in the same base grey colour I used for the big building then I used a combination of 'brick' type colours in both acrylic and enamel dry brushed on to represent the brickwork and match the other building.





tep two,

put together three Ratio canopy kits (the canopy used on the Ratio station building), trim them to length and add the valancing. Two of these were painted up and fitted to each side of the building. The slots cut in the roof had been filled and four Ratio chimneys were fitted from their chimney kit.

S tep three, once the canopies had been securely fixed in place the roof was weathered with a coat of dilute acrylic

black paint wiped off with a cotton bud followed by a layer of a MIG dark enamel based wash and a MIG green wash similarly treated.

To finish off I used some Humbrol 'Smoke' weathering powder on the chimneys and the top of the roof.

All that was left to do was to do a little touching up and add some posters and signs.





I'm now looking for another Heljan Teignmouth Station kit to allow me to build a similar, but not identical, building for another platform — there are quite a lot of bits in the shirt box but I need some longer pieces of wall.

Modelled and scripted by Jeremy Edwards, with a little help from Watson.

MY BLACK COUNTRY inspired train set Part 1 By Neal Bosher

(a Newsletter reader and visitor to our Club)

his is my first foray into N gauge, my previous layouts being in 00, so twice the size, but also, as I have since learned, half the fun. My record of layout planning has always seen me trying to cram a lot into the available space, which usually results in some sort of rabbit warren, which, while decidedly nonprototypical, makes running trains in a small space approximately twice the fun in my book. Accepting the unlikeliness of such a layout, I do plan, in future, to make something that resembles the prototype, possibly Pensnett Circa 1985. Until then, this layout is going to try and capture that Black Country 'something' in the 1980's - being, amongst other things: factories, Railfreight, blue brick retaining walls, steel and smoke.

oving to the Black Country to settle down with my beloved and our little boy, sparked an interest in the local industrial heritage, which, combined with my interest in the BR 'blue tops' and 'sectorisation' eras, had my head spinning with possibilities. You've just got so much of it over this side of Brum, it's great.

The plan is on a 5'6" x 3' board on two levels, if stretched out it would resemble a terminus to return loop so an 'out and back' configuration, except that the upper and lower levels have ovals to allow running trains around. The baseboard is hinged off the garage wall so it can be stowed out of the way easily.

he terminus in the centre of the layout can accommodate a 2+3 HST set and a diesel loco plus 4 Mk1 coaches, it's a bit of a squeeze and loco hauled trains need to be turned by the station pilot that lives in the nearby engine shed. A 2 car DMU and parcels trains complicate matters further, and yes I think I'll be needing a fiddle yard, well two actually if I include the spur for the steel works.



The sidings to the west of the layout are the exchange sidings for 'Brier Oak' steel works and will be shunted by the eagerly awaited NGS Hunslet.

The factory to the east end will be called something like 'Amalgamated Consumer Products' and will provide an excuse for just about any traffic that I fancy including trip workings up the gradient from Brier Oak steel works. The sidings labelled as a road/rail terminal will likely be the home of LCP Fuels and provide an excuse for the comings and goings of my coal carrying stock and a nice rake of TTA wagons I recently acquired (in this reality LCP fuels also deal in fuel oil as well as coal and coke). Somehow, hopefully, I'll be able to model a rapid unloader and some fuel tanks into this small area.

owards the North East corner of the layout is the local MPD which provides a home for my growing collection of Blue diesels, no doubt it'll end up housing the odd vagrant or two as well, due to my habit of impulse buying the occasional loco just because it looks nice. The whole east end of the board will be taken up with a fictional high street that steals buildings from Brierley Hill and other local centres, I'll cherry pick the buildings I like best and stick them together. A road downhill to the central area of the layout will be home to a mish mash of housing and industry that seems to typify the area, along with a replica of the Vine /Bull and Bladder in Amblecote, because I feel it deserves homage.

I 've tripped up by not including a canal so far, although perhaps I can shoehorn one in somewhere, it'll involve some civil engineering work on the baseboard so I am wary.

The first building for the layout is complete, a Victorian era engine shed for the terminus that has

survived rationalisation and even got a new roof. It started off as a Modelux kit that went together well apart from the roof which looked iffy, so I rebuilt it using some cereal packet card. The building was glazed using the clear plastic that the kit came in, all very efficient. Some ratio guttering was added and now the building is ready to plant.

