

# WJVintage

## February 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to the February 2023 edition of the WJVintage newsletter. How lovely it is to see the snowdrops and crocuses in full bloom around my village. Spring is very definitely in the air and will be with us very soon. It is my favourite time of year, particularly as the hours of daylight are also on the increase, which in turn encourages more of us out, particularly those who prefer not to drive in the dark.

I am certainly back in full swing with my attendances at all sorts of club nights, shows and events and I hope to bump into as many of you as possible, commencing with the first big Sandown show of the year, which is coming up on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February. If you have never been to a Sandown event and you live in the southern half of the country, it is very well worth a visit. It is probably the best Toy Fair for traditional O gauge model rail enthusiasts with a wide variety of both modern and vintage tinsplate on offer. My 'See us at Shows' listings towards the end of the newsletter give full details of my upcoming schedule, which I might add, now has some changes from last month.

This month I have added a new feature as part of 'Customer Corner' featuring customer testimonials. This will be a now and then rather than a regular feature but this past month I just happen to have had some lovely feedback from customers which I really appreciate and feel I would like to pass on. Scroll down to see what people are saying about me 😊

Once again, the 'What's New' feature is a pretty quiet affair with, I'm afraid still no news on the new loco. Believe me it is as frustrating for me as it is for you but at least there have been developments so an announcement should be coming soon. Watch this space .....

Stay Safe &  
Keep enjoying your trains

WJVintage  
Serious Toys for Discerning Boys

[www.wjvintage.co.uk](http://www.wjvintage.co.uk)



## Out & About

### HRCA Cambridge Group, Fulbourn Village Library, Fulbourn, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

The theme for this meet was 'Flying Scotsman' in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this most famous locomotive entering service. It certainly hit the spot with an excellent turnout and some fabulous locos both on display and running.



A particularly impressive Gauge one, coal fired 'Flying Scotsman' rather stole the show and looked quite superb. It also dwarfed the Ace Trains and Bassett-Lowke O gauge examples that were displayed alongside it.



The gauge one loco depicts 4472 in late 1920s LNER livery with an ex-GNR tender and was constructed by John Barrett of Barrett Engineering. There was no note of when the loco was built. It came with a beautiful wooden carry case as well!





Not a 'Flying Scotsman' but 4470 is an A1 Pacific 'Great Northern'. I am not sure who produced this, but I have a feeling it was by Leeds. David Peacock may well put me straight on this if I am wrong!

Now the ultimate way to take tea must surely be to pour it from a 'Flying Scotsman' tea pot. How about this for your afternoon cuppa whilst playing trains?



Very definitely a Leeds Model Company locomotive was a very impressive model of the predecessor to the A1s, A2s and A3s, the C1 4-4-2 Atlantic – a model very close to my heart for obvious reasons 😊

This one sure looks pretty with a rake of teak coaches, don't you think?





Thanks must go to Roger Burton who does a great job organising such well-attended and friendly events at Fulbourn. Roger never lets his stature (or lack of it) prevent him from being heard as he always uses a chair to address his audience and he always delivers his 'sermon' with a cheeky grin and a terrible joke 😊 Keep it up Roger!



## **HRCA Cotswolds Group, Burton Dassett Village Hall, Northend, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

The theme for this meet was 'Carriages and Coaches' which gives pretty broad scope and, as with Fulbourn (above) the theme was nicely but not exclusively followed and the turnout was as good as I have seen at Northend since the return to the village hall.





As you would expect the coaches on display were many and various and so here are a few photos before I introduce the star of the show (in my opinion).







So, what was the star of the show? Well, you have already seen it in the header to this newsletter. David Cooper brought along his unusual (for the UK) and highly impressive MTH Amtrak F59PHI Diesel, complete with a rake of outstanding and huge K-Line double deck Bombardier Commuter Cars. As you might expect, the diesel had a pretty realistic sound chip and lighting, whilst one of the coaches at least was fully illuminated.



Now ordinarily I wouldn't have thought this would be my thing, but I have to say I was really impressed, and I think it shows just how diverse this great hobby is. I also think it is marvellous that David could bring this to a HRCA meet and there wasn't a hint of snootiness, in fact nothing but admiration as far as I could see.

If you would like to see this train in action, I did take just a quick circuit of video and I have posted this on my Facebook page – just look up WJVintage on Facebook and you'll be able to see it.

