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*West Midlands' N' Gauge Club*

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*Newsletter*

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Vol 22 Issue 1

March 2019

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*OUTWARD JOURNEY*

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 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Volume 22 Issue 2 *will* be published towards the middle of that month.

Newsletter dates for 2019/20

Summer: June 2019

Autumn: September 2019

Winter: December 2019

Spring: March 2020

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Assisted by : Jeremy Edwards

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## ***From our Chairman***

We're now in spring and winter seems to have really flown by this year helped by the warm weather we had in February. Some of us have already had our layouts at exhibitions this year. I've had one layout at the excellent Sileby show in February and I have three of my small layouts at the Belper exhibition in March. That doesn't mean we have ignored the club layouts during this period. In fact we have had a good attendance of members during the last few months, more than we would expect for winter and some new members have also joined the club which is always good news.

Thanks to everyone who helps with supplies and fixing all our layouts, as well as those who supply cakes etc.

Our website has been updated by Mike T.

## ***Layouts***

***Whartson Hall*** - The colour signals are in and working thanks to Edgar.

There is a signal at both ends of the station on the bi-directional line and the one not in direction of travel automatically stays on red.



Phil and others have been doing the ends for leaflets etc. and Dennis has



been busy with his 3D printer making the road bridge and tunnel portals. It is due out at the Lutterworth show in May.

***Waterstock*** - Dave has replaced the single slip that has been causing problems, the club have been testing it out with numerous train movements.

***Gibben Quarry*** - Dave has replaced the broken point, and the new one has been tested and re-ballasted.

***Tipton Hills*** - still in its box since being exhibited last autumn.

*Happy Modelling, Ken Jones*

## ***EXHIBITIONS***

1. From TINGS 2018: a reminder for those who haven't seen this excellent video:  
clicking the link takes you to a '*circular*' video playing site.

<https://youtu.be/xZzvs0MpPqk>

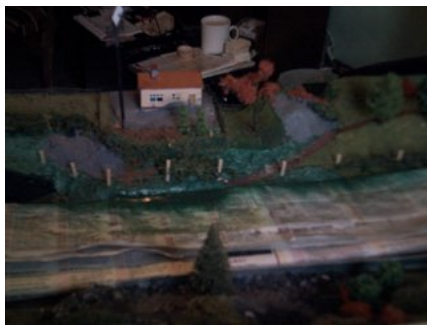
2. Phil's **GreenWood 'garden' Railway** performed very well during the weekend of 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at Stafford 2019, ably assisted by club members, entertaining hundreds of visitors with the 'magic' of timber loads being unloaded and loaded in a never ending cycle.





## **MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Early days, 4 images of a new layout from *Jim Webster*.



## ***SKETCHFORD somewhere on there W.C.M.L***

*By Nigel Harrold*

Sketchford is, or will be, a modern era dcc layout located somewhere on the electrified 'West Coast Main Line' and hopefully having its first public showing at T.I.N.G.S in September 2019 (fingers crossed). I have been working on building a portable layout and perhaps one I could take to shows, for some two years now. I had previously attempted to build layouts in OO and in N gauge but, these were a permanent fixture in the spare room, and I had to pull them apart, destroying them, when moving house. So I decided that my next N gauge layout should be portable, so that if we had to move again, there would be no problem moving the layout as well.

Not having built a layout like this before, I thought it best to join a model railway club. I could find two or three clubs within a small radius of where I lived, but they all meet on a week night, which is no good for someone like me who works nights. So that's when I came across the 'West Midlands N Gauge Club' who meet on a Saturday, so with that I became a member in February 2017. In my time at the club I have had some very good advice from members, which in turn has saved me from going about the building of the layout in the wrong way i.e. how to join the boards and how to make it easy to transport them.

