

Welcome to the September edition of our lockdown newsletter. This is the usual random mix of news, chat and snippets, hopefully similar to that which we get at our meetings. Hence there is no structure to it and if you feel we have not got the right balance then please send me your contribution!

Relaxing Lockdown Restrictions – Meeting in September – what could possibly go wrong?

The changing Covid-19 compliance requirements scuppered our September meeting plans. Further restrictions have recently been introduced which may well be with us for up to 6 months to get the country through the winter period. It is very hard to predict ahead but a meeting in October looks doubtful and it is hard to predict if we can have our final meeting of the year in November.

Whilst we could, technically, have had a meeting of 6 people or multiple groups of 6 (providing we didn't mingle), the focus of the Twynning Hall is on their Play Group (held each weekday) and all other groups have been encouraged to cancel their meetings. This is an entirely understandable position and while they know we would like to hold our meetings as soon as it is safe to do so, they also appreciate our flexibility and tolerance.

The Government requirements will be reviewed when they are relaxed and we will continue to work with the Twynning Hall Committee to enable us to start meeting again as soon as we can.

In the meantime we will continue with these newsletters and would welcome contributions and news.

A fun teaser from Geoff Hill:

A teaser for people to peruse in their copious free time. Name the specific location (not just the railway) and locomotive. No prizes, you just get to wallow in your own brilliance! Email robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com with your answer.



4mm scale Fishing Boat – John Burton:

In 2017 I joined the Burnham MRC so I could visit when at our caravan. And I made 5 x 2mm Scalescene fishing boats for one of their layouts. It struck me that the shape and style of the hulls would make a nice old fashioned harbour tug.



In March this year I obtained the 4mm version of the kit and had a play.

The superstructure is Cornflakes packet, the funnel is the centre of a till roll and everything else is whatever was around. I still need to make side fenders and assorted junk.

Everything nowadays has to have a story so here goes:

She will be called Etna and is a Volcano Class harbour tug built in Chatham in the late 1930s. There were three of them Etna, Vesuvius and Stromboli. There was going to be a fourth but no one could spell Popocatepetl!



Progress with Rowland Binns 014 LMS Line:

Rowland has sent in two photos of the progress he is making on his new 014 layout. Construction will pause here during the winter, for some scenery and rolling stock building.



The line continuing off the viaduct to the station at Pont-fawr



A passenger train arriving at Pont-fawr, with some hoppers awaiting in the siding

Polbathic – a 009 layout by Phil and Judy Morgan:

It all started with some free tickets to last autumn's model railway show at Milton Keynes and the purchase of Harper's Yard from the Petite-Properties stand.



After a short break in modelling of 40 years, my wife Judy and I decided to build our own 009 railway. Judy is responsible for buildings and artistic design (i.e. people and accessories placement), while I look after construction, scenery, track, electrics and rolling stock.

Polbathic is a small station on the Torpoint and Looe Light Railway in Cornwall. Polbathic is on the River Tiddy, a tributary of the Lynher River System, hence the small harbour. The story of the line is still to be written, but will feature local dignitaries, such as Sir Reginald Pole Carew and Amos Trebilcock.

The track design is based on Crackington Quay, a well-known 0-16.5 model that features in the Peco 'Your Guide to Modelling Narrow Gauge Railways'. We decided to use Peco Setrack - first lesson learned, as the engines do not like points - should have gone for live frogs.

The layout is approximately 52" x 28" on a removable wooden trestle.

The back scene is from ID Backscenes and that seems to have turned out successfully. Scenery is constructed from a mixture of polystyrene and card, all covered in Mod Roc. The rock faces are just pieces of bark from our log store. The houses are all from Petite-Properties - easy to make and customise, once you get the hang of their instructions. Station buildings and the coal depot are all from Wills and Ratio, with many of the other bits and pieces from our last railway many years ago.



The points are operated with Peco Twistlock motors, and the signals are Dapol N gauge (more appropriate size for narrow gauge), and yes, I know that they are not really in the correct places.



Most of the buildings have lights, which look good in the dark. Second lesson learned - use LEDs, not grain of wheat bulbs, as we found to our cost when the signal box started to melt. So far, we have a Bachmann Baldwin, an 0-6-0 Peckett Fourdees - expensive, but beautifully made - and collection of carriages and wagons old and new. All my old engines are being retired to the museum.