The layout is wired for DCC so far with points wired in the traditional manner on seep pm2 solenoids, so not 'full' DCC but partial.





The control panel is visible in the picture to the left.

Things have moved on somewhat since this picture was taken and the first trains have taken to the upper level, diesels dealing with the 3% gradient without any hiccups.

ork is currently afoot on a modern

Scalescenes engine shed for the MPD and more track has been acquired to build the terminus and sidings NB

We look forward to the next instalments. Ed

MEMBERS' TRAVELS

TENNIS COURT SIDINGS - revisited

at Syston Model Railway Society Show in Sileby Community Centre, Leicestershire. By Ken Jones

Tennis Court Sidings is a British N Gauge layout set in the present somewhere in the south west of England. It's a small preservation site seldom open to the public, but the local bus enthusiasts have totally renovated the old Western National garage and surrounding area. They are holding a bus rally and the railway is open as well.

The layout also retains the tennis court, once part of the sports facilities offered by the local bus company to its employees, and which lends its name to the layout.

With strong winds the open top bus services on Tennis Court Sidings were suspended

yesterday and local flooding in Sileby area was also seen as a potential

hazard. Jeremy Edwards, who helped out at the depot

during the weekend, particularly overseeing the running of the trains, took the attached picture before the open top buses left for their home base in the West Midlands.

Five open top buses arrived on Saturday morning before the rain set in and some were

giving free rides around the N gauge depot. it was just too hazardous to operate them on Sunday and the drivers grouped together over bacon sandwiches to decide the best routes home.

As always it was a great weekend and special thanks go to the event organisers. KJ

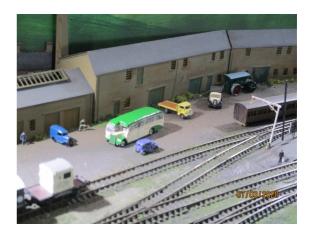


JEREMY did a bit of 'judging' during his free time and spotted KARONA FALLS

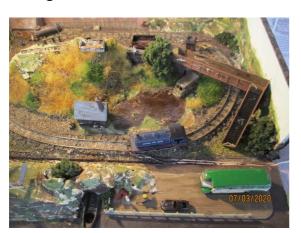
KEN'S Little Bits make a welcome return.....

Malcolm Hall has scratch-built another N gauge coach for me. It is a model of EHL 336 - a Leyland PS2 from 1953 with imposing 30 ft x 8 ft Roe body, new to west Riding, as fleet number 725.





The model visited 3 layouts as part of the recent Wombourne model railway event. The layouts were all from members of the West Midland N Gauge Club.





The full size coach is part of the Roger Burdett collection.

Pictures by Ken Jones

Did you know that the West Midlands Group of the 009 Society is also celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year? They managed to have special cakes at a meeting before the lockdown. Several of our members, such as Derek Purves, have over the years built 009 layouts, and the 2 clubs have often exhibited at local model railway exhibitions. Of course, we have had home made cakes at most of our meetings throughout the 25 years, and did you know that our members often cite the cakes as the reason they come to our meetings. If you are interested in the local 009 group then you can contact Julien Webb on 0121 3823479 [7-9pm only] or email him at julienwebb@westmidlands009.co.uk

The WMNGC wishes them every success for the next 25 years.

COMPETITION answers

Volume 23 Issue 1's challenge.



Of course it's the famous Pacer, or Class 142, Stabled at Chasewater Railway the weekend of Peaky Blinders



Chasewater purchased two Pacer trains to prevent them from being scrapped.

Leasing company Angel Trains, which owns more than 100 of the Pacers used by Northern on their Yorkshire routes, has sold two of the 'second generation' Class 142 units to the Chasewater Railway in Staffordshire, where they are being preserved.

