

WJVintage

January 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to the January 2023 edition of the WJVintage newsletter and may I wish you all a slightly belated Happy New Year. Here's to a healthy and peaceful year ahead, and one in which we can all enjoy our O gauge model railways! January is a slow month, but I am looking forward over the coming months to getting out and about to as many shows and meetings as I can, as we head towards spring – my favourite time of year!

If you scroll down to the 'See Us At Shows' section towards the end of this newsletter, you will see that I am adding a full schedule of meetings and events so that you can plan ahead a little. I am really looking forward to getting out and about again, and to meeting up with as many of you as possible.

I know that many of you were hoping to hear news of the next new locomotive from **WJVintage** in this newsletter. Unfortunately, I will have to ask for your patience just a little longer as we are just not quite ready to confirm the production. I would hate to over promise and then have to eat humble pie at a later date so for now I'm afraid the wraps remain in place.

Graham Lock has been busy again during the long dark evenings, and his latest offerings can be found below in the 'What's New' section of the newsletter. This time he is offering some rather nice signs to enhance your platforms.

I have also been trying to tidy my storage lock-up and in doing so I have uncovered one or two 'end of line' (excuse the pun) items that I am offering cheap so scroll down to perhaps bag a bargain!

**Stay Safe &
Keep enjoying your trains**

WJVintage

Serious Toys for Discerning Boys

www.wjvintage.co.uk



Out & About

Bassett-Lowke Vintage Train Event, Dodford Village Hall, Near Bromsgrove – Sunday 15th January 2023.

As an opener to the new year, this event at the airy and large Dodford Village Hall, is a great way to start the show season off again. With layouts in both O gauge and gauge 1 there are always some rare and interesting locos to see as well.



It is only the second year this event has been held at Dodford but I have to say the support from both visitors and trade was extremely good, and the locos on display were to the expected high standard.

One of the great highlights for me was to see for the very first time Jonathan Ward's superb scratch-built British Railways GT3 (gas-turbine) locomotive. Some of you may recall seeing some photos of this build in a previous newsletter but it is now finished and really looks awesome in the 'flesh' as it were.





Built in 1961 by English Electric as a Gas Turbine prototype, the GT3 performed well during its test phase but unfortunately neither the company nor British Railways were prepared to fund further development as they were committed to Diesel-Electric locomotives. The GT3 was returned to English Electric at the end of 1962, and it was eventually broken up in early 1966. A true one-of-a-kind and a fantastic build by Jonathan.

Another one-off (for now) was the prototype Ace trains streamlined P2 2-8-2 which Len Mills had brought along to test. It generated quite a bit of interest and I caught prolific Bassett-Lowke Society photographer, Peter Beale taking photographs which will more than likely appear in the next 'Loco News' magazine



There were of course a number of beautiful and rare vintage locomotives on display as well and the sidings were full of engines awaiting their running slot.



Sadly, when I am running a stall, it is rather pot luck what I manage to photograph but I was particularly taken by, and managed to capture, a superb Bassett-Lowke Duchess of Montrose



David Cooper also had a really intriguing steam driven tram of unknown heritage – except the trailer which is believed to be by Bing.



Over on the Gauge 1 layout there were also some really impressive exhibits being displayed and run.





If you have a spare 10 minutes do treat yourself to the Youtube Video from 'My Tinplate Railway'. Ian has documented the day and set everything to a lovely period piano musical score. Here is the link: [The Bassett-Lowke Society 'Vintage ToyTrains at Bromsgrove'. Dodford Village Hall. January 2023. - YouTube](#)

All in all, this was another fabulous show, well organised by Beric Elwell and his team. Great location with a great atmosphere, great support and I nearly forgot – great catering! The food was really excellent, and well-priced. All the ingredients of a great event. 😊 I'm looking forward to more of the same next year already! With 5 'greats' it's a must.

Northants & Rutland O Gauge Group NAROGG

As one of the co-organisers of the very popular NAROGG Group, I just want to quickly say a few words following Richard and Cathy Holders' decision to stand down from their organisational and catering roles. I, and all the regulars of the group, owe them both a huge **'thank you'** for all the hard work they have put in over the past six years. NAROGG truly would not have happened without them. I personally would like to thank them both most sincerely. Whilst we operated NAROGG in partnership, Richard's enthusiasm and drive, coupled with Cathy's excellent baking skills, really helped to make the events amongst the most relaxed, friendly and well-fed of all the meets I attend!

