
West Midlands' N' Gauge Club

Newsletter

Vol 19 Issue 4

December 2016

OUTWARD JOURNEY

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE



I make no apologies for my raisin d'aitre, 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 21st March**, *it isn't just for layout news!*

Volume 20 Issue 1 will be published in late March 2017.

Newsletter dates

Spring: March 2017

Summer: June 2017

Autumn: September 2017

Winter: December 2017

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From The Chairman

I'm writing this just after our AGM at which I was re-elected Chairman. This means next year sees me having done this role for 20 consecutive years as I was elected Chairman at the end of 1996 following the sudden death of our founding chairman. In February 1997 we started our newsletter – one A4 sheet of paper, text only, photocopied and handed out to members and posted to anyone who would send us some stamps. Nowadays we send out 6 hard copies and nearly 300 electronic copies of a much expanded newsletter with colour pictures.



2017 will also see me reaching 65 and getting a state pension. So a large part of my life has been taken up with the club which in 1997 was building the first board of our first club layout. Now we have 4 club layouts and many more members' layouts.

I'm celebrating by having a z gauge layout built for me. It is 49 x 42 cm and it is 22 cm high with the lid on, continuing my theme and liking for small working layouts in N.Z and T gauge.

I've met thousands of interesting people in these 20 years and many have helped the club or me over the years. One person I want to mention is Chris Burch, who was also interested in small layouts and who started The Braunstone Show which I have supported over the years. Unfortunately Chris died suddenly during the weekend of this year's show. He will be greatly missed.

On a good point we have managed to bring Mike Turner to the club as he has not been able to get here for over a year and his health prevents him currently from driving. We hope to bring him again to the club in 2017. He and his partner Anne have just moved house and hopefully this will encourage Mike to get back into N gauge modelling. Everyone wishes them both every success in their new home.

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas

Ken Jones

CLUB LAYOUTS' NEWS

By Dave Griffin - Exhibition Co-ordinator



West Midlands N' Gauge Club 'on tour' 12th November
West Bromwich open day, in Wednesbury Museum.

Tony & Linn with Ashburton, Phil with our new layout, Gibbons Quarry.

Gibbons Quarry took its first steps on the exhibition circuit with its first outing at the West Bromwich Model Railway Club open weekend, at Wednesbury museum. Whilst not yet complete it was amazing to hear some of the comments regarding the snow scene that had been created and how we had achieved a 'dirty snow' finish! A few old buildings and vehicles were added to the layout to give it a bit of context.



We did get a number of favourable comments on what the layout was trying to do and for people to see how things are constructed.

With the number of isolating sections on the layout and not knowing where all sections were on the layout I just switched all the sections on; disconnected the controller and

connected the DCC controller much simpler to operate then. (This is the box on top of the layout in the picture).

A couple of minor changes to the back scene were required, as one brake van had a longer chimney stack on it which gets the whole train stuck; fortunately this was found out the night before and corrected on the day with a junior hacksaw!

Overall the layout worked well over the day and kept going. One minor hiccup the day before was that the points didn't work. On checking underneath one wire had come loose in the move just on the CDU. Otherwise on the day they all worked all day.

The tight corner at the bottom did limit the use of some locos due to its radius and a couple of locos has issues at the point where it went into the dead section. The section from this point to the station siding could be improved; as you could not leave a loco in the station and use the siding at the top.

(We look forward to more reports and pictures in the next issue Ed)

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Private visit to DAPOL Members' Open Day, CHIRK 1st October

By Vince Painter

Having recently joined the Dapol Collectors Club, and being invited to the Club's Annual Open Day, I drove to Chirk with great expectation.

The Open Day was run like an exhibition, with access to their on site shop and demonstrations from visiting enthusiasts.

One of the stands was Modelu, so I just had to get myself modelled in 3D! More info on this can be found at: <http://www.modelu3d.co.uk>

I then moved on to see a plastics injection moulding machine, with demonstrations going on through the day.



On then to see the Club's work-in-progress modular layout and a presentation by the Dapol Team on future developments and current products' review - lunch was catered for, with many



hand made cakes, and everyone seemed happy with a very comfortable and pleasant day out.

Those who had requested it were treated to a free Collectors' Limited Edition wagon of their scale choice and even had a hand in the construction - great fun! There was also an opportunity to purchase Not Quite Perfect stock - this proved very popular as can be seen from the 'scrumimage' below!



I would definitely recommend joining the club if you have interest in RTR of any of the 'big three' Gauges (N, OO and O *Ed*), and get in on the ground floor with latest news on product development. See their website at www.dapol.co.uk for details.

RETURN JOURNEY

ERRATUM - can't think of any, unless of course you know different - email me at art1san1957@icloud.com Ed.

HERITAGE RAILWAYS

Part One

The **Severn Valley Railway** is a heritage railway in Shropshire and Worcestershire, England. The 16-mile (26 km) heritage line runs along the Severn Valley from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster, crossing and following the course of the River Severn



for much of its route.

Train services are hauled predominantly by steam locomotives, however diesel is also used on designated days and during periods of high fire risk.

The railway is one of the most popular heritage railways in the country as well as being the sixth-longest standard gauge heritage line in the United Kingdom, it hosts

numerous special events throughout the year, including both steam and diesel galas.

For up to date information, go to <http://www.svr.co.uk/>



© Images from a private visit by
Vince Painter at Bewdley in
September 2007
and





.....Bridgnorth earlier this year.

*NB. The next issue will include, amongst our regular items, erratum from this issue, Part Two of our article on Heritage Railways and a possible return for our **Rants 'N' Raves** page - any and all submissions gratefully received - come on if you've got a bee in ya bonnet let me know!*

Any 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.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL *Ed.*

NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

Our main Club layout WATERSTOCK.....



OPTICAL ILLUSION?

(Still my favourite shot, until someone comes up with a better one! Ed)

No this isn't two photos!

If you're wondering how the fiddle yard joins onto the main part of the layout, come and have a look!



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