

# WJVintage

## August 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to the August 2022 WJVintage newsletter. Well, what an absolute scorcher of a summer we have had here in the UK. Fortunately for me, I spent the record breaking 40 degrees Celcius plus day in a beautifully air-conditioned eye hospital having my cataract operation. I am pleased to say that it was a great success, and I now can't wait to get the left eye done to balance things up! In the meantime, I am now out and about again so I hope to see some of you in the very near future.

The big news this month is that the beautiful GNR version of the Atlantic has just arrived – well the first batch at least. Although the GNR scheme has sold out, I have still featured it in the '**What's New**' feature in this newsletter. ETS have done great job with this release as I am sure you will agree from the photos (including the garden photo above).

Despite the eye operation, I have managed to get out to one HRCA club night over at the Cotswolds group. I have included a report in the '**Out and About**' feature below. It was a really nice night and well attended. Sadly, I am not able to report on the planned Northants and Rutland (NAROGG) meet. Richard and I had to take the difficult decision to cancel. A poll of potential attendees suggested an awful lot of people were going to be away and the numbers were not going to be sufficient for a viable meeting. More details below.

Finally, '**Customer Corner**' returns this month with some lovely, and varied submissions, from the all-around the world. Thanks to everyone who has sent me information, stories and photos. Please, do keep it coming as it really adds to the newsletter to see what everyone is up to and how they approach different aspects of our hobby.

Stay Safe &  
Keep enjoying your trains





## **HRCA Cotswolds Group, Northend Village Hall – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**A beautiful, warm summer's day is hard to beat in the UK (or used to be before the recent record-breaking temperatures!) and the drive to Northend Village through the Warwickshire countryside was an absolute joy.**

Despite the fact that people are still getting used to meeting up again after the Coronavirus pandemic, there was a decent turnout at Northend for a meeting themed around 'Your first train set'. Now obviously people come to model railways at different times in life so 'first train set' covers a wide array of periods and in effect, there was a bit of everything at this meet.



One train that most certainly caught my eye was being run by Michael Foster. To represent his first train set he had a Hornby 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary No.1 locomotive, which was hauling a rake of five WJV 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



wagons. An interesting combination of special anniversary releases and I have to say, the little loco was one of the most reliable runners I saw throughout the meeting. No great surprise I suppose given it was manufactured for Hornby by ETS.



Now I am not one to overtly support the opposition, but neither am I churlish enough to ignore a beautiful locomotive just because its not one of mine! With absolutely nothing to do with the overall theme (I don't think), it was nevertheless great to see Len Mills with the long-awaited prototype of the forthcoming Ace Class 55 Deltic Diesel. Again, as this is another ETS for Ace model, it ran extremely well as would be expected. However, in my opinion the sound chip needs a little tweaking to get a more realistic twin Napier Deltic diesel engine sound. Len was in agreement, it was after all a first viewing of the prototype, so you can expect this to change before full production. It really is a beautiful model, and will no doubt be very popular when it eventually comes to market.



Now, I must be really out of practice because when I have reviewed the shots taken at Northend, I really didn't cover the event very well at all. I think I must have been too busy talking to focus on photography. Below, however is another variation on the theme of WJV 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary wagons, this time being hauled by a Lima 4F with power provided by an ETS mechanism – another smooth runner!



## **CANCELLED**

### **Northants & Rutland O Gauge Group (NAROGG), Gretton Village Hall – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**As mentioned in the introduction, we reluctantly cancelled this meeting as our pre-event mailing suggested that many regulars were unable to attend, making the viability of the meeting very doubtful.**

Gretton Village Hall is also considerably bigger than the previous venue at Harringworth and the dozen or so people who had indicated that they would attend, would have been totally lost in the hall.

However, the main point of this notification is to confirm that the next meeting on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> is definitely ON, so please make a diary note now so it doesn't get forgotten.

I will of course highlight the date in the '**See Us At Shows**' listings in this and future newsletters



## Customer Corner



A welcome return to customer corner this month and to begin with I have a lovely local story from Robert Meadows who actually lives in the same village as me, Kings Cliffe, Northants.

