
West Midlands "N" Gauge Club

Newsletter

Wonderful World of Trains and Planes Special

Volume 17 Issue 3

Autumn 2014

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HEADCODE

Announcing the WWTP Special Autumn issue 2014.

This issue is unashamedly designed as a reminder for the 'Super Sunday' at The Wonderful World of Trains and Planes on October 19th.

You will find general information about the event and a short guide to the layouts appearing on the day. I hope to see you there.

Also this issue we have a short report on the clubs activities at TINGS and the third part of Vince Painter's Blochescwic.

Ed.

Volume 17 Issue 4 should appear in December 2014.

Copy deadlines are notional and don't really exist, but if they did they would be as follows for the next two issues.

Winter '14/15 Issue: 8th November

Spring '15 Issue: 7th February

Chairman: Ken Jones

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Treasurer: Edgar Mason

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I'm just back from a holiday in Tenerife and find a request from our editor for some copy for a newsletter. Better than the hundreds of emails for work I have to plough through. Tenerife has never had any railway system so my holiday was more sun and wine rather than trains, although we did do a couple of bus trips using local transport and had a ride on their modern tram system from Santa Cruz to the world heritage town of La Laguna.

While I've been away more people have become involved with Super Sunday which is being held at The Wonderful World of trains & planes in Birmingham on October 19th. Leaflets for the event were available at TINGS and the event has received national publicity including a 250 email shot of our last newsletter. It is on the UK Model Shop Directory website, in NGS journal and newsletters and it would be really nice to meet so many people on the day who have been in contact with me and other members of our group. It is even mentioned on a dedicated vintage bus website.

One email I have been pleased to get on my return from holiday is from David Dawes. His unique Australian N gauge layout Dawes Creek as seen in the current NGS Journal will be attending the event.

John Brady's excellent German modular N gauge layout is now in situ at the venue

If you want to help load, unload and possibly run layouts please let me know.

Ken Jones

Chairman

Super Sunday for N Gauge modellers

N-gauge modelers have a Super-Sunday in which to celebrate their passion, when **Wonderful World of Trains & Planes** joins forces with the **West Midlands N Gauge Club** to host a special day dedicated to N gauge layouts.

Almost 30 layouts will be running on the day, **Sunday 19th October, from 10am to 5pm**, with several UK-themed layouts, as well as some depicting Germany, France and the USA.

The modelers of each layout will be on hand to operate and discuss, but this is a unique opportunity to get all these N gauge layouts together which enthusiasts and casual visitors will not want to miss.

Other modelers with N (or smaller) gauge layouts are also welcome to contact the show if they would like to join in. Just get in touch.

Visitors on the day also have full access to the three floors of layouts at WWTP, a permanent venue that opened in June just off St Paul's Square in Birmingham. These include layouts featuring Canada, France, Germany and UK, together with others in the construction stage. Other layouts and presentations feature the Royal Train and the Orient Express.

Professional flight simulators and a four-car race track are also part of the overall experience. There is also a coffee shop and retail store.

Wonderful World of Trains & Planes is the country's newest and brightest model venue - a wonderful experience for all the family.

The West Midlands N Gauge Club was formed in 1995. It was an area group of the N Gauge Society and is based in Tipton with members from all over the W Midlands. It meets in the afternoons of the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. It has a 20ft exhibition layout named "Waterstock," a 6 ft exhibition layout named "Tipton Hills," and a layout under construction based on Water Orton and named "Whartson Hall." Most members also have their own layouts, many of which can be seen at exhibitions or at the WWTP Super Sunday event. More information at <http://www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk>

On-street parking is free on Sundays in the area and there is also a 1000-space car park at the end of the road which charges £3 for the entire day.

