

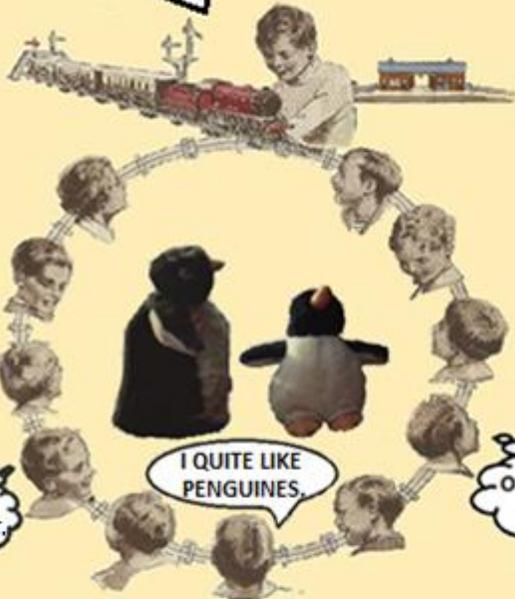
WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING BOYS? JOHN LEWIS SEEM TO THINK THAT WE WANT PENGUINES FOR CHRISTMAS?!

'JUST the TICKET'

PRICE 1^D
No. 20
Dec 2014

Issue No. 20
December 2014

Peace on Earth; good will towards all men...



PENGUINES AVAILABLE FROM OUR SHOP
£1.00 EACH.

Celebrating the rise and rise of coarse scale O gauge

*If you must - see Monty the penguin in the John Lewis advertment [HERE](#)

On a chill evening in late Nvenber, may I extend a warm welcome to the pages of the 20th edition of '*Just the Ticket*;' the e-newsletter which has no difficulty in enthusing about the ever developing world of coarse – or standard if you prefer, O gauge model locomotives.

As we fast approach the season of goodwill during which the birth of Jesus Christ becomes a focus for many around the world, what more fitting way the celebrate **Christmas** Day than with something sure to bring a thrill to every boy or girl-at-heart and something train related, - why ever not!

But what can you get into a stocking? Surely your loved one will struggle to get one of the brand new Darstaed engine sheds into it, let alone more than one! I know many of you will be taking possession of one or more of these excellent structures before long, and I feel sure you will not be disappointed with them, but what else is out there right now? How about one of the Railcars being produced by ETS for Paul Lumsdon and Colin Toten? This should go into a stocking easier than a shed! Or maybe, it just has to be a steam locomotive and if so, what could be more fitting than one of the new Britannias from ACE Trains?

It's been said so many times in recent years, but I say again – who could possibly have imagined that *anything* coarse scale O gauge would be available these days, let alone as much choice as we now have today!

It has been my great pleasure to assemble these monthly newsletters for another year, but they could only ever happen thanks to the contributions of makers, traders and readers alike and to all of you I say a sincere thank you. I also say a further big thank you to all of the readership, who I know eagerly await each edition and who so kindly let me know what you think of them. Your support has been invaluable. Have a very Happy Christmas and I trust I will be able to continue the publication in the New Year.

David Upton



First up this month is an article from Dave 'The O Gauge Guy' Allen in Australia.

Dave writes concerning a Lionel Albert Hall set which he is selling. *"The Loco runs on AC OR DC, with its own remote control and I'm selling it for \$490 Aust. Dollars."* www.theogaugeguy.com email: dave@theogaugeguy.com



Dave continues: *"Originally built in 1931, #4983 "Albert Hall" is back in service on the Great Western Railway, dressed in the classic green livery of GWR, pulling three passenger cars decorated in the popular chocolate brown and cream colors of Great Western."* (Specifications below).

- **Set Includes:**
- **4-6-0 Locomotive #4983**
- **3 Coach cars**
- **LionChief remote**
- **Locomotive Features:**
- **Electric locomotive controlled by remote**
- **Operating headlight**
- **Puffing smoke**
- **On/off switch for sound and smoke**
- **RailSounds RC™ sound system with diesel revving and background sounds, horn, bell, and user-activated announcements**
- **Chuffing sounds in sync with speed of locomotive**
- **Operating coupler on rear of tender**
- **Powerful maintenance-free motor**
- **Cab window "glass"**
- **Two traction tires**
- **Die-cast metal locomotive body and frame on tender**
- **Separately applied marker lamps, driver linkage, brake stands, coupler air lines, and buffers**
- **Passenger Car Features:**
- **Interior illumination**
- **Die-cast metal trucks and operating couplers**
- **Soft moulded diaphragms between cars**
- **LionChief™ Remote Features:**
- **Forward and reverse speed control knob**
- **Three buttons for whistle sound, bell, and special passenger announcements**
- **Requires three AAA alkaline batteries (not included)**

Road Number: 4983

Gauge: Traditional O Gauge

RailLine: Great Western (UK)

Minimum Curve: O-31



www.raylo.co.uk



Hello Readers,

The seasonal increase in sales started for me in the middle of November no doubt helped by two large deliveries from Darstaed including the 6 wheeled coach sets and the remaining Full Brake coaches. Also included were the second series of 6 wheeled vans that quite a few of you had ordered; the other delivery included the Engine Sheds both Single and Double with the extensions for those with enough room.

Our monthly delivery from ETS gave us enough GWR Passenger Railcars to just about meet the pre-orders and a second delivery gave us a few extras, we are expecting another delivery in December which will include the first GWR Parcels livery Railcars and then in January the other liveries will start arriving.

Ace Trains have also been busy and I have a few of the new water towers (photos below) and also the beautiful Britannia locomotives in stock (see ACE Trains article for photograph of the Britannias).

Quite a few of you have bought the various London Transport and Metropolitan Railway items made for Raylo and the latest offering of an Underground tube train (see page 7) is undergoing tests on my layout at home, here are some pictures and further details will be announced very soon.

For anyone who missed earlier issued models I have a few remaining ETS Terriers, Darstaed J19 0-6-0 tender locomotives, Jintys and 2-6-2 tank locomotives and a very few Pannier tanks, both Darstaed and Horton Series goods rolling stock are available but some of the most popular advertising van liveries are getting low.

