

West Midlands' N' Gauge Club

Newsletter

Anniversary Issue

December 2015

OUTWARD JOURNEY Ed

Announcing the arrival of the new Editor in the waiting room.

I want to thank the outgoing Ed for all his hard work in producing previous Newsletters, and I personally, wish him the best of luck in his new endeavour.

This is the most ambitious project I have attempted, since coming back to the second love in my life, three years' ago. I hope to continue to inform and entertain you all during my proposed tenure. I have three N' Gauge layouts on the go at the moment - I will share my experiences with you in the next issue, I ask fellow WMNGC members please do the same for me, to be included in the Members' Contributions section. **Volume 18 Issue 1** should appear in April 2016. I look forward to seeing a regular submission of articles from you, my fellow members of the WMNGC.

Copy deadlines are planned as follows, only lack of articles, illness, drought or other natural disaster will delay publication for the next four issues, continuing former traditions:-

Spring: April 2016

Summer: July 2016

Autumn: October 2016

Winter: January 2017

EDITORIAL ADDRESS
art1san1957@icloud.com



Chairman: Ken Jones

0121 777 7062

Email: westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Edgar Mason

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This anniversary edition of the newsletter allows me to write a bigger column than usual, giving me the chance to explain what has been going on and to apologise that we have not produced a newsletter since March 2015.

I'm not the only person to have had to look for a new job in this our 20th birthday year. Tony Butler found himself in the same position and editing newsletters was not high on his or my agenda. We are now both settled into new jobs, less stressful than before but it has meant that Tony has resigned as editor and Vince has taken on the role. I want to thank both of them, as in the 20 years we have had less than a hand full of editors, have an electronic circulation of more than 200 per edition plus many of Tony's articles written under "Tail Lamp" have been borrowed or copied by many other editors looking for witty and novel prose. Good luck to them both for the future. Vince and Tony follow the tradition of former editors Rock and Julian who edited the newsletters but were unable to attend many club meetings, due to work and other commitments.

In 1995 [actually before I joined the club] a group of people met in Langley to form an area group of the N Gauge Society which for many years now has been known as the West Midlands N Gauge Club. Our motto has always been "[Small and Friendly](#)" and long may it continue. We have always met on a Saturday afternoon, originally once a month and for many more recent years two times per month.

During that time many members have unfortunately passed away including Eric Stokes, Michael Bennett and Mike Walker, who are three that spring to mind. A couple of original members are still around including Stuart Brasier who designed "Waterstock". Some more recent members are also around but other commitments have taken over and I immediately think of Jules, who designed my website [hacked and down since early this year] and who did much creative work for "Waterstock" and "Tipton Hills".

I hope Alfred Hill is still with us. He lives a long way away from the West Midlands now but contributed so much to the group especially sorting out the cupboard and painting the houses on "Waterstock". Many members and / or their partners have recently suffered from ill health, including Len [who did all the electrics on our two exhibition layouts], Mike Turner and both Dereks for example.

If I was to thank everyone for what they have done for the club I would end up with a list of former and present members and friends. Everyone has contributed in one way or another, and throughout our 20 years', members wives have bought in cakes and made teas and coffees for us. In fact this year we have more people making cakes for us than ever before, including Claire and Christine who are also club members.

I hope the club is still going strong in another 20 years but to do that we will need a constant flow of new members as many of us may not be able to support it as we do now. It's remarkable that such a small club, which decided to build a large exhibition layout, has only been based at 3 locations in the 20 years, but actually is known globally.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN continued

Here's a taste of some of the other things we have done over the years:-

1. We had speakers once a year until we ran out of ideas of who to invite
2. We have supported the annual Tipton Boat Festival and our local Church Bazaar
3. We have had a full article on "Waterstock" in Railway Modeller and a picture of it on a cover of the N' Gauge Society Journal
4. We hosted the N' Gauge Society Shop and second hand stand
5. We have had Waterstock at TINGS, Warley and NGS Anniversary Event at Kettering plus local shows
6. Tipton Hills has also been to TINGS and many other exhibitions within the Midlands
7. We helped to organise the first Model Railway Exhibition at The Wonderful World of Trains and Planes, in Birmingham.

