

Welcome to the September edition of our lockdown newsletter. As our face-to-face meetings are becoming more popular this will be the last newsletter unless we find ourselves in lockdown again. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed news and articles over the past 18 months. I have greatly appreciated your help.

Our Third Face-to-face Meeting:

We had our third meeting on 27th September and there is a brief report later in this newsletter. The evening was attended by fourteen of us and was the usual opportunity to show off models, catch up and admire the tempting goods from Martyn. Numbers were down partly due to holidays and partly due to concerns over fuel availability.

The next meeting will be on Monday 25th October.

Wagon Inspiration – 016.5 by Jürgen Heinritz:

We held a Zoom meeting on 8th September which featured a number of wagons from our European member Jürgen. The internet let us down and we could only get his voice but he managed to entertain us as we looked through his photos. Amongst them were a number of his wagons some of which have appeared in previous newsletters. I found his ideas thought provoking and he has very kindly agreed for me to use his photos here.

Jürgen has made extensive use of the Peco whitemetal flat wagon. He described construction and painting in our August 2020 Newsletter.

These wagons are available from Neil Smith (who runs the 7mm NGA Sales) and he will bring them to our meetings if you want to buy any (currently out of stock).

Jürgen found them useful in a number of applications and has been creative with a mixture of scratch building like the “Borth” van body (described in our November 2020 Newsletter), adding tools, boxes etc. or using a Wills 4mm scale yard crane. The crane wagon has an additional counterbalance weight added from plastic sheet. Looking at these wagons made me think that they lend themselves to removable bodies/loads. I have wagons with removable loads but I had not thought about interchangeable bodies.



Whilst these wagons were useful, a cheaper alternative was also investigated in the form of a 3d printed chassis from Locos n stuff at about £6 each. These needed a bit of cleaning up and Jürgen found that half a Peco coach side fitted nicely to these chassis. This made a small, single compartment coach full of character and ideal for his compact layouts.

The coach sides are also available from Neil Smith as are many of the Peco 7mm scale accessories.





The quest for an even cheaper chassis continued using materials that were readily to hand. The sticks from rockets found lying about after firework displays formed a useful source of timber for inside framed wagon chassis. Inside bearings were sourced from electrical cable insulation which had just the right 2mm inside diameter to suit the wagon wheel axles and wagons could be produced at just the cost of wheels and couplings.

So far some very attractive flat 'slab' wagons and a two-plank open wagon have been produced. Very enterprising and creative modelling!



A Funny Little Story – by Michael Beer:



Some time ago, on Thingiverse, I saw a narrow gauge tank wagon in a livery for the Purple Moose Brewery. I thought the idea was fun but dismissed it as being something for American narrow gauge. Whilst camping just outside Porthmadog this summer, I walked into town via the back streets and was confronted with The Purple Moose Brewery!

Once home I was inspired to design and 3D print a tank wagon to carry a Purple Moose Livery. I found a nice round logo on the company's website and 'phoned to ask if it was OK with them for me to use it. They chatted about it and came back to say yes, and could I let them know how I got on (People can be so helpful if you ask).

It was at about that time I revisited the Thingiverse post and discovered it was a model of a real wagon that exists on the Ffestiniog - albeit in a shade closer to Magenta. So, since my model is freelance anyway, I found a purple closer to the company colour (to my eye).

To thank the nice people at Purple Moose, I thought I might as well produce an extra half model to send to them.

7 ¼" on 9mm track – by Dave Dyer:

I enclose some photos of my current project which is a model of a 7 ¼" miniature petrol/electric train. A little more work to do on engine and coach yet. The scale is approximately 1:22.5 running on 09 track. The chassis in the engine is the usual Kato. The figures are by Preiser and easier to paint with a shaky hand!!



Ticket Arrangements for 7mm NGA Exhibition, Burton-on-Trent Town Hall, Saturday 16th October, 10:30 to 16:30

The on-line booking system for tickets is now live with details provided to members in the latest issue of Narrow News. This also detailed the arrangements those members without internet access. This exhibition is limited to members and their guests, so if you want to go and you are not already a member you will either need to join or find a member who is willing to include you on their ticket!

Please book early as numbers are limited and remember that no ticket will mean no entry!

Our September Meeting:

We held our third meeting on Monday 27th September with fourteen attending. Once again, your roving reporter apologises for a lack of detail as he was generally busy in the kitchen (rumours that I ate all the cake are gross exaggerations!).



Adrian Ponting showed off his L&B coach that matched his L&B loco conversion shown at a previous meeting. Like the loco, this Peco coach has been shortened by removing one compartment. This makes the coach more manageable on Adrian's layout 'Aldbourn'. I suspect a fair number of these coaches appear on the 009 Sales stand after people realise just how big they are. I thought Adrian's creative solution was very impressive.

Blair Hobson entertained us with a variety of Eastern European stock. I offer my apologies in advance if I get the descriptions wrong.

He had a very nicely finished Russian diesel which was a 3d printed body from Shapeways mounted on a Kato chassis. It was hauling a rake of scratch-built Hungarian coaches built for him by a modeller in Hungary.



He also had some very nicely finished Bulgarian coaches but I got side-tracked by Brian Mallinson's model of a Lister Rail Truck on a Portram chassis before moving on to the 7mm test track.



Martyn Davies had the usual table of tempting goodies on offer from The Hereford Model Centre. Martyn reported that he had spoken to the Peco representative recently regarding future narrow gauge releases and said they were open to suggestions. Martyn is happy to pass on any ideas we may have.



Michael Beer was running his 3d home printed Double Fairlie plus his 3d 'Purple Moose' tank wagon and very nice they were too. The Fairlie was very smooth running and nicely proportioned to suit the Hornby Caledonian Pug chassis that power it.

During the evening Martyn floated the idea of another exhibition in about a year's time. This was widely supported and we are keen to hear your suggestions on venue or date. We would prefer early October as it is an established date for us and ahead of the hour change. While the Corse & Staunton Village Hall has worked well in the past we are open to suggestions for equivalent venues that are closer to the M5.

Our meeting measures appear to be working well and appear to be providing the intended confidence. I would welcome comments and views on these measures which are likely to remain in place for our next meeting on 25th October.

We feel that the New Year will be an appropriate time to start charging £2 per meeting again but our last two meetings for 2021 will remain free of charge.

I hope you are all keeping well and using your free time to good effect. This will be the last newsletter as our face-to-face meetings are now pretty well established. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors to our newsletters. You have all made it much easier for me to produce a varied content over the past 18 months.

Stay safe and happy modelling,

Robin Edwards

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