Reserve and buy your entry ticket ahead of time (saving 25% off the on-the-day price). Just log on to the website:

www.wonderfulworldtrainsplanes.co.uk

or contact:

peter.trainsandplanes@gmail.com

Wonderful World of Trains & Planes
3 Mary Ann Street, St Paul's Square, Birmingham B3 1BG

MEMBERS LAYOUTS and others exhibiting at WWTP

The Pavilion – by Peter Dale

The layout is based on an 1890 proposal for a tramway from Penzance station along the shore to Newlyn. A model of Penzance seaside theatre, The Pavilion, forms the background. The layout consists of a double track tramway with power collection from the traction wire using automatic stops; however the outer circuit can also be switched to 2-rail operation (allowing operation of non-trolley pole fitted cars and an occasional steam car). Scale is 00 and most of the trams running have been built by Peter Dale.

Pending – by Ken Jones

An N gauge layout designed and built by Ken Jones using an A4 box file in 2003, inspired by OO9 layout by Barrie Etter.

The layout is a scene from an industrial heritage site that some people want to preserve, and others want to demolish and redevelop. Sometimes the developers arrive by helicopter [Revell customised kit] but most days the conservationists have a 0-6-0 working a circular track throughout the site. Normally it is a Farish Austerity in ex works NCB livery or a 08 shunter.

There is an abandoned mineral line and the buildings were made from bits and pieces from other models.

The name "Pending" comes from the fact, like in real life, no decision has been made on the future of the site, or because "Pending" is often put into a box file.

More information at www.Kenjonestrains.co.uk

Waterfall Junction – by Ken Jones

This freelance N gauge layout measuring less than 2ft by 18 in was built in 1999 by Ken Jones to act as a test bed for some of his rolling stock but went on to become a layout in its own right. It could be anywhere in rural England, Scotland or Wales and various locomotives negotiate this tight single track line passing under the waterfall which was the place that the main line, now a mere siding, joined this delightful scene. The waterfall and river are made from a 2 pack Faller system, the track is Peco and the controller is a special one built locally by Len Bane to enable slow running. Tender locomotives and those with a long wheelbase cannot negotiate the tight curves. Look out for campers, a trainspotter, and a man with his dog and another one cycling home from work. The suitcase is a *Python* rigid expandable suitcase from the 1960s – originally the middle one of a set of three.

Ken Jones is chairman of the West Midlands N Gauge Club

Tipton Hills - by The West Midland N Gauge Club

Tipton Hills is a fictitious old ore mine preserved for tourists with train rides on a variety of preserved engines and coaches and demonstration freight trains.

There is a large car park for the tourists, room for camping and caravans, a small boating lake and picnic area. The layout was built we think, more than 20 years ago before the days of polystyrene. The club rescued it and has totally refurbished it using materials available at the time. The track has been realigned and the campsite / fiddle yard is a new addition, not part of the original layout but has gone together well.

More information at <http://www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk/>

Bridgnorth Station – By Tony & Jane Minchin

Bridgnorth Station is a new 10ft x 2ft N gauge layout. It is based on the station of the same name on the Severn Valley Railway. It is set in the era of the late 1960s early 70s. So therefore steam and early diesels can be run just as the Severn valley do today. Linn Dempster a friend and member of the WM N Gauge club built the signal box and signals. Bridgnorth had its first outing at the International N gauge show 2014.

Arley Station by Tony & Jane Minchin

Arley Station is a 5ft x 2ft N gauge layout based on the station on the Severn valley Railway. It is also set in the 1960s early 70s.

The layout attended the International N gauge show in 2013 and the AMRTM modellers show in April 2014.

Oberdorf / II – by Piers Milne

There is a real village called Oberdorf in the hills to the north of the Bodensee - Lake Konstanz - between Germany and Switzerland, but this layout is a figment of my imagination and is called Oberdorf / II simply because it consists of half of my original Oberdorf layout.

The imagined setting is in the south west corner of Germany near the border with France. This is to justify the appearance of French narrow gauge motive power as well, since the village has close ties with its neighbour Cernay, across the border, and the two communities have agreed upon common running rights.

The layout tries to convey how small the trains are in relation to the terrain they travel through. Most narrow gauge lines are single track and trains can seldom cross except at stations with passing loops.

