

# **WJVintage**

## **April 2023 Newsletter**



**Welcome to the April 2023 edition of the WJVintage newsletter and I hope you all enjoyed a very good Easter break. Easter saw a very special visitor to the Nene Valley Railway in the form of Sir Nigel Gresley. A friend of my wife captured this splendid shot as he emerged from Wansford tunnel, just a few miles from where I live – a wonderful sight in the spring sunshine!**

**In other news, I am pleased to report that my mum has now left the Rehabilitation Unit where she has been recovering following her broken hip operation. She has come on 'leaps and bounds' and is now walking very well with her frame and is happy to be home again. Thanks to all of you who have sent good wishes. She is really 'chuffed' that so many of my customers have asked after her.**

**The first half of April has seen me attending some fabulous shows and events, from as far afield as Beckenham to Bradford. I am pleased to report on three very different, but all really interesting meetings in the 'Out and About' section below.**

**Finally, with everything going on family-wise, this newsletter has taken an age to complete and will arrive very late. In May I will therefore reset a little and issue only a brief update. It will however be an important one because I will be announcing the new locomotive that is planned for later this year. Something to look forward to and I am excited to finally be letting the cat out of the bag!**

**Stay Safe &  
Keep enjoying your trains**

**WJVintage**

**Serious Toys for Discerning Boys**

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



## Out & About



### **Beckenham Vintage, St John's Church, Beckenham, Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**I always mark Beckenham down as the start of the spring show season. It is one of my favourite shows of the year with a great atmosphere and a wonderful array of layouts supported by a strong trade presence – a perfect combination!**

This year's show certainly did not disappoint and was again a credit to the organisational skills of Tony Penn and the team from the Beckenham & West Wickham Model Railway Club.

The format works really well, with the layouts in the church, the traders in the main hall and the refreshments and club shop in a separate modern hall.

Of the ten layouts in the church, there were several in O gauge and they all caught the eye for different reasons.



Adam Heeley, ably assisted here by Paul Gumbrell, put on a magnificent display of O Gauge JEP and French Hornby, together with some great French/European buildings, accessories and vehicles.



I am reasonably familiar with French Hornby, but not much with the JEP products and it was truly fascinating to see several items I have never laid eyes upon before.



Michael Parkes had a compact but nevertheless hugely popular (judging by the number of people surrounding it for most of the day) layout featuring O Gauge Lionel. The fascinating thing about this for me lay in the accessories, many of which I had not seen before, and most were fully functional with working features.

In particular there was a lovely Oil Derrick complete with a 'nodding donkey' pump. I did once own one of these and always rather regret having sold it!



First prize for number of working accessories must however go to Bryan Pentland with his staggering O Gauge 'The Circus Comes to Toytown' layout. Bryan is well known for his fantastic and eclectic tinsplate toy collections, and he certainly didn't hold back with this display. It was one of those you can stare at for hours and still see something you missed earlier.



As an employee of both Lledo and Corgi in a former life, I was rather pleased to see that Bryan has included some of the tinsplate accessories we created, plus a good smattering of Corgi's diecast Circus vehicles, so I feel I can take just a little bit of credit for a small part of this magnificent display! 😊



Elsewhere there were a number of other layouts that caught my eye. Well worthy of a mention was a stunning display of Gauge 1 created by Mark Carne. Mark is a regular at this event but every year he surprises us with something different. I have a soft spot for Gauge 1 and this layout really

showed what can be done with large scale models in a fairly limited space.



Centrepiece of the entire display was a magnificent turntable complete with a couple of small engine sheds, around which the main tracks circulated. There is something about Gauge 1 that I love – the size, the sound it makes and the fact that it is all largely pre-war so approaching 100 years old – it is just lovely and well done to Mark for a great exhibit.



Perhaps not strictly O Gauge – but it isn't far off – is the railway system developed by Lego. Peter Ingleton set up a really nice layout in the trader area, ideally placed to catch the attention of the youngsters as they came in.



