

Wings and Wheels Society

WINGS and WHEELS SOCIETY



Winter 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

...enthusiasts of Aviation · Rail · Road · Sea

Welcome to our **second** Wings newsletter, and what a better way to start, than with this inspirational image of the NHS **Spitfire PL983 'L'** owned by the *Aircraft Restoration Company*.

In the Summer, this aircraft with 'Thank U NHS' emblazoned on the underside of its wings, flew over many hospitals to inspire a positive feeling and give recognition to front-line workers. Its owners have handwritten over 80,000 names on the aircraft to help raise money for **NHS Charities Together**. By the end of Summer '20, the appeal, had raised more than £20,000.

To make a donation and for further information on this inspirational story, please visit PL983 L's website: www.aircraftrestorationcompany.com

Later on, we'll hear about another inspired NHS machine! See if you can spot it... and may be the number! So sit back relax and enjoy this bumper winter warmer edition of our Newsletter.

For this second issue, we have included articles and photographs that have been sent to us during the pandemic, so if you have already sent us items and they are not in this issue they will hopefully appear in the forthcoming newsletters.

So if you have a story/photo that you wish to see in next season's issue then please email us at: info@debsillustration.co.uk



Photo © George Lewis Romain

During the ongoing situation it is important we all take care, look after loved ones friends and neighbours, so we can all return to meetings when this crisis is over and we look forward to seeing you then. Future meetings will depend on NHS and Government advice. Please see our website for any updates:

www.wingsandwheelssociety.org.uk



Any comments, please drop us a line:

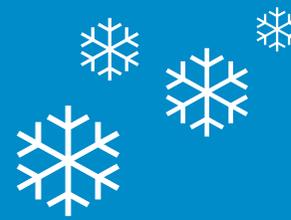
rich@debsillustration.co.uk



Featured Articles:

- P.2 **Charity donations to the Community Centre**
- P.3 **Modelling through lockdown ...thank goodness for hobbies!**
- P.6 **Summer visits by Fred - Part 2**
- P.8 **Railway days out 2020 Gallery... various members in focus**
- P.9 **Update on the Cotswold Canal Trust renovations at Whitminster**
- P.10 **Aviation story's and photographs**
- P.12 **Members 'All sorts' Gallery... planes, trains and automobiles!**
- P.14 **Future Meetings & Special Thanks**

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed are personal to the individual authors, which don't necessarily reflect those of our society. Wing and Wheels accepts no responsibility for inaccuracy of information, and copyright is owned solely by the authors.



Wings and Wheels Society

Charity donations

A Community Centre for the Future

During lockdown, we've become all too aware of our local community groups by their absence and we feel that it's very important that we have a Community Centre to return to when things get going again.

We've decided therefore to make another donation shortly to the building's upkeep from our society's fund. The centre team have already expressed how useful these funds will be and we hope to include a *Thankyou letter* from the Community Centre Manager, Jane Ball in our Spring 2021 Newsletter.

Wings News Feedback

Obviously, there are no 'thank you' letters to show in this issue, however the team would like to thank many of you for writing to us, after we issued our first ever Newsletter in November 2020.

Overall the feedback was very positive and it was very encouraging. Opposite are just some of comments we received among many.

"Thanks for the newsletter. Very interesting! Great work from you and your compilers. Looks very professional too....How did you manage that, I wonder?!" ... Jer, Christine and cats!

"Thanks for copying me in with your newsletter. I think it is an excellent idea and a good way to stay in touch. I was really interested to read all the articles, more so as I can't normally attend your meetings as they clash with our MG Club Meetings, best wishes" ... Laurence

" Many thanks for the excellent newsletter – a colourful read during a grey & Covid-limited Sunday! I look forward to future issues & to the eventual resumption of 'proper' meetings, instead of Zooming. Best regards." ... Tony Saxton

"Just read the newsletter and had to say well done for such an excellent & informative production. Lovely to read all the exploits of members and the local news. Peggy and the Hurricane was very touching. I was worn out reading Nicks dash round the south west following a steam tour; that is a serious case of train spotting. I look forward to reading the next newsletter! Best regards" Colin F

"Just to say, I think you are doing a great job, keep going!" ... Adrian



Modelling during lockdown ...thank goodness for hobbies!

Ian Edwards' Modelling - showcasing his recently constructed large model aircraft for us to enjoy...

Photos © Ian E



Society member and long time friend Ian Edwards from Newport sent in a few photos of his two recent large scale build model Aircraft.

Firstly, the 1:48 scale, Revell A-26B Invader Stinky!

With a half meter wide wing span. The **Invader** was manufactured by *Douglas Aircraft Company* first founded in 1921. It first flew during WW2 as a light bomber in July 1942 and was finally retired in 1980, from the Columbian Airforce.