Robert recently took delivery of a WJVintage 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary wagon and has used it to create a three-dimensional shelf display covering key stages of his life. What a clever and imaginative thing to do. Here is Robert's story in his own words:

*'Fun pic. attached of the Ebay loco as in 'my first train set' with 'Gloucester wagon' where I grew up and 'Kings Cliffe wagon' where I live now. 'England's Glory' matches were a big employer when I was a boy, and their factory was opposite The Gloucester Wagon and Carriage Company. Added interest by having your Anniversary wagon made in Prague where I lived during the Dubcek era. Some key life moments in tinsplate now on my shelf.'*

I'm sure many of you are familiar with the 'England's Glory' match brand as it has appeared on several model railway wagons. Robert's cousin, on seeing the photo, sent the following further information for interest:

*'The Gloucester Carriage & Wagon Works was almost opposite the Moreland's match factory on the Bristol Road and that company kept a systematic photographic record of the private owner wagons which they manufactured and sold. Each wagon was photographed with a board describing the colour scheme. Fortunately, the archive of photos survived and is now in the Gloucester Record Office. The record has been extensively used to create a number of books on private owner wagons as well as by model manufacturers. Not surprisingly, many coal merchants in Gloucestershire as well as the many collieries in the Forest of Dean bought their wagons from the Gloucester company.'*

Thank you, Robert (and cousin), for such a fascinating story and it's wonderful to see how you have created this display to reflect your life.

Next, we have another story with a very personal element to it. In this instance it comes from Gordon Sandell in Washington state, USA. Gordon's impressive layout has featured several times in this newsletter but I had no idea that he named the stations on the layout after his family dogs!



Here is the full story in Gordon's words:

*'The stations on my layout are named in honour of family dogs, in this case one named Chewey (partly because when we got her as a rescue her teeth were everywhere, and partly for the Star Wars character). There is no real Chew Parva, but there is a Chew Magna (on the edge of the Mendips, and thus not too far from Wookey Hole). Chewey is a small dog, so Chew Parva seemed more appropriate.*

*The figures of Chewbacca and Hans Solo are actually Hallmark mini-Christmas ornaments, that were pretty close to O scale, so after suitable hints they turned up in my Christmas stocking last December. They just needed bases, and removal of the eyelets intended to hang them on the tree (with the holes filled and paint touched in).*

*My layout also has a Tardis surrounded by daleks, and the de Lorean from Back to the Future, so it's eclectic!'*

I certainly think 'eclectic' is the right word Gordon and thanks for sharing with us. I wonder if there have been any 'Star Wars' conventions held at Wookey Hole? Any chance of some photos of these other time-travelling themes for a future newsletter?



Last, but by no means least, we travel to Canada from where Robin Dodson sends some very interesting photos with accompanying story.



I'll hand over to Robin to explain in detail:

*'You are undoubtedly familiar with Marx trains which occupied the lower priced end of the market in both North America and the UK over decades. They are experiencing a surge of interest and price increases amongst collectors over here.*

*One very talented chap here in Ontario specializes in converting tired examples into quite extraordinary works of art. A case in point which I was lucky enough to acquire at a recent show here started life as a medium-priced Pacific locomotive for the New York Central. Under the talented hand of my friend, it was transformed into a green Seaboard locomotive and tender. I couldn't resist it as it reminded me of many British locos with similar colour schemes. Here it is. A one-of-a-kind piece of model train art.'*



Robin, I have to say, that is a superbly finished model, and I can absolutely understand why you couldn't resist! Temptation is a terrible thing but when we cave into it, boy is it worth it for the long-term pleasure it brings 😊  
Thank you so much for sharing with us.

## What a Picture!

The Ukraine has been in the news for all the wrong reasons of late and I think we all hope for a swift end to the horrendous invasion by Russian Forces.

However, by way of something a little more positive look at these wonderful images of a tree tunnel in Klevan, Ukraine.



Known by locals as 'The Tunnel of Love', this beautiful, two-mile long structure was formed over many years by the trees and vegetation growing around the path of a regular passing train. Ironically the train hauls a load of wood to a nearby timber factory where it is chopped up and turned into furniture!