I only wish Lego had produced such toys when I was a youngster. It is probably a better size for young hands than OO Gauge and of course it combines the assembly/construction process with the running aspect – two elements of the hobby that I really enjoy to this day.



Finally, I can't leave this report without a quick word about Les Martin's lovely Triang OO layout. Like many of us I suspect, Les has an interest in all types of railway modelling and I know him well as an O Gauge enthusiast.

However, on this occasion he was firmly in the OO camp and what a good job he did too – and all using track he had borrowed. I love the multi-level effect, and the way the trains rise up to the harbour terminus station, with a very effective representation of the water below. Great stuff Les, well done! By the way, Les will be reproducing this layout design at the Alresford Festival of Toy Trains in June so another chance to see it – see the **'See us at Shows'** section below for full details



All in all, this was another excellent event, and I am already looking forward to next year when the date will be slightly earlier – 23<sup>rd</sup> March - and the venue is also likely to change. I will confirm full details nearer the time.



## **Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group Gretton Village Hall, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Our second NAROGG meeting of the year had the rather interesting theme of 'Spring' and whilst there were plenty of clockwork locos brought along, there were also one or two more 'off the wall' interpretations of the theme.**

However, to my mind there was one clear, and dare I say, rather cheeky winner, and that was produced by none other than Michael Foster. He brought along this very well-endowed Hornby LMS 0-4-0, complete with

'Blackpool' nameplate and – would you believe it – a swimsuit-clad fair maiden complete with fully sprung 'boobs'!!



They say that 'seeing is believing' and quite a few of the chaps present got an eyeful as they checked out that this loco truly complied with the theme of the day 😊

As you will see from the photo (right), it most certainly did with the wobbly bits suitably secured by a spring! I suppose, in this day and age its not terribly PC, but I for one was pleased to see that a sense of humour can still prevail and well done to Michael for such a fun interpretation of the 'spring' theme.



Elsewhere, Dave Busfield also presented a nice 'Spring has Sprung' sculpture/exhibit featuring a surplus clockwork spring. This was the backdrop to a display of yet another facet of the Meccano product portfolio that was completely new to me.



The product range was called 'Dinky Builder' and Dave's support material included a full page advertisement in the December 1934 edition of the Meccano Magazine, plus a full colour advert and a black and white photo. Dave exhibited a superb display featuring three full sets and several of the models built up into a number of different buildings, a truck and several gardening implements (I think).



I do love it when things like this turn up completely out of the blue and from my point of view, it just reinforces the old saying that 'every day is a school day'. I shall certainly keep a look out for these in the future as I just find it hard to believe that I'd not come across this range before. You will gather that I was totally enthralled by these fantastic construction sets and can't thank Dave enough for bringing them along.

Another Dave that I can't thank enough is Dave Peasant along with his uncle Pete Peasant. They once again brought along a fabulous guest layout that this month focussed on the 'spring' theme and featured some wonderful and, in many cases, rather rare clockwork driven tinplate toy trains and other vehicles.



Two of the contributors to the theme, Dave Busfield (left) and Michael Foster (right) enjoying Dave and Pete Peasants' incredible tinplate clockwork layout.

This was another one of those layouts that you can stare at for hours and still keep spotting things you missed earlier. I'll give some brief highlights in photos.



Not on the layout but part of the display was a rare Marklin clockwork tender loco with Bing coaches



A Brimtoy clockwork tender loco with Pullman coaches



Two lovely tinplate trucks by Chad Valley



A gorgeous Marx tinplate race circuit complete with clockwork race cars

Of course, we try to keep our NAROGG meets as relaxed as possible and always emphasise that the theme of the day is just a bit of fun and that everyone is welcome to run whatever they want to bring along.

To this end, one of the highlights for me was a stunning, and extremely rare, Southern Railways liveried Drummond T14 'Paddlebox' Class No. 460 by Bonds. Another beauty I have never seen before but I am so glad I have now! I think I have Martin Bloxham to thank for bringing this one along but if I am wrong, I do apologise (my notes weren't clear!)



It looked absolutely stunning with a rake of Southern Green coaches to haul.



I think/hope you can see that NAROGG covers a wide range of interests and really does have something to offer to all O Gauge enthusiasts. In fact, the only thing we are missing is – people!

Our first meeting of the year was attended by around 20 and I had hoped that this April meet would build on this. In fact, we only had around 15 that signed in on the day. This makes the finances rather difficult, quite aside from all the effort put in by so many of our contributors to only be seen by a handful of people.

Our next meeting is booked for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. It will be possibly the last test to see if the numbers can become viable again. The daytime format (1pm to 5pm) is not ideal I know, but it is all that is available to us

due to other hall bookings. Please try to get along if you can. Full details are in the '**See us at Shows**' feature towards the end of this newsletter.

## **Yorkshire Vintage Train and Toyfair – Eccleshill Mechanical Institute, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**

**Following the sad demise of the Bassett-Lowke Northern shows, held for many years at Leigh in Lancashire, this brand new event is all down to the hard work of John Lockwood and his team and the venue is over the Pennines in neighbouring Yorkshire, Bradford (Eccleshill) to be precise.**



The Eccleshill Mechanical Institute is a fabulous venue, being light and airy, large enough for two layouts, one O Gauge and one Gauge 1, plus a decent number of traders. It even has its own excellent café offering all manner of hot and cold snacks at very reasonable prices. The only slight drawback is access, as the main hall is up on the first floor with access via a flight of stairs. To his absolute credit, John laid on a team of enthusiastic, strong, young chaps who willingly and speedily assisted with the unloading and re-loading of my van. What a master-stroke! It really did make the set-up and break down a breeze – especially for all of us older chaps! 😊

As I mentioned there were two working layouts, The Bassett-lowke O Gauge display formerly used at the Leigh shows, and a nice Gauge 1 display put together by John and his team.

## Bassett-Lowke O Gauge





## Gauge 1







John is also quite an enthusiast of larger scale model railways and he had several superb 3½ inch gauge locomotives dotted around the hall on spare tables and window ledges.

The 3½ inch gauge Midland Railway Class 2, 4-4-0 shown below was apparently completely scratch built by an unknown model engineer with fantastic skills.



Some more of John's 3½ inch collection was displayed on a pool table. Really impressive in every way!



It is always difficult to know with a new show whether it will be popular with enthusiasts and whether they will attend in numbers. I have to say, John and his team must have worked hard on their publicity as this was a well-attended first event, and easily on a par with the old Leigh (Bassett-Lowke Northern) shows in terms of attendance. Such was the success that John has already started work on an autumn event and I look forward to publishing confirmation of dates and times in a future newsletter. I am really looking forward to this already!

## Customer Corner

### Who Made It?

This month not so much a customer submission feature, but a plea for customer feedback/knowledge. At the Yorkshire Vintage Train and Toyfair (see report above), there was a truly stunning O Gauge terminus station for sale by one of the traders close to my tables.



The only problem is, he had no idea who made it, or if it was commercially produced or perhaps a one-off scratch build. It was very professionally finished, perhaps in the style of Hugar, but I certainly have no idea what it is, although I think it is totally magnificent and would love one! The only problem possibly is the asking price, which was a speculative £800.00 and as the dealer rightly said; 'where will you find another one?'

So now it is over to you guys! Has anyone ever seen one of these before? Do you have any information on the likely history of the station? If you do I would love to hear from you and I will pass any information onto the dealer who owns this mystery piece. Fingers crossed!



## What's New

### Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke Figurine

Graham Lock's brand new reproduction figurine of Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke with his cine camera has been extremely popular, with a good number already ordered. Mr Lowke was even seen at the recent Yorkshire Vintage Train and Toyfair, where he was spotted on the

platform of the Bassett-Lowke layout, filming the trains as they came and went. I wonder if he has a Youtube channel? 😊



Cast in white metal, then beautifully hand painted in a traditional style gloss finish, this lovely, collectable piece is also supplied in superb period style Bassett-Lowke repro box. Overall height of this O gauge figure is 47mm



Priced at just **£11.00** each plus P&P, Graham will make these to order so please let me know if you would like one and I will get him working on them. I would anticipate a lead time of around 2 weeks given the labour-intensive nature of these pieces.