Well done David – variety is the spice of life 😊

## Customer Corner

### More Breakdown Cranes

It would seem that my liking for breakdown cranes is getting me a bit of a reputation, which in turn is unearthing some fantastic models which you are kindly forwarding to me. This month we have a great find from Ron McCaskie.



Here is the story of this beauty in Ron's own words:

***I note from your latest Newsletter that you have more than a passing interest in breakdown cranes. I therefore thought you might like to see this example which I viewed in New Zealand while visiting family and friends there in 2011. I was taken to view an O gauge layout which belonged to a fellow enthusiast and HRCA member. I must admit I was a bit taken aback, as the resemblance to the Hornby Dublo version seemed uncanny.***

***The background is that the breakdown crane was made by Alan Middleton originally for a customer who I recollect lived in Tasmania. He however decided that he didn't want it so my contact in New Zealand, Alan England, if my memory serves me correctly, purchased it instead. In my view a superb model which is very much along Hornby (Dublo!) lines.***



Ron, this really is a very fine model indeed. I wonder if this was a one-off build by Alan, or if he ever made them available as a production item (albeit in very limited numbers)?

Has anyone else any knowledge of a Middleton Breakdown Crane?



## Customer Testimonials

In the interests of a balanced, interesting newsletter, I tend not to overblow my own trumpet too much. However, it just so happens that over the past month or so I have had some wonderful feedback from customers and so this month I am happy to share this with you as part of 'Customer Corner'.



First up is Bob Burgess, a long-standing member of the Bassett-Lowke Society who recently took delivery of his C1 Atlantic (saturated steam) in LNER livery. Bob sent a series of emails. His first was to say how well it was running and what he was able to haul with it:

***Have to say the Atlantic is superb, pulls 8 Exleys or 8 Milbro Teaks with ease, or a 28 wagon/van long train. Not sure I want to add too much more though.***

***For a loco of its size, it's very, very good. Well done!***

I was naturally delighted to hear this (and told him so). By way of response Bob did just clarify as follows:

***I should add that the Exleys all have BL bogies so run a lot better than Exley bogied ones.***

However, not content with this, Bob was curious to see just what the Atlantic will haul. His next email followed shortly after:

***Just a ps: Romps away with 10 coaches! and in a separate train 45 Milbro wagons!***

***About the sensible limit, I think!***

Naturally I was both surprised and delighted to hear this and so was Bob, who signed off as follows:



***Surprised me a well. Shows with decent bogies on coaches, or oiled wagon axles, what is possible.  
45 wagons is probably a bit OTT but it was on 3 ft radius curves, no visible slipping either.***

Well, what more can I say? This is fantastic feedback and allows me to talk with more authority when people ask about its capability. Thanks so much for your kind comments Bob.



Next up we hear from John Starling in Ipswich. John had a special order, 2-rail C1 Atlantic in the beautiful GNR livery. He emailed to confirm safe receipt plus a few comments on the loco:

***Loco, tender and wagon arrived in good shape this morning. I have given it a little test run on Peco 2-rail track and it is fine and in fact is very free running.***

***I am very pleased with the livery especially the white boiler bands and the overall effect with the dark red as shown in some of the postcards and also some of the pictures in the book of the Great Northern Atlantics by James Baldwin.***

John followed up with the superb, atmospheric photo above with the following note:

***P.S. one of the 2 pictures (he sent 2 photos) shows my only GNR coach which I purchased from the former GOG Hull premises and collected it from there on a rail trip in Autumn 2019 made via the Gainsborough Model Railway.***

Further enquiries ascertained that the lovely, and rare, GNR coach is by Fred Newman, whilst the coaches in the background are Milbros.

I did not have many orders for the Atlantic in 2-rail, but again it is fabulous feedback to know that it is so free running on Peco track – as this seems to be the standard question from 2-railers 'will it run on Peco track?' Thanks for the feedback and photos John.



