

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

Our first Zoom Meeting:

Five of us held our first Zoom meeting in mid-April and it was a great success (despite my best efforts to appear as a silhouette). We will be holding another one sometime in May at around 3pm mid-week as that seemed to work out okay. Discussion varied between Neil's latest Smallbrook loco kit and bogie coaches using Peco components to 3d CAD and printing. It was good to meet up with our European correspondent Jürgen and exchange news and modelling techniques. He entertained us with his description of how a simple wine bottle cork can be used as a track cleaner, something that I found to be a very useful tip. He pointed out that when the end gets dirty you just cut off a couple of mm and start using it again. I realise now where I have been going wrong as I have been using a new cork each time!

Please email me at robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our next Zoom meeting and I will include you on the link.

As noted last time, the Twynning Hall Committee are keen to see our meetings getting back to at least some semblance of normality. To fit in with the hall's arrangements we will be moving our meetings to the fourth Monday of each month from 7.30pm to 10pm. This isn't much of a change for most months but it does mean that we won't be meeting on the August Bank Holiday Monday. The details await more information behind the Government's intentions beyond 21st June. We have to start planning at some point and it feels appropriate to aim for 28th June though this is of course conditional on any restrictions still in place at that time.

I am looking forward to our meetings and the opportunity for social interaction and catching up of everyone's modelling progress.

In the meantime these newsletters will continue to be published each month to coincide with when we would have been meeting.

As usual, my thanks go to everyone who has sent in contributions and look forward to hearing about your own news.

March Competition – Who is this? - The Answer:



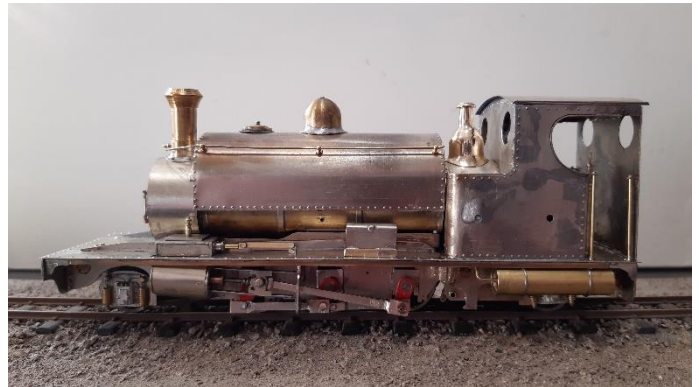
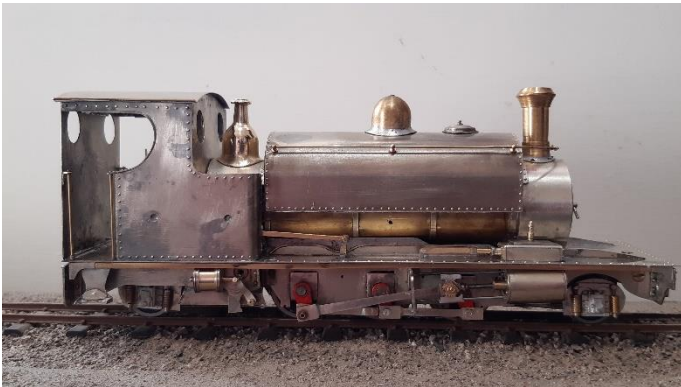
March's photo of a young chap having his first train ride, thereby sowing the seeds of his lifelong interest in railways drew no suggestions or guesses.

The cheerful chap is Neil Smith at Bridlington in 1953.

Personally, I am very glad that Neil became so interested in railways and narrow gauge modelling as he has been a stalwart supporter of the M5-M50 NGM Group, the 7mm NGA and has supplied me with many useful parts from the 7mm NGA Sales!

Lockdown project for the NWNGR – Peter Booth:

Peter Booth models the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway in 8mm scale on 16.5mm gauge track and has sent in this report of his latest project.