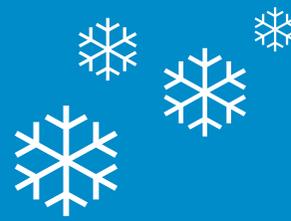
Secondly, the 1:32 scale, Roden Kit Fokker Dr.1

The **Fokker** Tri-plane was arguably Germany's most famous fighter aircraft in WW1, gaining its infamous reputation around *Richthofen's* 'Flying Circus', which achieved legendary status both during and after the war.

The 'Flying Circus' was a German fighter wing comprising of four squadrons. So-called because their aircraft were brightly coloured and the unit transferred from one area

of Allied air activity to another, constantly moving like a travelling circus in trains, and frequently setting up in tents on improvised airfields.

Richthofen (1892–1918) himself was born into a German aristocratic family. His full name was Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen, known as 'The Red Baron'. He had two Fokker Dr-1's that he flew and he preferred them to faster alternatives. He was flying a Dr-1 when he was killed on April 21st 1918, just before his 26th birthday.



Wings and Wheels Society

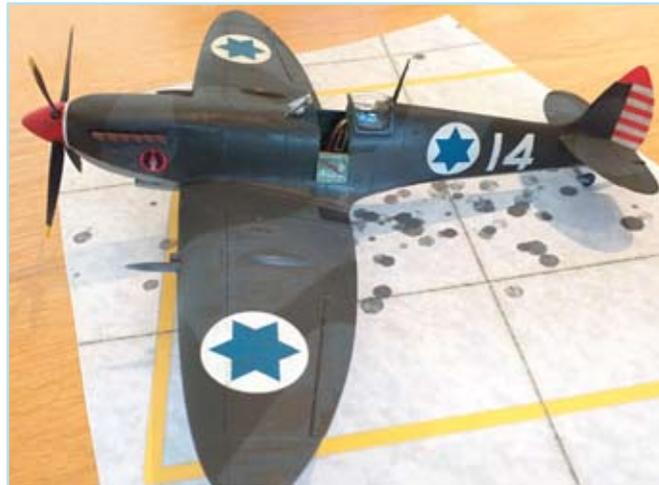
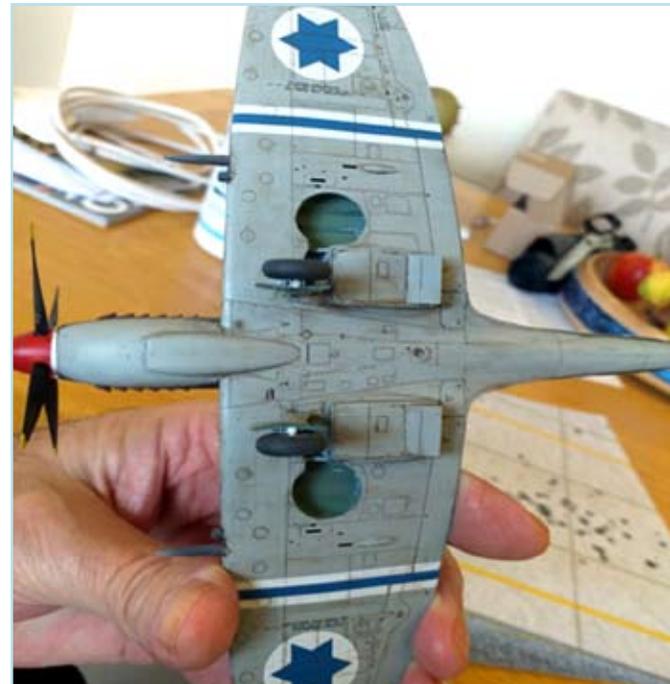
Modelling during lockdown ...thank goodness for hobbies!

Dave Lamb gives us some details on his Israeli Air Force fine scale 1/48th recent finished models - and a cracking job too!

Eduard 1/48th scale Supermarine Spitfire Mk9e

The markings are for the 101st Taysset at Hatzor airfield in January 1949. The model base was downloaded from the internet and was free. Photo etched cockpit and seat belts added to kit.

Paints used: Mr Hobby Acrylics airbrushed.

