

# WJVintage

## February 2026 Newsletter



**Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the WJ Vintage newsletter. I'm pleased to report that the hours of daylight are now noticeably longer and as I type the weather has been almost spring-like today with a rare cameo from the sun!! The snow drops are now all out, and the daffodils are also close to blooming. Yes, spring is almost here, my favourite season!**

**Of course, February being the shortest month of the year means I have less time to prepare the newsletter, so I fear this may end up being a slightly shorter than usual edition. That said, I am pleased to say I have had some very nice submissions from readers, so I am not short of content for this edition, just time 😞**

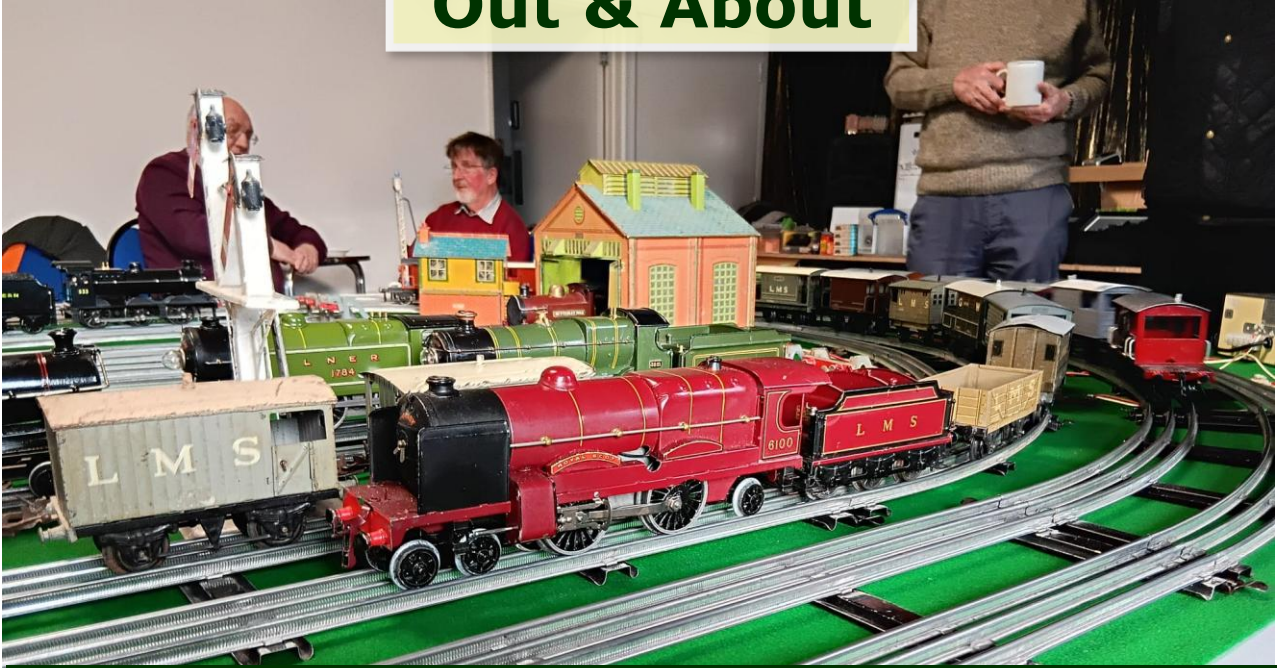
**And as the beautiful header photo above might suggest, some of the submissions this month are just a little bit different. Scroll down to 'Customer Corner' below to read more.**

**February has been another quiet month for shows, but I have to say, the HRCA Cotswolds meeting at Northend meeting earlier this month was a showcase for some really exciting new products from Ace trains. As ever, Len Mills was the man to tempt us, so scroll down to the 'Out & About' feature on the next page for some exclusive photos.**

**Whilst you are scrolling, do keep going to my extended winter sale. Uptake last month was a little slow, so there are still bargains to be had and even some stock added.**

**Stay Safe &  
Keep enjoying your trains**

## Out & About



### HRCA Cotswolds Group, Northend, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

The February theme at Northend was 'Brake Vans and Service Vans' which meant there were lots of lovely long trains in evidence including one or two particularly notable vans and wagons. As always the Northend regulars are generally very supportive of the theme for each meet, and this one was no exception.