I would like to wish all customers and friends a Merry Christmas and a train filled New Year, I know of several new models in various states of production so there is much to look forward to. Colin Toten



ACE Trains Water Tower available again from Colin Toten of RAYLO.

colin@bhvccc.co.uk



www.raylo.co.uk



www.raylo.co.uk



Latest Underground Tube Train being tested on Colin Toten's layout. For more information contact Colin: colin@bhvccc.co.uk



Telephone : 01508 483 854

Pre-War Model Train Specialists



Email : neil@vintagetrainsnorwich.com

Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm

Models for Specialist Auction ? - call 07968 500 900

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NEW

£175 plus shipping



www.vintagetrainsnorwich.com
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NEW

£145 plus shipping



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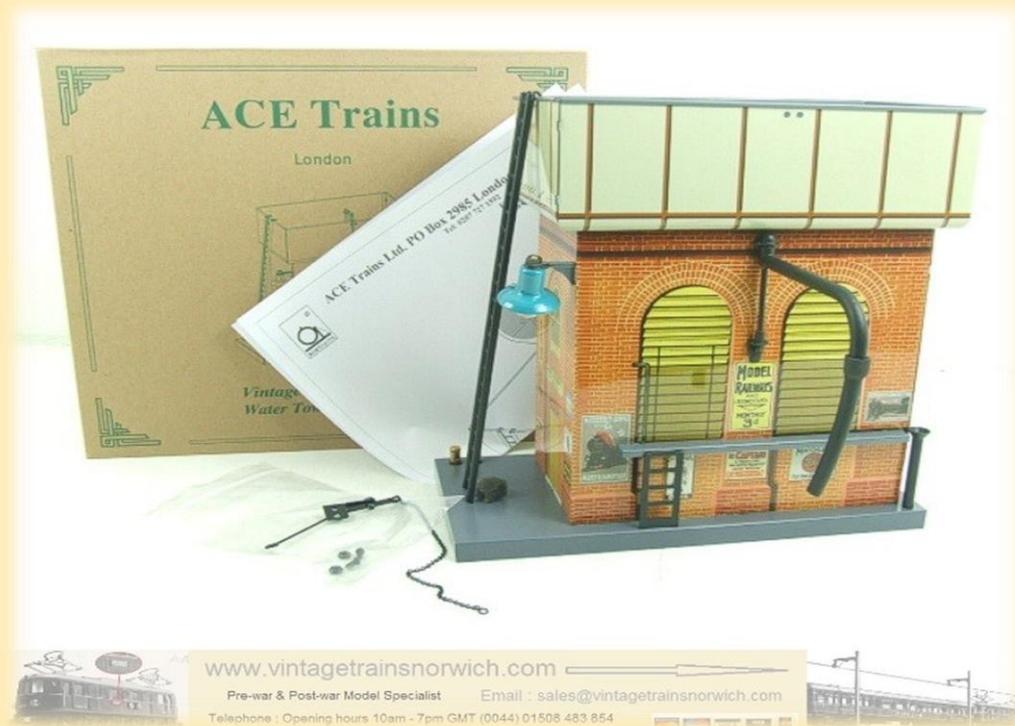
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LATEST STOCK DELIVERIES FROM ACE TRAINS.



SUPERB NEW EDITION AC/2 WATER TOWERS @ £175.00

FABULOUS BRITANNIA LOCOMOTIVES @ £695.00



PLUS NEW MET / LT COACHES & PULLMANS @ £85.00



**** Limited Release ****

MAYFLOWER

Also available in Maroon Livery

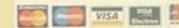
In stock now.



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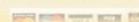
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Pre-War Model Train Specialists

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Get the best market price for your model trains & collectable toys , your lots are entered into the quarterly collectors model sales at LSK Auction Rooms .

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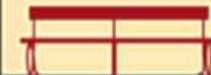
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& KNIGHT**

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FOR
INSURANCE
PROBATE
PRIVATE SALE



END OF FEATURE



All change for
Further Reading.





Latest news from ACE Trains





ACE 2014

Brilliantly Old Fashioned

December



2014 HAS BEEN A EVENTFUL YEAR FOR ACE TRAINS.

The production of close on 1000 E/12 Duchess and Coronation locomotives was completed in some 15 different styles.

We finally managed to break through to being published as an Editorial piece in The Gauge 0 Guild Gazette in an excellent article by Martin Bloxom in the November 2014 edition.

We have dropped the coarse scale connotation and revived the original Gauge 0 Guild description of Standard Gauge for what we do.

Our latest production the E/27 Britannia has met with broad acclaim and has made the dividing line between kit built fine scale or indeed one off finished models indistinguishable from the ACE version.

The very popular Carrette based Water Tower was re introduced. A tribute to the 1910 issue probably one of the best British style lineside structures ever made. For some reason the original gauge 0 version was sold without a back panel.

Our ACE/Wright six wheeled Van series was issued and later additions to the range included a Paethorpes Van and an SR Luggage Van.

Our tribute to Met 150 concluded with the delivery of the Westinghouse Bo Bo providing the biggest range of Met/ LT types ever produced commercially. The Met Pullmans Galatea and Mayflower were unique contributions to the tinsplate market.

The ACE line will continue in 2015 and gain momentum with a comprehensive coach programme and locomotives of most of the big four and their BR versions.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all 'Ticket' holders and in particular David for all his efforts to promote all our versions of great gauge 0, an excellent Christmas and New Year.

ACE Trains PO Box 2985 London W11 2WP Tel: +44 (0) 20 7727 1592
E-mail: info@ace-trains.co.uk - Web Site www.acetrainslondon.com

©ACE Trains August 2014



E/27 British Railways Class 7 4-6-2 Britannia Class Locomotive.
The new Britannia being admired. Note the Festival of Britain logo on the box. The designer also created the Skylon.



E/22 GWR City class 4-4-0 Loco
(After the City is issued it will be followed by the E/24 M7 Picture in next edition).



AC/2-2 Water Tower

Second series of Water Tower with added advertisements at back plus blue lampshades.
Available now.



New E/29 Prairie Loco.

Picture is of the pre production model taken at Sandown in November.

(Production of the Panniers has now ended.)

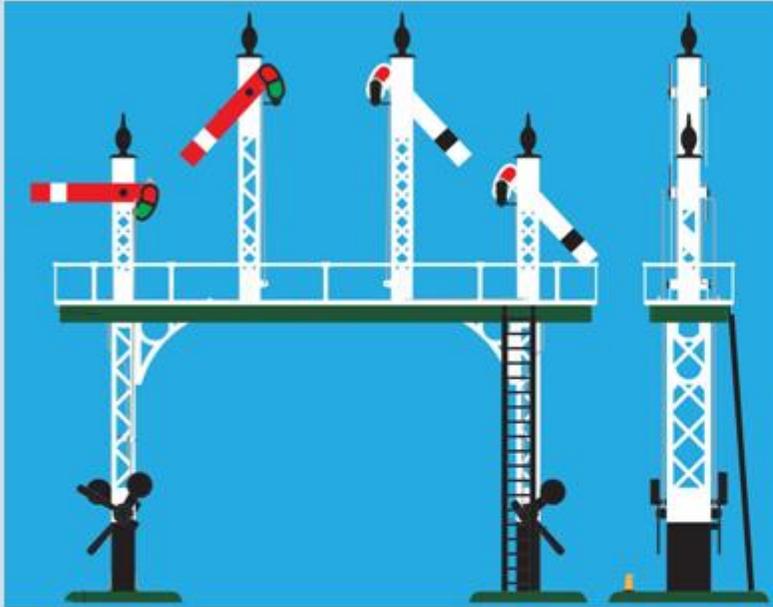


The Palethorpes and SR Luggage Vans pictured running at Sandown in November.
Late variations based on customer demand now sold out.