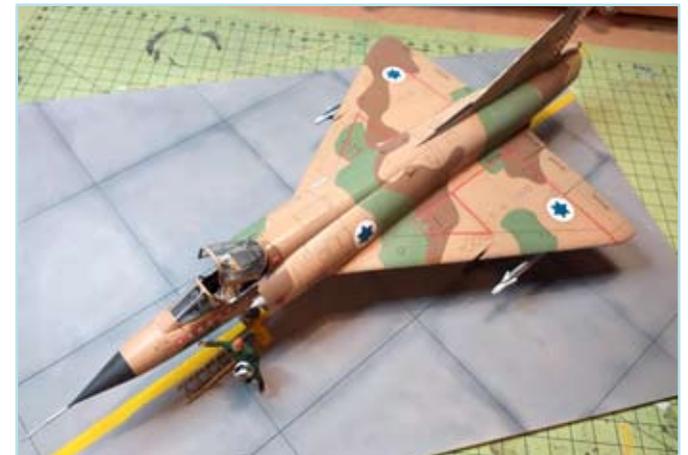


Eduard 1/48th scale Dassault Mirage 3cj

The markings are for No. 259, 101st Taysset, at Chel Ha' Avir, Operations Branch, Summer, 1970. The ejection seat in the kit didn't look like any of the reference pictures I had, so I added around about 14 additional parts with epoxy putty, paper, plastic rod and wire to bring it up to scratch. The base was home made.

Paints used: Mr Hobby Acrylics which were airbrushed.

Photos © Dave





Modelling during lockdown ...thank goodness for hobbies! Continued...

For all you railway modellers out there...

Take a trip on Nick Clarke's 00 gauge model railway; recently rejuvenated with his Lockdown time... Enjoy



Nick's layout is based on not one, but two **Somerset & Dorset** Terminus, starting off at Bridgewater North and end in Burnham on Sea, via a nice country bumble over a somerset levels drainage ditch, past a churn works (hints of Basen Bridge) and final arrival at Burnham-on-Sea.

Pictured is Nick running his trains via a worked out schedule, also pictured on shed is a nicely weathered **Drummond LSWR Class 700 0-6-0** - built by Dubs & Co about 1897, often nicknamed Black Motors. *In reality this never operated on the S&D but looks the part, and very nice too!*

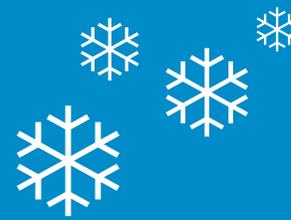
Photos © Rich K

www.wingsandwheelssociety.org.uk



The layout and its station buildings were all mainly scratch built - based on original photos and drawings, it is an excellent salute to the once nicknamed 'Serine & Delightful'...





Fred's Travels (Part 2) Welcome back to the Rails: English Riviera: August '20

My first train trip since mid March, and my first steam of the year was the **English Riviera Express**, to all intents, a Torbay Express. However, Torbay Express themselves handed the baton to *Saphos* when they declared that they would not be operating this year.

Fast forward to the summer, when *Saphos* announced that they would be amongst the first railtour operators to resume service, and would be fitting their coaches with Perspex screens between seating bays, hand sanitiser points, enhanced cleaning, social distancing etc. And so a booking was made...

On the day of the tour: The train was being reversed into platform 6 as I arrived, just after 08:00. **D1944 Craftsman (47501)** was in the bay as spare, and **70000 Britannia**, running as **70022 Tornado**, was up front.



I spoke to one of the crew who told me we would be taking a 47, for ETH purposes only, as they had no generator car. Shortly after this **D1935 Roger Hosking MA 1925 – 2013 (47805)** attached to the rear of the train.

My coach was an early **BR Mark 1 FO**, but restored to a very high standard with new wood veneer, new upholstery and carpets, new retention tank toilets and new LED lighting.

It was probably better than when it first entered service! *Saphos* do not require face masks to be worn when seated, due to their screens and reduced passenger density.

In First class the coffee service is pretty well non-stop, accompanied by biscuits in the morning and chocolate on the return.

Britannia ran very well and in good time we arrived at Kingswear, and I opted to get some photos rather than taking the first (included) ferry to Dartmouth.

In the space of an hour they have to remove the 47, run round and despatch the service train, shunt the stock, despatch the steam loco to Churston for turning, and receive and send the 47 out to drag the stock back in.



Photos © Fred



Fred's Travels (Part 2) English Riviera and Didcot Open Day: August '20

So after a bit of time in Dartmouth, the return journey. Again, timekeeping of our return train was good (apart from departing Kingswear 5 min's early!) A much needed beer was brought to my seat as we left Kingswear.



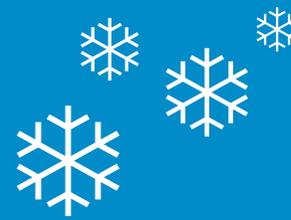
A lengthy water stop was taken at Taunton, mainly to allow a flight of service trains out in front of us. Just 1 min' late into Bristol Temple Meads, after a very pleasant run.



Fred also is an active volunteer member of Didcot Railway Centre. Here are some photos taken by Fred and Nick.

Pictured below is the blue **King 6023** and the **Saint Class 2999 'Lady of Legend'**, built in 2019, was showcased. She was created by rebuilding the ex Barry scrapyard **Hall Class 4-6-0 No.4942 'Maindy Hall'**...and a fine engine she looks too!





