



# WJVintage

## Easter 2026 Newsletter



**Welcome to the Easter 2026 edition of the WJ Vintage newsletter. The clocks have finally sprung forward by an hour, and the dreary winter is now but a distant memory. It always lifts my spirits when we get that extra hour of daylight in the evening, and I know that for many of our age group it makes a big difference to be able to drive home from events in the light. Happy Easter to you all!**

**For one reason or another, I haven't been out as much as I'd have liked over the past month, but I do have quite a busy schedule coming up, so I hope to be able to meet up with some of you in the coming weeks. That said, as always, my 'Out and About' feature includes some great finds from the last Bassett-Lowke Society running day at Digswell.**

**I am also indebted to Les Martin for his submission to the 'Customer Corner' feature. Les recently visited the Model Railway Show at Alexander Palace and has sent in some great photos of the O Gauge layout there. I have to confess that I was unaware that there would actually be any significant O Gauge presence at the show, so I'm afraid it completely missed my radar!**

**Finally, I have recently acquired a small collection of modern (Corgi era) Bassett-Lowke locomotives. These I am able to offer at extremely low prices so you might want to scroll down to the 'Pre-Owned Sales' section for the chance to pick up a real bargain. There's also a final chance to help with my Sentinel and J94 stock clearance.**

**Stay Safe &  
Keep enjoying your trains**

**WJVintage**

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## Out & About



### **Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day – Cowper Arms, Digswell. Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

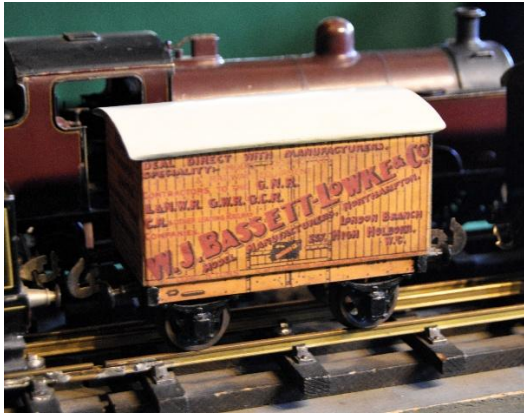
**Any concerns that a clash of dates with the TCS event in Leicester were soon allayed as this was an extremely well attended event indeed. The venue seems very popular, as is the food offering, which looks to be very good value and adds a real social feel to these meetings, with many members taking advantage of a chance to sit with like-minded folk for a lunchtime bite and natter.**

Regular readers will also be aware that most Digswell meetings also seem to unearth some amazing and rare, collectible railway items, mainly from the Bassett-Lowke and related vintage brand names, making it one of my favourite regular running days.

Just to ring the changes, I thought I might start this report with some of the lovely rolling stock I saw on the day.

I have always had a soft spot for the Bassett-Lowke PO wagons and vans that have become very collectable and much sought after. There were three examples on display at Digswell, and I have to confess that they certainly influenced my own 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary **WJVintage** PO wagon made back in 2021.

I also have to mention a lovely GWR brake van with a nod to its maker as part of the livery. If you can zoom in on the photo you will see it says 'Guard Greenly' – yes, it was produced by Henry Greenly. What a beauty!



Mike Beeston had some really lovely GWR coaches by R-Line. These were made between the wars and were produced mainly from card! How they have survived almost 100 years in such good condition is beyond me, but they did look lovely, particularly the GWR Autocoach.



A name that is very familiar to us vintage rail enthusiasts is 'Palethorpes' sausages. It is a brand name that has adorned all manner of model railway wagons and vans over the years. It was a little surprising, therefore, to see that the example displayed by Marcus Peacock was in fact a bogie van from a modern CRT kit. I have to say, it certainly didn't look out of place with all the vintage rolling stock.



There were, of course, some beautiful locomotives on display as well, so here are a few of the highlights that I picked out. Large tank engines are always very impressive and none more so than the beautiful Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Hughes 4-6-4T 'Dreadnought'. Marcus Peacock was running a fine example which he thinks may have been made by Bonds.