Richard Taylor had an example of something I always wanted to make under the **WJVintage** umbrella. It was a lovely, and dimensionally very accurate model of a Southern Railway 25 Ton Queen Mary bogie brake van.



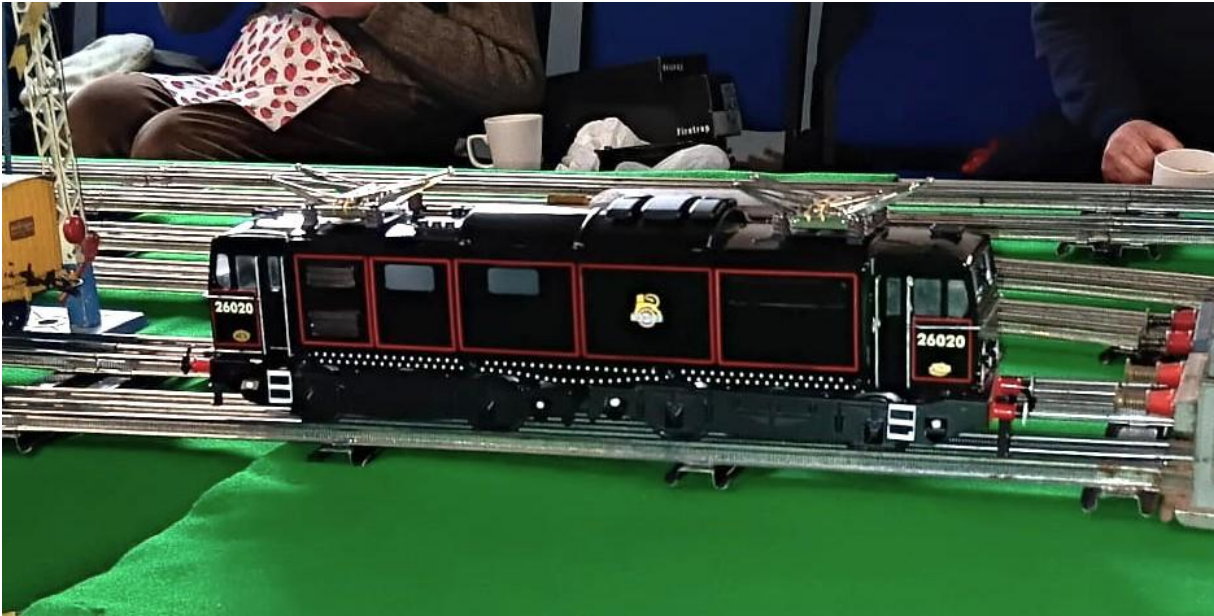
Richard explained that he made the van by combining 2 old LMS vans to the correct dimensions, then added details like the sand boxes and duckets for additional realism. What I particularly like is that it hasn't lost the 'Hornby O Gauge' tinplate feel, it could almost have come from Binns Road back in the day! Richard has obviously been in a making mood of late, He also had a home-made snow plough on display. This was again made from existing parts using wrecked old wagons as the donors. Again a few extra details were added, plus of course a nice new paintjob and NE lettering.



It must be winter because Richard was not alone in bringing snow themed service vans along. There were also a couple of very nice pre-war Hornby snow ploughs in yellow and blue. One of these had the additional front lamp fitted, and green doors. It looked very nice and whilst not mega rare, these do still seem to hold some good value, particularly if the fan is in working order. The other one was the more common(?) version with yellow door and no lamp.



Now, we had better take a quick look at some of Len Mills's Ace goodies. A lot of questions have been asked about Ace products recently, not least the BR EM1, or BR Class 76 as it is also known. Several customers have asked me if this item was to be released. Well. Yes, is the answer. I have already received a couple for customers, so I know they are definitely out there. Len backed this up by displaying a lovely example in BR lined gloss black. This is the special produced to commemorate the Festival of Britain.