"Fellow modeller Aidan Stell, who has a lot of knowledge regarding the NWNGR and Festiniog, pointed me in the direction of WHR heritage magazine issue 46. This included a drawing of a 2-6-2ST engine designed for the NWNGR in 1893, possibly as a replacement for 'Beddgelert', which was reputedly struggling on the gradients up to the quarries. In the event the loco wasn't built and 'Beddgelert' was modified.

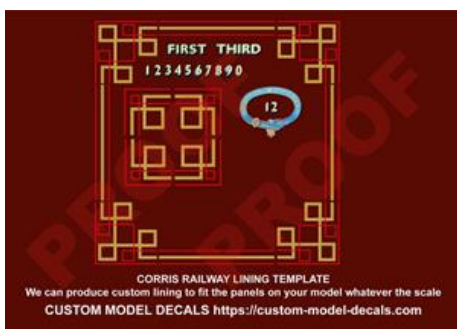
As I had built all the other NWNGR steam locos I thought this would make an interesting project. It is built to the same 8mm=1ft scale as my other engines and uses the same methods. Nickel silver and brass are the main construction materials and it uses a Portescap motor, which I was able to purchase on Ebay.

I intend to name it 'Yr Wyddfa,' which I think is a nice appropriate name. There is still a fair bit to do but I hope that by the time that exhibitions commence I may be able to have it running on one of my layouts."

Editor's comment: I think this is an attractive loco and will certainly be a talking point when Peter exhibits it on either of his layouts. I am impressed with the spacious cab, probably quite rare on a Welsh narrow gauge loco. I believe that Yr Wyddfa is the Welsh name for Snowdon so it is very appropriate. I continue to be impressed with Peter's modelling and his skill in making the small details, something that I struggle with myself.

Trade news - Corris coach lining from Custom Model Decals:

Custom Model Decals has prepared artwork for the ornate lining carried by the Corris Railway bogie coaches. This has been designed to enable the printing of complete panels to suit the size of your coach. Contact Custom Model Decals for more information.



An Old Fashioned Tug – by John Burton:

In 2017 when I joined the Burnham on Sea MRC I was asked to make some Scalescene trawlers for their N gauge layout. It struck me at the time that the basic hull would make quite a nice old fashioned tug.



Last year I eventually down-loaded the trawler kit in 4mm scale and having made the basic hull without any deck cut outs I could start having fun working out the super structure. I use the Impressionist approach to modelling, it just has to look sort of right. Working from what I remembered of tugs I'd seen as a kid I set too. I used Cornflakes packet and some Bite size Shredded Wheat packet (other cereals are available). It's quite amazing the difference there is between the different cards.

All the superstructure was card except the funnel which was the centre from a till roll obtained from the local garage (well if you don't ask when you happen to be there when

they have to change one) and the capstans and winches which were dowel turned in an electric drill. The dinghy is carved balsa. The figures are from the Dapol/Kitmaster lineside set, I've been using them since the 1980s as they are so easy to modify to how you want. Last month I emailed Dapol and asked that with the increased interest in 0 gauge if it would be possible to do the same figures in 7mm. They replied that yes it would be possible but they had no plans to do them.

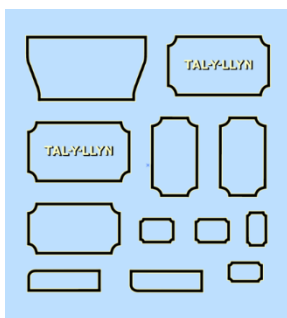
Ego can be a terrible burden. When my tug picture was published I emailed a member of the Burnham club sort of saying "look what I've done" and the reply was "very good, can we have one in 7mm for the layout".



As you can see from the picture it's a monster. And it just so happens that the centre from a cling film roll is the exact upscale size for the funnel.

The actual parts enlargement for the 7mm version was done manually. I'm sure it would be possible on the computer but I couldn't do it, but fortunately I bought a cheap pair of proportional dividers from Amazon a couple of years ago so by working from a datum line it was ok if a bit tedious.

