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*West Midlands' N' Gauge Club*

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*Newsletter*

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Vol 19 Issue 3

September 2016

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OUTWARD JOURNEY

WE ATTENDED TINGS 2016



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 16th December**.

**Volume 19 Issue 4** will be published before Christmas, this will of course include a look forward to 2017.

**Newsletter dates for 2016/7**

Christmas: December 2016

Spring: March 2017

Summer: June 2017

Autumn: September 2017

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Treasurer: Edgar Mason

## Obituary

*It is with deep regret that we have to say that Alfred Hill [Alf] died on the 13<sup>th</sup> July this year. He was one of the founding members of the club when it started in 1995. He will be sadly missed by many of the club members.*

*He was born on the 11th December 1922 in Erdington, Birmingham. He left school at 14 and joined the Post Office. He served in the RAF during WW2. After a couple of different jobs, getting married and having two daughters, he went to work for Dunlop until he retired. For as long as anyone can remember he loved trains, but his interest in model railways began when the family used to go on holiday to his wife's cousin in Hereford. Her husband, who worked for British Rail, had a layout and Alf loved helping him and became hooked. He was pleased when his children left home and he was able to take over their bedroom for his layout. His other main interest was DIY especially woodworking.*

*Alf helped out at the club in many ways not only carpentry, but he came into his own when we moved to our current location in 2004. The room came with a large walk in store room, which became Alf's domain. He set about keeping it in a tidy and ordered fashion – something we don't really do anymore. Appearing for tea break, if he wasn't to be seen, we knew he was in the cupboard!*

*With failing eyesight he still managed to paint the houses at the town end of our layout "Waterstock", and these remain, as he had painted them all those years ago. As his eyesight became weaker he had to give up driving, and the club. He eventually moved to Huntingdon to be near one his daughters.*

*Recently he deteriorated quite quickly due to a combination of the stroke he suffered 18 months ago, a chest infection, which they didn't seem able to get on top of and his age. It was quite peaceful he was not in any pain or discomfort, he slept a great deal and his body just shut down.*

*He spent the latter part of his life in a care home and his family read our club newsletter to him from the time. He went to Huntingdon until his passing. He once told me how important the newsletter was to him, telling him details about the layout and the members he had known.*

*We offer our sympathy to his family and friends: please take a moment to remember Alf – one of the nicest people and sadly another club member no longer with us.*

Ken Jones  
Chairman

Ken wants to thank all members who took layouts to **TINGS 2016**, or worked behind the scenes with catering or helping to run the layouts - truly a great club spirit, and even some members came as members of the public - some with their partners such as Derek Gibbin, Edgar our treasurer, Dennis and Claire (not forgetting Mr. Claire Ed).

*From our Exhibition manager:*

I went to visit Mike Turner, our web master, on the 13 August. Mike has not been very well and has not been to the club since last November. Still fighting his lack of strength, he is getting better, but it will be a long haul and he can't wait to get back to the club. Mike sends his best wishes to all at the club.



On the 27 August Dave Evans and myself took Tipton Hills to the **Bourneville** show, the layout was well received by the public and a good day was had by all.

At **TINGS 2016**, over the weekend of 9/10/11th September, a great time for the club, with a total of 12 members in attendance looking after 4 layouts.

Here you can see *Tipton Hills* side by side with *Blocheswic & Walshed*, Phil Hunt and Dave Evans waiting for the throngs to arrive on Sunday morning, with Vince beavering away at something in his garage, on the second day of course. Ken Jones can be seen in the background showing his suitcase layout





## WMNGC 20 and still going strong

*Waterfall Junction*, popular as ever.



*Arley* was presented by Tony Minchin and Linn Dempster, whilst Dave Griffin can be seen resting on *Tipton Hills*, Phil and Dave Evans on *Blocheswic & Walshed*.



## WMNGC 20 and still going strong



**M**ore images of a great weekend for our West Midlands' N' Gauge Club



*By*

*Dave Griffin*

**MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

Ken will have layouts at Zedex, Birmingham, Braunstone, Hinckley and Weston - on Trent over the next few months.

Ken has unfortunately made the decision *not* to resurrect his website *kenjonestrains.co.uk* since it was hacked in 2015 it would need a total rebuild page by page and a new domain name. I'm sorry for any upheaval this may cause the loyal people who have been waiting for its return - It's not going to happen.

**BLOCHESWCIC & WALSHED**

*By Vince Painter*

**M**y first public showing made possible with the help of Club Members Philip Hunt and Dave Evans at the show, in particular, and Dave Griffin at base camp in the months' running up to TINGS, plus all other members with their advice.

**B**lochescwic & **W**alshed, together with tools and most of the spare materials I had collected over the past 4 years', was dismantled in my garage, loaded onto a rented Transporter van and driven to the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, on the Fosse Way,

near Leamington Spa, on the Friday of the weekend 9/10/11th September.

Arriving at noon, I set about unloading to the spot on the corner of our Club block nearest to the access door!

I was met there by Phil who had taken on the duties of setting up Tipton Hills, and gave me a hand where needed.



**W**e were both set up and running within a couple of hours', the seasoned runner *Tipton Hills* first of course!

I was getting more and more excited as show time got nearer, the first public showing of my pride and joy, I'm sure you've all felt it, the buzz, the





## WMNGC 20 and still going strong

anticipation of whether it had all been worthwhile - time would tell.....

**F**riday evening, and still much to do!



All ready now - let the public in!



**O**n the whole I was very pleased with this first public showing, much learnt and many improvements to be made before it's next outing.

Here's a link to a short video of *Blocheswic* at the show [https://youtu.be/jmbu\\_SJ1lqg](https://youtu.be/jmbu_SJ1lqg)



## CHARLIEVILLE

*By Rodney Hodge*

Christine Hodge, with *Charlieville*, was helped by members of Warley Club, due to the absence of Rodney after his continued eye surgery and recovery - we all wish you well and look forward to seeing you back at the Club at full strength again *Ed*.





## RETURN JOURNEY

*ERRATUM* - can't think of any, unless of course you know different - email me at [art1san1957@icloud.com](mailto:art1san1957@icloud.com)

My *personal* wish list now includes this, seen on their stand at TINGS



oh it would so make my layout so much easier to run, and save so much time (private message to the lack-of-tooth fairy - I'm 60 next year)!

Please let me know what's on *your* wish list, I'll pass it on to Father Christmas for you - you never know. There you go, I have mentioned it - Christmas is just around the corner!

NB. The next issue will include, amongst our regular items, erratum from this issue, the delayed (apologies, the raisin being the plethora of copy this month, again and again I know - sorry) Article on Heritage Lines, it will be worth it.

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

*Ed.*

## NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

Our main Club layout WATERSTOCK.....



### OPTICAL ILLUSION?

*Still my favourite shot 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!

Meetings are held at Tipton Green  
Methodist Church Hall  
Park Lane West, TIPTON,  
West Midlands, DY4 8LD  
**Please use rear entrance at  
church hall**

Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Saturdays in each month

## WMNGC PROGRAMME 2016/17

October	1 <sup>st</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
November	5 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
December	3 <sup>rd</sup>	AGM, only meet in December
January 2017	7 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
February	4 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
March	4 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
April	1 <sup>st</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>

Meetings will be from 2pm – 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  
see Website [www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk](http://www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk)

Any changes to these dates will appear on our website and in our quarterly newsletter. Please use the rear entrance to gain access to the club rooms. If you are in doubt, please call/ring first, especially if you are travelling any distance.