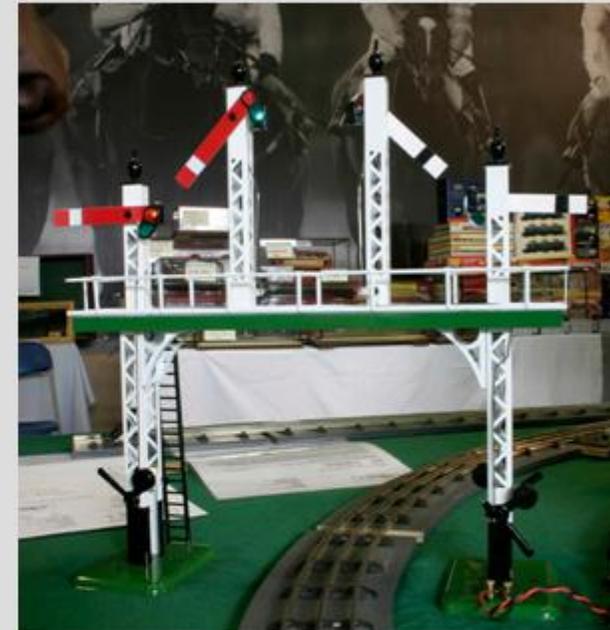


E/20 MET Westinghouse Steeple Cab.

This of course is a Gauge 0 interpretation of the model Carette only made in Gauge 1.
The last of deliveries of the Westinghouse Bo Bos will arrive in December.



Production drawing



Pre production example on duty at Sandown, November.
(Note working LED's)

ACS/I Signal Gantry.

The signal Gantry will now be available at £199 inc VAT as we have increased the run and allocated part of the tooling to a future project and TMR who commissioned this item has decided to pass the savings onto the customers. Expected in January.



ACE TRAINS

The Home of Standard Scale Gauge 0

Brilliantly Old Fashioned We have been busy in 2014. Greetings for 2015.



E/12



E/27



E/12



E/21

'You must have reached the stage where ACE are recognised as the equal of the greatest makers of all time'.

A lifelong Hornby enthusiast

AB in an email 24/11/14

ACE Trains PO Box 2985 London W11 2WP Tel: 0207 727 1592

E-mail: info@ace-trains.co.uk www.acetrainslondon.com © ACE Trains 2014



E/21



E/20



C/26PM



E/16



Latest news from 'A Toy Guy'





WWW.
A Guy
Toy Guy
.COM



Hello Everyone

Firstly it has been nice to catch up with lots of you at Sandown and Rugby recently, I hope you have all enjoyed the new products. If you missed any then you can check them out at **www.atoyguy.com**.

As most of you are aware **DARSTAED UK** is now the main UK dealer/importer/wholesaler for Darstaed products. We are also on the prowl for new dealers throughout the UK. We are working very closely with Andries and his China based team as well as many of our UK friends to create a truly awesome range for 2015.

The NEW engine shed has been a huge success and now the shed extensions are also available. FREE UK post throughout December on all engine sheds. Last batch of 6 wheelers also in stock now.

There is a new website **www.darstaed-uk.com** which will go live in the new year but for now please log on to our existing website **www.atoyguy.com**.

ACE Trains britannia has gone down a storm and we have very few left from this batch. I think the brit has given us a great insight into the quality and stlye of future products from ACE.

Dave Barnicoat

email. **dave79barnicoat@gmail.com** call. **07932 252282**



WWW. *A Toy Guy* .COM




acetrains
Steeplecab
last few
£325.00



DARSTAED UK
Trains de Luxe
Last Batch of 6 Wheelers Available NOW



PANNIERS
£325.00



ACE GANTRY
£199.99



DARSTAED UK
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ALL ENGINE SHEDS NOW IN STOCK



ACE WATER TOWER
£175.00



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Triple Deck from 1966
just the ticket exclusive
2015 Lomac Wagon



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Trains de Luxe
ALL NEW 35cm Coaches
first batch December 2014



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Oh my!
Wait till the
boy's see
these!!



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Trains de Luxe
Tinplate Excellence Since 1966

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IN STOCK AND SELLING FAST
ENGINE SHEDS

FREE UK POSTAGE ON ALL SHEDS

ES-1 Single Engine Shed

£145.00



ES-2 Double Engine Shed

£175.00



ES-2 + ES-2E Double w/ Extension

£245.00



ES-1+ES-1E Single w/ Extension

£195.00

ES-2E Extension £85.00

ES-1E Extension £65.00



Corridor Coach Sets 2014/2015

LMS Period 1

	Set A	Brake 3rd All 3rd Composite		
	Set B	12 Wheeled Diner Kitchen Car Brake 1st		
	Set C	12 Wheeled Sleeper Full Brake All 1st		

BR Maroon (ex LMS Period 2)

	Set A	Brake 3rd All 3rd Composite	
	Set B	12 Wheeled Diner Kitchen Car Brake 1st	
	Set C	12 Wheeled Sleeper Full Brake All 1st	

All Liveries

Set A
£275.00

Set B & C
£295.00



12 Wheeled Diner & 12 Wheeled Sleeper Available in All Liveries

£119.00

LMS Period 2

	Set A	Brake 3rd All 3rd Composite		
	Set B	12 Wheeled Diner Kitchen Car Brake 1st		
	Set C	12 Wheeled Sleeper Full Brake All 1st		

BR Carmine & Cream (ex LMS Per 1)

	Set A	Brake 3rd All 3rd Composite	
	Set B	12 Wheeled Diner Kitchen Car Brake 1st	
	Set C	12 Wheeled Sleeper Full Brake All 1st	

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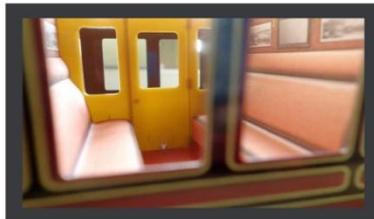
2015

just the ticket exclusive

NEW LMS Period II 12 Wheeled Dining Car with Seat Cover Detailing

just the ticket exclusive

NEW Corridor Coach
Interior Seat Covers



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*A
Toy Guy*

Merry
Christmas



*from
Dave
& team*



Latest news from Darstaed





Darstaed Newsletter No. 39 December 2014

Most news and updates will first appear on our facebook page where you also can leave a message. Veivable [HERE](#)

Gentlemen,

The month of November saw some good progress. I attended Sandown on the 15th of this month with the first samples of our CCs (Corridor Coaches) among which the 12 wheeler. These were very well received although some things were still missing like the interior decoration. I met quite a few of you for the first time and also met old friends.



Andries Grabowsky surveys the fruits of his labours during his visit to the November Sandown event.



Left to right: Andries, Darstaed dealer Dave Barnicoat and Peter Zwakhals of the Dutch HRCA.

