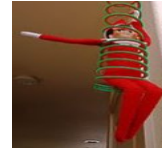


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*West Midlands' N' Gauge Club*

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*Newsletter*



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**Vol 20 Issue 4**

**December 2017**

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OUTWARD JOURNEY

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL



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 16th March**.

**Volume 21 Issue 1** will be published in late March 2018.

**Future Newsletter dates**

Spring: March 2018

Summer: June 2018

Autumn: September 2018

Winter: December 2018

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### **From the Chairman**

I have now completed 20 years as chairman of the club and with no “volunteers” to take over, so it’s a good time to thank everyone who has helped over the years and to remember those who are no longer with us.

I’m retiring from full time employment at the end of the year but have plenty to do. My N gauge layout in the loft has been dormant for over a decade as has my z gauge layout in the conservatory, both have track problems. Fortunately neither has been ballasted.

I’d like to get my dual gauge N / Nn3 layout running again and perhaps take it to TINGS 2019. My Moving Bus tray layout will be at TINGS 2018 and others of my layouts will be out and about during the year as will club layouts and those from members such as Christine & Rodney, and Jane & Tony.

When the club started in 1995 nearly everyone was also a member of the N Gauge Society, but things change and so now only about 50% of the club members are also members of the N Gauge Society, so for the first time we enter the New Year without being an Area Group.

I’ve just had a couple of pictures published in a classic bus magazine so I think I’ll try and create more pictures worthy of publication.

Meanwhile, let me wish all our readers Seasonal Greetings and Have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

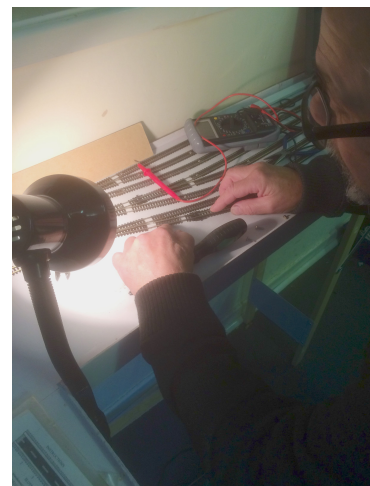
Ken Jones

### **LAYOUTS**

#### ***Whartson Hall***

Plans are well underway for the electrics, including provision for automatic signalling, courtesy of Edgar and Len. Mike and Dave have spent many hours laying track and proof running, all hands to the rails on Saturday meetings please.

***Waterstock, Tipton Hills and Gibben Quarry*** are operational and in use at club meetings.



**MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

***Fellows & Minchin Freight Depot***

*By Jane Minchin*

After years of helping my husband Tony with his layouts, I eventually decided to have a layout of my own.

I have decided to have a modern layout with of course modern rolling stock.

It is a freight depot, a fictional one, based somewhere in the West Midlands.

As to what to call it, well after some deep thought the name of my layout is ***Fellows & Minchin Freight Depot***.



The reason behind this is I am the 'Fellows' part of Fellows Morton & Clayton, the famous Canal carriers of the early 20th Century.



One of their canal narrow boats is preserved and can be seen at the Black Country Museum.

The firm first started by James Fellows, it eventually expanded and merged with Frederick Morton & Thomas Clayton. They transported goods, mainly coal, all over the country by canal.

So as not to enter into copyright or anything like that, I decided to call my

layout Fellows & Minchin - my maiden name and married name.

I decided to take it to the club, to see what people thought. There is still one or two things to add to it.

Got to do the sign and the material to put round, if I take it to exhibitions. I have filled in a form for TINGS 2018. So fingers crossed it will be accepted. Have attached some photos so hope you like it.



***STOP PRESS:***

The following layouts have been accepted at TINGS 2018, subject to final confirmation.

*Whartson Hall* - Club Layout

*Moving Bus Tray* - Ken Jones

*Fellows & Minchin Freight Depot* - Jane Minchin

*Bescut & Walshed* - Vince Painter

***Book Review:***

British 1:148 N Gauge Modelling, By Grahame Hedges

When I borrowed this book from a Club Library I was told that I was the first person to borrow it so I thought I would write a quick review – not that book reviews are my strength.

I'm not a new N Gauge Modeller but a returnee after at least 15 years, so I borrowed this book as a part of my education about recent developments and found it very useful.

Grahame starts off by pointing out that the book is not a general “new modeller’s introduction” but covers specifics on British N Gauge only.

For that reason there are no sections on things like general baseboard construction, wiring and scenery basics but, he concentrates on specifics of N Gauge modelling. If you are a *new* modeller then this book should be read *after* a book covering the basics of modelling.

There are 11 chapters and 10 appendices. The chapters cover such topics as the history of British N Gauge up to about 2013 (fairly up to date), care of motive power, buildings, detailing etc. These chapters contain lots of useful general information but, all are backed up by “Shows you How” type sections, on coloured background, explaining specifics like wagon weathering, constructing simple building kits etc. The book contains lots of good quality photographs illustrating both general modelling and some of the specifics in the special sections. Examples of layouts are generally the author’s own layouts but there are photos of modern classic N Gauge layouts too.

My conclusion – a good book for someone who knows the basics or a recent new modeller who wants to develop their skills further. It doesn’t go into detailed specifics of things that are common to other scales and gauges like ‘electrics’. It is well written and the text is easily understandable.

*Jeremy Edwards*

### Sentinal Steam Bus

As seen in a certain Journal recently (which some of our members may not have seen), this Sentinal Steam Bus is based on that seen at Steam Rallies. It was built using three white metal kits and some scratch building.



- Bus kit from old DG model kit
- Sentinal Lorry kit - PD Marsh
- Steam boiler from a 00 Shand Fire Engine kit - Langley Models.

The front of the buses made from a lorry mudguard, out of the Langley Bits box.

It had its first trip on the Tennis Court Sidings layout at TINGS 2017.

### MEMBERS NOTICES

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

### RETURN JOURNEY

#### **ERRATUM:**

Please email me, with any erratum to [art1san1957@icloud.com](mailto:art1san1957@icloud.com)

NB. The next issue will include 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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*FREE NEWSLETTER Ed.*



# SHOCK, HORROR

ELF ON THE LINE

almost derails the Christmas 2017 Newsletter



WMNGC 21 and still going strong

Our largest exhibition-standard layout *Waterstock*



## NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

### 2018 PROGRAMME

Meetings will be held at:

Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall, Park Lane West, Tipton, West Midlands.

DY4 8LD

Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in each month

January	6 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>st</sup>
February	3 <sup>rd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
March	3 <sup>rd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
April	7 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
May	5 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
June	2 <sup>nd</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>
July	7 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
August	4 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
September	1 <sup>st</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
October	6 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
November	3 <sup>rd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
December	1 <sup>st</sup>	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](mailto:westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk) Website [www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk](http://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.**