Next up, and one I was also aware of, was the BR Standard Class 5, 4-6-0. The prototype shown by Len looks very nice indeed with some excellent detail. I am sure this is going to be a very popular release indeed.



I have also heard rumours of a plan to produce this as a finescale 2-rail release as well, but Len wasn't being drawn on this. He (Len) is now officially retired from Ace Trains but clearly does still enjoy running some of the new items. Saving (in my opinion) the best until last, he then produced something else that I was extremely envious of.

This was a beautiful prototype of a GWR Dean Single 'Lord of the Isles'. Colin Toten and I toyed with the idea of producing a big 'single wheeler' but just couldn't quite get the drive right. Len has worked with ETS to get this sorted by having it driven from both the engine and the tender. It works really well and the resultant loco is quite spectacular. See what you think ...



This surely has to be a huge hit, especially amongst GWR fans. Plus, of course, now that the drive method is proven, it must surely open the door to further exciting big single wheeler releases. Watch this space for Midland Spinners, Stirling Singles and more, I guess! Exciting times!! You just never know what goodies are likely to turn up at local running events and it was so nice to see Len at Northend, still demonstrating the latest Ace releases with such enthusiasm, despite the fact that he is now retired! Enjoy your retirement Len and keep coming to the running events!

## Customer Corner

Hopefully you will recall that last month I featured a couple of photographs of a truly magnificent model of a GWR 4100 'Badminton' Class, 4-4-0 tender locomotive, expertly constructed by Dick Austin from Tennessee in the USA. I did mention that Dick had kindly promised to provide a short article highlighting the parts, process and techniques used and, true to his word, I am delighted to report that Dick has sent that article, along with further photographs of the build. I am absolutely delighted to be able to now share this with you. Over to Dick for his **'Great Western Ramblings'**

## Great Western Ramblings



It's my Daddy's fault! Seventy years ago, he brought me home a "Duke of Connaught" Lesney toy. It is the one on the right that was repainted in 1971 to repair its child-worn finish but turned out well and filled me with a love for GWR locomotives.

While at university, I discovered Churchward's growing influence as Dean's leadership waned. "Waterford" and "Earl Cawder" with their innovative boilers caught my eye as if watching the transformation of a child into an adult while passing through an adolescence of awkwardness.

With the help of parts from Ace/ETS, LG Miniatures, relics off eBay and individual suppliers, I decided to try to build four variations of GWR's Badminton Class of large wheeled outside framed, inside cylindered, 4-4-0's. All four are in process but "Oxford" the one in its original form is the first completed.





From Ace/ETS came the wheels / chassis (coarse scale 3 rail) from a City, the frames from a Bulldog, the boiler from a Duke. Note the firebox had to be reworked to raise it for the Badminton. The dome, clack valves, whistles, sandboxes and tender



toolboxes are from LG Miniatures. Lining is from Fox transfers. Builder's plates are from Diane Carney. She makes them with the actual construction number and date, so they are a very nice touch even if they are so small as to be difficult to read! Paint is from Phoenix except the Indian Red, which is from ETS.



The greatest change to the locomotive itself was the cab. The ETS Duke cab is too wide for a Badminton, whose cabs as built did not extend to the edge of the footplate thus completely covering the back half of the rear driver splashers. The narrow cab

was cut from metal and soldered which is a skill just being learned in my old age.