Here are the latest updates regarding the interiors of the Corridor coaches

First Class Interior



Dining Car Interior



The 6W production is finished for the moment until the order books are full again and now CC pre-production is under way. As mentioned before our coach program will extend well into 2017. At the moment we have only the capacity of making 600 coaches per month which means 50 sets of 3 coaches in four liveries per month, it is the intention that we issue 4 new sets each month or so in 4 different liveries. The leaflet shown below will be included in each set.

You can download the CC leaflet from our website or just click this link. <http://www.darstaed.com/images/CC%20Leaflet.pdf>




*BR Maroon
(Ex LMS Period II)*



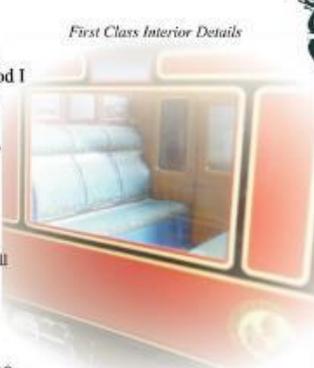
*BR
Carmine & Cream
(Ex LMS Period I)*

Others :
The Night Ferry
Pullmans and Brighton Belle in BR Grey/Blue
MET Pullmans Galatea and Mayflower
Maroon Pullmans LMS
The 40 cm Marklin replicas
EMUs

Following Liveries are planned

1. LMS Maroon Period I (1923 - 28)
2. BR Carmine/Cream ex-LMS Period I
3. LMS Maroon Period II (1928 - 33)
4. BR Maroon ex-LMS Period II
5. GWR Choc/Cream Toplight & Collet Design
6. BR Chocolate/Cream ex - GWR
7. BR Carmine/Cream ex - GWR
8. SR Maunsell Olive Green
9. SR Bulleid Malachite Green
10. BR Carmine/Cream ex-SR Maunsell
11. BR ex- SR Bulleid light green
12. LNER Teak
13. BR Carmine/Cream ex-LNER
14. LNER quadarts
15. BR MK I coaches in 35 and 40cm

First Class Interior Details




*12 Wheeled Diner and Sleeper
available in all liveries*

All Liveries
Set A: £275

All Liveries
Set B: £295

12 Wheeled
Singles: £119

See your Darstaed distributor for further information

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DARSTAED
Trains de Luxe

An extensive new range of mainline Corridor coaches

This will be an extensive range of mainline corridor stock covering many designs from the 1923 grouping to British Railways. Many different types of coach are represented in a wide variety of liveries, including standard 1st and 3rd Class to specific-purpose vehicles like Diners, Sleepers and Full Brakes and supplied in convenient sets enabling realistic train formations to be built up

Specifications

1. Sprung bogies
2. Fitted seating and corridors
3. Fitted interior lighting suitable for use with any other make.
4. Lighting by state of the art SMD (Surface mount Device) technology.
5. Six wheeled bogies for the Diners and Sleepers.
6. Working table lamps with shades for the Diners.
7. Suitable for 2 & 3 rail operation (2-R pick ups available separately)
8. Free running wheels for optimal smooth running.
9. Suitable for radius down to 2Ft (0 - 48)

Darstaed Corridor Mainline Coaches



* Suggested Loco-Coach combinations

More liveries will be available
 Sleeping cars also available as singles
 For detailed information on sets and singles
 please visit our website
www.darstaed.com

www.darstaed.com



LMS Period II – 12 Wheeled Dining Car

Also the ES (Engine Shed) has been very well received and is selling fast, especially the ES2 plus Extension ES2E. I wish to bring to your attention that if a rerun of the ES will be done unfortunately the RRP has to be increased. I wish to remind our customers that the skylight has been designed to lift the ES out of the box. The soft polystyrene should NOT be handled when removing the sheds from the box.

David Webb and David Upton have made some nice pictures of the shed in action.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQxeMIKkSV8>



The HRCAA celebrated its 35th Anniversary and we were honoured to have been asked to produce their official commemorative Advan. Here the presentation of the No. 1 specially made for David Neale, the first member of the association.



David Neale receiving his father's presentation from John Bateman, HRCAA President.

Finally, some very good news regarding the A4 and the A1.

One member of the Classic O Gauge Forum wrote that he would not be able to attend Sandown but asked me when the A4s would appear. At the event, many with whom I had the pleasure to meet of course asked me the same question. After my return to China I wrote a lengthy reply on the forum and it can be read [HERE](#)