The layout is to N Scale (1/160) but with track laid to Metre Gauge. This model combination is designated as Nm. Märklin Z track with a gauge of 6.3mm is almost exactly correct for this purpose. Some of the locos and stock have been created from Nm kits but mainly by marrying N Scale bodies with Märklin Z Gauge chassis and running gear.

The Works – by Ken Jones

This N gauge layout was inspired by [Mr Ian Redman](#), who laid the track for Ken. The layout is built in a double video case box. It depicts part of Unit 12 in a chemical works. Arnold 0-4-0 shunters work below the many pipes while others get on with their work. Note the absence of hard hats.

The pipework is custom built and some is from Knightwing. Some of the tanks are from Kestrel and others are by Ten Commandments and Rodney. The fork lift truck and other items are from Ken's "keep until needed" box.

The layout measures less than 8 in x 5 in [20cm x 12cm]. It made its first public appearance in Jan 2008 at the Dartford Exhibition

The Quarry – by Rodney Hodge

'The Quarry' is an N gauge layout which evolved from a picture of Bill & Ben of Thomas fame. Using a mixture of buildings from the Farish and Lyddle End mine buildings range, a Faller stone crushing plant with a modern scratch built top, other scratch built buildings, and some old layout buildings from the second hand box.

Vehicles are construction vehicles suitably painted for the quarry.

Engines are MOTORISED Fisher-Price Take and Play engines with a Gaugemaster auto - shuttle system.

Charlieville - by Christine Hodge

This is a 5ft x 3ft 6in N Gauge table top, circular layout plus rear fiddle yard, based on the Great N-Pire Railroad by Kent Wood and Ric Laban.

The version built, is a small Plains Mid West town of the 50's and 60's.

The small population has a collection of steam loco's, which used to run to the outlying farms and mine workings in the distant hills, to deliver supplies and pick up produce and cattle for onward shipping.

Charlieville now runs a tourist heritage line and is served by the cross-state Super Chief Santa Fe line, which stops on its way through.

The layout track is preformed Bachman track on a cork and MDF base, with switch points by Peco and Atlas.

The buildings are a mixture of ready made, kit built and scratch built by Bachman, Model Power, Lifelike and Walthers Cornerstone.

The engine house is the remains of a Faller Old Stone Crushing Plant kit, modified, and with added workshop facilities.

The town hall and cinema are Kato Japanese buildings suitably modified to American design. Visitors and locals are catered for by 'Rob's Roadhouse', and 'Imex Diner'.

Paint used on buildings is Humbrol enamels, with acrylics used on the scenery.

Waldstadt - by Derek Gibbin

Waldstadt a N gauge layout is based around a fictitious end of branch line small town in Germany. The station with its run around facility is just beyond the stand of trees to the left of the layout and we just see the goods facilities and a small factory. The layout began life as a small piece of plywood salvaged from the back of an old dressing table plus lengths of timber from the packaging of a washing machine and other assorted off cuts (it's done on the cheap!), however it does show that you don't need vast amounts of space or money to produce a pleasant little layout.

Monarchs End – by Derek Purves

The layout is a freelance 009. It is loosely based on Llanfair Caereinion station on the W&LLR

Aix en Pains- by John Davies

A HOm (ie metre gauge in HO scale, using TT track) 'novelty display' to use on ERA society stand at events. It measures roughly 2'6" square.

Vintage O gauge layout - by Mike Tomkins [age74]

A Hornby clockwork O gauge layout including some rare rolling stock and one battery operated locomotive. Mike also has a working Chad Valley layout and a collection of miniature lawn mowers which have been seen at other exhibitions.

[Ken Jones, Tony & Jane Minchin, Christine & Rodney Hodge, Derek Purves and Derek Gibbin](#) are all members of [The West Midland N Gauge Club](#). Other members will be present on the day to help operate layouts.