The railway runs steam and vintage diesel locomotives on a stretch of the former Aldridge to Brownhills branch of the Midland Railway, and is open to the public most of the year, with trains running on weekends from April to November.

http://www.chasewaterrailway.co.uk/

a great place to spend a Sunday with the family Ed

APOLOGY:

I have recently started the competition page and am now just getting the gist of it. Seemingly, to illicit a response one has to introduce fake news stories, hence spurring on the erudite to correct the Editor - and rightly so in this free society of ours - only through interrogation of the perceived facts can one come up with a correct answer - thank you to **Sam from Lancashire** for correcting me on the erroneous path I took in Volume 23 Issue1 *Ed* - see correction below:

On p.14 of Vol23 Issue 1, the top image isn't of Manchester Piccadilly, London Road, but rather shows the cutting at Edge Hill on the outskirts of Liverpool which leads to Liverpool Lime Street Station.

There are no cuttings near Manchester Piccadilly station, it's all on viaducts until you get to the west or north of the city.



A postcard view of early Manchester station follows (Unknown Copyright & Now in the Public Domain)

The frontage of London Road station c.1905, the main building dated from c.1866.

CAPTION COMPETITION - no answers were proffered, so I'll have a go! *Ed* Image taken during a Sunday visit to the Stafford Show, was a meeting between members of *our* Club, David Griffin and Rodney Hodge - no doubt discussing the merits of O over N (O/N=4), or some other mathematical formula.

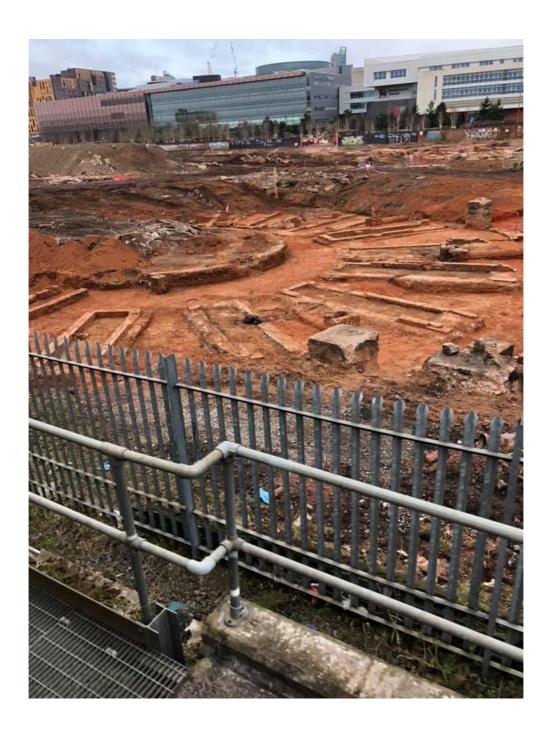


COMPETITION page

This Issue's Challenge:

is to locate where on earth this Roundhouse site is/was, uncovered during preparative groundworks as part of a rather large national engineering project?

Answers on a postcard please by email, messaging, What's App, IG etc Or just phone the Editor! No prizes, austerity rules, get your name in lights!

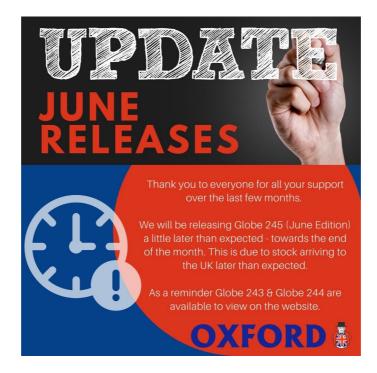


SUPPLIERS



https://www.oxforddiecast.co.uk/collections/1-148

Keep an eye on their website for the latest releases.



Don't forget to visit UK Model Shops' Directory to keep up to date with all happenings in this wonderful hobby of ours, including alphabetical indexing of Model Shops, Events, Suppliers and much more - for instance here is a sample screenshot of a search for N' Gauge Suppliers - *Help spread the word!* http://www.ukmodelshops.co.uk/



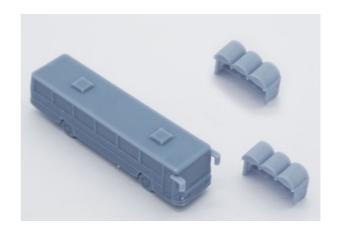
OUTLAND MODELS

a Chinese company producing loads of 3D structures and buildings for N gauge layouts and these are available via eBay at:

https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/i.html? from=R40& sacat=0& nkw=outland%20models%20n%20gauge&rt=nc&LH PrefLoc=2& trksid=p2045573.m1684

They also produce smaller items such as this new 3D N gauge coach. It comes as in the second picture and you have to cut off the mouldings, or ideal if you wanted to





make a coach crash scene.