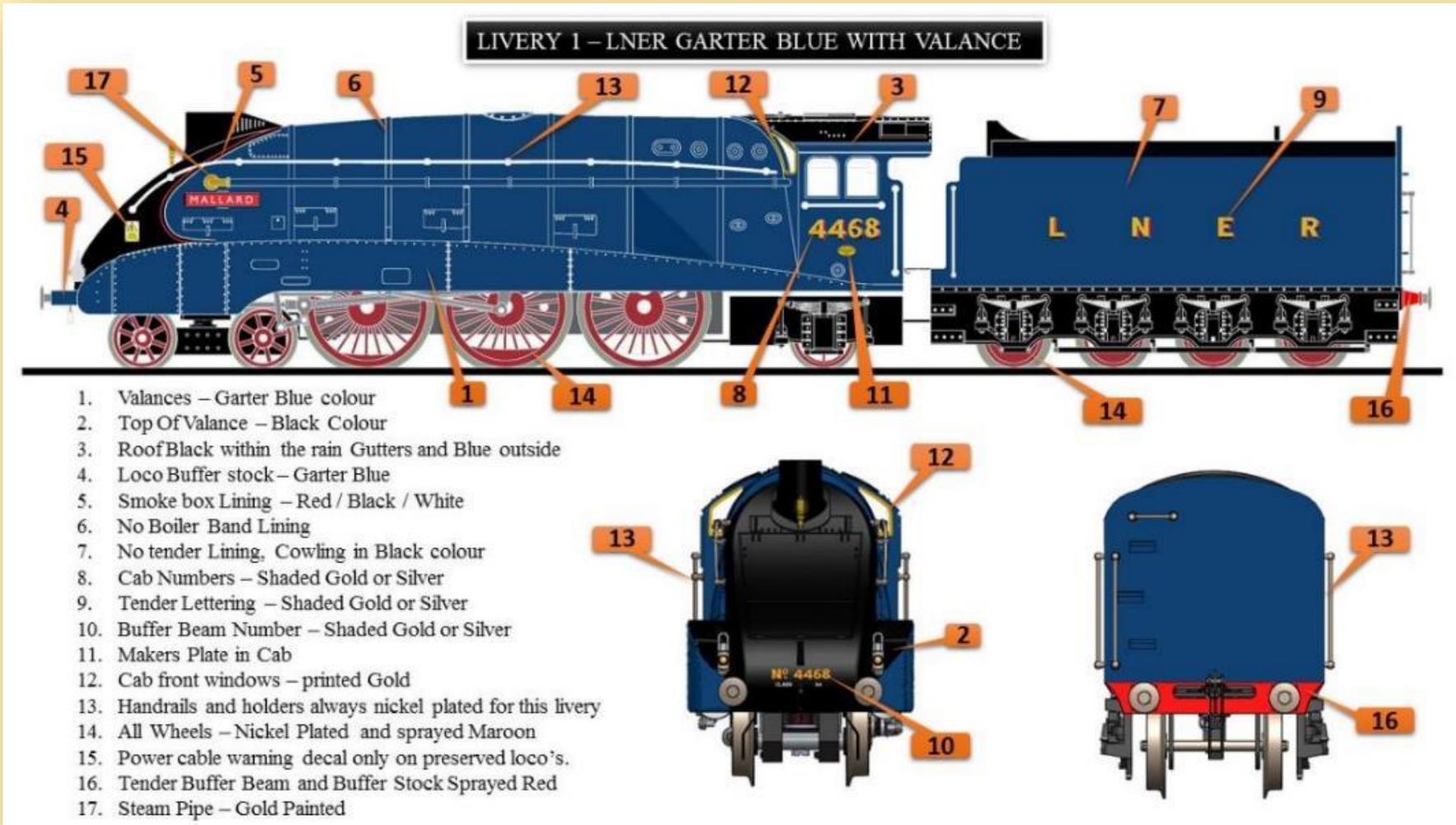


Last Monday (24th Nov) we had a big meeting with the parts suppliers and I was able to send the following dispatch to our distributors:

Gentlemen,

The 6Ws are out of the way, CC coach production started so now as per yesterday we are in A4 mode. For each production there is of course a component list with various drawings of each component, an assembly manual, a QC manual, time schedules, stock lists etc. etc. all both in English and in Chinese. To prepare this takes most of the time and if done well the production goes without a hitch. (Touch wood). This preparatory work has all been completed, it contains 194 pages plus an additional 162 3D drawings.

The A4 consists of almost 400 parts that all have to be plated or painted or machined before becoming components fit for use. That is the stage that we are at now, ordering the parts and make components out of them. We hope that in about 6 months i.e. May/June the first A4s will appear.



We have an extensive list of names available in addition to three different finishes. Once production starts however, we have to draw a line under the offering and turn a new page in the order book that will have less options. Also we may be obliged to increase the RRP.

For a complete list of A4 names and liveries available please visit the below link:

http://www.darstaed.com/products_a001.html

Other good news concerns our customers outside the EU who asked on the Hornby forum which of our distributors are able to supply them the product VAT free. I am happy to report that there are two distributors able to do so, these are Dave Barnicoat (dave79barnicoat@gmail.com) and Rob Giskes (info@giskes-personeels-advies.nl).

If you wish to be kept up to date regularly with the developments at Darstaed you can visit our facebook page. You don't have to be a user of facebook, just click: <https://www.facebook.com/Darstaed>

Enjoy your trains,

Cheers,

Andries



Vintage Trains



The Darstaed Distributors:

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web: www.atoyguy.com

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“I am happy to bring your purchase to any toy fair or exhibition I attend for you to collect in person or alternatively by post or courier as required”.

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“I regularly visit HRCA meetings and other events in Scotland and the Borders with an extensive display of all available products”.

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UK – SOUTH WEST & WALES: MIKE GREEN of Wynford Classics web: www.wynfordclassics.com
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Tel: 01984 632466

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Tel: +31570650378





What's New for December?

Brand New Hopper Wagons

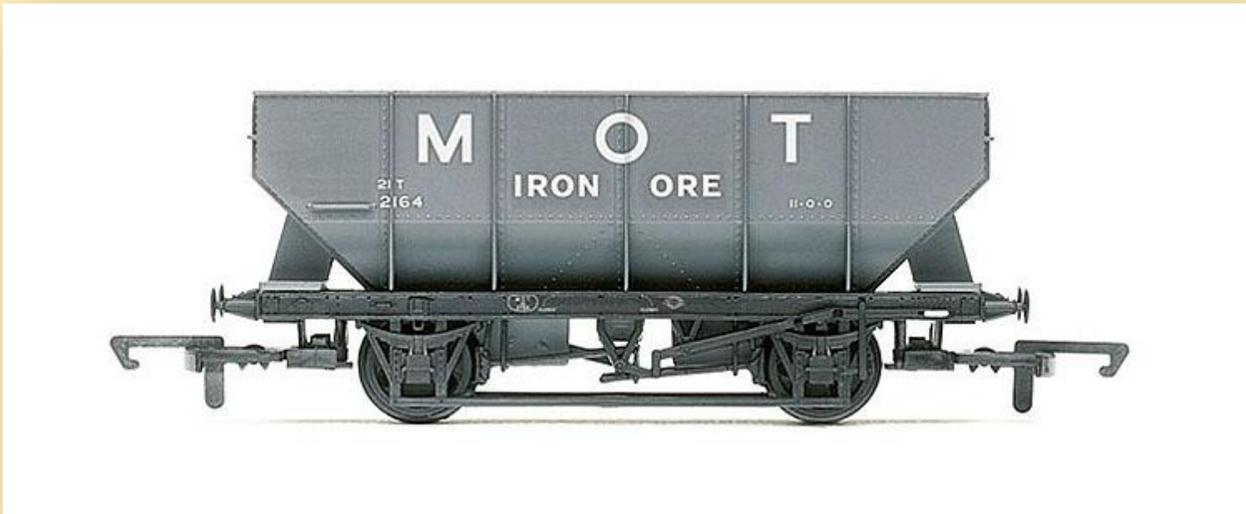
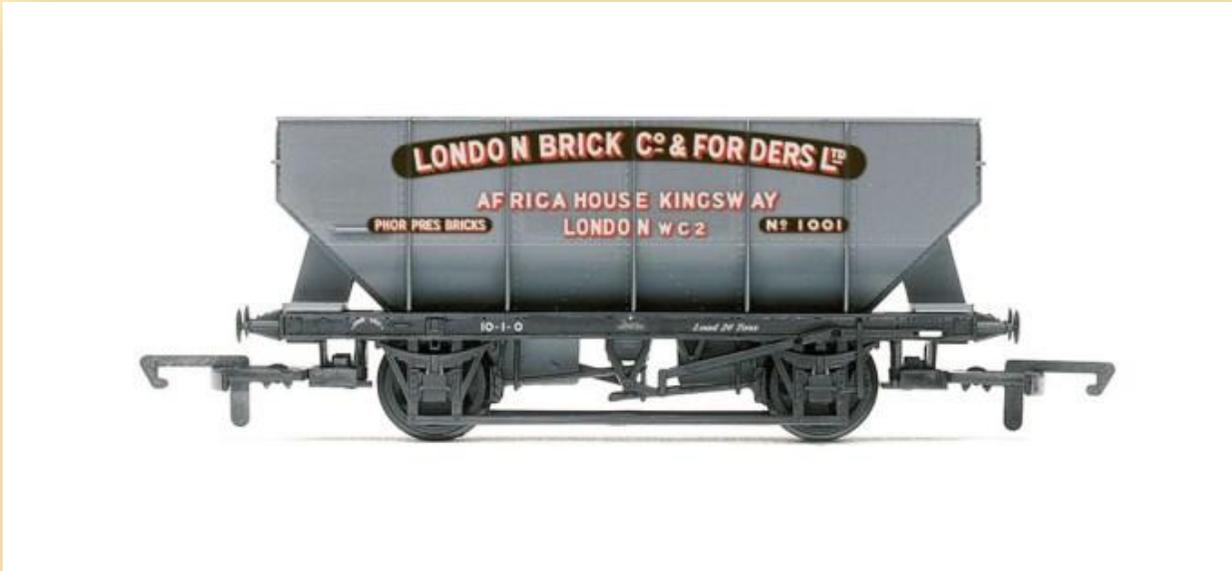
During a trip earlier this year to ETS in Prague, myself and Colin Toten from Raylo were intrigued to see a prototype of a proposed hopper wagon which was very much of European outline. ETS wondered if it would have any potential in the UK but we felt it would really need to be far closer to a British outline design to work in this country. When we returned home I sent some photos to Jiri Nemecek, the chief design engineer at ETS, and during our recent visit in October, he presented us with a completely new prototype design.