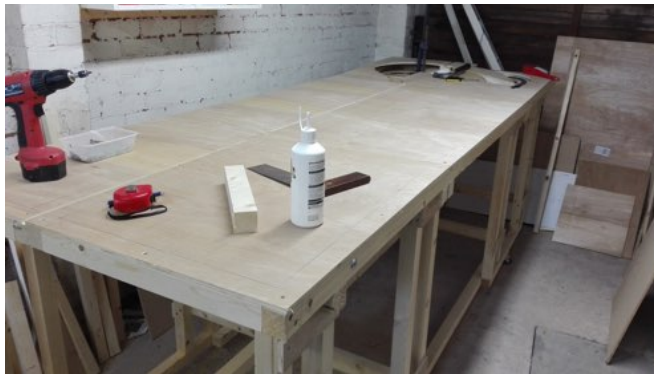
## WMNGC 23 and keeping the trains running

I was originally going to base the layout on Water Orton, but finding out that the club had Warts and Hall (becoming Whartson Hall), based on Water Orton, in the pipeline, I looked at where to base my layout on and then decided on Stetchford.

A name for the layout - well, being roughly (a *sketch*) based on Stetchford, I decided to name the layout **Sketchford**.

Originally Sketchford was going to be like Stetchford station and junction, with the main line and junction at the north end of the three platform station. But with the layout being financed by my overtime and overtime being cut due to what's happening with Brexit, I had to look at saving money by removing the junction and branchline. Sketchford is now a station in a urban area with terraced housing, small industrial estate to the south, and river to the north.

Sketchford will have a regular stopping service with 'London Midland' 350 Desiro's and the odd 'Crosscountry' Voyager service.



*Base boards built.*

So far with the layout I have laid the track to the fiddle yard and main boards, with the main middle scenic board wired and most of the scenery done. With an update in the next issue of the newsletter (*we look forward to that* Ed) I should have finished the three scenic boards and am looking at building the control panel for the fiddle yard.

*Track laid for first time before removing junction, branchline and platform 3.*



*Same as above but with some of the scenery started.*

## WMNGC 23 and keeping the trains running

*Sketchford with nearly all the scenery completed on the center main board.*



*different view,  
O.H.L.E to finish off etc.*

*NH*

***From Jeremy,  
Episode 1 - December 2018***

In the December 2018 issue of this Newsletter, Vince kindly printed a short piece with a couple of photos of my new layout 'Charlotte Street'. This was mainly lifted, with my permission, from some of my posts on various Facebook N Gauge groups. At the time that the *Newsletter* was published, I had just laid the trackwork on the main board. At the time of starting to write this episode, I have just connected the trackwork in a 'jury rig' fashion and tested my wiring skills with the cheap Hornby controller that I used on my test track and Elizabeth Wharf, as the Gaugemaster controller was still en- route.



This is the state of the layout showing the basic track plan.



I think the ‘backstory’ might be important here along with the design considerations. The situation is purely fictional and based around the arrangements in Bristol with a little ‘historical licence’. The main station in the town was built by the Great Western Railway Company (as per Bristol Temple Meads) and some time after that the Midland Railway built a line from Gloucester which ran into Temple Meads. When the lines got busier, the Midland Railway built Bristol St Philips which was a simple terminus to take mainly trains from Bath to relieve the pressure on Temple Meads, although re-modelling there meant that St Philips became superfluous. German bombing in WW2 caused other local problems and the main retail area moved away from the St Philips area. Passenger services closed in the early ‘50s and goods services continued until the mid ‘60s. *Charlotte Street* has a similar ‘fictional’ history, although passenger services remain, with some services linking to the main Western Region station and some semi-fast traffic. The line into Charlotte Street was originally double track but was later reduced to single track.

Design considerations are a little novel. Ken Jones builds layouts on all sorts of different items including suitcases, trays and video cases. You will realise that I use box files exclusively as my baseboards (up until now). This layout follows the same principle but has a separate cassette system for storage, giving lots of opportunity for operation. It is also built with the option of adding it to a permanent layout at home as a removable section. I’ve also taken a lot of inspiration from my friend Ed Purcell (Todmorden Midland and Gravelly Oak) although the box file format produces a slightly narrower layout with reduced scenic and siding space.

The layout is standard analogue DC for several reasons. Firstly a lot of my stock is fairly old and in the case of Midland Region locos, second hand. This would make chip fitting tricky. Secondly I understand DC electrics having helped my Dad build a layout when I was a kid and having built (or partially built) several myself. There are 3 switched sections: the main line into the station platform and bay, the end of the main platform road, the run around loop and goods sidings. There is also an isolated section at the end of the bay platform line.