## What's New?

**GNR Atlantics – First Batch now in Stock!**



I am delighted to announce that the first batch of the third scheme of the brand new C1 Atlantic is now in stock. It's the much-anticipated GNR version, No.251 as preserved and it really is a beauty! You will note the subtle differences between this and the earlier releases, in particular the cut away front to the tender and plain smoke box door with no handrail. These are all sold out and I am now going through the orders, in the order that I received them. I'm afraid the balance won't be here for another 3 weeks, so I have to ask some of you for your patience once again. I do hope to have them just in time for Sandown so with luck I may be able to deliver some there.

I do still have just four of the British Railways unlined black available to sell so please get in touch quickly if you would like to secure one. The price is **£695.00** each plus P&P



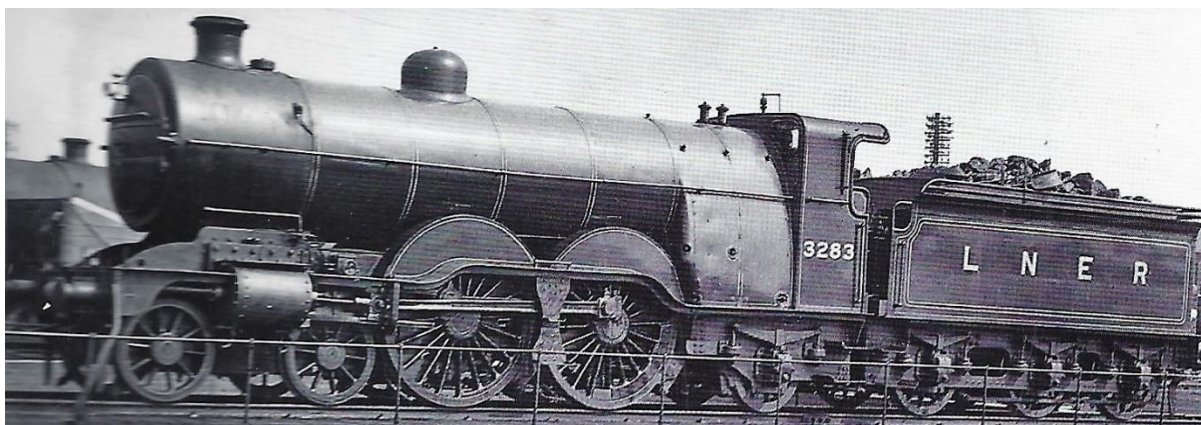
I also still have just one piece of the LNER lined green RN4433 left but if you miss out on this, the later super-heated LNER version with running number on the cab rather than on the tender, will be along soon as the final release (after the GNR version) and I have 10 of these still available. Again, all locos are priced at **£695.00** each plus P&P



**Note – crew figures not supplied – available separately (see below)**



The later LNER green lined scheme representing a superheated steam engine will be the final release.



ETS are manufacturing these as quickly as they can. The lining on the GNR and LNER, plus the fine detail takes a long while to produce but is well worth the wait in my opinion. They will hopefully all arrive within the next 2 to 3 months.

The locos are selling very well indeed, so if you would like to reserve one, please do get in touch as soon as possible.

With an open cab such as the Atlantic's, you may wish to consider a crew set as shown in the photos above.

I still have stock of a few sets from the excellent Graham Lock figures range. They are priced at **£15.00** plus P&P per set

