

Welcome to this extra Christmas edition of our lockdown newsletter. This time there is a festive theme aimed to lift the lockdown blues. As usual there is no structure to it and I hope that you find it entertaining and a bit of fun.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



*Good Yule and a  
Happy Journey through 2021*

My thanks go to our European honorary member, Jürgen for this festive photo. His painting technique appeared in our August issue and the van at the end of the train was featured in the November newsletter.

Whilst 2020 will remain a memorable year, the increasing number of effective vaccines gives us all something to look forward to in 2021 with a gradual return to meetings and exhibitions.

We will continue to review with the Twynning Hall Committee as to when we can restart our meetings and I look forward to meeting you all in 2021. In the meantime, I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and all the modelling goodies that you have asked for from Santa.

It would be great to hear from you about your Christmas projects and presents or hints and tips. As usual, please email these to me at [robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com](mailto:robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com).



### Christmas quiz question from Geoff Hill:

Another quiz question from Geoff for Christmas. Identify the valve gear. Extra brownie points (but nothing more) for the Loco, Builder and Railway. Email [robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com](mailto:robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com) with your answer.



Any more than that, like Serial No. & Date gets marks deducted for being a smart-ass!

### Christmas Cheer from Nicolas Wheatley:

Nicolas sent in these festive photos to help get us all in the Xmas spirit and as an antidote to any lockdown blues.





### Christmas fun – caption competition from Geoff Hill:

...If only everything in life was as reliable as  
a Volkswagen Emissions Test!



Geoff has been digging in the dusty archives. This was only (!) five years ago, so some may remember it, but as a bit of Christmas fun - can anyone come up with a better caption?

There are no prizes but the best captions may well be published in the next newsletter.

Please email your suggestion to [robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com](mailto:robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com).

My own suggestion is "VW spokesman claims new hydrogen powered train significantly reduces pollution".

Have you any photos to share with M5-M50 NGM members? Either model or prototype providing that it is vaguely related to narrow gauge railways, pretty much anything goes.

Please email your photos to [robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com](mailto:robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com).

### Let it snow! – Bill Longley-Cook:

We featured Bill's snow train consist in October's newsletter and here's a couple of photos from last year of his rotary snow plow and one of his flanger on his railway with real snow.







### Santa is on his way! – Bill Longley-Cook:

Not sure what scale, gauge or road name, but Santa and his assistants are working hard to bring those box cars full of Christmas joy. So fortunate to have what we have in this difficult time. Bill's wife Carol painted the train when he was out of the house.



### Trade News:

#### 7mm Scale WW1 Alco 2-6-2T kit from Locos n Stuff:

The kit consists of an etched nickel silver chassis, buildable to any gauge from 16.5 down to 12mm with an etched brass cab and 3D printed boiler, tanks, cylinders and chimney. It is supplied in WD form with parts for the Ffestiniog Railway's *Mountaineer* supplied on an extra etch. This will build either version of *Mountaineer* and also includes a shorter chimney and the massive lubricator as used in its most recent form. Compensation is included as is a crank setting jig and the kit is complete other than couplings.

[Details about half way down this page on Mark's site.](#)

Alco kit in WD form - £250.00

Add on parts for *Mountaineer* - £30.00

### Exhibition News:

#### Narrow Gauge North:

The organiser of Narrow Gauge North is still hopeful that an exhibition can be held in 2021 but has acknowledged that March 2021 is looking less likely. Even with the recent announcements regarding vaccines he believes that we are still some time away from 'Normal'. He is not dismissing the option of an exhibition some time in 2021 if Exhibitors and Traders were able to support it, however, the date is undecided at this stage. He continues to keep in touch with Pudsey Civic Hall regarding potential alternative dates.

#### Bristol at the Thornbury Leisure Centre:

The organising team for the Bristol Model Railway Exhibition have issued a statement in respect of the enforced cancellation of The Bristol Model Railway Exhibition in 2021:

*Due to the Covid -19 outbreak earlier in the year and the current uncertainty that it brings, we have regrettably had to take the decision to cancel the 2021 Bristol Model Railway Exhibition.*

*We would like to thank all those who were due to attend next year's show, traders, exhibitors and of course the public for your understanding and we hope we have your support for future shows.*

### Mike's Bascule Bridge:

Steve Matthews has been involved with a couple 12ins=1ft scale rolling bascule bridges during his career and he was interested by Mike Beers article in the last newsletter.

He says that they're not easy to win prizes for aesthetics with. There was one that was built between the wars where the mechanical guy is reputed to have got the power sums wrong. Starting (and worse) stopping a large chunk of material can be challenging - even at very slow speeds there's a lot of momentum. In the case referred to above, the over-provision of power threatened to put the bridge over on its back. Fortunately this was spotted before testing.

Steve says that if Mike wants a real challenge, there's a huge pair of rolling bascule bridges in the port of Zeebrugge. He notes that these are nothing to do with the example above which is much older bridge.

In response, Mike says

*"Thanks Steve, I am fast (?) approaching crunch time and several things will be revealed to work or not. Weight or more specifically balance is a concern. The stepper motor is the heaviest bit and rather high - so once it has started raising, the weight will help greatly as it moves back from the contact point. When bringing it down, it has to start with maximum moment to overcome. Balancing ends that are at 90 degrees to each other (putting lead on the far end of the deck) will only balance half way up or halfway down.*

*I'm sort of thinking momentum should not be too much of a problem if I move very slowly. But perhaps I am confusing kinetic energy with momentum? I promise I will let you know the outcome - not just glue the bridge down and keep very quiet about it."*

### And finally – just to show that I do sometimes finish things!

A couple of photos of my finished 7mm scale 14mm gauge Kerr Stuart 6wd.



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 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

In the meantime Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and happy festive modelling,

Robin Edwards

Please send your news to

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Or

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