



Hello and welcome to the December edition of the **WJVintage** Newsletter. Actually, this is more of a news sheet and Christmas greeting as there really hasn't been too much to report since the last issue and Christmas is now just around the corner.

First off, I'd just like to take the opportunity to wish all of my customers, subscribers and fellow O gauge enthusiasts

**'a very happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas, and all the best for 2023.'**



As another year draws towards it's close, we can reflect back on twelve months of further challenges, as well as some significant highs! After two years of lockdown, I think we were all ready for a year of returning to normality in 2022. We did get there eventually, but not before the 'Omicron' variant had spread like wildfire – including taking yours truly out for a couple of weeks during March.

In April, my mother fell and fractured her pelvis which again took me away to assist with her care as she struggled to walk and generally look after herself.

Physically she has made a remarkable recovery but I'm afraid there is truth in the saying; 'it started with a fall'. Mentally she has struggled following the fall and has now been diagnosed with dementia.

Again, her care, whilst spread between me and my two siblings, has required me to spend time with her down in London every week, which I openly admit has been detrimental to the running of **WJVintage**. I apologise for any delays and am hopeful that things will improve next year as we have a more comprehensive care package in place.

Thanks to all of you that have sent kind messages regarding my mum. It has been very much appreciated.

Right, enough of the doom and gloom!

2022 had some significant highs as well. 😊

First and foremost, as spring turned into summer, so Covid went into retreat, and we pretty well got our lives back to normal. Railway shows and club meets restarted and numbers in attendance have steadily risen to close to pre-pandemic levels.

Here at WJVintage we had several major highs. First and foremost was the somewhat overdue arrival of the much-acclaimed C1 Atlantic. ETS, like so many manufacturers, struggled to get their production lines back up to speed but the first locomotives did start to arrive in the early summer, and they continued to be delivered in batches right up until last week. Were they worth the wait? Oh, absolutely in my opinion! It is a truly beautiful locomotive, and it runs so smoothly with fabulous hauling capacity. The GNR and first LNER liveries very quickly sold out, leaving limited numbers of British Railways and the LNER 'superheated' edition still available.



The next high was the eventual delivery of my 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary wagon. OK, it was pretty late (almost missed the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary 😊), but it's a lovely wagon and I hope a fitting way to mark a significant milestone for my business, particularly as Covid made a special meeting (as for the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016) just too big a risk to organise.



The early part of 2022 also saw the introduction of a rather nice series of Rectangular Tar Tank Wagons. These sold very well, and I now have just a small quantity of GWR and Smith & Forrest still available, plus just one Shell BP.



Finally, we mustn't forget the lovely single deck Sheffield Tram that ETS produced for me in very limited numbers.

I took just fifteen pieces of these, and I have sold all bar two. It is based on an actual tram that is restored at the National Tramway Museum at Crich.



So, all in all 2022 was quite an exciting year of new releases and hopefully 2023 will see a similar array of new goodies to tempt you. I teased in the last newsletter that the next new loco would be announced shortly but I am afraid the financial evaluation is still pending, so I am not quite ready for the big unveiling. Still, something to look forward to for 2023!! 😊

Before I close, I do just want to mention one major show that is taking place in January 2023, and probably before the next newsletter is ready. It is the Bassett-Lowke Society Vintage Toy Trains Show at Dodford, near Bromsgrove in the West Midlands.

This was a new show on the calendar last year and was a brilliant day out. This year it promises to be even better so if you fancy a good day out in dreary January, why not try to get along? The details are as follows:

**Sunday Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – B-L Society, Vintage Toy Trains at Bromsgrove**  
Dodford Village Hall, Priory Road, Dodford, Bromsgrove, B61 9DD  
10:30am to 3:30pm

# Happy Christmas to you all!

Stay Safe Everyone!

*Paul*

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