Note photos are pre-production prototypes and are subject to improvement before production

We rather like these and so we are now planning to produce a range of Hopper Wagons, which will be exclusive to **WJVintage** and **Raylo**.

The first two proposed releases will be London Brick and wartime MOT (Ministry of Transport) Iron Ore as represented below by pictures of the Hornby OO scale 21 Ton Hopper Wagon.



We hope these should be available by the spring of 2015 and the anticipated price will be **£45.00** each (plus P&P). Colin and I will have the prototypes with us at all the shows we attend over the coming months so do please come along to have a look. We would very much appreciate your feedback and you are of course welcome to pre-order should you wish to.

Final production quantities have yet to be finalised but they will be limited, and I would anticipate between just 50 and 100 of each. I will of course keep you updated via **Just the Ticket** over the coming months.

Railcar Update

The first batches of Railcars have arrived and all my stock at any rate has been sold! The good news is there are more to come and I should have a delivery **before Christmas** that will include a further small quantity of GWR Chocolate/Cream Passenger Railcars PLUS the first delivery of the GWR Chocolate/Cream Parcels Railcar.



Picture above shows the production O Gauge Passenger Railcar from WJVintage/Raylo



Picture above shows an OO version Parcels Railcar as an indication of the livery

The initial reaction to the Railcars has been quite overwhelming. Here are a few of the comments I have received from customers so far:

'The new Railcar is running beautifully on Cornish Rails - I am delighted with it. What a super model.'

'I got the Railcar today. Very, very nice. Marvellous!'

'Just to let you know the GWR Railcar and Grahams Lager wagon arrived safely just now. I am really delighted with them, many thanks.'

'The railcar is a lovely model and looked superb running round our (finescale) track. We have a twin track circle the inner one of which has had the points adapted to take course scale wheels and both types are run happily together.'

Railcar Prices

The Passenger Railcar, which features seating and interior lighting, is priced at **£450.00** plus p&p.
GWR Choc/Cream, BR Carmine/Cream, BR Green

The Parcels Railcar will be priced at **£430.00** plus p&p.
GWR Choc/Cream or BR Carmine

Update - WJV01024 – War Office (WW1) Tank Wagon First Delivery in time for Christmas!

Last month you may recall I launched a new WW1 War Office Tank Wagon with the intention of producing a limited run of 50 pieces.
Well I have had a slight change of heart – bear with me and I'll explain.



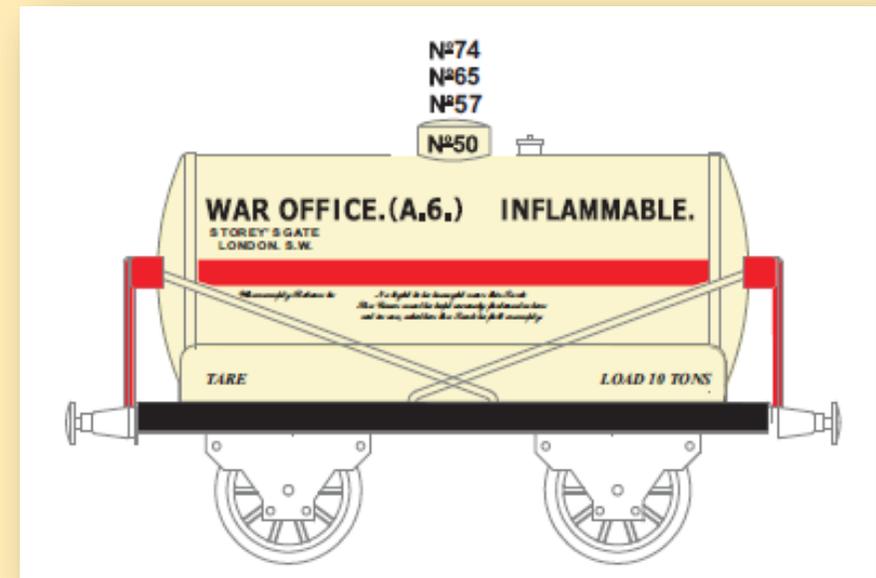
Firstly let me say, the uptake on these has been very good indeed so thanks to all of you that have pre-ordered. It has been so good in fact that I think I may have underestimated the demand for these.

Here is the plan

I will now produce 100 WW1 War Office Tank Wagons to commemorate 100 years since the beginning of the Great War. For every one I sell I will make a donation of £1 to be split equally between the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. So if I sell them all I will donate £100 total to charity.

And there's More!

Furthermore, I have had a word with ETS and they have agreed to split the run into four different running numbers. As I mentioned last month, wagons numbered 50 to 74 were all produced under the same procurement order to the same design. So I have selected Nos. 50, 57, 65 & 74 and we will have 25 pieces of each number. I think this should adequately maintain the collectability of these, and of course if customers order more than one, they can have different running numbers for each (up to 4 pieces and subject to availability).



The plan is to have half of them **available in time for Christmas** and the balance in January. They will be priced at **£42.50** each plus P&P (£4.50 for the UK).

If you would like to place an order, or amend your existing order, please get in touch with me as quickly as possible. All existing orders will remain on the system and I will allocate a running number randomly unless you specify a personal preference. I hope that is all clear.

If you are a user of social media why not look up **WJVintage** on **facebook**

Remember news breaks first on our **facebook** page so if you want to be amongst the first to see what's new, join up and 'like' the **WJVintage** page.

