

# **WJVintage**

## **Pandemic Special Newsletter**

### **April 2020 – Pt2**



**Welcome to the second edition of my new 'Pandemic Special' WJVintage mini-newsletter. The header photo to this edition comes courtesy of Steve Smith from Lowestoft. Everyone loves an A4 and here we have two beautiful models from Steve; 'Walter K Wigham' in British Railways Experimental Blue (left), and 'Sir Nigel Gresley' in BR Express Blue. These are both by Seven Mill Models and the photo highlights clearly the difference between the two shades of blue. Lovely locos Steve!**

**I would like to thank all of you who have called or emailed with your positive comments regarding the fortnightly newsletter initiative, and particularly those who have submitted information and photographs of projects and layouts for inclusion. It is really appreciated, not just by me, but by everyone who reads the newsletter. Please everyone, do keep it coming!**

**This edition has some wonderful features from customers as far apart as Canada and New Zealand, as well as the UK so it really reflects the worldwide appeal of traditional O Gauge tinplate railways.**

**The 'What's New' feature has the very latest J94 news with what is one of my favourite releases to-date – 'Harry' an NCB locomotive in lined maroon livery. The J94 is often seen as a rather plain workhorse, but I think this livery shows that it 'scrubs up rather well' and dare I say looks very pretty indeed! 'Harry' is due to ship this week (w/c 20<sup>th</sup> April).**

**There is also some extra detail on the range of brake vans that I introduced in the last edition. These have been very enthusiastically received, to the point where the first release sold out within two days!**

**Stay at home ....  
Stay safe and ....  
Keep Enjoying Your Trains!**

**WJVintage**  
Serious Toys for Discerning Boys

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# Delivery Situation

Just a quick update this edition on the current delivery situation. But firstly, I would just like to thank all of my customers for their continued support during this crisis. As many of you know, I am a small 'one-man-band' business (with invaluable support from my wife I might add!) and I don't mind admitting that when the lockdown was first announced my trade died virtually overnight. For two weeks I received not a single order, leaving me rather concerned at the future of the business. That situation has now changed I am pleased to say and, as you will read below in the '**What's New**' feature, orders for new items have been coming in thick and fast.

Obviously the delivery situation remains fluid and likely to change at any time. I, like everyone, try to keep abreast of the government advice, in order to determine what I can and cannot do. However for the time being, I am still able to deliver items to you. I am limiting trips to the post office to a maximum of twice a week and where possible I am getting couriers to collect from me rather than dropping items off.

Supplies are still arriving, and I am pleased to say the delays seem to be minimal at this moment in time.

Just to repeat my statement from previous newsletters:

## Staff and Premises

- As a one-man-band I am continuing to operate from the **WJ Vintage** HQ in the Northamptonshire countryside.
- Currently I am fit and well and keen to crack on as usual, whilst exercising all possible caution according to government guidelines.
- I operate from a home office, plus a small, custom-built storeroom/pick and pack area and I am currently taking extra care to ensure a clean working environment with surfaces being regularly cleaned and disinfected.

## Deliveries

- I am currently continuing to work with Royal Mail, Parcelforce and other delivery services to get your parcels to you in good time.
- In most cases, delivery drivers will drop off parcels without you having to physically sign for them.
- The royal Mail have advised that domestic deliveries may now be subject to some delays. Overseas deliveries may be subject to longer delays.
- Public Health England (PHE) has advised that people receiving parcels are at virtually no risk of contracting the coronavirus. From experience with other coronaviruses, we know that these types of viruses don't survive long on objects, such as letters or parcels.
- This works in tandem with my own policy of regular hand washing and use of sanitiser gel when handling and packing goods.
- As I am currently unable to meet customers at shows I am going to offer **free postage on all UK orders over £100.00** until the end of April 2020, when I will review the situation again.

Note: Overseas postage will be discounted by an amount equivalent to the standard UK postal cost.

## Customer Corner (aka - Your 'Lockdown Locos')

This is the area where you can make your contribution to these fortnightly newsletters. Several of you already have for which I am truly grateful. Please let me have details of your 'Lockdown Locos' or any other model railway related projects you are currently working on and I will share it with the readership to help keep us all sane during these trying times!

### **First up for this edition, I have some beautiful displays from Robin Dodson in Canada.**

Robin recently moved house (actually it wasn't that recent, it was well over a year ago now but he still refers to it as his new home!). Naturally all his railway collection had to go into storage for the move, but the plan was always to create a new 'train room' where the collection could be properly displayed and run on a brand-new custom-designed layout. Well, after months of organising the new home, progress has been made, albeit slowly. Robin, however, sees a positive side to the current health crisis and in his own words:

***'It's a wonderful opportunity to get to projects long planned but long deferred due to other activities. In my case, I am still unpacking trains and building shelves in my 'train room' for more than a year now.'***

He then goes on to say:

***'Not surprisingly, I've made more progress in the last month than in the six months previous. That's what staying home can accomplish.'***

The future layout is being developed but at the moment only in Robin's head. However, if his train displays are anything to go by, I think it is going to be one heck of an impressive layout and I certainly hope he will share more photos as it progresses.