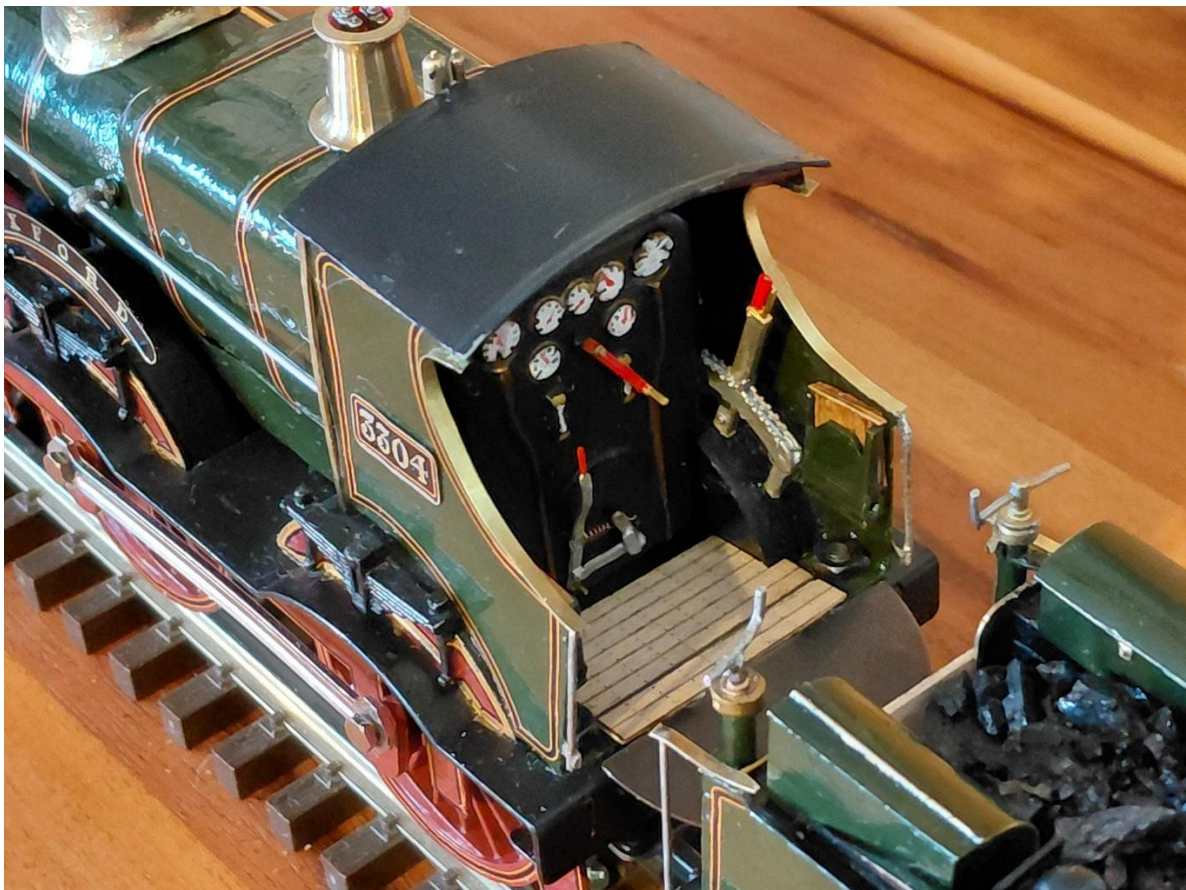
The tender is a brass kit-built Dean 3000 gallon model found on eBay. It has been fitted with Slater's wheels and detail parts from the suppliers above.



The resulting model does have amateurish errors in it but generally captures the look of the original reasonably well.

But then again, almost everything looks good in the Dean livery especially when it comes to classic Great Western Victorian Era locomotives.

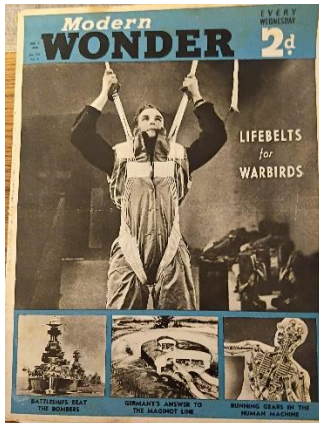
I hope you find this rambling interesting and if you have any questions or comments, please drop us a line via Paul's **WJVintage** email. In the meantime, I will be working on "Waterford" the next of the Badminton quartet.