For details of our full range and for latest **WJVintage** stock information please take a look at our website:

www.wjvintage.co.uk

**May I close by saying Merry Christmas to all O Gauge enthusiasts everywhere.
Here's to a peaceful 2015!**

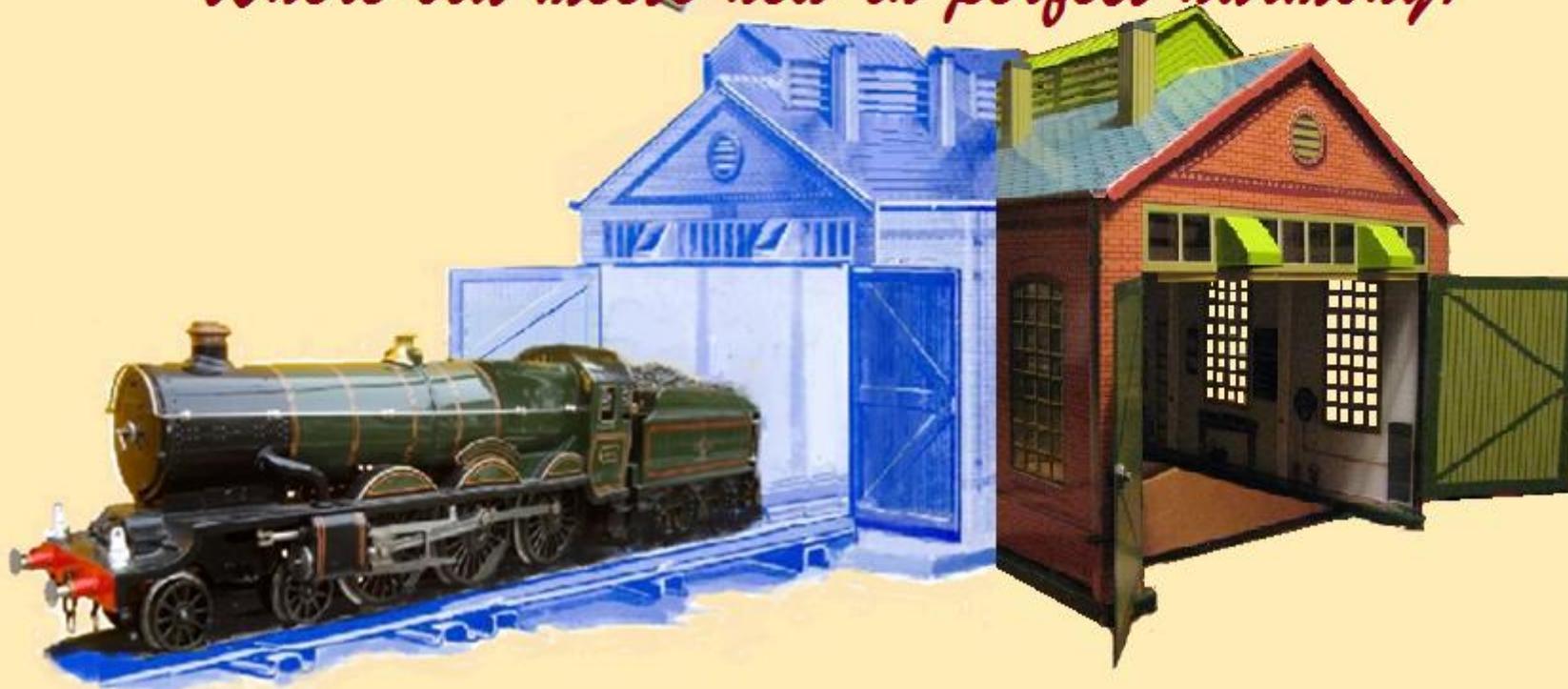


Last chance ladies and gentlemen. Remember the routine. Get the image of whatever it is you would like to get for Christmas, on show on the laptop or monitor – or Smart phone come to that. Then stick a Post-it note on the screen with a message, something obvious like: ‘THIS WOULD BE NICE’ and then, in a very subtle way, encourage your other half to just happen to notice it. Good luck!





Where old meets new in perfect harmony.



'JtT's' Mailbag



The following email came to me on the 1st November, just as the November edition of the newsletter had been compiled and circulated, so unfortunately its information came in just that bit too late to be used, nevertheless, I'll gladly reproduce it here and wish Geoff Burch every success with his latest book.

Firstly, I'd like to thank you again should you have purchased my previous books in either hard back or Ebook format. Because they have been such a success, I've written a further book 'Rambling Railwayman's Recollections' which completes the trilogy. This book begins on the day after my first book ended - Monday 10th July 1967 when I moved from Guildford Loco to work on more modern forms of traction at Woking.

The chapters span my further railway career - Secondman and Passed Secondman days at Woking MT, Driving days at Effingham Junction, Driving days at Woking MT, Instructing days at Waterloo South Side Training School, a brief period with Surrey Police and finally, Training days at South West Trains Operations & Safety Training Centre at Basingstoke.

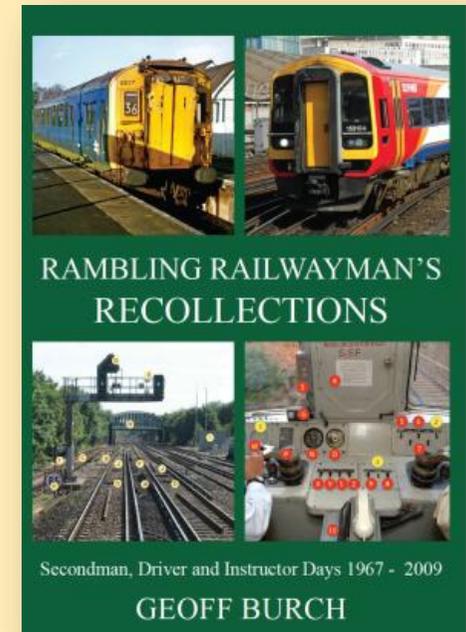
The book launch and subsequent signings will take place at the same venue as my others - Guildford Museum, Quarry Street, Guildford on Saturday 22nd November between 10.00 and 17.00. Light refreshments will be provided. Pauline and I are really looking forward to seeing you on the day but if you can't make it, the book can be purchased at a later date from either: The Guildford Museum, Ben's Records, Tunsgate, Guildford or by visiting my home address which is below.

More details can be found by visiting my Rambling Railwayman Books website:

<http://www.ramblingrailwayman.co.uk>

Best wishes, Geoff

geoff.burch@hotmail.co.uk



Continuing the theme of books, here's another email from regular contributor Alan Cliff:

Here is something a little unusual you might be interested in. The attached Press Release issued by www.readongeton.org.uk the recently launched national literacy campaign spear-headed in Wales by Save the Children. I was invited to produce a special Jack the Station Cat story for the campaign and this is being used as a tool to help parents and children. I shall be sending another classic loco for your consideration.

Kind regards, Alan Cliff

The press release follows below:

A Cat with a Mission supports charity literacy campaign in Wales.