So, still very much a work-in-progress, but an enormous amount of enjoyment.

Peco 7mm scale telephone box – Dave Dyer:



Not so busy building this month but still managed to play in the shed a bit.

I have built a Peco telephone box kit which I purchased from the 7mm Narrow Gauge Association sales via Neil. The telephone box is for my 09 Beach View layout.

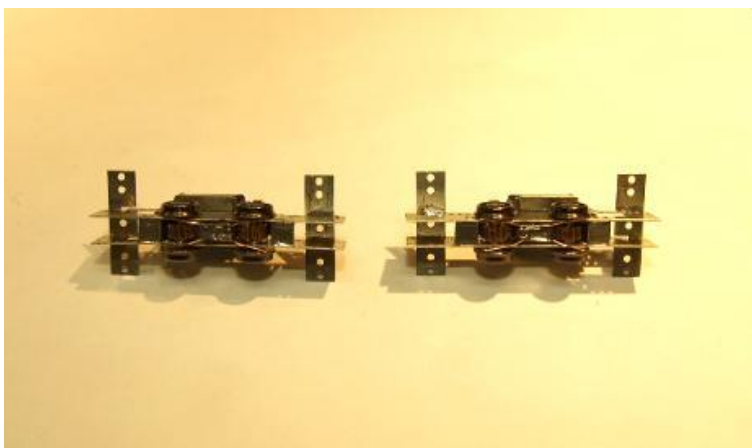
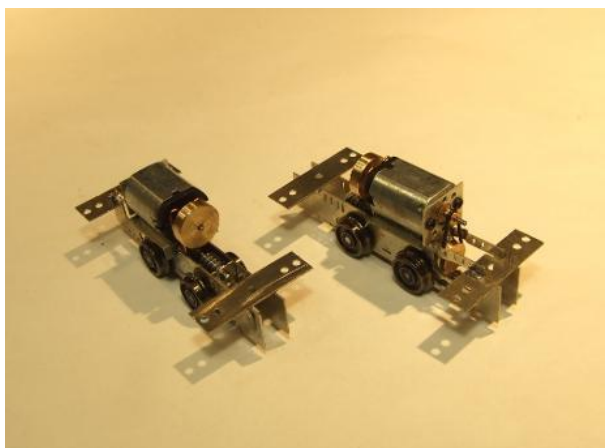
(Dave has contributed to every newsletter so far and I think I need to encourage him to share a bit more of his Beach View layout with us. There are some great details in the photo below. I think I recognise the Skytrex builders bags as they introduced them shortly after I had scratch built one for myself! I would be interested to know about the other details.)



Trade News:

Locos n Stuff - [The Larger Diesel Chassis kit](#):

Mark Clarke was asked by two Indian gentlemen for a chassis to fit an Indian Railways NDM6, a bit like a BR 08 shunter but with 4 wheels. This was to be in OO9 which he doesn't do often and his usual printed plastic chassis cannot do below 12mm gauge as he can't get the gears in. The solution was an etched chassis which he made as universal as possible.



It can be built to all gauges from 9 to 16.5mm (and wider if you ask for longer axles) and in wheelbases from 17 to 30mm. It comes complete with wheels, motor and double gearing around 33:1, wheels can be 8.5, 9.5, 10.5, 12 or 14mm and the motor can be an M15 (8 x 15), N20 (10 x 15) or N30 (10 x 20), a flywheel is provided where possible. This will suit anything from OO9 to O gauge, the frames are 64mm long but can be shortened prior to assembly if required.

The pair in the pictures above were built from the test etches for the two NDM6 owners and are 9mm gauge, 18.5mm wheelbase with 8.5mm wheels. The two strips with holes are optional mounting plates, they are wider but these have been cut down. This is a simple kit with only nine etched parts to solder.



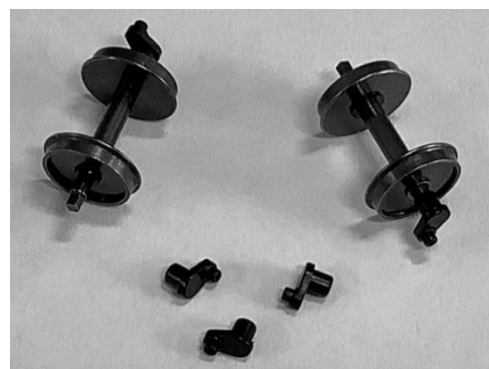
Available in September for £50.00

These chassis come as six on the etch and all were built for various people. One was assembled in a cut down fashion to fit a Shapeways Ruston for 9mm gauge. Mark thinks this chassis will find far more uses than he expected

Looking at this myself, I wonder if it would be possible to use the [Mosskito outside crank wheels](#) for a 009 outside framed chassis?