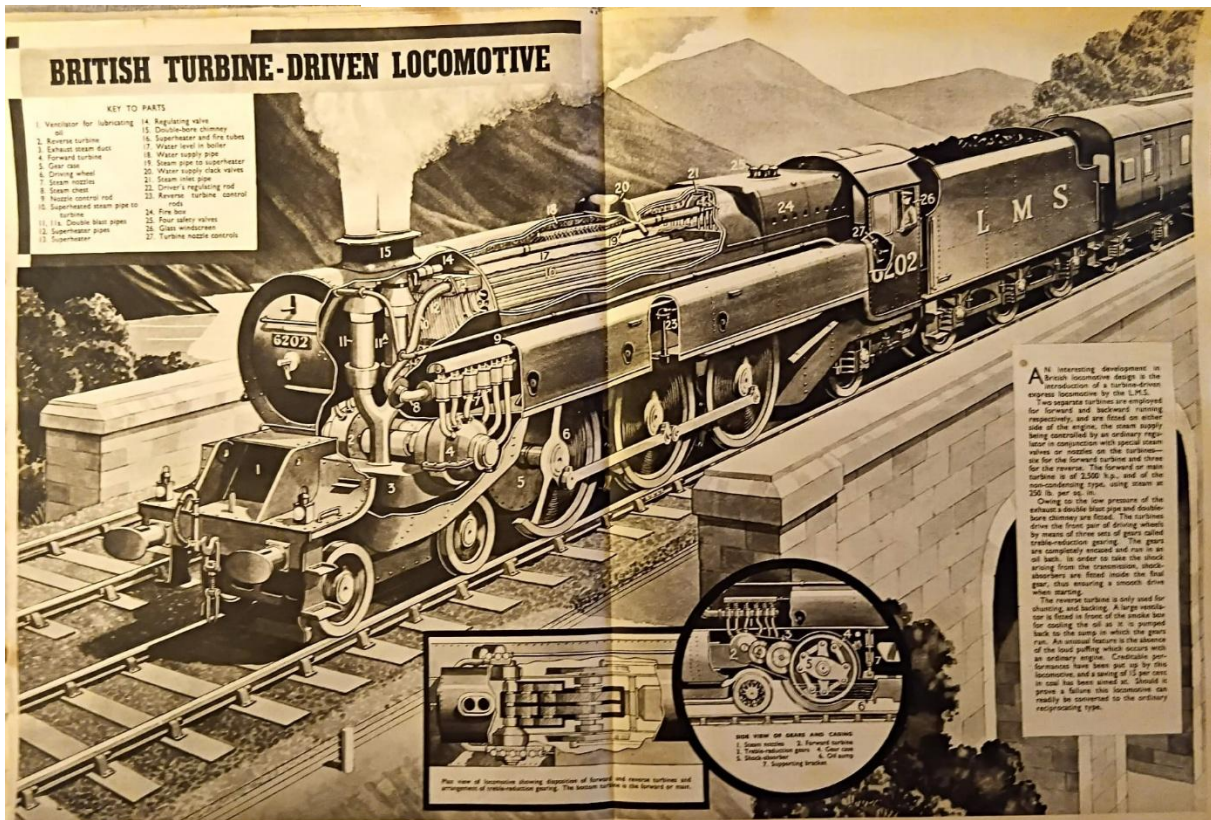
# LMS 4-6-2 Turbomotive exploded diagram



The fabulous LMS Turbomotive prototype that I featured from the Bassett-Lowke Society Christmas meeting was clearly of great interest. It certainly rang a bell with regular contributor Paul Ross, who immediately managed to lay his hands on the Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1939 edition of Modern Wonder magazine (How do people do this? They must have encyclopaedic memories 😊)



Within the pages of this pre-war weekly magazine, was a full double page spread, dominated by an exploded diagram of the Turbomotive, along with further diagrams explaining how this cutting-edge technology (for the day) actually worked. I find it fascinating to see how it was reported back in the day, in real time, as it happened. When you consider this alongside all the other technical advances of the late 1930s, particularly in aviation, it must have been exciting but scary in equal measure as war loomed!



Paul, thank you so much for this follow-up on the Turbomotive. I still don't know how you managed to dig out this feature so quickly, but I am very grateful that you did.