Finally we have another lovely, and interesting note from Milan Simek, one of the trustees of The Brighton Toy Museum. Milan kindly supplied the wonderful photo above of their 0-4-2 48xx in action on the museum layout, along with the following note:

***It may interest you that The ETS for WJVintage "shirt-button" GWR 4800 Tank on the Brighton Toy and Model Museum layout, operated by a push-button to run, has now been in operation for an incredible three years. It is now on its second set of pick-ups, which you kindly supplied, and runs with ten pre-war Hornby wagons. It is likely to have done a lot more than 10,000 circuits and is still going strong and has been constantly reliable. This has been very important, because visitors get upset if it does not work.***

***The locomotive was obtained with the purpose of continuous operation to entertain families, in lieu of using rare and irreplaceable locomotives from the LB Trust's vintage collection. That said, we regard the model as an excellent representation of the prototype, and as manufactured in what might be regarded as the "vintage" method. (no pun intended!) As time goes by, such modern products may increasingly take over from operating the vintage items, at the Museum's occasional "Great Vintage Model Railway Shows", when the Public can enjoy the thrill of an 0 gauge extravaganza.***

Thank you, Milan for this great feedback. Again, it is invaluable to know that my locos not only run well but are also reliable runners and built to last.

And for anyone that is interested, the next big vintage running day for the museum is coming up next month. If you have visited before, you will already know what a fantastic day this will be. If you haven't been before



then I can only say you are in for a real treat if there is any chance you can get there. It really comes highly recommended.  
Here is an advertisement for the day:



The advertisement is a colorful poster for a model railway show. At the top left is a small crest. The main title 'THE GREAT VINTAGE MODEL RAILWAY SHOW' is in large, bold, blue letters. To the right is a logo for 'ACCREDITED MUSEUM' with a sun icon. Below the title, on the left, is the 'BRIGHTON TOY and MODEL MUSEUM' logo with 'REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1001560' underneath. To the right of this, text reads 'Featuring the unique Bassett Lowke Coronation Locomotive and coaches'. The central image is a detailed model of the Coronation Scot locomotive, painted in blue and silver, moving along tracks. Below the locomotive, the text 'CORONATION SCOT AND OTHER FAMOUS ROYAL TRAINS' is written in large blue letters, with 'SHOWCASING THE LITLEDALE BROUGH TRUST COLLECTION' in a smaller box below it. The date 'SATURDAY MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> 2023' is prominently displayed in large red letters. At the bottom, a black box contains white text detailing the museum's opening hours, train running times, admission prices, and location.

**THE GREAT VINTAGE  
MODEL RAILWAY SHOW**

**BRIGHTON  
TOY and MODEL  
MUSEUM**  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1001560

Featuring the unique Bassett Lowke  
Coronation Locomotive  
and coaches

**CORONATION SCOT  
AND OTHER FAMOUS ROYAL TRAINS**  
SHOWCASING THE LITLEDALE BROUGH TRUST COLLECTION

**SATURDAY MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Museum and collector's shop open: 10.30am – 5.00pm  
Train running: 11.00am – 1.00pm and 2.30pm – 4.30pm  
Special event admission: Adult £10, Child £5, Family (2+3) £20

Beneath Brighton main line station, 52/55 Trafalgar St, Brighton BN1 4EB  
Tel: 01273 749494 [www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk](http://www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk)



# What's New

## Train Timetable Boards

Yet another great new initiative from Graham Lock are these rather nice BR Timetable and Advertising Display Boards, which appear to have been well received, with a good few orders received since last month's launch



All completely hand-made from wood and card, and featuring high quality printed overlays, these are 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

There are still a few items left from my 'end of line sale'

I am offering these at some bargain prices on a first come, first served basis as always.



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



WJV High-Capacity Bogie Wagon  
– LMS  
2 x High flange wheels  
**£65.00** each plus P&P



Darstaed LMS 6-Wheel Horse Box  
New Old Stock  
**£46.00** 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



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  
**£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 have already had to add, subtract or alter some events and may continue to do so as necessary.**

### **Tuesday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group**

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

### **Saturday Feb 25<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 Mar 11<sup>th</sup> - Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell**

**NOTE – Now confirmed**

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

**Monday Mar 13<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 Mar 28<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

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

**Sat April 1<sup>st</sup> – Beckenham Vintage Toy Train Show**

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

**Monday Apr 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 April 11<sup>th</sup> – Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group**

Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby Rd, Gretton, Corby NN17 3DB  
1:00pm to 5:00pm – entry £3.00 **NOTE – another clash with HRCA Merseyside at Whitley which is a real shame but I'm afraid unavoidable. I will be at NAROGG**

**Tuesday Apr 11<sup>th</sup> – 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 15<sup>th</sup> - 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

**Monday May 8<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**

**Saturday May 20<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

**Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

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



## **Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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 17<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Alresford Festival of Toy Trains**

Perins School, Pound Hill, Alresford, Hants, SO24 9BS  
10:30am to 4:30pm



## **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](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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**WJVintage**

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