For the time being, feast your eyes on the progress to-date. Many thanks to Robin for sharing (part of) his magnificent collection with us!



**Bing, Bing for Bassett-Lowke and Bassett-Lowke**





**Products by the United States Toy Train Company, a small manufacturer active in the 70's and 80's. The bottom shelf contains a model of a SAN Francisco BART rapid transit train. 2<sup>nd</sup> shelf down is a model of the Washington DC Metro rapid transit train.**



**Prewar trains by Lionel, American Flyer and Dorfan (the American successor to Germany's Fandor Company)**





**Bassett Lowke, Hornby, Ace and Darstaed. Trains spanning almost one hundred years.**

**From Canada we travel to the other side of the world and our second submission which comes from New Zealand.**

Chris Walsh lives in Nelson on the South Island of New Zealand and clearly has both a passion and huge talent for diorama composition and photography. He uses his layout and collection to great effect to create little cameos as well as some very impressive loco displays.

Here are is a selection with his own titles.

**Tea Break**





**Weighbridge Staff**



**Waiting for the Train**



**LNER on Shed**





### **(You Can't Have) Too Many Flying Scotsmen!**



I have one or two more from Chris, and also some photos of dioramas made by his thirteen-year-old son. The talent obviously runs in the family. I think I am going to hold them back until the next edition – this is supposed to be a mini newsletter after all!

### **Finally, for this edition, Chris Holmes brings us a little bit of a European flavour, albeit from the UK.**

In this case it is Swiss, and some photos of an ongoing project to create a Swiss passenger train. The loco is by HAG and is a model of the first series of the SBB-CFF (Swiss Federal Railways) class Re4/41 Bo-Bo electric locos introduced in 1946. Chris purchased both his HAG loco and the Darstaed (original, Marcel Darphin variety) SBB coach from the Vectis auction in January 2019, following a tip-off from fellow enthusiast Fred van der Lubbe who had himself purchased a slightly later HAG model of the second series of Re4/41 (No. 427) at the previous auction.





Chris has recently added to his train with the addition of two 'New Old Stock' Hermann models of SBB-CFF 'Light-Steel' coaches. These were acquired as a pair from a French dealer for a reasonable price. They are very long and will need coarse scale wheels fitting in due course.



To complete the train Chris is hoping to secure a HAG SBB-CFF Gepäckwagen (Luggage Coach) in the very near future. However, this is not yet a done deal, so he won't count his chickens just yet. I hope to see a photo of the complete train if/when the deal is done!

## Struggling Preserved Railways



My local preserved heritage railway is the Nene Valley Railway. Like many/most of the preserved railways in the UK it is a registered charity, run largely by volunteers and with operating costs covered by donations plus ticket sales to those who visit and ride on the trains. In the current climate they are struggling with no income.

Here is a link to a youtube video appeal made by the NVR.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj9JeALvUeI>

I guess if we want to be able to enjoy preserved railways after this is all over, we should perhaps all consider our local or favourite railway and think what we might be able to do to help financially. Just a thought!



## What's New

### J94/Hunslet Austerity Update

I always thought that the Hunslet Austerity would suit a nice maroon livery and I think it is fair to say that it does. To me it transforms the rather austere workhorse into something far more elegant and rather beautiful! Then add a name like 'Harry' and you automatically give it a character with personality – or is my fertile imagination just running riot as I slowly go mad during this lockdown? 😊



This stunning version of the Hunslet Austerity is due to arrive in the next week or so. Half of these have already been snapped up through pre-orders so please get your orders in quickly to avoid disappointment. Supplied for three-rail only running as standard, the loco is priced at **£375.00** plus P&P.

There are still limited stocks of some of the earlier releases available – although sadly no more of the Longmoor Military Railway, as these sold out very quickly indeed.

Get in touch to reserve LNER, Port of London (PLA), BR early and BR late crest versions.



## WD Sulphuric Acid Tank Wagon

I have just 8 pieces left available at time of writing so, as predicted these are going to sell out quickly. Please let me know if you would like me to reserve you one.



They are priced at **£44.00** plus P&P each and are available now.

## 6-Wheel Milk Tank Wagon – St Ivel

Launched just two weeks ago in the first of the mini newsletters, these lovely 6-wheel tank wagons have proven a big hit. I now have just 9 pieces left to sell. The final batch is due in the next week, so if you would like to add to your milk tank rake, please let me know asap.