That said, NAROGG is set to continue, and I am really pleased with the offers of help I have received. In particular, I am pleased to welcome Bryan Lambert who has offered to pick up where Richard left off. Bryan and I are meeting very shortly to talk through the detail but in the meantime, the first NAROGG of 2023 will take place on

Tuesday 21st February from 1:00pm until 5:00pm

Please check out the events section towards the end of this newsletter for venue and address details. We look forward to seeing as many of you (regulars or newbies) as possible – everyone is welcome.

Customer Corner

This month we start with Jonathan Ward (yes, GT3 Jonathan!) and his family – wife Sarah and sons Oliver and Darren, who came along to the Bassett-Lowke meeting at Bromsgrove (see report above). Whilst at the show they collected some items from me on behalf of another customer, David Knighton. When they got home, they advised David that the collection had been made and then combined some of David's purchases with Jonathan's own to produce a rather nice Atlantic family photo.



Posed on Jonathan's 'portable' O gauge layout they really do look rather impressive, even if I do say so myself 😊

As he is reasonably local, I am hoping to get over to Jonathan's at some point in the coming months to see his layout for real and have a little running session. More photos will no doubt follow.

Meanwhile up in Grantham

Brian Edinboro has spent the winter months extending his loft layout by about 4 feet in overall length.



He now incorporates the lovely level crossing shown above and a complete working fairground with sounds, lights and movement, which I inexplicably forgot to photograph during a recent (fleeting) visit. Next time I am passing I'll have to remedy this. It was nice to see Brian putting his Atlantic in British Railways scheme to good use with a long rake of BR Mineral Wagons – a nice 'Windcutter' train!



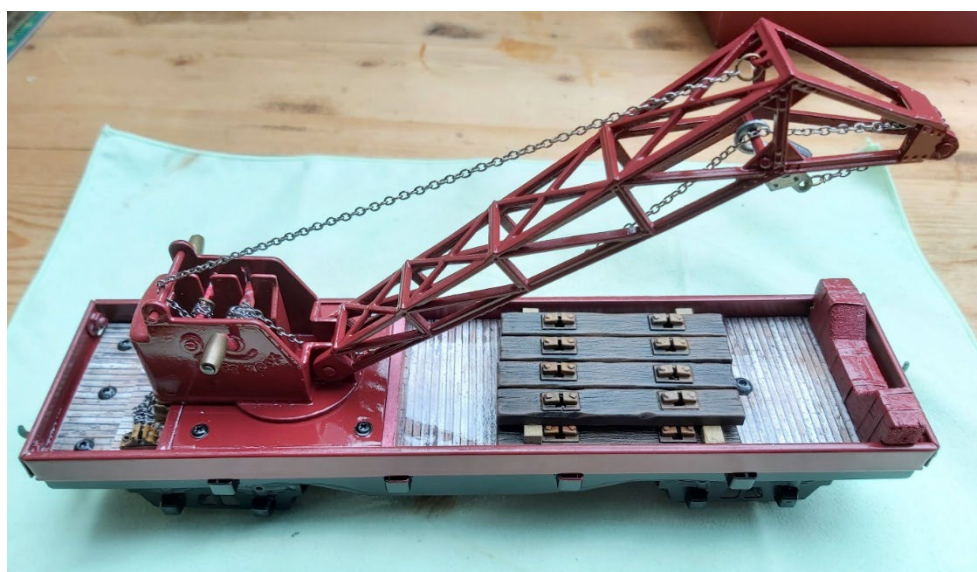
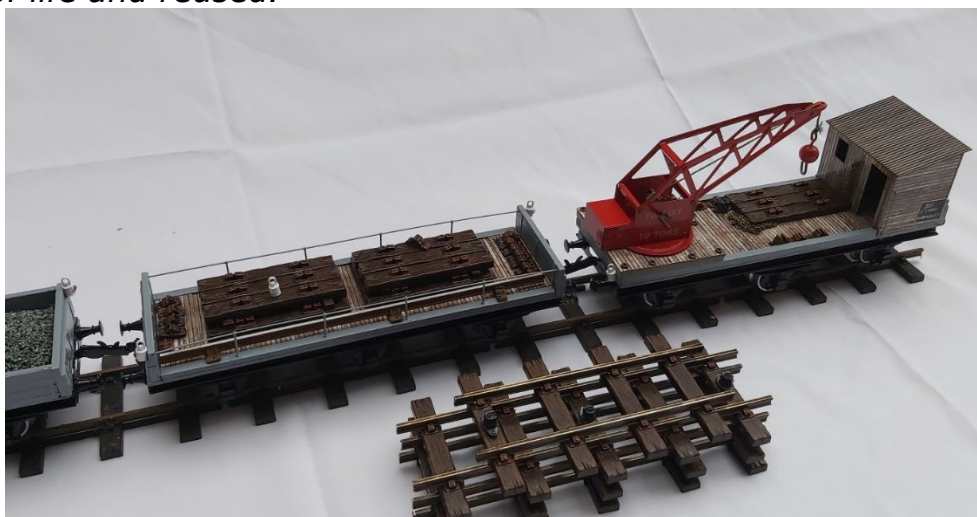
More Breakdown Cranes