With individual members' layouts we've been supporting many more types of events – too many to list here. We also have a proactive and humorous website.

"*Railway Modelling for all*" has been another theme we have used - we work with all modellers irrespective of their skills or age.

We produced several hundred anniversary brochures in A5 format for this year. Some are still available – so email me if you want one on a first come first served basis

We have had [and continue to have] a great time.

Thanks to everyone – we couldn't have done it without you!

Ken Jones

STOP PRESS - it was good to see Derek Gibbin and Len Bane back from illness at November 21st meet *Ed.*

CLUB LAYOUTS

WATERSTOCK on the road.....

This layout – our largest – was at The International N' Gauge Show in September, that's appropriate as the club started in *September* 1995.

We are moving the controls for the engine shed to the end of the layout so that the operator doesn't get in the way of the operators running other parts of the layout. It also means the operator is nearer to the engine shed and can see movements more easily. In the summer we ran a long train around the layout – 30 coaches pulled by "Western Musketeer". In fact the diesel successfully pulled 16 coaches of various descriptions and reminded many of the West of England summer, Saturday trains. When we increased the length to 30 coaches we added a Rail Express class 47 at the other end to help. Actually it was a rehearsal for the last afternoon at TINGS, where those who were there saw an enormous train with an engine every 5 carriages snaking its way around the layout. Well if you can't have some fun with your hobby when can you!

Dave Evans has fitted mirrors behind the front of the lighting rig so that short people, like our chairman, can see what they are meant to be operating. This idea was successfully tried out recently with trains operating the branch line, something only tall guys could easily do.

WMNGC: 20 and still going strong

There are no imminent plans to take Waterstock out again in the near future so, if you want to see it, *you'll have to come to one of our club meetings*, where we use it to test our new purchases and keep the layout running up to exhibition standards.

This picture of Waterstock at TINGS appeared in the on-line "Australian N Scale Modellers" newsletter.

Their Chairman said we are known globally.



© N Scale Modellers Australia Issue 24 ~ October 2015 www.nscale.org.au

Here's a few more shots of our main Club Layout from loading up at Club HQ, to showing at TINGS 2015
©Ed.



WMNGC: 20 and still going strong



Ready for showing at TINGS 2015, less than 90 minutes after unloading!

WMNGC: 20 and still going strong



TIPTON HILLS

This layout is now our main exhibition layout and especially in this anniversary year of the club. It has been out to AMRTM modeller's exhibition as well as West Bromwich show, the 2 day exhibition in Stoke on Trent in July and more recently the Birmingham Show.

Because of the poor lighting at West Bromwich we have built a small light weight lighting unit at each end, in case other venues are as dark.



Subject to finding a core of 4 to 6 members who want to exhibit "Tipton Hills" further a field, the plan will be to take this layout to more exhibitions as a self contained business unit within the club, *roll on my retirement Ed.*

"Tipton Hills" has been accepted for the 2016 TINGS event.





WHARTSON HALL

THE (IN)FAMOUS TRANSVERSER

work-in-progress

Mike has added extra legs with castors on to make operation of the transverser more smooth – and he continues to sort out the alignment of this fiddle yard with the 3 operating tracks – well, they will be operating one day.

More about all our layouts can be found on our club website www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

Stop Press: New layout coming to club soon - details to follow in next Issue.

MEMBERS Contributions

This has been a very busy year for Rodney & Christine Hodge with their layouts.

CHARLIEVILLE has appeared at the *Wonderful World of Planes and Trains*, along with HAWKINGS HALT and THE QUARRY. Many Club members were on hand to help unload and load, the elevator being out of action didn't help!

CHARLIEVILLE also went solo at Norwich, Bristol & Swindon.

BRIDGNORTH

At TINGS 2015



GREENWOOD RAILWAY

By Philip Hunt

The layout has progressed from the first article I penned three years ago when I first joined the club; strange how the first bit of track laying and wiring goes quick, but the final details seem to take an age both in doing and deciding what they should consist of. I assume that is why you never say a layout is finished, or I just need to tweak it a bit.