## La Carnevale di Venezia by Train

Peter Segstbratl from Graz in Austria has recently written with a tale of a great European weekend away by train to the annual Venice Carnival. In December, a new high speed train line was opened between Graz and Klagenfurt in Austria. With speeds of up to 143mph (230kph) it now takes just 45 minutes for this section of the journey. Beyond Klagenfurt the speed drops to around 100mph but the total journey from Graz to the famous Ponte della Ferrovia railway bridge (built in 1845/46 to link the heart of Venice to Mestre on the mainland) is just 3 hours.



This prompted Peter and his wife to take a weekend break, to experience the incredibly colourful sights and sounds of the carnival. Peter insists that I should do the same trip some time with my wife, as you really have to be there to appreciate the true atmosphere. That said, Peter has very kindly sent us some photographs from his weekend, to give a flavour of what looks an incredible event. Perhaps to whet some appetites for a trip next year?



Well, what great images! I have only visited Venice once before, so perhaps it is time to think about a winter break there. Thank you so much Peter for sharing these great photos with us. It looks absolutely amazing!

## Winter Sale - extended

I have to say, I was a little disappointed at the uptake on the Sentinels and J94s last month. That has now been compounded by me finding another box of stock so, despite selling a few of the locos, my overall stock has gone up! The plan, obviously, is to get stock down. 😞 I have now revised the numbers to reflect both the sales since last month and the new stock added. Please get in touch asap if you would like to take advantage of this offer whilst stocks last. As you will see, several items are down to just 1 piece left available.

### Y1/Y3 Sentinel 0-4-0T Shunter

**Sale Price only £195.00** plus P&P (RRP **£275.00** plus P&P)

This cracking little shunter is designed for 3-rail use only and can negotiate curves down to 18 inches (457mm). Introduced some 7 years ago, the last few of these have hung around for too long. Please note I have also come across 1 loco in 2-rail only configuration (BR late crest – see below)



LMS 7161 -5 available



LNER 8163 – 1 available



LNER Lined 8400 – 1 available



LNER 150 1 available



BR late crest 57 – 2 available  
PLEASE NOTE - BR late crest 57  
– 2-rail only – 1 available



BR early crest 68138 – 1 available



British Railways 47182 – 5 available GWR – 1 available

Save a massive **£80.00** per loco - only while stocks last. Please don't hesitate too long as once these are gone there will be no more!

## Hunslet Austerity/LNER J94 Class 0-6-0ST

**Sale Price only £275.00** plus P&P (RRP **£375.00** plus P&P)

Originally launched towards the end of 2019, these locos have also been in stock for the best part of 7 years and now is the time for them to go.



LNER 8008 – 4 available



BR Early crest 68017 – 5 available



Port of London Authority No.14 – 2 available



NCB 'Robert' – 2 available

These workmanlike 0-6-0 Saddle Tanks sold really well, apart from the last few which have hung around for too long and are now offered at a never to be repeated saving of **£100.00** per loco! Strike while the iron's hot – there aren't many of these left.

## High Capacity Bogie Wagons

**Sale Price only £50.00** plus P&P (RRP **£85.00** plus P&P)

Evoking fond memories of both the Hornby O gauge and Dublo versions of a bygone era, these superb wagons are capable of handling curves down to 24 inches (610mm). They are supplied with wheels suitable for 3-rail

running but I can also offer 2-rail wheels with a lesser flange – just let me know. Grab a bargain while you still can! Only a few left now!



CR Coal – 1 available



LMS Coal – 2 available

## Seven Mill Models Sale Newsletter Exclusive Deal

Before Christmas Seven Mill Models held a sale which proved highly successful and all the B1s, B17s, most of the V2s and 03 Diesels are now sold. However, one slow mover was the Ivatt Class 2 Mickey Mouse in LMS unlined black livery. There are currently nine of these left. John at Seven Mill Models has asked me to offer these at a further discount as a **WJVintage Newsletter Exclusive**



### LMS Class 02 Ivatt 2-6-0 'Mickey Mouse – LMS Unlined Black

So, for a limited period only, and whilst stocks last, I am pleased to be able to offer these exclusively to newsletter readers at the incredible price of **£475.00** each plus P&P. Do get in touch asap to secure yours now.