Going back some newsletters now, I'm sure many of you are aware of my interest in crane wagons and particularly the fantastic, and highly skilled crane wagons that some of you have constructed yourselves. Well Mark Musselle sent me some photos of his handiwork some time ago and I filed them in the future newsletter file and then overlooked them – until now that is!



Here is a brief description from Mark himself:

'Seeing the photos and your comments on having a bit more than a passing interest in cranes, I thought I would share with you the baby brother of the crane in the newsletter. Since making that one I have made two more crane wagons utilising the dinky yard crane (one was for someone else) I have also brought back to life another yard crane and used at the station on the layout. I have used some redundant Darstaed 6-wheel chassis and some old bogies. I also have a belief that old, knackered toys can be given a new lease of life and reused.'



Really fabulous work Mark and it just goes to show what can be done with skill, imagination and a well-stocked spares and repairs box. Thank you so much for sending in the photos and sorry it took so long to feature these. We got there in the end 😊

And Across the Pond

On the subject of skill and imagination, I never stop marvelling at the incredible layout that Gordon Sandell has created over in Washington State, USA. Just look at the wonderful shot used as the main header photo for this newsletter. Just before Christmas Gordon sent a couple of photos of his latest creation. Using an ETS 0-4-0 mechanism, a pair of WJVintage couplings, a Mattel push-along 'Toby' locomotive, some brass sheet plus nuts & bolts from his local hobby shop, and some fine scale sprung buffers from the spares tin, Gordon has skilfully produced a very well-engineered O gauge version of a children's favourite.



Toby is based on a GER Class 53/LNER J70 Tram Engine and looks perfectly at home shunting a rake of well-loaded goods wagons. At the moment, due to a missing crank pin, Toby is operating as a 2-2-0 and Gordon reports that he will haul 5 Hornby No.50 wagons with just a little slippage on curves. Soon a replacement pin will allow a 0-4-0 drive configuration to be restored and hopefully the extra adhesion will improve the performance even more. Fingers crossed. Well done once again Gordon and many thanks for submitting these great photos of your work!



What's New

Train Timetable Boards

Yet another great new initiative from Graham Lock are these rather nice BR Timetable and Advertising Display Boards



All completely hand-made from wood and card, and featuring high quality printed overlays, these are going to be priced at **£10.50** plus P&P per board or **£20.00** plus P&P for a pair (as shown). Note if you buy a pair they will be produced as Platform 1 and Platform 2 on the timetables.

Further, there is another option to personalise these with your own choice of station. To illustrate this, Graham has kindly mocked up a set for King's Cliffe Station (now sadly no more) with some WJVintage adverts to-boot!



You can order these with the station name of your choice for **£13.50** plus P&P per board, or **£26.00** plus P&P for a pair

Note: the 'O' gauge driver figure is not included but gives a good idea of scale.

Graham is promising some 'Big 4' versions of these later as well. For the time being however, if you would like these as British Railways boards, they are available to order now. Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for Graham to make them and deliver to me.

Tram and Bus Driver/Conductor Figure Sets

I now have in stock a few of Graham Lock's new driver/conductor figure sets suitable for O gauge trams or buses.



Similar to his very popular locomotive driver/firemen figure sets, these new fellows will be very at home with one of the ETS range of O gauge trams as you will see from the photos above and below.



They are cast in white metal and hand painted by Graham himself. Price is a very reasonable **£15.00** plus P&P per set of two figures.



As a further accompaniment to these figure sets, Graham has also produced a very nice Bus/Tram Stop sign. These are priced at **£9.00** each plus P&P

Do please get in touch if you would like to add any of these to your collection. If I don't have them available from stock, Graham will quickly produce them to order so please allow a couple of weeks for delivery.