A small control box with section switches (and probably signal controls) will plug into the side of the layout. A Gaugemaster controller with 'wallwart' transformer will plug into the box. This should permit front operation at home, rear operation at any show and easy fitment to a main control panel on a permanent layout. Point control will be digital (as per Waterstock and Whartson Hall) i.e. first or second finger of whichever hand is free!

Operation will be as follows. Local traffic will be suburban stock with appropriate tank locos (4MT 2-6-4T etc) using the main platform and locos will run around. Shuttles from the Western Region station will be either Autotrain or 122 Diesel using the bay platform. Semi fast trains will be Stanier coaching stock (3 – 4 coaches) with a suitable loco (Black 5 etc) where the loco will be released and will run off scene for turning (small cassette). Assorted wagons will be used for goods and will be distributed either to a small goods platform or to a spur siding.

*Episode 2 to follow ..... JE*

### **Ken's Little Private Bits**

### **WATERFALL JUNCTION**

For our German friends:

*Meine Freunde - mein Layout in meinem Koffer ist nach 20 Jahren immer noch gut. Es ist besser gealtert als ich! Hier ist ein Artikel aus dem N Bahn Magazin aus dem Jahr 2000, als es erst ein Jahr alt war. Für mich von Google übersetzt, entschuldigen Sie bitte die Fehler.*

“My friends - my layout in my suitcase is still good after 20 years. It has aged better than me! Here is an article from the N Bahn Magazine from the year 2000, when it was only one year old. Translated for me by Google, please excuse any mistakes.”

This freelance N gauge layout measuring less than 2ft by 18 inch and was built in 1999 by me to act as a test bed for some of my rolling stock, but went on to become a layout in its own right. It could be anywhere in rural England, Scotland or Wales and various locomotives negotiate this tight single track line passing under the waterfall which was the place that the main line, now a mere siding, joined this delightful scene.





## WMNGC 23 and keeping the trains running

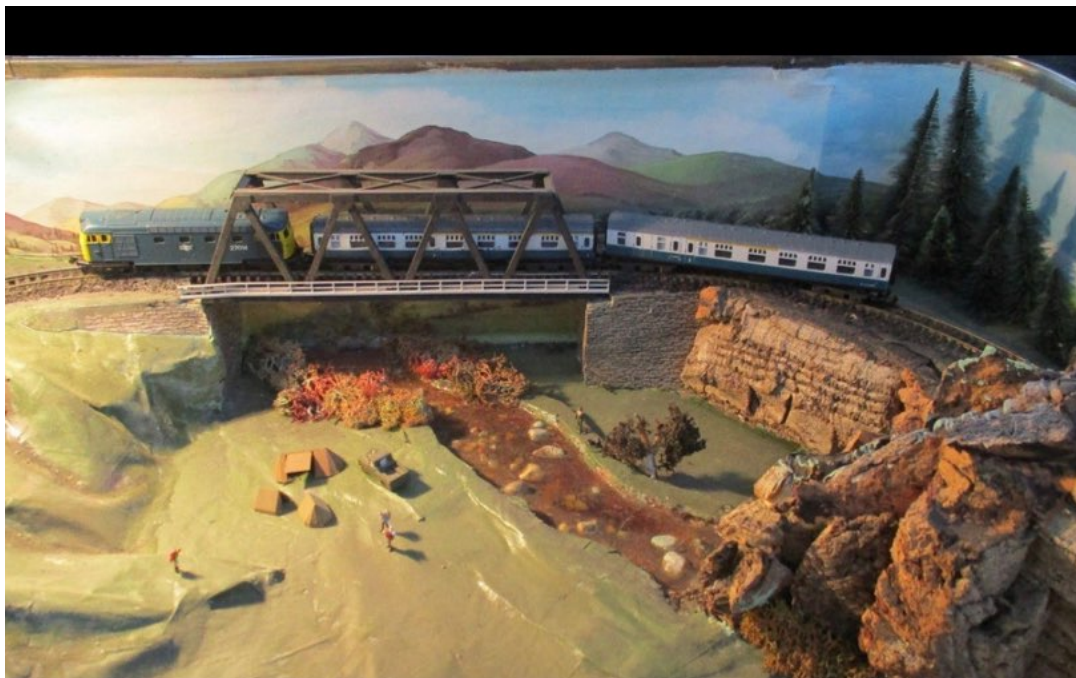
The waterfall and river are made from a 2 pack Faller system, the track is Peco and the controller is a special one built by Len Bane from The West Midlands' N' Gauge Club to enable slow running.