#### Pre-war

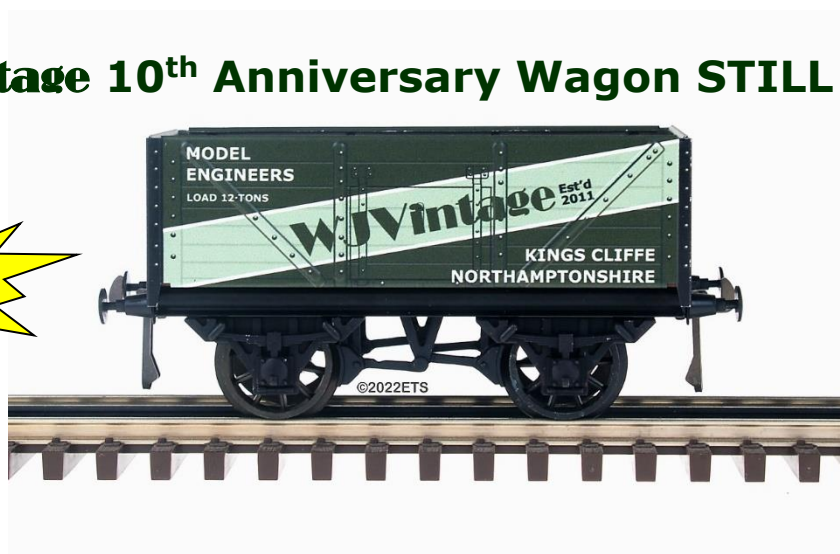


#### Post-war



If I should sell out, please don't worry, Graham can produce these pretty quickly so I will be able to order more with a lead time of about 2 weeks.

## WJVintage 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wagon STILL on the Way!!



I do apologise if you have had one of these wagons on order and are still waiting to hear from me.

The whole process for getting 55 pieces packed and posted takes time and sadly, with spending three days a week with my mother at the moment, it has slowed me down considerably. I am working through the list and hope to have been in touch with everyone within the next week or so.

They are beautiful wagons so I hope you will think the wait has been worthwhile.

Just as a reminder the price is **£39.99** each plus P&P

## Mineral Wagon Wagon Update

I have now sold close to 200 of these wagons so I really do thank you all for your support. My total order was for 250 so there are still a few of both liveries available.

Prices for these mineral wagons are **£39.95** each for a single wagon and **£150.00** for a set of 4 wagons, both plus P&P.

The second batch of coal loads has also now been delivered and these are priced at **£4.50** each plus P&P.

These make a great finishing touch, don't you think?





## See us at Shows

As life returns to normal, so I am pleased to be getting out and about more regularly! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming months of summer.

### **Tuesday Aug 30<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Merseyside Group**

Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 4EJ  
– 2pm to 6:30pm

**NOTE: This is a new summer venue for the group that used to meet at Preston Brook. It will return to PB during the winter months but on a Saturday – more info to follow.**

### **Saturday Sept 17<sup>th</sup> – Sandown Park (Barry Potter Fairs)**

Sandown Exhibition Centre, Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ - 10:30am to 3:00pm

### **Saturday Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell**

The Cowper Arms, 31 Station Road, Digswell, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0EA – 10:30am to 3:30pm

**Please note The Cowper Arms is next to Welwyn North Station**

### **Tuesday Sept 27<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

Fulbourn Village Library, The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn CB21 5HD  
5:30pm to 9:00pm

### **Monday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

Northend Village Hall, Top Street, Northend, Warks CV47 2TN 3:30pm to 8:00pm **NOTE – This meeting has returned to its old venue**

### **Tuesday Oct 18<sup>th</sup> – Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group (NAROGG)**

Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby Rd, Gretton, Corby, Northants NN17 3DB – 1pm to 5pm, refreshments - £3.00 entry

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE – just a couple of miles from the old one**



## Don't forget to like our **WJVintage Facebook Page**

With well over 500 Facebook 'likes', the WJVintage page is almost as popular as this newsletter! That said, many subscribers on Facebook are associates, friends and family with a passing interest in what I get up to – so not my key target audience. 😊 However, it keeps growing and all the latest news is often seen on Facebook before it appears in the newsletter

as updates can be done instantly rather than monthly. If you are a member of Facebook, why not look us up and give us a 'like'?



## **Plus, we also now have a 'YouTube' Channel!**

I have to confess, after a good start, the channel has been quiet for a while but I am pleased to say that a new video of the Atlantic running has now been posted.

I am hoping that this will be the first of many and that the videos will be able to recommence on a more regular basis in future.

## **Ordering from WJVintage is 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.



Stay Safe Everyone!

*Paul*

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