On 1 October, leading charities, organisations, teachers and children’s authors launched a national mission in Wales to get all 11 year olds reading well by 2025. The coalition called Read On. Get On, Darllena.Datblyga in Welsh will galvanise the nation to play its part in making this happen. Alan Cliff children’s author from Rhyl has lent his support by writing a ten minute story for the UK wide literacy campaign called ‘Jack the Station Cat: Special Agent’ a new adventure for his much loved feline friend . Reading is the key to a child’s future; it unlocks their potential and opens up a world of opportunities. However, every year, four in ten (40%) of pupils in Wales still arrive at secondary school with reading ages below their chronological age [Estyn 2010-11 report]. The recently published Welsh Government National and Numeracy test result also showed that children living in disadvantaged areas did less well with their reading than those in more affluent areas. A report by the UK ‘Read On. Get On.’ coalition called ‘Reading For A Fairer Future,’ also found that GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 2025 could be £32 billion higher if action had been taken to ensure all children were reading well by the age of 11. The report also found:

- 73% of 8 to 11 year old girls said they enjoyed reading compared to 59% of boys.
- Children are not reading enough outside school, or with their fathers. Five year old children whose fathers read to them daily will be almost half a year ahead in their reading a few years later, than a child read to less than once a week. Alan Cliff says of the Campaign; *“I am honoured to support STC’s literacy campaign in Wales because I believe the ability to read opens a path to life-long learning. In the modern world the inability to read is a grave hindrance to fullness of life. Every child should be given the opportunity to learn to read and to be constantly encouraged in their efforts. Confident readers invariably become confident in all aspects of life.”*

‘Read On. Get On’ aims to create a nation of strong readers by:

- supporting parents to read with young children for ten minutes a day
- urging the public to volunteer to help disadvantaged children improve their reading
- building a powerful coalition of the most influential public, private and charitable organisations to pledge to support the mission
- urging all political parties to support the 2025 target and two interim 2020 goals



Alan signing books at the Rhyl Miniature Railway

In support of the mission a number of acclaimed Welsh children's authors including Jon Gower, Jenny Sullivan, Alan Cliff, Dan Anthony, Elen Caldecott, Caryl Lewis, Bethan Gwanas, Elin Meek, and Manon Steffan Ros have provided exclusive 10-minute reads that can be enjoyed by children and their parents.

For further Information please contact:- Lois Eckley on 02920 803 260 / mobile or l.eckley@savethechildren.org.uk

Alan followed this message up with a further email which draws attention to something which no doubt many of you will have or want for your layouts?



Eagle-eyed will spot a 'Jack the Station Cat' container wagon being shunted. Of it, Alan writes: ***"Sherwood Section of the LMS" the late Norman Eagles' clockwork layout. The photo was taken on the Rhyl Model Railway club's 2- rail fine scale layout. The "Jack the Station Cat" railway container is available from Graham Lock and the container flat truck is a Progress Products model. The photo is by Mark Armstrong using my camera.***

World War 1 Remembered



It is now December 1914 and many associate the festive season on the Western front as a time of fraternisation, games of footie and handshakes all round. Wrong. There *were* acts of fraternisation amongst soldier's who had no clear guidance as to how to conduct themselves in such unusual circumstances, and yes, men did meet in No Man's Land, exchange smokes and stories and indeed kick a football or two about, but this was far from a universal experience and it was very short lived. Take for instance Lance Corporal 12628 Herbert Goodley of 3rd Grenadier Guards. While some were able to enjoy such acts of fraternization, this soldier was shot dead on Christmas Day 1914, as were many others. Back at 'Blighty,' families came to accept that the war would not be 'over by Christmas' as had been widely predicted and Christmas Trees and decorations would be put up with a bitter-sweet realisation that husbands, son's, brothers, friends and neighbours were now no longer part of the annual ritual. In an attempt to keep up spirits, comforts from home were sent out in their hundreds of thousands ranging from Fortnum & Mason food hampers for officers to knitted scarves and balaclavas for 'Tommy' who was now beginning to get very cold and damp. The Christmas Truce is much discussed but little documented as authorities were determined to 'gloss over it.' The Sainsbury Christmas advert, essentially for a bar of chocolate is set during this Christmas truce. It was worked on by a military historian I happen to know and if you haven't seen it already, can be viewed [HERE](#)



Featured YouTube™ uploads:

Not the usual sort of upload this month but instead an old film ideal for a winter's evening. 'Ghost Train.' A curious mix of suspense mixed with the distinctly annoying character of that 'funny little man,' Arthur 'alright playmates' Askey.

Viewable [HERE](#)



My second offering comes courtesy of British Pathé News – 'Men will be Boys.' Wait till you see the railway layout!

Viewable [HERE](#)



My final offering is nothing to do with trains but is all to do with Christmas. Now seen by well over 44,700,00 viewers there is every chance you have seen this before but if not, prepare to feel the hairs on the back of your neck go up. Handel's **Halleluiah Chorus** viewable [HERE](#)

Before heading off into Christmas, just one more item for you.

This time last year I found myself with some time on my hands and a story in my head, so I sat down at the old keyboard and before long had tapped out a short story for Christmas, which some of you will be familiar with – **‘The Little Red Engine.’** The story was loosely based around impressions I got from talking with my grandparents about the hardships they experienced on the home front during the Second World War and in particular the great difficulties anyone had trying to get anything for Christmas especially if it was Hornby Trains related.

If you have a grandchild with an interest in your train collection, then I would like to think that this is a short story they would like to either read, have read to them or listen to, and this is where I might just be able to help! A former colleague of mine, Mr. Wayne Russell has recently set up a local-to-us radio show. He was keen to hear from anyone with ‘a story to tell’ so I got in touch and in a flash I discovered he fully intends to serialise the story in the build up to Christmas! Wayne has a long background in amateur dramatics and I gather he will have friends doing voice-overs to help bring the story alive.

This local radio show is obviously devoted to information relating to the area of the Derbyshire Peak District in which we live however he does play some excellent music which I’m sure you will also appreciate. Wayne informs me: ***“The Little Red Engine will be broadcast live in three episodes on 4th, 11th and 18th December. Thereafter, with your permission, the whole story will remain available for anyone to listen to at any time via a link from the Hope Valley Radio Show website can be found [HERE](#) and the story will be available after the broadcast on 18th December.”***

For the benefit of new subscribers to this newsletter since last Christmas (of which we have quite a number) and who have no knowledge of the short story referred to, an illustrated written download can be accessed [HERE](#).

So there you have it. I can do no more to aid you in your seasonal festivities. Thank you for having journeyed with me throughout the year. I trust you have the most peaceful and restful of Christmas’ and look forward to making contact once again in January 2015.



Keeping in touch.



Copies of these e-newsletters are freely available from me at the following address: d.upton355@btinternet.com

My YouTube channel click [HERE](#)

Yes it's true – I'm now on **facebook** accessible [HERE](#)



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The forum for all things ACE Trains click [HERE](#)

Below are a couple of remarkable sites catering mainly for the American enthusiast.



O Gauge Railroading magazine On-Line Forum

For the OGR Forum click [HERE](#)



J&C Studios O Gauge Archive o Gauge / O Scale Forums and Individual Blogs for Model Railroading. For the site click [HERE](#) It's on this site that I have my own 'blog' in which I post on any developments relating to my garden layout and all that runs on it. To view click [HERE](#)

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