BRANCHLINES AND BYWAYS Ramblings off the cinder path

Road Vehicle News

Oxford

Oxford have released the NFG001 Foden FG Platform & NSCA003 Scania Highline tipper recently and one of the long outstanding BT models announced in 2013 -N033 RAF Karrier Bantam Dropside.

These have popped up on the Ayrey's Diecast site. No idea of release dates

NAEC08	AEC Matador Lorry - Royal Artillery France (New tooling)
NBSA001	BSA Motorcycle & sidecar - AA (New tooling)
NCOM002	Commer Commando Coach - BOAC
NDEF007	Land Rover Defender - British Rail (New Tooling)
NFG005	Foden FG Dray - Scottish & Newcastle
NFG006	Foden FG Tanker - Regent
NFT010	Ford Transit LWB Van - Stobart Rail
NFT016	Ford Transit Van - AA
NMN005	Austin Mini - Lime green / black
NOWB004	Bedford OWB Utility Bus - Southern National
NPE007	Plaxton Elite Coach - Scottish Citylink (Parks of Hamilton)

NRAV005 Scammell Scarab Flatbed Trailer - BRS Parcels
 NSCA004 Scania Highline Artic Curtainside - Knights of Old
 NSFE002 Scania Pump Ladder Fire Engine - West Sussex Fire & Rescue (New tooling)
 NTIL001 Austin Tilly Pick up - 9th Survey Regiment (New tooling)
 NTRAIL001 Mobile Trailer - Bobs Hot Dogs (New tooling)

Twelve new N scale models have been announced by B-T Models. No photographs as yet.

NAN003 London Country NBC - Leyland Atlantean Park Royal Double Deck Bus
 NAN004 Ribble NBC - Leyland Atlantean Park Royal Double Deck Bus
 NAN005 Tyne & Wear PTE - Leyland Atlantean Park Royal Double Deck Bus
 NB003 Ribble - Duple Dominant II Coach
 NB004 Grey Green - Duple Dominant II Coach
 NB005 Maidstone & District - Duple Dominant II Coach
 N047 National Carriers - Karrier Bantam Artic Van National Carriers
 N048 BRS Sheffield - Leyland Octopus Flatbed
 N049 BRS Birmingham - AEC Monarch Dropside
 N050 British Rail - Leyland FG Crewbus
 NP009 Chocolate & Cream - Albion CX Flatbed
 NP010 Chocolate & Cream - Albion CX Boxvan

Ken

TRIP WORKINGS by Ken Jones

TINGS

Another successful International N Gauge Show aka known as TINGS saw four members layouts there including the new model of **Bridgnorth station** from Tony and Jane Minchin, **The Quarry** and **Charlieville** from Christine and Rodney Hodge plus my new layout **Salverton** incorporating a Japanese moving bus system. This was really its first public outing since it was completed earlier this year and the buses did give quite a bit of interest to the audience. One bus broke down and as it is a sealed unit will need replacing and one bus seems to have worn out a tyre and started to slide off the road. I need to check out all the tyres on all the buses before the layout comes out again soon. It ran for most of the weekend with 2 buses continuing offering a shuttle service, taken from a pool of 4 buses. The intention is to increase this pool to 5 or 6 vehicles.

BLOCHESCWIC

Progress | A portrait in B&W | More Expansion

Things to do

Turntable

Plan Station Buildings

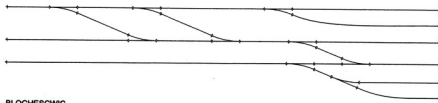
Scenic Hill

Build Metcalfe Engine Shed

Shops and Church

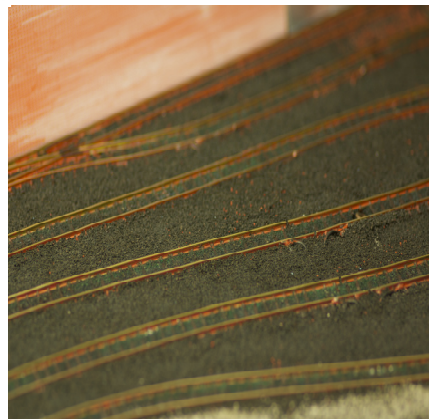
Ballasting

Ballasting, ballasting and more ballasting. Very therapeutic – honest, I love it.