These wheels for 9mm gauge track are manufactured from brass, have a narrow tyre and fine flanges, which results in a 7.8mm back to back dimension. The design of the web allows for spokes to be simulated by an etch overlay.

These wheelsets have a brass shouldered axle. The centre of the axle is 2mm diameter. The axle has 1.5mm diameter extension terminating in a square end. This design will facilitate the use of a Tenshodo gear without a shaft adaptor. The square end is designed to accommodate the supplied crank and make it easy to quarter the wheel set.



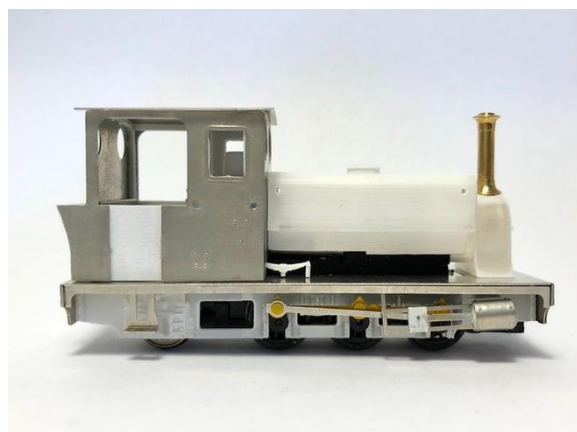
Narrow Planet News

Power Drive Unit:

The [Mosskito MPD18 power drive unit kit](#) has been upgraded and version 4 uses Greenwich 6.2mm diameter wheels (also available separately), Mosskito bearings and an etched pickup. It remains straightforward to assemble with soldering only required to connect the motor wires to the chassis and pickup

New Steam Loco:

Get saving for Christmas! It's been a while since the last Narrow Planet steam loco kit, but they have been working away on something new and now they've been able to get hold of the test etches they can share progress...



This is a completely new kit for the Pentewan Railway (later RAF) Manning Wardle 0-6-2ST "Canopus", running on a Graham Farish 08 chassis. This will be a full multi-media kit; although the prototype saddle tank and smokebox are 3D printed these will be cast in whitemetal, as will the chimney - the turned brass pattern is shown here. The replacement outside frames will be 3D prints.

Etched connecting rods and slidebars are included, plus a 3D printed cross head.

There are some additional details still to add not shown in the photo, and timescale is dependent on production of parts but we are hoping for a release before the end of the year...

Another Photo Quiz – Barrie Blackmore:

Barrie sent in the following photos taken during his travels but due to a technical problem we don't have captions, so they are offered as a quiz. As before, there are no prizes just email robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com with your answers. We will publish the all the answers in the next newsletter.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

The show must go on...(line)

GAUGE O GUILD

VIRTUAL MODEL RAIL SHOW

31 October 2020
09:30 - 17:00

**The Gauge O Guild
Virtual Show is FREE
and runs all day.**

There are no
geographical restrictions
and live content will be
recorded and looped for
those in non European
time zones.

Members and Non-Members are welcome.
For updates visit our website or find
the Gauge O Guild Group on Facebook.
You will enter the show on the day via the
Gauge O Guild website.

www.gaugeoguild.com



Layouts
Movies via
You Tube
or live virtual tours


Demonstrations

Up to a dozen live and pre-
recorded how-to sessions
and demos from our team
of experts covering a wide
range of model-making
and running subjects.



Virtual Trade Show

Traders will be
advertising their latest
O gauge products.
We may even have
a live on-line product launch or two!

Modelling competition

The competition
will be as strong
as ever! You can
enter and vote
on-line with the
same categories
and criteria used
at Guildex.



**PLUS...
Q&A**

Technical Committee demos
and live Q&A, trouble shooting
sessions on popular topics.

I hope you are all keeping well and using your free time to good effect. Thank you to the contributors to this issue and don't forget to send us your news so that we can all stay in touch. I would appreciate any contributions for the next newsletter by the 23rd October.

In the meantime happy modelling,

Robin Edwards

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