Tender locomotives and those with a long wheelbase cannot negotiate the tight curves. Look out for campers, a trainspotter, and a man with his dog and another one cycling home from work. The land rover is painted in authentic Land Rover green paint supplied by a customer of Ken a long time ago.

I have built several small layouts. This one was my first and is celebrating its *20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* this year.

*Waterfall Junction* has been out to at least one exhibition most years since it was built. It has been seen in Kent, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, The East and West Midlands as well as exhibitions at the Severn Valley Railway and Nene Valley Railway to name just a few of the places it has been seen. It has appeared on a specialist USA website for small railway layouts, and has had articles published in Norwegian and German model railway magazines - the editors' arranging for the articles to be translated from English. It has also appeared in an Australian N scale newsletter and has been exhibited at TINGS, where it is hoped it will return for its 20th birthday later this year.

For those interested, the suitcase is from an early 1960's design and is one of a set of Python, expanding suitcases, this one was bought new in 1972 and used by a friend of mine travelling around the world, in the oil industry, before becoming the layout. It remains my most requested layout for attending exhibitions, always gets lots of interest from visitors and will remain available for such events despite its age.



Minitrix class 27 and carriages is seen crossing the bridge in view of the campers in a 2018 picture. This train is often seen on the layout.

KJ

Whilst searching for an Nn3 loco, Ken found this 1:900 'layout' in the corner of his pocket 😂 I know, deep pockets, short arms 😂 Ed



Other business:

These are some of the newer N scale model motor vehicles that are available in the usual outlets, with estimated prices.

### **Oxford Diecast**

#### **Commercial vehicles**

NFDE004 [Ford 400E Van - Royal Mail](#)  
**£4.50**

NFT012 [Ford Transit Mk5 Stobart Rail](#)  
[Low](#) **£4.50**

NTIL004 [Austin Tilly Light AA Brigade](#)  
**£4.50**



NTRAIL004 [Mobile Trailer Walls](#) **£4**

#### **Military ground vehicles**



NMN007 [Mini Car - RAF](#) **£4**

## RETURN JOURNEY

### MEMBERS NOTICES

1. Just a reminder that our Exhibition Manager is David Griffin, contactable at: [davejgriffin@outlook.com](mailto:davejgriffin@outlook.com)

2. Diary Dates for Ken

Sat 9th March - Wombourne show **Salverton**

Sat 30th March - Belper show **Waterfall Junction, Kenstadt, The Works**

Mon 27th May - MBF at Wythall **Salverton** (to be confirmed)

Sat 17th August - Milton Keynes exhibition **Tennis Court Siding**

Sat/Sun 14/15 Sept - TINGS **Waterfall Junction**

Sat 28th September - Eurorail exhibition **Kenstadt**

Sun Oct 13th - Zedex **Kendorf**

Sat Oct 19th - Wombourne show **Kenstadt**

Sat Oct 26th - Birmingham show **Salverton**

3. Rodney & Christine on their travels, a varied schedule includes **Hawkins Halt** at the following shows

May 18/19<sup>th</sup> - Stourbridge

September 6/7/8<sup>th</sup> - Swindon

### Other business:

1. Don't forget the excellent video from TINGS 2018

<https://youtu.be/xZzvs0MpPqk>

50 minutes of TINGS 2018 - almost like being there - watch out for West Midlands' members in starring roles!



## WMNGC 23 and keeping the trains running

### *ERRATUM FROM LAST ISSUE*

None that I know of - unless you know different - email me please [art1san1957@icloud.com](mailto:art1san1957@icloud.com)  
Any trademarks, names or accidental images may be used unintentionally, or not, but can, surely, only benefit the Companies or persons concerned, even if they still exist.

NO PROFIT IS MADE FROM THE DISTRIBUTION OR PRODUCTION  
OF THIS FREE NEWSLETTER Ed.

Our largest, exhibition-standard layout *Waterstock*  
(*With Whartson Hall in the background*)  
Bring your own stock for a long run out



## NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

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

### **2019 PROGRAMME**

Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in each month (except December!)

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

Or visit our website at [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.**