



N° 32: March 2014

Wrexham Area Group

Latest News

Next Monday meeting on the 11th August will be the last club meeting for 2 weeks to allow refurbishment for the kitchen at the Church Hall.

We aim to be back on 1st September unless the building work overruns and we will notify all members if that happens.

Backscenes

Work has now commenced on the backscenes. So far only the right board has been completed but work on the centre board began on Monday night.



Backscenes under construction



Right end back board by Norman

For the right end board the hill has been built up to marry up with the upper track. Two derelict buildings are to be found on this land as can be seen from the picture above. A For Sale stands in front of them but as the previous access has long since overgrown there doesn't seem much interest.

The hill was built using air dry clay and all the clouds are hand painted by Norman.

A pair of tunnels leads to the rear fiddle yard.

Next week we hope to start the rear left backboard when we get that module back from Ian. With the Quarry and houses we will have to make some adjustments and we didn't want to "guesstimate" the backboard.

Club Officials

Chairman: Pete Jones

Treasurer: Barry Parker-Twist

Secretary: Ian Coe

Exhibitions

The club layout Bryn Y Mor is currently booked into the following show:

Wrexham Toy and Railway Show Saturday 15th November 2014.

We have also had an invite to:

Rhyl Railway Show Saturday 6th September 2014.

Layout News

Bryn Y Mor had its first outing at Conwy Area Groups Show last on 5th July. It was a last stirring effort by all involved to get the layout ready although not everything was completed.

The point motors had to be hand operated and the top line was not fully tested so remained idle. But reports from those that attended is the stock ran well on the lower tracks.

Since the last newsletter there have been several improvements to the layout. Three front boards have been added representing the beach and coastal road complete with a monument.



The sea was created with water plastic sheets and the beach contains real childrens play sand.

Following one of the Chester Area Group meeting we purchased a quantity of track, buildings and vehicles from Mike Bloomfield who had a number of items for sale. This means we have now replaced a number of damaged buildings that occurred as we carried the board sections from upstairs on a weekly basis. The majority of chimneys have now been replaced and reinforced.

The biggest job by far was to rip up the fiddle yard and replace it. This was aided by the track bought from Mike.

Firstly a thin layer of cork was added to the top of the foam and then all track and points were replaced. Both end boards are now mirror images of each other which makes it easier to operate manually, if required.

Finally we have bought a second hand Gaugemaster dual controller from club funds so that we can be more self sufficient and don't have to rely on members supplying them for shows.

Wonderful World of Trains and Planes

The World Wide Group has informed me that this is a permanent exhibition based in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter and occupies the old Derwent Foundry premises at 3 Mary Ann Street (B3 1BG). Spread over three floors the aim of the exhibition is to provide an interactive experience tracing the history of trains and planes throughout out the world.

A number of permanent layouts are being created in a variety of scales and gauges including OO, HO and N representing the railways of Britain, America, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Spain, China and Japan. Most layouts are 20 to 30 feet long and will feature animations and special lighting.

The ambitious and expansive project was started by Managing Director Peter Smith in 2011 and will be fully opening to the public this Autumn after some low profile open days earlier in the year.

As well as the model railways there will be large test facilities where people can take along and run their own trains around a large track something they cannot always do at home.

There will also be the model aeroplane display complete with taxiing aircraft and flight simulators for the more adventurous. A slot car racing track based on Le Mans will also be available for the "boy racers" among visitors. All of this supplemented by a shop and café and there is parking space for over 1,000 vehicles on site.

N-gauge modellers will have a Super-Sunday in which to celebrate their passion, when Wonderful World of Trains & Planes joins forces with the West Midlands N Gauge Club to host a special day dedicated to N gauge

layouts.

A dozen or more layouts will be running on the day, Sunday 19th October, from 10am to 4pm, with several UK-themed layouts, as well as some depicting Germany, France and the USA.

The modellers of each layout will be on hand to operate and discuss, but this is a rare opportunity to get all these N gauge layouts together and one enthusiasts will not want to miss.

Other modellers with N (or smaller) gauge layouts are also welcome to contact the show if they would like to join in. Just get in touch with Ken Jones at ken4trains@yahoo.co.uk.

Visitors on the day also have full access to the three floors of layouts at WWTP, a permanent venue that opened in June just off St Paul's Square in Birmingham.

These include layouts featuring Canada, France, Germany and UK, together with others in the construction stage. Other layouts and presentations feature the Royal Train, the Orient Express

On-street parking is free on Sundays in the area and there is also a 1000-space car park at the end of the road which charges £3 for the entire day.

You can reserve your entry ticket ahead of time. Just contact: peter@wonderfulworldtrainsplanes.co.uk

Wrexham - Chester Line

Work has begun on the £44m Wrexham to Chester railway upgrade. The project will cut journey times between Holyhead and Cardiff and allow an extra train to run every two hours.

Particularly controversial is Network Rail's suggestion that the level crossing at Broad Oak should be closed as its location does not meet safety standards for trains running at the proposed line speed.



A home which has been developed from the former crossing-keepers cottage.

Network Rail have proposed a bridge at the location.

By rail, it is quite close to the crossings at Pulford to the north and Rossett to the south, but residents are concerned about the resulting increase in distance from their homes to their local village via the bridleway crossing or road bridge at Rossett, or via Pulford crossing.

Network Rail say: 'Having now identified the key issues, we are keen to meet users of Broad Oak level crossing to discuss the possible options in advance of making any final decisions.'



John Mathers

Seen on 14 July from Pulford level crossing on Dodleston Lane, new ballast awaits sleepers, and new rails lie in wait between the rails of the existing line. A class 66 sits on the rear of a Crewe Basford Hall - Rossett area engineers' train, with another 66 at the Chester end of the train.



John Mathers

Balderton crossing on 9 July, with a Class 97 on another run of what appears to be a test or training train to and from the Coleham depot.



John Mathers

On 29 June, a Class 66 passed Wrexham General with another Crewe Basford Hall - Wrexham train, consisting of nine wagons loaded with concrete sleepers, destined for the work site at Rossett. Rail closures with a replacement bus service has occurred each Sunday so far since the track improvement scheme started.



Mark Riley

TINGS

Finally a reminder that The International N Gauge Show takes place on Saturday 13th September to Sunday 14th September 2014.

This major two day show is dedicated to N gauge. It is sponsored by **MODEL RAIL** with a full range of modern image, steam, continental and American layouts along with society displays and demonstrations.

Nearly 40 traders have already been confirmed.

Location: Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Nr Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

Prices: Adult £8.50 (Online), £9.50 (on the day). Senior Citizen £7.50 (online), £8.50 (on the day).