## Pre-Owned Sales

### LMS Collection

This collection has sold well over the past few newsletters, and we are now down to the last few items still available. If any take your fancy, do let me know asap to avoid disappointment

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

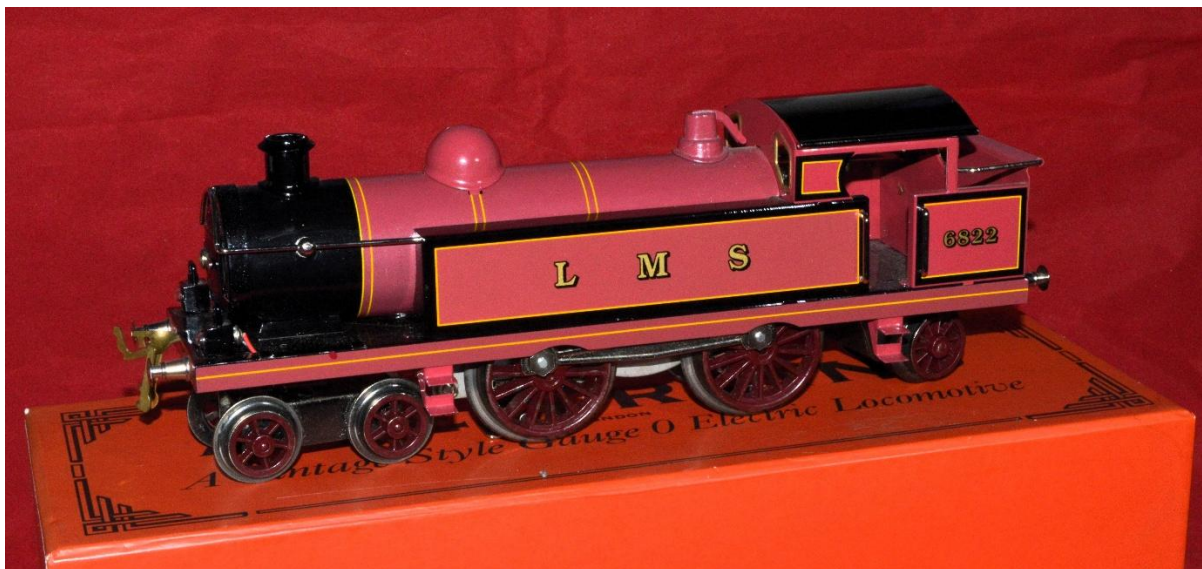
**£550.00** plus P&P



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

### Ace Trains E/2 LMS 4-4-2 Tank Locomotive – Maroon

**£250.00** plus P&P



This lovely tank engine is one of the earlier Ace releases. It is presented in very nice, lined gloss maroon finish (although it is a very pink-ish maroon) with very little wear showing on the spoons and a good box. There is no paperwork with this loco.

### **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>.



### **See us at Shows**

Here we have a schedule for virtually all the first half of 2026 although do check back as there may be more dates added as we move through spring and towards the summer. If you have any queries regarding any of these events, please drop me an email and I will try to help as best I can.

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

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

#### **Saturday March 14<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 March 24<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

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

#### **Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

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

**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**

**Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

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

**Saturday May 16<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 26<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cambridge Group**

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

**Saturday May 30<sup>th</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 8<sup>th</sup> – HRCA Cotswolds Group**

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

**Saturday June 20<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 close to 650 Facebook followers, 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 become a follower?

## **STOP PRESS – The Bassett-Lowke Society is now on Facebook**

Yes, it's true, The Bassett-Lowke Society has now set up a group on Facebook and is already closing in on 100 members. There is a lively number of posts and discussions on all eras of Bassett-Lowke and closely associated brands, so why not look them up and become a member of the group?



## **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

*Paul*

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