They are priced at **£55.00** each plus P&P





## Coming Soon - 20 Ton LMR Brake Van Range

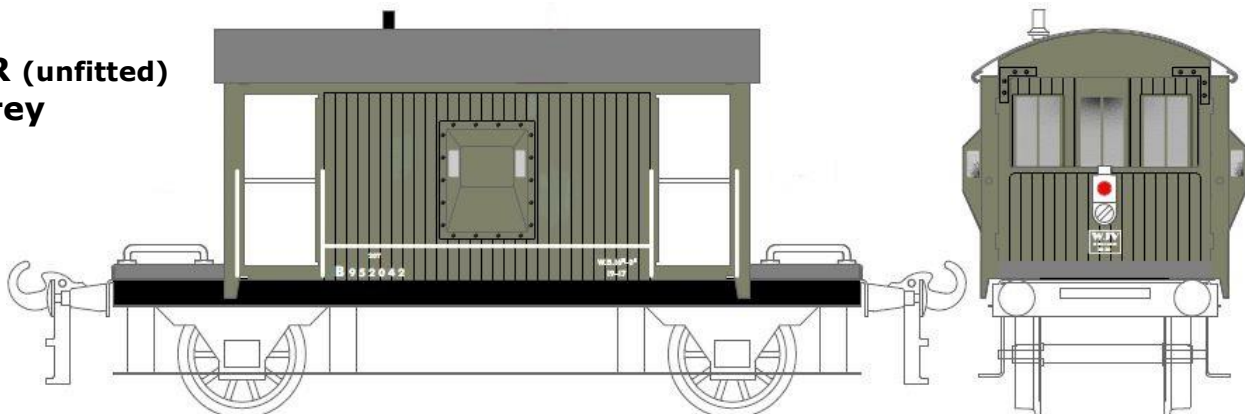
In the last newsletter I launched a very limited release of a 20 Ton brake van in Longmoor Military Railway (LMR) livery as the ideal accompaniment for the LMR Austerity Saddle Tank which arrived a few weeks ago. I may have underestimated the quantity on this one as I literally sold out within 2 days of the newsletter going out. For the lucky few, these will be arriving in the next shipment which is due to leave Prague this week.



Now the LMR actually operated two of these brake vans so if the demand is still there, I might consider producing a similar small batch of the other running number (which I will have to research). If you are interested, please let me know and I consider whether this might be worthwhile.

Many of you did get in touch to enquire about other liveries that might be included in this new range. By good fortune several of you also requested a BR Grey version and it just so happens that the next production we will be just that! Here is a sneak preview of the artwork.

**BR (unfitted)  
Grey**



Further liveries to follow:

### **LNER Brown**



### **London Transport**



**Note: Photos shown are just representations found on the internet and are subject to change**

These will all be released over the coming few months so keep an eye on future newsletters for further details and timings.

They each feature a working taillight, which is powered by a slim button-cell style battery mounted on the underside of the chassis (along with an on/off switch).

They are priced at just **£65.00** each plus P&P and a battery is included.

### **Mineral Wagon Update**



I forgot to mention the new mineral wagons in the last newsletter, and I think one or two were concerned that perhaps they are not going to come to fruition. Well I'm pleased to say they are, but perhaps not as quickly as we would have liked.

Given the current situation it is slow to develop new parts, particularly when not all suppliers are working, and so delays are inevitable. Plus, I want to do these properly and that means developing new dished wheels to fit the 'V' hanger brakes. ETS have worked on the costings for these and have presented me with two options at very different costs. Decision time is imminent!

More news to follow soon .....

### **See us at Shows (sadly not!)**

Well, I'm afraid we won't be meeting at a show for the foreseeable future. As you will be aware current government advice is to stay home and save lives! As a result, ALL shows have quite rightly been cancelled.

As soon as this changes I will of course be quick to respond and book myself



in to as many as I can, but I have a feeling it will be several months away yet.

However, I am still open for business, indeed I could do with your support more than ever at this tricky time financially, so do remember that I can still take your orders and despatch by post. Ordering and Payment options as below.

## **Ordering from WJVintage is still Easy**

### **Online**

Please use the **WJVintage** website as a shop window and then place your order by using the dropdown menu on each product page to select and submit the item you wish to purchase. This automatically sends me your details and I will be in touch to confirm your requirements and take payment. Alternatively select what you want and then give me a call or email me. Whichever method you use I will get back to you asap and I can confirm stock, particularly for highly limited items, and postage options. Please see below for full contact details.

### **Credit Card**

We have a credit/debit card facility, so you can telephone and place your order with us by calling **07711 092497** – please have your card to hand when calling.

### **Cheque**

If you would prefer to pay by cheque, that is no problem either. Just download the order form from our website and complete your requirements. Then make a cheque out for the total and post both order form and cheque to us at the address shown. Please make cheques payable to **WJVintage**.

### **Email**

Alternatively, you can place your order by email and payment can then be made either by card, PayPal, direct bank transfer or cheque. Please note our email address is: [wjvintage@outlook.com](mailto:wjvintage@outlook.com)

### **BACS**

A growing number of customers are now choosing to send money direct to my account by BACS transfer. If you would like to use this method please contact me and I will send you my bank account details.

All the best

*Paul*

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