



N° 33: September 2014

Wrexham Area Group

Latest News

Colin from the Wrexham Club upstairs spoke to Barry at the Dapol shop the other day. He said that the Halls new kitchen might not be ready for the meeting on the 8th Sept.

Therefore, we are looking at **Monday 15th September** to return to our Area Group meetings.

Prestatyn Charity Show

We have been invited to Prestatyn Charity Show on Saturday 6th December Ian needs to know **A.S.A.P.** whether we're taking Cragmill or Bryn-y-Mor. Please email him your suggestion.

Chirk Changes

Work has commenced in Chirk on Southern bound line. This is for the provision of the ramped footbridge for disability access. The structure is going in at the north end opposite the Cadbury factory, and is expected to be completed by end of this year.

There has been a new bilingual sign promoting access to the World Heritage Site at Pontcysyllte via the canal which runs behind the station on the route through to Llangollen and the Horseshoe Falls. Similar boards are provided at Ruabon.



Club Officials

Chairman: Pete Jones

Treasurer: Barry Parker-Twist

Secretary: Ian Coe

Exhibitions

Wrexham Toy and Railway Show, Saturday 15th November 2014. Bryn Y Mor

Prestatyn Charity Show, Saturday 6th December 2014. TBA (see above)

Layout News

Ian has wired the points at both ends of the fiddle yard to 'choc blocks' and produced connecting wires to go between the two end boards. He has not wired them to a control panel as he feels Kevin will probably do a much better job. If Kevin is not available to do it in time for the next outing (Wrexham in November), he has volunteered to build control panels.

Norman has both fiddle yard boards at present as the next meeting won't be until 15th September when Ian will be at the North Wales meeting. Incidentally, next year Ian shall only be attending the North Wales meeting on the third Monday of the month so he'll be able to come to Wrexham three times a month again.

Norman has now completed the scenery backboards and we hope to have photographs soon.

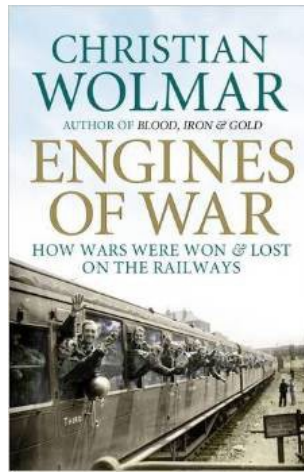
Engines At War

Pete recently distributed Shunter 122 the newsletter from the Northumberland Area Group (*if you haven't received it and would like a copy contact Pete or Ian*).

In it they mentioned a talk the Group had received from Roger Bagnall on Military Railways and included brief notes. As this was of great interest to Pete with his military interested he contacted Roger via email who provided his original comprehensive notes on the talk.

It all started for Roger in about 1966/67 when he was an instructor at Longmoor and was asked to talk to the AGM of the RCTS in Birmingham. 20 years later he did the same for the Stephenson Locomotive Society in Newcastle, and continued to add to it.

Roger went on to say that he went to a talk by **Christian Wolmar** on the Trans Siberian Railway, and bought one of his other books – 'Engines of War'. This is a detailed book on railways in the military which was described by Roger as "an absolutely excellent read and it must be now the final word on the subject"



In his email Roger expressed his surprise that his fame has travelled afar to Wrexham. Coincidentally Roger spent most of his school holidays with his grandparents in **Penley**, on the Whitchurch Road, and cycled around the collieries et al around Wrexham, Ruabon, Brymbo and Copping industrials. He also recalls making a weekly visit to Croes Newydd and the LNER shed.

Engines at War is one of several books written by Christian Wolmar and currently is available on Amazon in paperback for £6.99.

His other titles include:

- Blood, Iron and Gold: How the Railways Transformed the World
- On the Wrong Line: How Ideology and Incompetence Wrecked Britain's Railways
- Fire and Steam: A New History of the Railways in Britain
- To the Edge of the World: The Story of the World's Greatest Railway
- The Great Railway Revolution: The Epic Story of the American Railroad
- The Subterranean Railway: How the London Underground was Built and How it Changed the City Forever.

Union Pacific American Layout

By Pete Jones.

Work has finally commenced on my home layout. My initial plans were to build a portable layout measuring 4'6" x 3'4" so it could fit in the back of my car. The base board was made last summer using 9mm MDF and 2x1 batons.

This summer after placing a hill in the centre and started laying Kato track. However, after several attempts I could not find a track plan that was satisfactory for my needs.



A rethink was required. My integral single garage was converted some 9 years ago to a wargames room. The idea was that it was to provide storage and an area for game playing. However, over the last 7 years it has kept for storage as I have weekly wargame meetings with ample room to game. The "wargames room" was completely shelved for storage.

I figured I could take the shelving out build a layout with storage below and shelving above.

The first job was to remove the current shelving and remove the stored contents. This meant filling our lounge and dining room was used as a storage room and became a bit of a maze/minfield.

After some research for the best timber prices a trip then ensued to

Wickes. I decided to use 9mm plywood the same depth as my previous base board.

As my woodwork skills are basic I kept construction simple with 2"x1" batons.



Legs were made from 30mm x 30mm timber and one screwed into each corner with a cross beam. Each leg had a T nut underneath with a 25mm bolt screwed in so I could alter the table legs to aid levelling.

The layout is to be "U shaped" and the first 4' x 2' table was erected to the right of the entrance door at a final height of 1.1 metres. This gives a good operating height and allows plenty of storage beneath.



With all the tables installed it gives me an 11 foot run down the left wall with 6' 6" x 2' wide and the remaining 4' 6" x 3' 3" wide. Underneath the window is a 2' 6" x 2' board which is finally joined to the the 4' x 2' board by the door.

Each board was built separately outside and the transported to the room, erected and secured together using T nuts and 40mm bolts.



One top tip I picked up after building the first board was to build the frame about 1 centimetre less than the board so that the outer facing side of the layout has a lip which hides minor discrepancies of construction.



I have laid some track out on the baseboards and already found I need a lot more track and points!



As you can see there is a lot of storage beneath the layout too.



The most rewarding part of this was I was finally able to run some of my American locomotives.



N Gauge Society Shop

The extra Committee meeting at the weekend to thrash out the future of the Society Shop has resulted in several slow moving ranges being offered at reduced prices in the next Journal (5/14) which will be out in the last week of this month.

They will not be ordering any new stock in the ranges to be sold off . So be ready to pounce for any deal that takes your fancy because, as they say on the ads, "When it's gone - it's gone!"