Perhaps not quite as powerful looking, but nevertheless a beautiful model, was Mark Armstrong's Bassett-Lowke LNWR 4-4-2T Precursor. Despite the large hole in the water tank for the clockwork key, this was in fact an electric version and I have to say it was in immaculate condition.



Mike Swain is a Digswell regular who often has something a little unusual to display. On this occasion it was a lovely Stirling 2-4-0 locomotive in GNR livery.



This locomotive is unique in a couple of ways. Firstly, the scale unusual. It is produced to a scale of 8mm to the foot purely to accommodate the clockwork motor that was available to the maker. That maker is believed to have been the rev. T.B. Parley, famed between the wars for his huge outdoor garden layout, as well as a cottage industry production line of O gauge locos, which he allegedly put together in small batches on his kitchen table. I had never come across one of his locos before, so yet another first for me at Digswell!

A final highlight for me was another unusual locomotive, this one belonging to Peter O'Kane. It was a LSWR Drummond 4-6-0. I don't think I have ever seen one of these modelled before, perhaps for good reason as the real loco was considered to be a poor performer, with a voracious appetite for coal

and water, making it very inefficient. Peter acquired the engine from the Brighton Toy Museum (well worth a visit if you haven't been before – try to choose a day when the O gauge layout is in operation). The builder is unknown and Peter used his own model engineering skills to fit an electric mechanism into the model.



He has done a lovely job and how great it is to breathe new life into an unusual subject like this.

## Customer Corner

A week or so ago I had a call from an old friend who lives in the London area. He was complaining that he had just been to the Model Railway show at Alexander Palace expecting to see me set up with a table. As I mentioned in the introduction to this newsletter, this show just didn't hit my radar at all. I am aware of it, but I have never considered it as a show featuring O gauge and so it has never been on my list of potential events to get involved with.

I was, therefore, quite surprised, but also pleased, to receive a whole bunch of photos from newsletter reader Les Martin showing a very large and beautifully presented and detailed O gauge layout at the show.



The layout was the work of the Chiltern Hills Group of the Hornby Railway Collector Association (HRCA), several of whom I know. As you will note, it was far more than just an O gauge layout. There was a harbour with ships, a lighthouse, quayside cranes and an industrial quayside warehouse.



In the centre of the layout was a small town featuring some lovely Bayco buildings, plus a factory/power station type building. On the roads there was a huge mixture of diecast vehicles – quite a bit from Corgi and Dinky by the looks of it, plus some fabulous Triang Minic tinplate trucks and buses. I suspect there were also one or two figures, animals and trees from Britain's too.



So, quite aside from the Hornby O gauge, this layout was like a snapshot of the toy industry across the ages – including some modern O gauge from the likes of Ace Trains, and how lovely to see it. My congratulations to the Chiltern Hills group for bringing our traditional branch of railway modelling to the attention of the wider public. Clearly a lot of hard work went into this, and it was well worth it. Thanks again to Les for sending in the photos.

# Winter Sale - extended

I still have a few Sentinels and J94s left following my winter sale. The plan was to get this stock reduced to as close to zero as possible, but this has only been partially successful. This is now a last chance opportunity and whatever remains after this newsletter will have to remain on the books for a while longer. Please get in touch asap if you would like to take advantage of this fantastic 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



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 – 3 available



BR Early crest 68017 – 4 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.

## 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 now just seven of these left.

John at Seven Mill Models has asked me to offer these once more to readers at a **WJVintage Newsletter Exclusive** discount price.