More Trade News – Light Railway Stores - 009 Chassis, wheels and Transfers



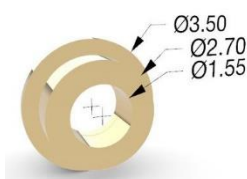
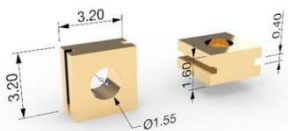
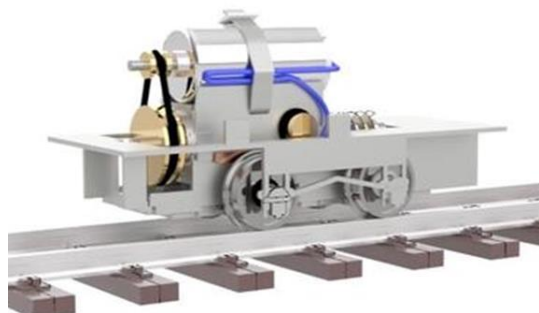
[Light Railway Stores](#) have been working with Daniel Broome to reintroduce his transfer sets designed for the Narrow Planet Talyllyn Railway loco conversion kits - the kits themselves are currently out of stock but should be available again in the near future, however Daniel had been getting asked for the transfers regularly so there must be plenty of unfinished or nearly finished models out there!

The red and green livery sets are now available for both locos through [Light Railway Stores](#).

The 9mm gauge, 11mm wheelbase chassis from the Mosskito NG Ruston 27/32hp loco is now available separately:

<https://www.lightrailwaystores.co.uk/products/mpd11-power-drive-unit-kit>

Construction follows the same principle as the well-known MPD18 18mm wheelbase unit, the kit is priced at £45 including UK delivery.



Also available from Mosskito are square hornblocks and top hat bearings to suit 1.5mm diameter axles along with 8mm diameter wheels for 12mm gauge track.

The wheels are manufactured from brass with a 10.6mm back to back dimension. The length over the points is 19.7mm. These

wheelsets have a 1.5mm diameter brass pinpoint axle with one insulated wheel. All the brass components are blackened with an electrically conductive coating and are available in pairs and 10 axles.

The axles should fit the 7mm scale KB Scale Hudson type rolling stock although I don't know how the uninsulated wheel is retained so I cannot comment on how easy it would be to re-gauge the wheels to 9mm for anyone in 09 wanting an alternative wheel standard to the existing KB Scale range.



A Tin Turtle for Tony's Forest – 7mm scale by Robin Edwards:

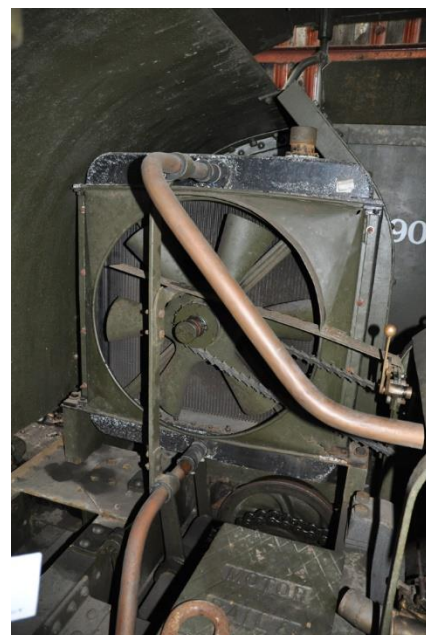


About 3 years ago I started experimenting with a 14mm gauge chassis for a Wrightlines 7mm scale kit of a WDLR Motor Rail 'Simplex'. I brought it along to one of our meetings to trial it on the test track.

It looked like it would work okay but the project was put on the back burner while I got on and finished the layout. Lockdown-3 provided the opportunity to pick it up and finish it off. It is a nicely detailed kit but I found the instructions quite complex as they are written to cover a number of different versions. They had a few sketches but I was struggling to work out how some of the bits fitted together.