BLOCHESCWIC

Ballasting all of this wasn't enough – I wanted more!

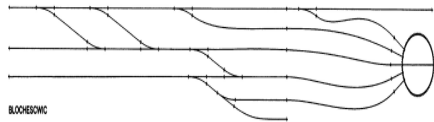


The Dream Started Here

In the 1960's this station was used by locals, including my parents, family and neighbours for their Working Mens' Club outings to Stourport, Blackpool and the like. Often travelling in cattle wagons!

My research has only found these images, without trains. If anyone has examples of stock running through here in the 50s to mid-60s, I would probably get excited!





OK, so I have finally got to grips with what I want to model. In the intervening months I have made various purchases with a view to them being used in the near future.

These include a variety of scenic scatter, PVA mixtures, superglues, paints (acrylic, enamel & watercolours). Scrapers, cocktail and stirring sticks, cotton buds – the list goes on, as you all, I am sure have done the same over the years. My problem is that I have had nearly 40 years of modelling inactivity – so, I must get a move on.



Next report:

Contents of Santa's Sack?



Rear of Station Car Park.



Purchases since last report:

Sorry about the DMU – but I had to try to be prototypical!
Picked up a Class 101 on the obvious auction site –
weathered by TMC as well.



Station Rear & Car Park 1960's

2014 PROGRAMME

All meetings are held at Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall, Park Lane West, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8LD, On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in each month, from 2pm to 5pm.

Remaining meeting dates for 2014:

October		18 th
November	1 st	15 th
December	6 th AGM	-

Any changes to these dates will be notified on our website or in our (nearly) quarterly newsletter.

For more information, contact
Ken Jones: tel: 0121 777 7062
Email: westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk
Website: www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

Please use the **rear entrance** to gain access to the church hall. If you are in doubt, please ring first, especially if you are travelling any distance.

JUNCTION SIGNALS Other attractions to tempt you.

Birmingham Model Railway Club Exhibition

Date: 25/10/2014 to 25/10/2014

Times: Saturday :10.30am - 4.00pm

Club Name: Birmingham MRC

Venue: Arden Hall, Water Orton Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 9PB

Prices: Adult £3.00, Child £1.50, Family £8.00

Contact: .

Telephone: 0121 608 5564

Email Address: gog12605@aol.com

17 Layouts in N, OO and O scales. Traders include: 12voltDC - electrical, Ravenstone Model Railways, Hobbyrail of Sutton Coldfield, Kevins Die Models/Trains, Ians Trains, John Sutton - books, Dave Angel Modles, Penduke Scenics. Plus refreshments, free car parking, demonstrations etc.

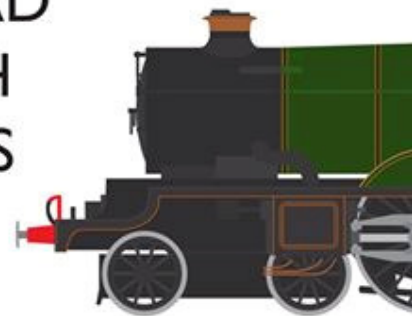
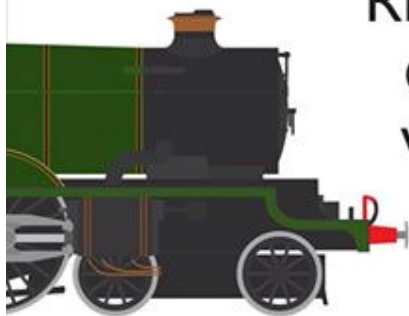
CRADLEY HEATH
MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

**2nd ANNUAL
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10:00 - 17:00**

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B64 5JG

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Family (2+2)	£10.00