
West Midlands' N' Gauge Club

Newsletter

Vol 21 Issue 1

March 2018



OUTWARD JOURNEY

I make no apologies for my raisin *d'être*, or the lack of nuts - in my prose, it's just that I prefer raisins or not - depending on my mood *Ed*.
Just a reminder to all WMNGC members, that to be included in the next Members' Contributions section, your article should be with me by **Friday 22nd June**.

Volume 21 Issue 2 will be published in late June 2018.

Future Newsletter dates

Summer: June 2018
Autumn: September 2018
Winter: December 2018
Spring: March 2019
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Treasurer: Edgar Mason

From the Chairman

Well it seems to have been a long drawn out winter, and the club has not been without its problems. We have had no heating in the club venue since the middle of November but hopefully that has now been resolved.

It hasn't deterred members coming to the club meetings, everyone has put on extra layers of clothing so our attendances have been very good. We even coaxed Mike Turner out of his home so he could enjoy the club and we could enjoy his wit and experience.

The recent snow meant that we had to cancel a meeting, the first time the weather has stopped us, and only the second time we closed the club. Some of you may remember years ago we took "Waterstock" to an exhibition in Worcester that clashed with a club meeting and as most of us were in Worcester we cancelled the club meeting.

September seems a long way away, but we have our new layout to get ready for TINGS and individual members have other exhibitions to attend with their layouts throughout the year.

Feel free to come and see us at the club, or at exhibitions, or contact me if you want to check first that we will be open.

Ken Jones

EXHIBITIONS

By the time this is published Tony & Jane Minchin, Ken Jones and Christine & Rodney Hodge will already have had some of their layouts at exhibitions. Ken has about 8 exhibitions this year including some of his N and Z gauge layouts. In fact Ken has more exhibitions this year with Z gauge layouts than N gauge ones, including The Gaugemaster Open Weekend. He'll have one of his N gauge layouts at TINGS where there will be the new club layout and at least two other members' layouts.

LAYOUTS

Whartson Hall Totally Under Control



We had a train running on all 3 tracks at the front of Whartson Hall today – no power yet to the fiddle yard. We also found a short on the outer track but that is easily fixed next time. Edgar collected Mike Turner and he was at the controls for the movement of our first train on the electrified track using our new controller.

This will be our new layout for TINGS 2018. Inspired by Water Orton [versions 1 and 2] which never got completed, this has 3 running lines and 3 lines for each running line in the fiddle yard. One line will be bidirectional and eventually it will have operating signals, but right now we have other priorities. Since last year it was just a series of baseboards built by Tony, David and others have laid the track, whilst Edgar wired up all the board connections over the Christmas holiday. We have a new controller in place and the front boards have been wired so that a test train has ran on all the three lines up as far as the fiddle yard. We have found one short which will be easily fixed. Then whilst the electrical team are wiring the fiddle yard the ballasting team will ballast the front of the layout and at the same time cut the track at each board joint. Great progress by everyone but lots more to do.



WMNGC 22 and still going strong

Waterstock

This layout continues to run well and the only thing really needed is a thorough clean of the track work in sidings, engine shed and branch lines. These are rarely used at club meetings and it is beginning to show.

Rodney has recently completed and shown his WW1 Red Cross coaches, made from four 57ft brake end LMS coaches.



Areas of *Waterstock* not normally photographed.



Tipton Hills

Running without any problems, this layout is available for exhibitions at short notice. It's being used at club meetings as a running in, 3 track system for repaired engines, new locomotives and ones that haven't run for some time.



Gibben Quarry

Having made its debut in 2017, we have now cured the electrical problem, which prevented us isolating the station platform line. Rodney has built additional closed conveyor belt buildings, to finish off the quarry buildings already in place. The next step is to build a lid to protect it during transit. It remains ready for exhibitions at short notice and ideal to fill a small space.



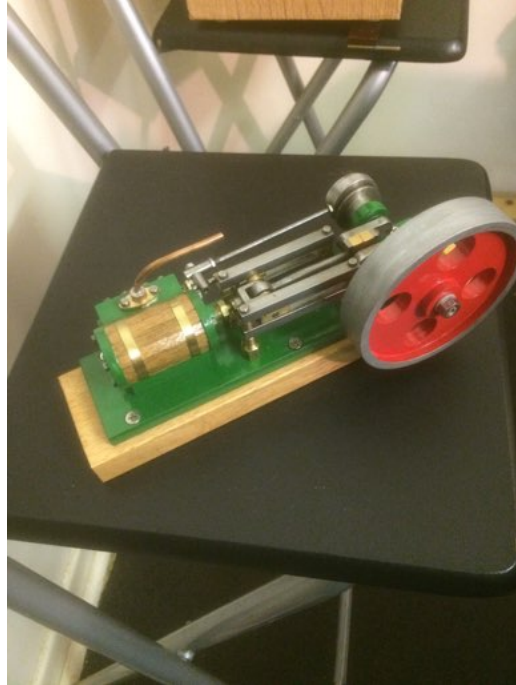
And below, the entanglement of wiring that we all know so well!



MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Dave Evan's Corner

A lifetime of skills go into producing this working model.



Vince's Offering



The modified layout, ***Bescut & Walshed***, being taken to TINGS 2018, is coming on nicely. Still got electrics to finish off, ballasting and proof running of all stock, oh and a motorway to build - *better get me finger out!*

Fellows & Minchin Freight Depot

By Jane Minchin

More images, as promised....



HERITAGE RAILWAYS - Part II

Chasewater Railway “The Colliery Line”



The Railway grew out of a visionary plan to cover Britain with independent steam railways as early as 1959!

Chasewater Railway operates heritage steam and diesel trains on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays throughout the year, most Saturdays Easter to October and certain weekdays throughout the summer.

The Railway is rapidly gaining recognition as one of the major visitor attractions within the Walsall, Lichfield & Cannock areas. With its policy of great value fares and membership fees, it offers an excellent day out for families, friends and railway enthusiasts as well as corporate and social hospitality.

The Railway operates passenger trains from its headquarters at Brownhills West to Chasetown Church Street, with intermediate stations at Norton Lakeside and Chasewater Heaths. A round trip of nearly 4 miles takes about 45 minutes. Day Rover tickets offer unlimited travel on all trains operating on the day of issue.

Chasewater railway has special Galas and events throughout the year and every December Santa visits Chasewater Railway. Why not come along and join in the fun and experience the festive atmosphere on the Colliery Line your local historic heritage railway. Enjoy a ride through the beautiful Chasewater Country Park on the train hauled by one of our vintage engines and then visit Santa in his grotto which his elves have built especially for you.

The railway is mostly run by volunteers, so please check opening times and detailed information on the *Chasewater Railway* website before your visit.

<http://www.chasewater railway.co.uk/>

Other business:

Apologies that our website is not always up to date, our webmaster has been very ill. We would still like someone to handle publicity for the club – you can do this from home and equally we have trees and buildings needed for “Whartson Hall” if you want to do this from home. You do not need to be a club member to offer these services – you just need time. Please feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and fellow modellers.

Who Knows?



An excellent model by Tony, not quite sure of the scale though... *answers on a postcard - for those that know what a postcard is of course.*Ed

STOP PRESS:

A most welcome addition to the WMNGC ‘stand’ at TINGS 2018 is ***GreenWood Railway*** by Philip Hunt.

Another most welcome confirmation for ***Fellows and Minchin*** by Jane Minchin.

MEMBERS NOTICES

Mike Turner and Len Bane have been well enough to attend recent club meetings and it’s great to see them back along with ***Mr*** Gibben.

Your editor would like to thank **PECO** Technical for solving a problem he had with his **PECO Smartswitch Controller**, they replaced a faulty circuit board completely free of charge, within 5 working days - Great Customer Service, thank you **PECO**.

WMNGC 22 and still going strong

RETURN JOURNEY

Please email me, with any erratum or articles to art1san1957@icloud.com
Just click the link and send me an email!

NB. The next issue will include erratum from this issue, our second Book review - also any and all submissions gratefully received.

Any views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Chairman or any individual club members, on the other hand - they might.

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NO PROFIT IS MADE FROM THE DISTRIBUTION OR PRODUCTION OF THIS
FREE NEWSLETTER Ed.

Our largest exhibition-standard layout *Waterstock*



NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

2018 PROGRAMME

Meetings will be held at:
Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall,
Park Lane West,
Tipton,
West Midlands.
DY4 8LD

Meetings – 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month

January	6 th	20 st
February	3 rd	17 th
March	3 rd	17 th
April	7 th	21 st
May	5 th	19 th
June	2 nd	16 th
July	7 th	21 st
August	4 th	18 th
September	1 st	15 th
October	6 th	20 th
November	3 rd	17 th
December	1 st	AGM

Again all meetings will be from 2-5pm. If in doubt, please ring first.

For more information:

Call Ken Jones on 0121 777 7062, email westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk
Or visit our website at www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

Any changes to these dates will appear on our website or in our quarterly newsletter.

Please use rear entrance at church hall.