I have 'finished' the station area including painting the various people, thank God for a large microscope lamp which makes it much easier. I have now sorted out what I wanted on the final part of the top section. I decided on an engine shed component from Scalescenes, amended to extend the length and added a few bits, and made a stable area. This was to show that a wagon was loaded and then went into the shed area and comes out

of the top section, went down the outside of the mountain and enters the sawn mill at the bottom.

I have got the infra red detector to work so that the points changed and the empty train came out and goes down to the bottom.

The original train went through the inside of the mountain and out at the top. It is meant to give the illusion of an empty train entering the forest area and coming out full, and vice versa at the bottom.



2016 EXHIBITIONS

Rodney and Christine Hodge are booked to appear at Monmouth 7th Feb, Scotland 26/7/8 Feb and Fareham 1st & 2nd Oct with *Charlieville*.

They are awaiting replies from others who asked them to apply.

Ken Jones will have "*Salverton*", The Tray Layout, at the Sileby show in February

He will have a layout at Zedex in October and will again be supporting Braunstone show in November. It is not sure if he will have a layout at TINGS in 2016.

Vince Painter will have his new layout *Blochescwic, Incorporating Walshed*, at TINGS

Tony Minchin may also have one or two layouts at TINGS.

MEMORIES

Here is the first logo we adopted all those years ago. It was used on our first newsletter which was published in 1997, and consisted on one side of an A4 sheet with no electronic copies. We moved to the circular logo when we moved to Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall in 2004. We've been using a special version of the round logo for our 20th birthday year.



We still have a few copies of those newsletters, which go out as hard copies for those readers who do not have an internet connection.



Image ©2007 Railway Modeller - showing some of the founding members of our club.

We have recently held our AGM and that meant Ken Jones was re-elected as Chairman for the 18th or 19th time, even though there was some opposition this year! Edgar Mason was re-elected as treasurer – an important position he has held for many years. David Griffin and Mike Turner continue as layout co-ordinator and webmaster respectively, and Vince Painter was confirmed as our new newsletter editor. Everyone agreed 2015 had been a very successful 20th birthday year for the club, and we look forward to many more.

RETURN JOURNEY Ed.

I would like to use this page for Rants 'n' Raves - please feel free to join me if you have anything you want to air in public - remember this goes out to over 200 addressees!

R'n'R No.1

Use of the APOSTROPHE - a grammatical tale.

A recent discussion, between club members at TINGS, prompted me to investigate the reason for the apostrophe in "The International N' Gauge Show" - yes that is what TINGS stands for, I believe. The main rules for the use of the apostrophe and different types of mark are:-

- The marking of the omission of one or more letters (as in the shortening of *is not* to *isn't*).
- The marking of possessive case (as in the *club's Chairman*, or in *three months' time*).

The simple answer is that the ' stands for the missing characters in *Nine*, as in *nine millimetres* gauge - simple isn't it? Oh look, there goes another one! The ' in *isn't* replaces the missing o in *not* i.e. *is* and *not* joined together = *isn't*.

Now, you may have noticed that I have shown different types of apostrophe mark here:-

‘ which is written as a very small 6.

’ which is written as a very small 9.

The one I am interested in here is the ’ (very small 9, aptly), which, when typed on my Mac keyboard after a space ‘ appears like a very small 6. The only way around, this is to type it in context, computers are clever enough to know that the first quotation mark goes this way round “ and seems to treat our *single* quotation mark ‘ NOT as an apostrophe, but as part of the first quotation mark.

The only time this becomes a problem is when some pedantic Ed is trying to explain the use of the apostrophe!, as we all know these “ ” are quotation marks.

References:

Encyclopaedia Britannica On Line

Oxford English Dictionary On Line

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostrophe

NB. The next issue will include, amongst our regular items, erratum from this issue, an article on Heritage Lines, which I find invaluable for research when railway modelling, and why wheelchair users still have difficulties at exhibitions.

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.

Any trademarks, trade names or accidental images may be used unintentionally, or not, but can, surely, only benefit the Companies or persons concerned, if they even exist.

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

NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

WMNGC PROGRAMME 2016

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

Please use rear entrance at church hall.

Meetings – 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month

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

Again all 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

Website 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.

NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION