

# **WJVintage**

## **Nov/Dec 2025 Newsletter**



**Welcome to this combined winter WJ Vintage newsletter covering November and December 2025. With my usual publication date being towards the end of the month, I hope you will forgive this combined issue as, in reality, December is quite a quiet month for me, with only one main show booked in, so I don't think there will be too much to report on until the new year anyway. We will recharge and go again in January.**

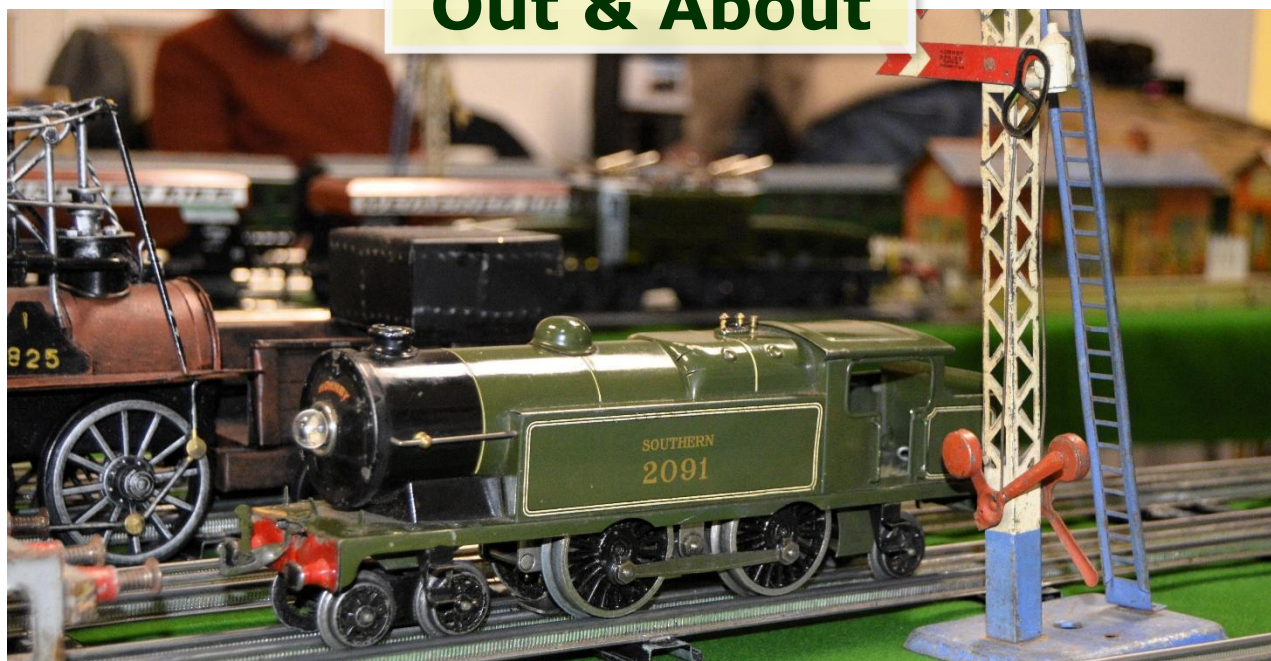
**Does anyone recognise the station platform above? It's from the North Norfolk Railway at Sheringham, where my little granddaughter, who will soon be a year old, has just been on her first Santa Special – in November – proof, if it were needed, that the Christmas period is starting earlier and earlier. In my village quite a few houses have been decked in lights for a couple of weeks already!**

**Do enjoy this final newsletter of 2025, which is packed with all the usual features – reports from my travels, customer features and the very latest items I have acquired for the pre-owned sales feature. The Seven Mill Models pre-Christmas sale has been very successful with several items now sold out but scroll down for a last chance to grab a bargain from the remaining locos and bridges stock. I have also added a few more LMS items from the collection. Finally, it just remains for me to wish all my readers/customers, old and new, a very peaceful and merry Christmas, and a happy 2026. See you in the new year!**

**Stay Safe &  
Keep enjoying your trains**



## Out & About



### **HRCA Cotswolds Group, Northend, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**

**This was another excellent meeting from my perspective, with some really interesting items coming from outside the main theme of the event, which was Southern. I also got to meet with an old friend and customer who came all the way from Preston, which is some journey for a model railway meeting!**

I recently ordered in some parts for Chris Holmes to allow him to complete the refurbishment of an old ETS Swiss electric 'Gotthard Krokodil'. I think this is a really impressive locomotive and it always draws attention, particularly in the UK as it is quite an unusual design. Having now completed the work, Chris brought the 'Krok' to the meeting, along with some large European outline hopper wagons and a brake van, to create a nice compact freight train.



Looking at the price of these from ETS (yes, they are still available), they are close to £1000.00, so it was definitely worthwhile buying the spare parts to complete a superb refurbishment, which looks as good as new.



From one refurbishment, to another, and this time involving the transformation of an old Hornby locomotive. Bill Holland, who I used to meet with regularly at the old Preston Brook HRCA meetings, had come all the way from Preston in Lancashire. With him he brought a very nice version of a Great Central Railways Robinson C4 4-4-2 Atlantic. Bill created this loco by converting an old Hornby Royal Scot and what a nice job!



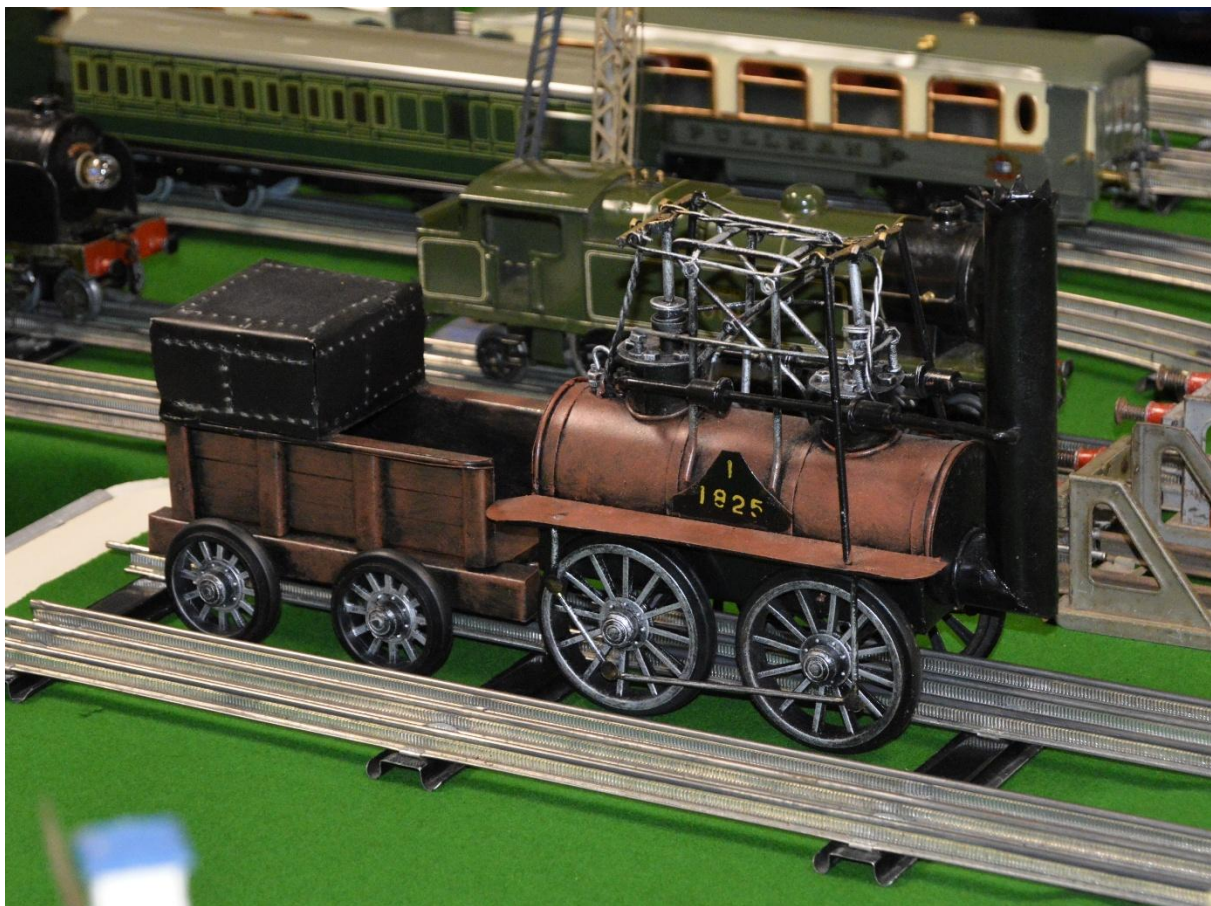
Bill also wanted to pass over to me another ETS locomotive in need of repair and some additional parts. It's a Mallet type 0-4-4-0 locomotive, purchased second hand in the UK, but with some damage. This one I am sending back to ETS as there is some fairly complicated wiring required to add a sound module and replace a damaged smoke unit, whilst also repairing the chimney and smoke box door.



Again, I think it will prove very worthwhile bringing this loco back to life. It

is another unusual configuration for the UK and will look really nice once the work is completed.

As this year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of railways in the UK, my eye was immediately drawn to one of the sidings of the O gauge layout, where there appeared to be a gauge 1 (or similar) model of Locomotion No.1, the first steam locomotive to haul a passenger carrying train on a public railway, way back in 1825.



Sadly, it turned out to be a static, tinplate model, in no particular scale. Richard Taylor confessed to having bought it in a junk shop for just a few pounds. Quite a bargain, I'd say, as it looked really quite presentable and of far better quality than a lot of cheap tin-bashed 'tat' that is often found in gift shops 😊

It was also nice to see a newly delivered Seven Mill Models B17 4-6-0 'Tottenham Hotspurs' immediately pressed into service, and, I have to say, with just a light oiling, it performed faultlessly, smooth running and a powerful hauler. I think it really is a very attractive locomotive, and at the very competitive 'sale' price that these have been offered at by Seven Mill recently, they have proved massively popular and, along with the B1, the B17s are now all sold out!





If you'd like to join in with the fun at Northend, the next meeting is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December and that's the last for 2025!



## **HRCA Cambridge Group, Fulbourn, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

It seems to be the norm now that I am double booked for this meeting and so my visits are relatively short as I have to be home for around 7:30pm. However, I do have time to catch up with one or two friendly faces and to get some photographs of the O gauge action. Sadly, with this being the last meet of the year, the O Gauge layout was rather disappointing with several regulars not attending.



The theme for the evening was 'accessories' which seemed somehow to put people off bringing anything to run 😞.

The O gauge layout, in particular seemed to take an age to get up and running, with little to excite me when it did get going. I'm sorry to sound a little negative but after the stunning pieces on display and running at the previous meeting, the rather sparse layout (see photo above) took me somewhat by surprise. That said, there is always something of interest to be found and two items in particular stood out.



Firstly, the lovely little GNR loco shown above. I don't know who it belonged to and I don't recognise it. Initially I thought it might be by Bing but I can't find any references to it. The open splasher is certainly very distinctive and is not something I have seen before. Can anyone help? I'm sure someone can, it usually opens the floodgates when I pose such a question 😊.

The second item threw me for a while, but then the penny dropped and I recognised what it is, despite a rather confusing construction on the night.



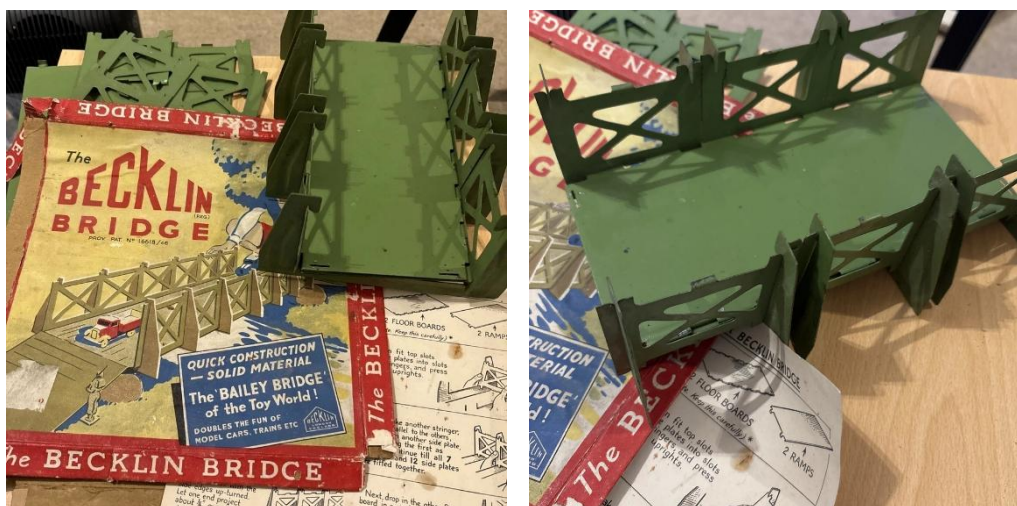
Robin Hair had posed the question to see if anyone knew what he had come across – a bridge of some description but by whom? Only when I got home



and reviewed my photo did it dawn on me that this was in fact a Becklin Bridge (aka 'The Bailey Bridge of the Toy World') of the exact type that I showed in a photo in the October newsletter at the Gaydon HRCA show. Robin has in fact constructed it upside down with the supports placed crosswise rather than lengthwise, which is why I didn't immediately recognise it! Below is a zoomed in section from my Gaydon photo.



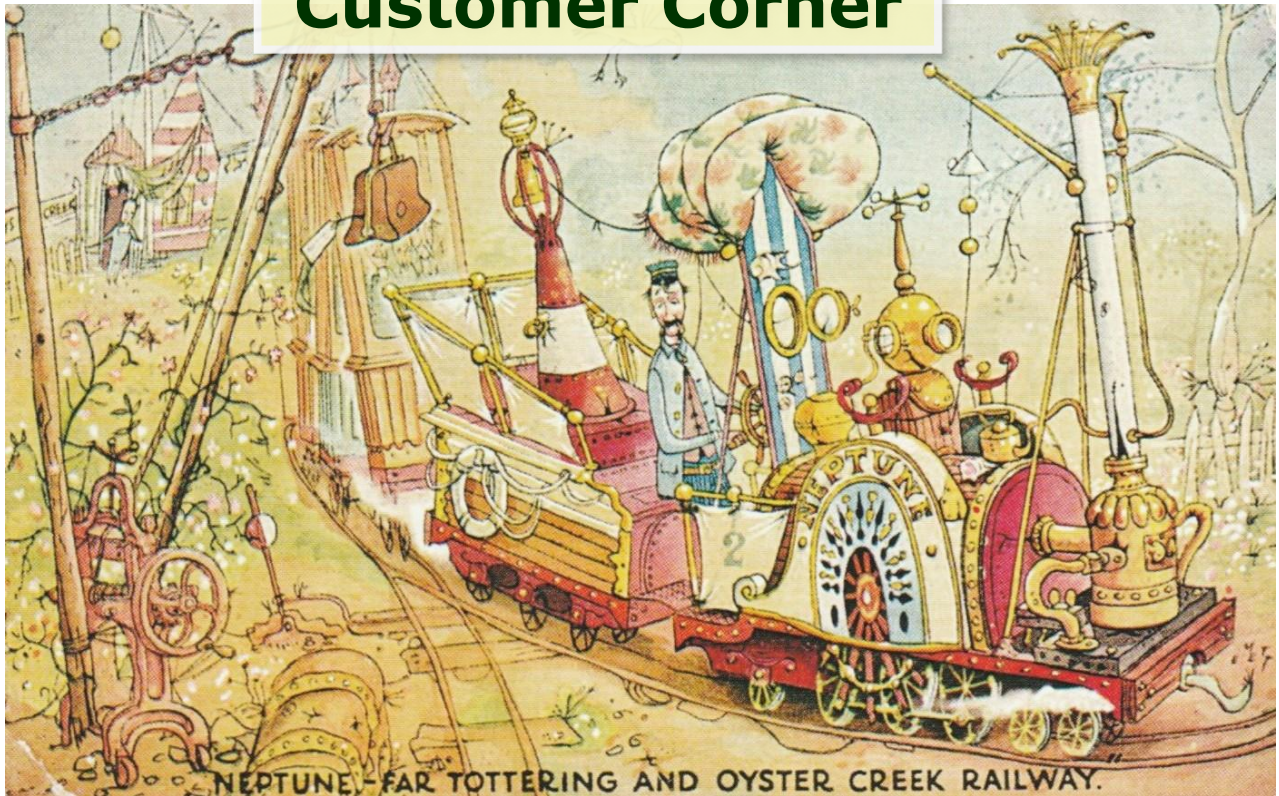
And here are a couple of much clearer photos showing the construction and packaging



So, there we go – even at a fairly quiet meet its still possible to find items of interest and one query solved whilst another is still to be solved. Keep your eyes peeled for the January 2026 edition, because if the solution to the mystery locomotive query is forthcoming, I will be sure to publish the details.



## Customer Corner



Do you recall the 'Prince Charles' locomotive on the Saltburn Miniature Railway that I encountered whilst on holiday in Yorkshire during the summer? Well, it certainly struck a chord with Paul Ross who wrote to me with some fascinating background information on the history of the locomotive. Just to refresh your memories, below is a photo of 'Prince Charles', a streamlined 4-6-2 Pacific in regular use on the 15-inch gauge railway.



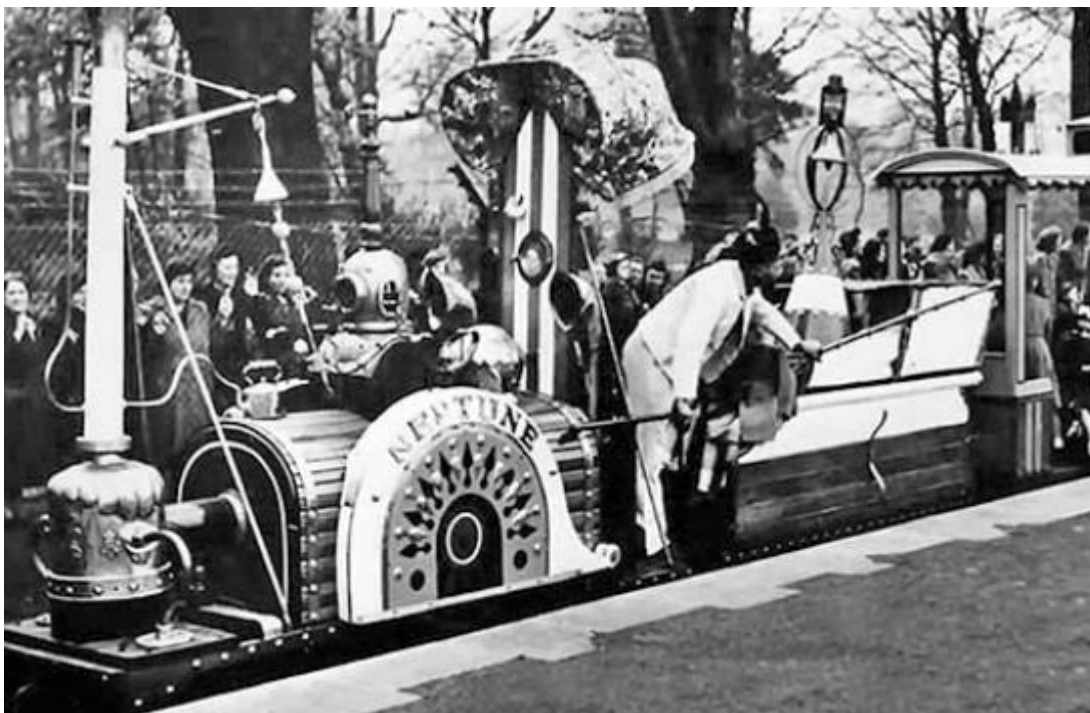
I'll hand over to Paul for his thoughts:

I was particularly interested to see the photos of 'Prince Charles' on the Saltburn Miniature Railway as it is believed that this loco originally formed the basis of 'Neptune', one of the three locomotives on the Emett Railway at the Festival of Britain Pleasure Gardens in Battersea Park in 1951. All three were built on diesel-electric 4-6-2 chassis supplied by Harry Barlow of Southport.



The official name for the line was the 'Far Tottering and Oyster Creek Railway' and everything was based on Emmet's railway cartoons in Punch magazine. One of the publications issued at the time said that "when the coastal section to Dogfish Point was opened, 'Neptune' was put on to work the service. It was rather hurriedly constructed mostly from bits of the paddle boat 'Comet' which had been set upon by limpets and drifted ashore at Smugglers Reach, a total wreck. It was very popular with fishermen and smugglers, who were delighted with its ship-shape appearance and the odour of rum-and-steam which accompanied it".

Paul, thanks so much for this insight into the whimsical story behind 'Neptune' and its role on the 'Far Tottering and Oyster Creek Railway'. I have to confess, I had never heard of this railway until you wrote in and yet, I believe over two million people rode on the railway during the Festival of Britain! I have since done a little research and have come up with a photo of the real 'Neptune' during its operational life at the festival. It really was remarkably similar to Emmet's original cartoons.



I am now a little torn. On the one hand it is fantastic that the loco is still in use as 'Prince Charles', but on the other hand, I'd have loved to have seen it as it was built as the paddle steamer cum locomotive, 'Neptune'.



# What's New



## H2 Brighton Atlantics

Do remember, I still have a few of the ex-Raylo stock of Brighton Atlantics in stock. Liveries available are LBSCR Umber, SR Maunsell green and SR Malachite Green. All Brighton H2 Atlantics are priced at **£750.00** each plus P&P. Please get in touch to order yours now!



## ...Also still available - C1 Atlantics – 3-Rail only

I do still have a few of the C1 Atlantics left in two schemes – LNER & BR



These are now in very limited quantities and are priced at **£695.00** each plus P&P

## Seven Mill Models Stock Clearance Sale

John Fowler of Seven Mill Models has decided to retire from the model railway business but still has limited stocks of some of his excellent O Gauge locomotives and Girder Bridges. These are a clever combination of finescale DJH Engineering bodies with ETS chassis and mechanisms for 2/3-rail running.

If you are not a member of the HRCA, then you will not have seen his advertisement. WJVintage will be handling all the sales so if there is anything in the advert that you fancy, drop me a line. Stocks have been selling fast, with several lines now sold out. If there is anything that you fancy, please get in touch quickly - once they are gone, they are gone!





# Seven Mill Models

## Pre-Christmas Clearance

Limited Availability – Grab them While You Can!

Superb Coarse Scale Models for 2/3 rail operation

- 10-20 Volt DC operation
- Accurate Scale cast bodies by DJH Eng
- Smooth clutch driven mechanisms by ETS
- Made in Great Britain



**B1s now SOLD OUT**

**B1 4-6-0, BR lined Black**

Bushbuck (only 2 available)

~~£750.00~~ Now just **£550.00** each plus P&P

**B17 4-6-0, BR Green Footballers/Sandringhams**

\*Sunderland \* Barnsley \* Royal Sovereign \* City of London

~~£750.00~~ Now just **£550.00** each plus P&P (Last few)

**B17s now SOLD OUT**



**Gresley V2 2-6-2**

BR Green lined – ~~£750.00~~ **SOLD OUT** \* 60858 \* 60902

BR Black lined – 60876 \* 60884

LNER Apple Green – Green Arrow \* Coldstreamer

NE Wartime Black – 3645

~~£750.00~~ Now just **£595.00** each plus P&P

**Peppercorn A2 4-6-2**

BR Apple Green – Sun Chariot \* Tudor Minstral

~~£795.00~~ Now just **£695.00** each plus P&P (Last 2 available)

**A2s now SOLD OUT**



**Ivatt Class 2F 2-6-0 'Mickey Mouse'**

LMS unlined Black - BR (early) ~~£625.00~~ **SOLD OUT** unlined Black

BR (late crest) lined Black

Unlined ~~£625.00~~ Now just **£495.00** each plus P&P

Lined ~~£675.00~~ Now just **£525.00** each plus P&P

**BR Class 03, 0-6-0 Diesel Shunter**

BR Green unlined \* BR Blue with Wasp St

~~£475.00~~ Now just **£295.00** each plus P&P

**03 Diesels now SOLD OUT**

**O Gauge Cast Metal Arched Girder Bridges (styled on the classic Hornby Dublo bridge)**

Easy to assemble \* single & double track versions

**Double track**

Orange or grey  
(20 x 9 x 6 inches LWH)

~~£129.00~~ Now just

**£69.00** each plus P&P



**Single track – Orange**  
(20 x 4.5 x 6 inches LWH)

~~£99.00~~ Now just

**£59.00** each plus P&P



10 inch bridge extensions also available  
in single or double track - orange and grey



Single track ~~£99.00~~ now **£25.00** plus P&P  
Double track ~~£49.00~~ now **£30.00** plus P&P

**These Limited Availability Offers Are Available exclusively from**

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# Pre-Owned Sales

## O Gauge Radio Control Locos – Ex-David Bates Collection

If you have been a regular reader of this newsletter over the years, you might possibly recall that, back in December 2020, I offered a collection of locomotives that had all been professionally converted to 2.4ghz radio control by David Bates.

Well, fast forward five years, and I now have two of the locomotives from this collection back up for sale. They are ideal for outdoor use but will of course run just as happily indoors as well. They really are quite something as I think you will agree when you read on.

### What's on offer?

Well, the locos have been converted to battery power, using state of the art Lithium Polymer batteries for long run time. David also fitted sound and smoke to the locos and each is fitted with a receiver, speed controller and battery. For operation, you will also receive a transmitter, programmable controller, battery charger, as well as full instructions – in fact around **£250.00** of radio equipment with each loco. They really are 'ready to run'.

What's more, David produced a video to accompany each loco so you can see for yourselves exactly how realistically they operate. He explains the features of each loco and the functions available.

## Ace Trains Britannia 'Oliver Cromwell'

**£750.00** plus P&P



Here is the youtube link to David's demonstration video:

[Ace Trains Britannia - YouTube](#)

## **Ace Trains 9F 'Evening Star'**

**£650.00** plus P&P



Here is the youtube link to David's demonstration video:

[Ace Trains O Gauge 9F Evening Star - YouTube](#)

The current vendor of these locos purchased them from me in 2020/21 and tells me they have had virtually no use in that time. I have now taken delivery of the locos and so I plan to charge the batteries and to test the running before I part with them.

They are offered at a considerable discount from the original prices and, given the value of the radio gear alone, I think they represent exceptional value for money.

The locos also come in the original Ace Trains boxes.

Who fancies a very special Christmas present?

## **Ace Trains Class 55, English Electric Deltic Co-Co Diesel Locomotive - £695.00** plus P&P







Here is a great opportunity to acquire one of these beautiful Ace Deltics in virtually 'as new' condition, for a very reasonable price. Although pre-owned, this loco has seen only light use as evidenced by

the small amount of wear on the button collectors. The loco is otherwise unmarked and comes in an excellent box with instructions.

## LMS Collection

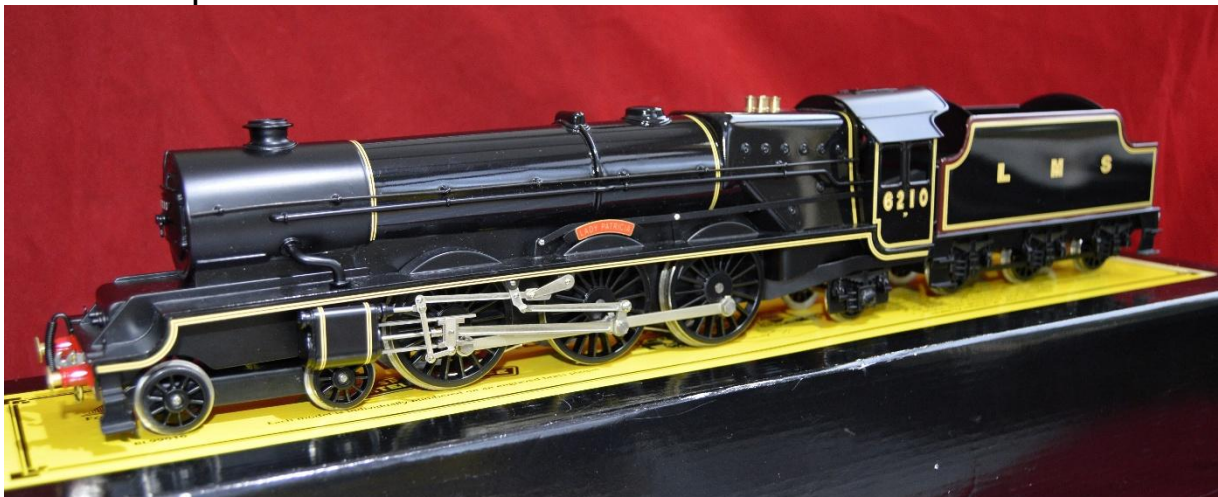
### **Ace Trains LMS Coronation 4-6-2 'City of Liverpool' - £1150.00 plus P&P**

This superb LMS Coronation Class 4-6-2 was produced in extremely low numbers and is highly sought after. Suitable for 2 or 3-rail operation, it has seen very little running and is in excellent condition. The box is also good with just the odd mark on the edge of the lid. All paperwork is included but the instruction sheet is a colour copy of the original



### **Bassett-Lowke Princess Class 4-6-2 'Lady Patricia' LMS lined black**

**£550.00 plus P&P**



This is a Bassett-Lowke release from the Corgi era (pre-Hornby) and is presented in beautiful, unmarked gloss black with cream lining and a little maroon edging on the tender. It comes complete with lamps and various train name plates

**Bassett-Lowke Rebuilt Scot 'Queen's Westminster Riflemen' LMS lined black - £425.00 plus P&P**



This is another Bassett-Lowke release from the Corgi era (pre-Hornby) and is presented in beautiful, unmarked gloss black with cream lining and a little maroon edging.

The loco is in lovely condition and shows little sign of much use, as evidenced by the light wear only on the spoon collectors. The box is good, but the label has a little sun fading. A copy of the instructions is included. There are no lamps included.

**Ace Trains LMS 4-4-4 Tank Locomotive – Black lined £250.00 plus P&P**





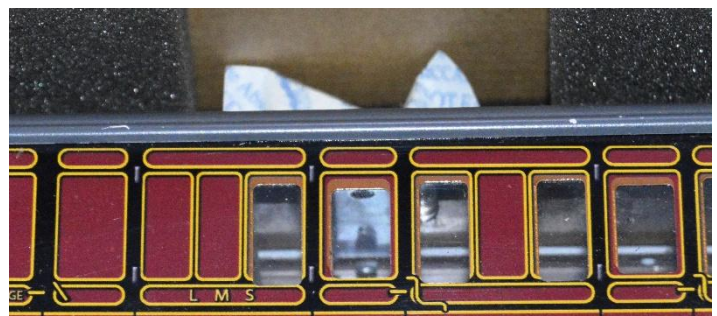
This lovely tank engine is one of the earlier Ace releases. It is presented in immaculate lined gloss black finish with very little wear showing on the spoons and a good box. There is no paperwork with this loco.

**Ace Trains C/24 Set of 3 x Clerestory Roof Coaches – LMS**  
**£210.00.00** plus P&P

So here we have a near perfect set of coaches with Clerestory roofs. The protective film is still in place on the coach sides so the intricate litho print is perfectly preserved. Set comprises of an all 1<sup>st</sup>, all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>/brake end with working tail lamp. All in excellent condition with excellent box



**Darstaed Set of 4 x 6-Wheel Coaches – LMS (non-clerestory)**  
**£200.00.00** plus P&P



Here we have a set of 4 x six wheelers comprising all 1<sup>st</sup>, all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> brake. They are in excellent condition but there are a couple of scratches to the roof edge on the 3<sup>rd</sup>/brake coach as can be seen in the photo above (you may need to zoom in). Box is good.



## **Darstaed Set of 6 x Clerestory coaches – LMS**

**£390.00** plus P&P

Here we have a complete set of 6 x LMS Clerestory Roof coaches, all excellent, boxed and presented in a large green carry case. Comprises 1 x 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 x all 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 x all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 x brake/3<sup>rd</sup>.



## **Ace Trains C1 LMS Coaches**

**All First with Clerestory Roof - £110-00** plus P&P





Perfect, as new condition with the protective film still in place on the coach body. Box has some shelf wear

**All Third with Clerestory Roof - £110-00** plus P&P



Perfect, as new condition with the protective film still in place on the coach body. Box has some shelf wear

**Third/Brake with Clerestory Roof - £110-00** plus P&P



Perfect, as new condition with the protective film still in place on the coach body and virtually no wear on the spoon collectors, which provide power to the rear lamp. Box has some shelf wear.

**3<sup>rd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> with non-clerestory roof - £100.00** plus P&P  
 Perfect, as new condition but without the protective film in place on the coach body. Box has some shelf wear



**Bassett-Lowke Wagons and Van - LMS**  
**3-Plank £27.00** (x3 available), **7-Plank £30.00** (x3 available), **12 ton Van £30.00** (x1 available) all plus P&P  
 All are in excellent, lightly used condition



**Bassett-Lowke Great Northern Station - £50.00** plus P&P  
 This resin cast station is in good condition and is boxed. The painting and detail on it is excellent, and brings a touch of added realism to an O gauge layout.



(platform side views –  
 platform not included)





## **Darstaed LNER Gresley Coach Set - REDUCED to £195.00** plus P&P

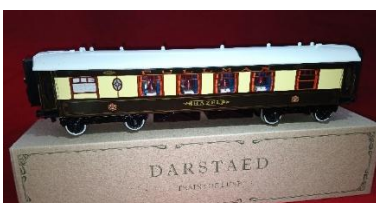
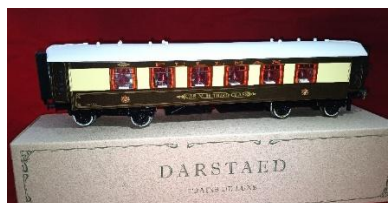
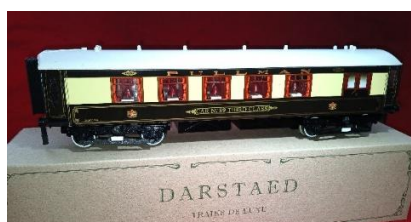
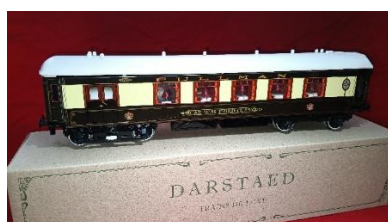


This is a non-standard set that has been made up from coaches that were surplus to the previous owner's requirements. It comprises as follows:  
1 x comp corridor 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 x corridor 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 x open 3<sup>rd</sup>  
They are presented in the lovely LNER Gresley Teak finish and are in excellent condition. All have connector plugs to enable the lighting to be connected when attached to a coach with suitable pick-up spoon.

## **Darstaed 'Brighton Belle' 5-Car Pullman Set**

**FURTHER REDUCED to £525.00** plus P&P (2-rail only)

This is a rare opportunity to acquire this very special set from Darstaed but note it is set up for 2-rail operation only. I believe a 3-rail power bogie was available for these, but I don't have any in stock.



There are a few issues that I need to highlight.  
The power car (No.88) and coach 'Doris' have some light scratches as shown below. The camera does make these look way worse than they look to the eye.



The power car roof is just slightly bowed up at the front. You will have to zoom in on the first photo to see this.

I have tested the power car on my rolling road and it runs well in both directions and powers the internal lighting.

### See us at Shows

Here we have a schedule for the remainder of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 although do check back as there will be plenty more to add as we move towards the new year.

#### **Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

Northend Village Hall, Top Street, Northend, Warks CV47 2TN 3:30pm to 8:00pm

#### **Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> - Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell – NOTE – this has been amended from the original date.**

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 January 12<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

Northend Village Hall, Top Street, Northend, Warks CV47 2TN 3:30pm to 8:00pm

#### **Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

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

#### **Monday February 9<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

Northend Village Hall, Top Street, Northend, Warks CV47 2TN 3:30pm to 8:00pm

#### **Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> – Sandown Park (Barry Potter Fairs)**

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

#### **Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 – Vintage Toy Trains at Bromsgrove**



Dodford Village Hall, Priory Road, Dodford, Bromsgrove, B61 9DD –  
10:30am to 3:30pm **Note – free entry to all Bassett-Lowke Society members and their guests**



## **Don't forget to like our WJVintage Facebook Page**

With close to 650 Facebook 'likes', the WJVintage page is 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 posts are rather nice videos of the LBSCR H2 Atlantic running in Umber LBSCR and lined Black BR schemes. 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 (bank) transfer. If you would like to use this method, please contact me and I will send you my bank account details.

Stay Safe Everyone  
Merry Christmas!

*Paul*

\*\*\*\*\*

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