### **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

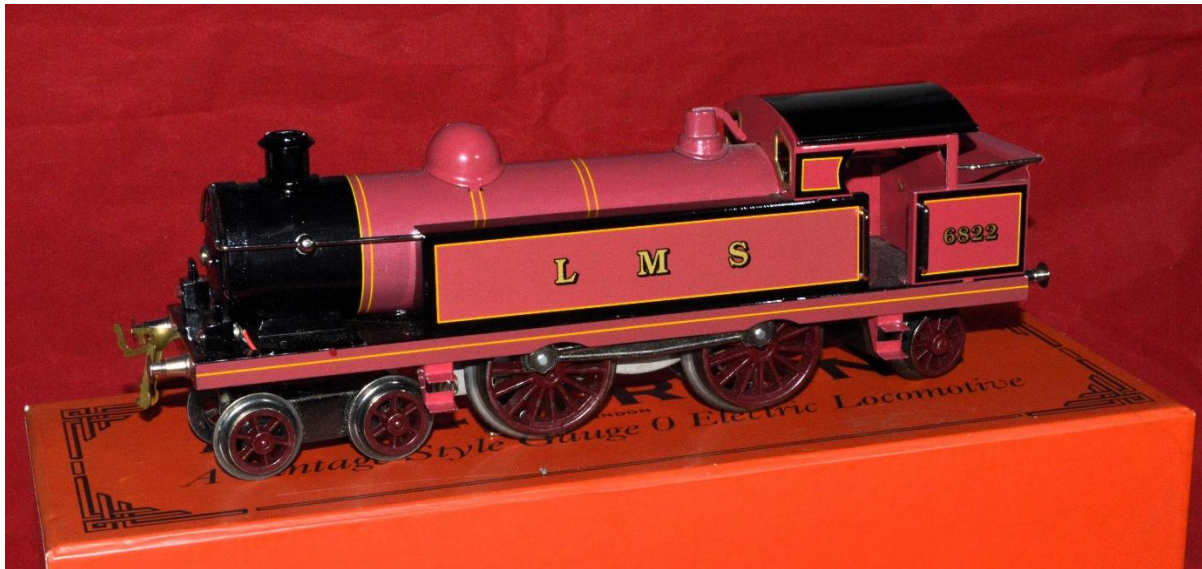


This is a Bassett-Lowke release from the Corgi era (pre-Hornby) and is presented in beautiful, unmarked gloss black with cream lining and a little

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>.



## **Bassett-Lowke from the Corgi/Hornby Era**

As mentioned in the newsletter introduction, I recently acquired a small number of Corgi/Hornby era Bassett-Lowke era locomotives. These are all pre-owned, but I have checked them all over and they are all excellent runners and don't appear to have had a great deal of use/running time. What's more is that I am able to offer these to you at some absolute bargain prices. So, whether you want them for display or running purposes, you don't need to break the bank to add these to your collections.

### **BL99041 Re-built Patriot Class 4-6-0 - BR (late crest) Green, 45534 'E. Tootal Broadhurst' - £395.00 plus P&P**



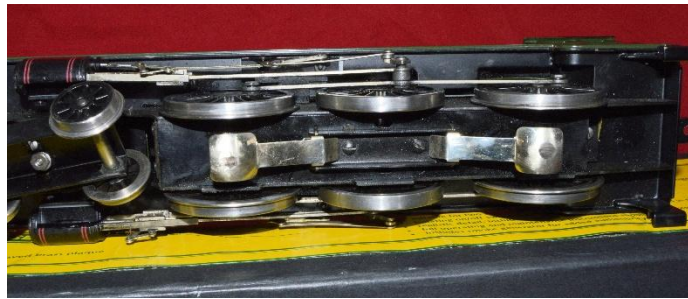
With limited edition plaque No. 122 of 180 locos produced, this was the last of the Re-built Patriots to be launched by Bassett-Lowke. This model presents extremely well and looks to have had no more than 'running-in' use, as the pick-ups show very little wear indeed. It has had one or two upgrades, including driver and fireman figures on the footplate, front lamps fitted and the rear tender coupling has been sensibly changed from the chain link type originally supplied, to a far more practical sprung drop link style (see photo below). The original chain link is also included. The box is in very nice condition and instructions are included. On test, the loco powers up very well and runs very smoothly and quietly.