It's a left hand drive model and would need painting. It comes with what are described as "sheds".

KAMI DE KOROKORO (Piccolo Model Factory) http://radjapan.ocnk.net/product-list/37 Ed

Japanese 1:144 scale kit of the LGOC Type B Omnibus.

Ref: Mini MF 104 (also referred to as MMF 104)

Model Name: London Bus WWI

Material: Resin Kit

Scale: 1:144

Released: May 2015





Info provided by Ken Jones

MEMBERS' NOTICES - or here's what you could've seen

DIARY DATES - all subject to COVID-19 restrictions being eased, but never the same again.

HERE'S HOPING - But Most probably CANCELLED - CHECK BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

1. For **all**:

Sat/Sun 12/13th September TINGS 2020 Sat/Sun 28/29th November WARLEY 2020

2. For **Ken**:

Sat 15th August Milton Keynes not confirmed Silver Fox

Sat/Sun 12/13th September N Gauge Show Le Club 143 Dave Evans assist

Sat 3rd October **Telford** Salverton
Sat 31st October **Birmingham** Le Club 143

3. For Rodney & Christine:

TBC

4. For **Nigel:** Sketchford at all.....

Sat 29th Aug Bourneville Model Club, Northfield

Sat/Sun 12/13th Sept The International N Gauge Show, Learnington Spa

Sat 3rd Oct Telford Modellers' Club, Telford

Pending - Sat/Sun 5/6th Dec - BRM's Exhibition, Peterborough Show Ground NH

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU NEED TO CHECK ALL
EXHIBITIONS' WEBSITES, LOCAL PRESS & MODEL SHOPS
FOR ANY LAST MINUTE CHANGES - AT THE TIME OF
PUBLISHING MOST ARE POSTPONED AT LEAST, WITH
SOME CANCELLED COMPLETELY UNTIL NEXT YEAR

RETURN JOURNEY

Otherwise known as the Editorial

My Raisins to be cheerful:

- 1. The country is slowly coming out of lockdown.
- 2. I've continued listening to War Of The Worlds, By Jeff Wayne, for reasons why?
- 3. I am testing a Facebook Group page just for our members', past & present.

Find here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/WMNGC/?ref=share

It'll work for those already on Facebook (sorry Ken J). Let me know how you get on.

- 4. We have all made it this far.
- 5. It's our 25th year.
- 6. Mike's happier now the website has been updated, not the easiest of tasks dissecting Newsletters to extract the impossibly protected images provided by yours truly well done Mike, not a task I would've undertaken.

On a more serious note it seems that COVID-19 has taken over life as we know it.

- I think we've all seen the lighter side of our people's response, come on everyone:

WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY, KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

EDITORIAL IDEAS BOX

The CUT-TINGS

A play on words, TIPTON cut, TINGS TIPTON CUTTINGS

Newsletter & railway cuttings, sniping comments, separation of (cut), canal of course
please feel free to doodle and send me YOUR ideas for YOUR newsletter to art1san1957@icloud.com

If you think it's readable or not, text big enough, I know you can change the size

in your device settings, but some prefer the printed, paper version

CREDITS

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

PLEASE USE YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVICE

Special Thanks to Club Members & Guest for their articles: Neal Bosher, Jeremy Edwards, Claire Fisher & Richard Young, Ken Jones



Edited on Apple iPad Pro running iOS for iPad 2019

(other devices & operating systems are available)Ed



NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

2020 PROGRAMME



Meetings - 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

June	6 th	20 th
July	4 th	18 th
August	1 st	15 th
September	5 th	19 th
October	3 rd	17 th
November	7 th	21 st
December	5 th	AGM

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

For more N' Scale information:
Call Ken Jones on 0121 777 7062, email westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk
Or Visit our Club Website http://www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk/

BE HAPPY AND KIND TO OTHERS

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

Please use rear entrance at the Church Hall.