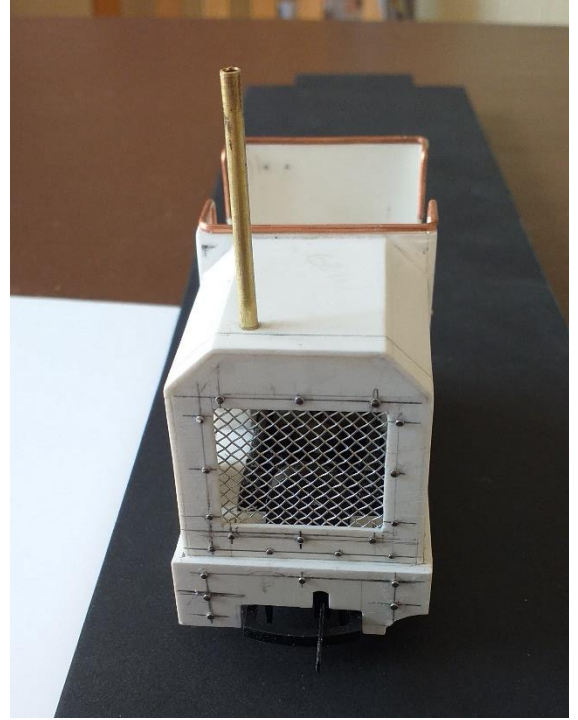
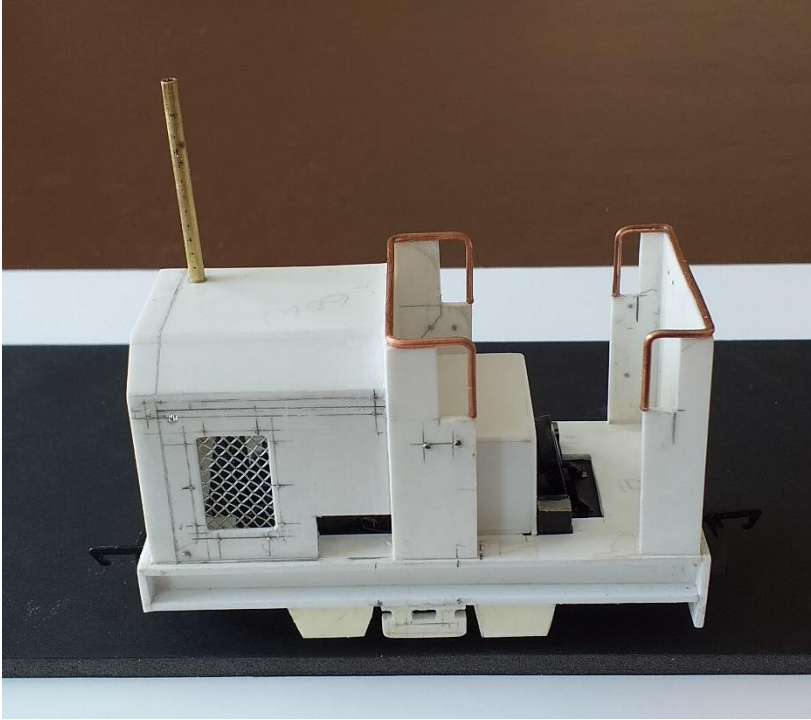
Luckily I was able to get some fairly detailed photos of two of these locos at Apedale in 2013. I had been invited to exhibit and I stayed on site which enabled me to wander around (with their permission) 'outside of normal hours'.

They were hidden away in one of the sheds and space was limited. However, I managed to get photos from enough different angles to help me work out where things went.



More Gn15 from Dave Dyer:

Dave has sent a couple of photos of the latest project that he has on his building board at the moment.



It is based on a Lister diesel and is modelled to Gn15. The chassis used is a Hornby Smokey Joe which he had lying around. Most of the construction is from Plasticard with other bits and pieces out of the scrap box.

He has promised to send some more photos when the model is finished.

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 21st May.

In the meantime stay safe and happy modelling,

Robin Edwards

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Or

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