## 'End of the Line' Clearance Items

One of my favourite locomotive releases of recent years has been the beautiful Adams Radial. But like all good things, it has now just about reached the 'end of the line' and I have just two pieces left to sell, both Southern Railways unlined Black.



These are brand new items with zero running time other than the quick test I do on my rolling road to ensure they are all in perfect running order. However, as they have also done some mileage over the years in the back of my van to shows, club nights and toy fairs, some of the boxes are a little worn on the edges.

For this reason, I am prepared to offer them at a discounted price of just **£420.00** each, plus P&P, a discount of **£30.00** over the normal price in order to clear them.

If you are interested, please get in touch quickly to secure one of these most elegant of Victorian locomotives. Once they are gone, they are gone!

### Mineral Wagons Special 'Newsletter Exclusive' Deal

I think it is fair to say that I possibly over-ordered when I developed the mineral wagons. Sadly it was the only way I could get a cost price to make the project economically viable. They have actually sold very well by normal standards but my order was virtually double what I would normally commit to.



I sold around 20 pieces last month but would still like to move a few more on so I am still offering them at a discount **only to newsletter subscribers** and for a limited time only.

I have both Bauxite and Grey available (more Grey than Bauxite) and I still have four running numbers for each scheme.

They are available now at the discounted price of **£120.00** for a set of four, plus P&P in any colour mix (were previously £150.00 for four). Singles are also available at **£32.00** each plus P&P (were previously £39.95 each).

To recap, these feature an all metal chassis and wheels, coupled to a resin body produced in the UK by Skytrex. They have sufficient weight to

hold the rails beautifully, but are considerably lighter than previously available cast metal bodied wagons, making hauling a long rake considerably easier.

These are available on a first come, first served basis, so do get in touch asap if you would like some.

There are also still one or two items left from my recent more general 'end of line sale' and I am offering these at some bargain prices.



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



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



DAN Toys Guy Van –  
Slumberland  
2 x Dinky repro box  
**£26.00** each plus  
P&P



DAN Toys Guy Flatbeds  
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.

### ...and Finally

How about some lovely LNER Gresley Teak Coaches?

I have on offer some Ace C4 **pre-owned** coaching stock as follows:

**Set A** with clear windows but no interior partitions

6461 all first/break, 61639 all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1516 brake/3<sup>rd</sup> with working rear light and pick-up (1 set only – photos show both sides)



These are all in excellent condition and the sides still have the protective film in place

Note: roof boards 'The Flying Scotsman' on one side of each only

Price **£220.00** plus P&P for the set

### Single Coaches

3<sup>rd</sup> Buffet Car 650 with clear windows but no interior partitions.

The sides still have the protective film in place

No roof boards supplied





**£75.00 plus P&P**

1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Composite with clear windows and corridor interior partitions  
 Name boards 'The Flying Scotsman' on both sides.  
 Protective film has been removed but sides are in excellent condition.



**£85.00 plus P&P**

Please get in touch quickly if you would like any of the above – first come, first served!

## See us at Shows

This month I have tried to give a more comprehensive schedule of events going forward as far as June 2023 and some beyond. 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.**

**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

**Monday June 12<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

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

**Tuesday June 13<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

**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

**Saturday June 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

**NOTE: this date has been changed to avoid a clash with Alresford. Please note the new date**

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

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

**Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

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

**Monday Aug 14<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 September 9<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 September 16<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 September 26<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

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

**Saturday November 11<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 December 16<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



**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, remember our 'YouTube' Channel!

I have to confess, after a good start, the channel has been quiet for a while but the most recent post is a rather nice video of the Atlantic running. I am hoping that there will be more to come 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**

Tel: 07711 092497

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