'End of Line' Clearance Items

It is the time of year when I tend to have a bit of a clear out of my storage lock-up.

I invariably come across one or two items that I'd forgotten I had or that have just become buried behind newer stock.

So, to help clear the decks a little I am offering these at some bargain prices on a first come, first served basis as always.



WJV War Office Tank Wagon
2 available
£32.00 plus P&P



WJV Bass PO Wagon
2 available
£25.00 plus P&P



WJV Graham's Golden Lager Tank Wagon

£35.00 plus P&P



WJV High-Capacity Bogie Wagon – LMS

2 x High flange wheels

1 x Low flange wheels

£65.00 each plus P&P



WJV High-Capacity Bogie Wagon – GWR (Low flange 2-rail wheels fitted)

£65.00 plus P&P



Darstaed Mobil Bogie Tank Wagon
New Old Stock

£50.00 plus P&P



Darstaed LMS 6-Wheel Horse Box
New Old Stock

£46.00 plus P&P



Darstaed SR 6-Wheel Milk Van
Pre-owned (A Cliff Collection)
Looks unused (Box is marked in pen)

£40.00 plus P&P



Darstaed LBSCR 6-Wheel Parcels Van
Pre-owned (A Cliff Collection)
Looks unused (Box is marked in pen)

£40.00 plus P&P



Darstaed LNER
Thompson Sleeper

£70.00 Plus P&P



WJV Sentinel - GWR Green
Pre-owned (A Cliff Collection)
Looks unused (box is labelled)

£200.00 plus P&P



DAN Toys Guy Van -
Slumberland
2 x Dinky repro box
1 x DAN Box
£26.00 each plus P&P



DAN Toys Guy Flatbeds
236 Red/Green
238 Dk Red/Green
239 Dk Green/Green
£20.00 each plus P&P

Remember all items are on a first come, first served basis so please don't delay – call or email asap.

See us at Shows

This month I have tried to give a more comprehensive schedule of events going forward as far as June 2023. With rising fuel costs and a general decline in spending with cost-of-living rises, I have reduced my travelling to some of the general Toy Fairs and I am focussing instead on the Model Railway club meets and shows. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming months as we head through winter towards a hopefully brighter spring! Do check back on these dates with each newsletter as I may add, subtract or alter events as we go.

Tuesday Jan 24th – HRCA Cambridge Group

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

Monday Feb 13th – 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 Feb 21st – Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group

Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby Rd, Gretton, Corby NN17 3DB
1:00pm to 5:00pm – entry £3.00

PLEASE NOTE – I will now be attending this NAROGG meet not Whitley (below) as previously advised. We will try to ensure this clash does not occur in future.

Tuesday Feb 21st – HRCA Merseyside Group

Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4EJ

2:00pm to 5:30pm **NOTE – this is a new venue (was formerly held at Preston Brook)**

Saturday Feb 25th – Sandown Park (Barry Potter Fairs)

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

Saturday Mar 11th TCS Spring Meeting and AGM

Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Narborough Road, Leicester, LE9 3AW –
10:30am to 4:30pm

Monday Mar 13th – 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**

Saturday Mar 25th - Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell

NOTE – PROVISIONAL DATE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

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 Mar 28th – HRCA Cambridge Group

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

Sat April 1st – Beckenham Vintage Toy Train Show

St John's Church, Eden Park Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3JN

Monday Apr 10th – 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 Apr 11th – HRCA Merseyside Group

Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4EJ - 2:00pm to 5:30pm **NOTE – this is a new venue (was formerly held at Preston Brook)**

Saturday April 15th - Yorkshire, Vintage Toy, Tinsplate and Live Steam Railways Fair 2023

Eccleshill Mechanics Institute, 93B Stone Hall Rd, Bradford BD2 2EW –
10:00am to 3:30pm

Tuesday April 18th – Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group

Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby Rd, Gretton, Corby NN17 3DB
1:00pm to 5:00pm – entry £3.00

Monday May 8th – 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**

Saturday May 20th – Sandown Park (Barry Potter Fairs)

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

Tuesday May 23rd – HRCA Cambridge Group

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

Saturday June 3rd – Bassett-Lowke Society/TCS/Trix Twin Society Combined Vintage Model Railway Show

British Motor Museum, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ
10:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday June 17th - Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell

NOTE – PROVISIONAL DATE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

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



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

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

WJVintage

Tel: 07711 092497

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