

# **WJVintage**

## **September 2022 Newsletter**



**Welcome to the September 2022 WJVintage newsletter. I am writing this newsletter just a few days after the devastatingly sad news that our Queen, Elizabeth II, has died. Of course, no-one is invincible, and we all knew the end would come one day in the not too distant future, but after an unprecedented 70 years on the throne, it still came as a huge shock, particularly as she had been photographed just 2 days earlier greeting Liz Truss and inviting her to become the next UK Prime Minister.**

**The country is now observing a period of mourning, the end of which will see the Queen's funeral service on Monday Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. For most of us, myself included, Queen Elizabeth has been the only British Monarch we have ever known. A constant in a world that has changed dramatically over the decades, her life was pledged to the service of her people.**

**Her death affects us all in a variety of ways, and I will particularly remember the glowing examples of steadfastness, duty, compassion, and most of all dignity that she showed throughout her reign.**

**May she rest in peace.**

**And finally:**

**God save the King! – King Charles III**

**He has served a long apprenticeship and has been taught by the best. I am sure we all wish him well.**

**Stay Safe &  
Keep enjoying your trains**

## Out & About



### **HRCA Preston Brook Group, Whitley Village Hall – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**It is a long day trip for me to get to Whitley and back, and with fuel costs spiralling upwards it isn't cheap either. However, after missing the last meet due to my eye operation, I really wanted to get along to support the group in its new home.**

To be fair, I had already liaised with a couple of customers who were going to come along to pay for and collect items ordered, so I at least knew I would take some money. On top of that they are a very friendly bunch up in the north-west and I enjoy the company and banter, even Frank Sidebottom's jokes!! 😊

As with the meetings at Preston Brook, the emphasis at Whitley is more on trade stalls than layouts, which is quite unusual as most HRCA meetings I attend have the emphasis more towards the layouts.





The new hall is actually well suited to both, being large and bright and airy. It was good to see a far stronger trade presence at this meeting, which was duly rewarded by a larger turnout of visitors than at the previous meet I attended back in April. The word is obviously getting out there and I think the meeting will go from strength to strength. The O gauge layout was themed as a members' running day – so basically run anything.



A nice layout consisting of three ovals allowed for smaller locos on the inner two, and larger locos on the outer oval. All three were kept pretty busy throughout the afternoon with a good selection of mainly Hornby trains.





A members display table was themed around O Gauge Gas Wagons and had a good selection of Hornby Gas Cylinder Wagons in a number of different schemes.



Elsewhere Bob Field created a nice Dublo display with a very compact layout and some apparently rare/unique locos and rolling stock



The big news at this event came from Chris Ness, one of the main organisers, during his short address. He announced that the trial meets at

Whitley have been very well received by the members and it is proposed that from next year this will become a permanent meeting place for the Preston Brook group.

I personally think this is a very good idea and I wish the group continued growth and success in the future

## What a Picture!

Look at this fabulous photograph of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip travelling on the Royal Train during the 1954 tour of Australia. The Queen broke new ground as the first reigning British Monarch to visit the country and huge crowds gave her and her husband tumultuous greetings throughout the eight-week trip. This photograph was actually taken at Bathurst in New South Wales.



Queen Elizabeth II had a real fondness for the railways and was an enthusiastic train traveller throughout her reign. In particular she enjoyed travelling on the 'Royal Train' and it is therefore rather sad that the original plan to transport her body from Edinburgh to London on the 'Royal Train' has now been changed and she will be flown instead.

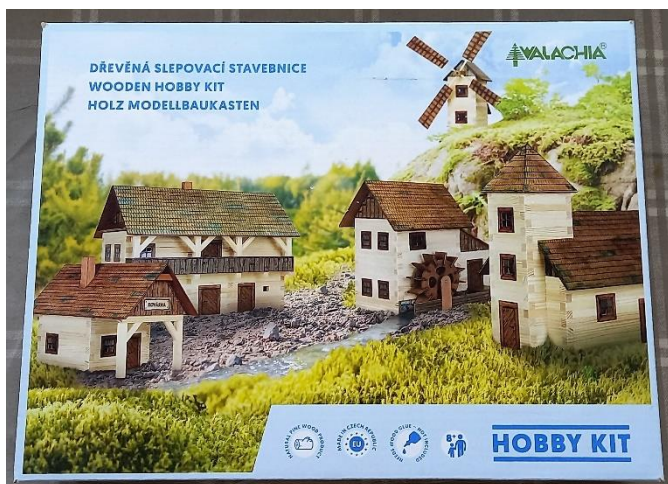


## A Nice Autumnal Project

Yes, I'm sorry to say it but Autumn is just around the corner and the nights are drawing in. The perfect time to take on a project with a view to potentially adding a new line of products.