### **BL99017 Re-built Patriot Class 4-6-0 – BR (early crest) Green, 45527 'Southport' - £365.00 Plus P&P**

This locomotive, with limited edition plaque No.176 (but I don't know what the total run was) also presents very well but has clearly seen a little more

use than 'E. Tootal Broadhurst' (above). The paintwork is generally excellent with just the odd very minor blemish. On this loco, both the front and rear chain link couplings have been replaced with more practical sprung drop link style hooks (the originals are not included). The box is pretty good with just one slight blemish on one edge (see photo below). A bag of lamps and nameboards is included, as are instructions. On test it powers up well and runs both smoothly and quietly.



**BL99011 Re-built Scot Class 4-6-0 – BR (late crest)  
Green, 46100 'Royal Scot' - £365.00 Plus P&P**



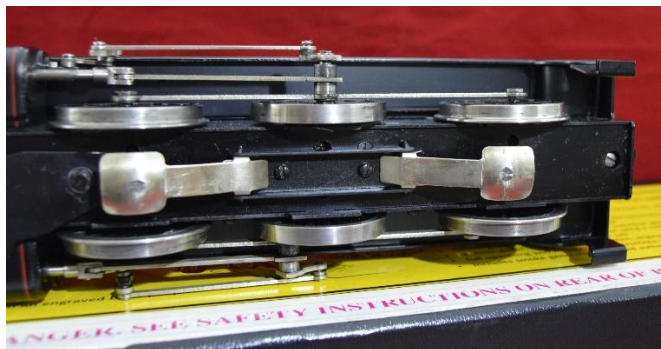
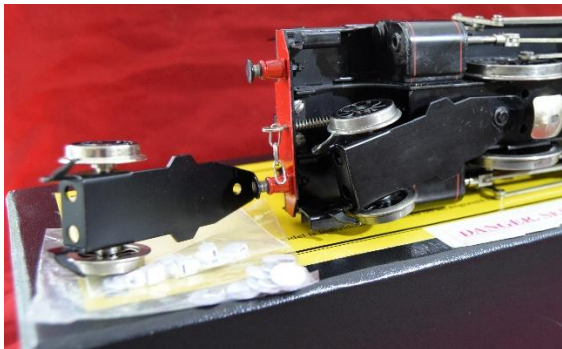
This locomotive, with limited edition plaque No.350 of a stated run of 500 pieces in total, also presents very well. The paintwork is generally excellent with just the odd very minor blemish. On this loco, both the front and rear

chain link couplings are as originally supplied. The box lid is a little tatty with one corner partially torn. A bag of lamps plus a nameboard and a bell(?) are included, as are instructions. On test it powers up well and runs both smoothly and quietly.

**BL99004 Ex Southern Railway 'N' Class 2-6-0 Mogul, – BR (early crest) lined Black, 31407 - £325.00 Plus P&P**



With limited edition plaque No.16 of 500 locos produced, this is one of the early electric Moguls to be launched by Bassett-Lowke during the Corgi era and is a specially modified version. Those of you in the know will appreciate that, as delivered, these locomotives sounded like a 'bag of nails' with a horrendously noisy mechanism. Fortunately, Len Mills, managed to get a number of modified mechanisms produced and once fitted they transformed the locomotive into a sewing machine smooth and quiet runner. This is one of those modified locos and it really does present beautifully and runs equally well. It has been used but the pick-ups don't have too much wear, so it has obviously not had a hard life. The box is in very nice condition and instructions are included. It also comes with a sealed bag of discs, plus a bag of additional discs and lamps, plus a brand-new front pony truck is also included. The original white mailing carton adds additional protection. This really is a lot of locomotive for not a lot of money!



## 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 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**

### **Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> - Yorkshire, Vintage Toy, Tinsplate and Live Steam Railways Fair**

Eccleshill Mechanics Institute, 93B Stone Hall Rd, Bradford BD2 2EW – 10:00am to 4:30pm

### **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

### **Sunday May 31<sup>st</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

**NOTE: due to circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, the date of this show has been put back by one day from the date originally planned (Sat 30<sup>th</sup>). Unfortunately, I am not able to be there on the Sunday. I am really sorry as this is a fabulous show.**

### **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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