Regular readers will be aware of the fact that I had to drop the Citybuilder range of cardboard kit buildings some time ago. The costs soared and it became uneconomic to continue with them. Since then, I have been searching for a replacement and a possibility has emerged courtesy of Mike Dunne from Kent who kindly put me onto the range of Walachia Hobby Kits from the Czech Republic.

These kits are constructed from wood and are a little like a wooden version of Lego bricks but using glue to fix the parts rather than the press fit of the plastic brick system.



The range of buildings is quite nice, if a little European, and the scale is shown as 1:32 so they may be a little large. The detail is nothing like that of the Citybuilder Series, but in a way, they have a simplistic charm that may suit many layouts.

I thought the best way to assess their suitability for O Gauge use would be to buy one and I plan to show my progress via a monthly photo-series over the next couple of newsletters.

I have started with kit No.17, described as a 'Shed'.

This cost me £18.40 on Amazon (though they do seem to have gone up since I purchased).

The kit arrived within a couple of days, and I was immediately impressed with the weight, which felt quite substantial. Upon opening I found out why. It is absolutely crammed with wood, beautiful pine blocks and lovely quality ply sheets, all cut to size and very well finished.





There is a comprehensive instruction sheet which is mainly visual, making it easier to follow, and this also includes a full list of all contents and a printed rule so you can check the exact dimensions of each part. Coloured sheets are supplied for the roof tiles and stone floors, and a sheet of sandpaper is also included for neat finishing. All you need to supply yourself is glue. I have always found that Gorilla Wood Glue (PVA) is ideal for this sort of job so I will be using this throughout.

So, I have to say first impressions are very good indeed. Certainly, the quality of the wood is excellent and if the parts are accurately cut (as I suspect they will be) then I think this will be an enjoyable project to get my teeth into.

Now I just need to get on with the first stages of the build. I'll photograph as I go and show you a progress update in next month's newsletter. Also let me know if you think these might be something you could be interested in. Walechia appear to be looking for more stockists so if the interest is there, I will be happy to give this serious consideration



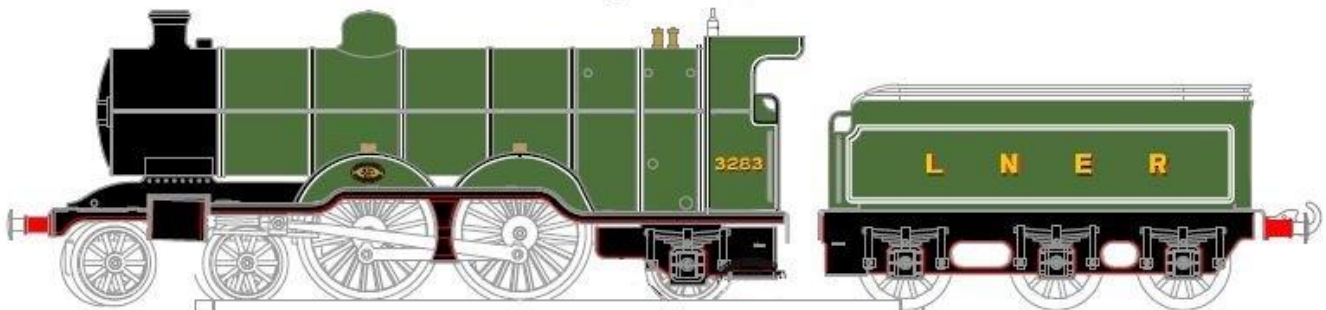
## What's New?

### GNR Atlantics – More due any day now!



I'm pleased to report that we are getting there with the new Atlantics and a second batch of the latest GNR release is due to arrive any day, with a further batch probably just a week or so behind it. That will complete all the GNR deliveries.

The final outstanding delivery will then be the second LNER release featuring a 'superheated steam' loco with cut down tender front and featuring the loco number on the cab rather than on the tender. The artwork for this one is now shown below.



Unfortunately, I don't have a delivery date for these yet but I will hopefully have one by next month, and in fact the locos should be close to ready by then.

I do still have a few of the 'superheated steam' British Railways unlined black and one of the earlier LNER 'saturated steam' locos, both with non-cut away tender available to sell, so please get in touch quickly if you would like to secure either one of these.

The price of all Atlantics is **£695.00** each plus P&P







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

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

I am now 2/3rds of the way down the pre-order list and I'm still working on wrapping and packing them. The last batch of these should be on their way to you very soon

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.

I still have a few coal loads available, 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.

### **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

### **Saturday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> HRCA Show - Gaydon Motor Museum**

Please note I have had to decline a table at this show as I will be having my second eye surgery just 2 days before. Last year it was a very good event and it is a real shame I cannot attend but – doctor's orders!



### **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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