Wings and Wheels Society

WINGS AND WHEELS SOCIETY

Railway Days Out Gallery by various members

A 'British Heritage' Day by Nick Clarke

In Summer 2020, I had to go to Warminster for dropping off some work documents, but managed, (after some frantic booking etc.) to just about squeeze a trip in to the **Isle of Wight Steam Railway** later in the day. Due to the current situation I had a compartment to myself whilst riding behind **Ivatt 2MT 41298**.

Photos © Nick

Nick also took photos of the IOW **Class 483 EMUs** that actually are ex 1938 built Underground/Tube stock.



In fact they are probably the oldest passenger trains in regular service in the UK (*note they are due for replacement in 2021 by class 484's that are again ex- Underground stock from the 1970's - they started arriving on the IOW in late 2020*).



'Amerton Railway' by Mike Smith

The Amerton Railway is a 2ft (610mm) narrow gauge heritage railway in Staffordshire owned by Staffordshire Narrow Gauge Railway Ltd, and operated by volunteers. Construction of the railway started in 1990 and the first trains ran in 1992. This photo was taken during a photo charter on the Amerton Railway on the 30th October, organised by Martin Creese of **30742 Charters**.



Photo © Mike Smith

The loco 'Lorna Doone', is a member of Kerr Stuart's 'Wren' class, works number **4250** of 1922, with a train of 10 skips. When the sun finally came out at about 3pm, I took the photo and the crew took the loco off for water while we watched the sun drop down behind the trees. Not having visited this railway before, I managed to get one decent photograph. They have an interesting fleet of Staffordshire-built locos, so I'm sure I'll be making a return visit.



Cotswold Canal Trust (CCT) - update on Whitminster Section

CCT renovations by Rich Kelsey

End of 2020 saw the Whitminster Section of this local Canal navigation restoration complete. Members of the **Cotswold Canals Trust** celebrated recently after water entered a new canal channel through the A38 Whitminster Roundabout. This is a truly remarkable project that thousands of visitors will benefit from in the future.

If the public want to get involved in volunteering or are able to contribute to the fundraising in anyway, please get in touch with **Cotswold Canals Trust** on:

T: 01453 752568 or email: fundraising@cotswoldcanals.org.uk



Photo © Cotswold Canal Trust

The *all-electric* new boat by Mike Smith

Another CCT story that was sent to us for including in our newsletter. Here the photo shows the **CCT's** new all-electric trip boat on the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal between Junction Bridge and Park End Bridge on 26th July 2020.

Malcolm Eynon is at the tiller and the photo was taken during one of our training trips. We haven't been able to take many passengers this year, just a few charters with limited numbers of people, but we have taken the boats out on training and maintenance trips.



Photo © Mike Smith



Wings and Wheels Society

Aviation story's and photographs from our members

'Real Live High Adrenalin Kerosine fuelled fast and furious Aviation'...as we all know continues to take a hit with air show cancellations also looking likely now for 2021! **However** our members, ever creative, have found alternative ways to get their aviation fix...

Wings and Wheels member Kevin was due to attend the Duxford Air Display in September 2020, and although later in the season, this too was sadly cancelled due to the pandemic.

He was still determined to view at least some aircraft and so took himself off to **USAF Lakenheath** and **USAF Mildenhall** for the day to observe the aircraft movements.

As well as routine movements at these bases, he was also treated to a few fly-pasts and then also attended the 'Battle of Britain' display at **Headcorn Airfield** in close succession.

Many thanks and well done to Kevin for supplying these pictures in a year when we didn't think we were going to get any aviation images for our website!

The photos here are only a hint of what Kevin was lucky to shoot. Please see our website gallery for more images at: <https://wingsandwheelsociety.org.uk/gallery.htm>



Photo © Kevin - USAF Mildenhall



Photo © Kevin - USAF Mildenhall



Photo © Kevin - Headcorn Airfield



Plane spotting in the 1950s by Paul Shepherd

An historic article was sent from member, Paul Sheppard recollecting his memories as a young lad, along with with some lovely shots in black and white.

Paul and his sister are seen here as children, plane spotting at Heathrow in the mid 1950s, when security was obviously a bit more relaxed back then!



This passenger aircraft design dates from 1947 and is an **Airspeed Ambassador**. A total of 23 of these were built by *Airspeed Ltd*; this photo shows this aircraft being operated by *BEA British Overseas Airways*. One survives as a static exhibit at Duxford Museum.



Paul is pictured above sitting in a **Hawker Hunter** at **Chivenor** airshow in the 1950s. Apparently his father paid **£1** for him to have his first ever flight in a biplane at the airshow.

The cost of the biplane trip doesn't sound a lot by today's standards, but £1 in the 1950s was equivalent to around £35 today.

Our 'intrepid Pilot' is pictured above sitting in a **Hawker Hunter** probably an F4 from **No.234 Squadron** looking at the RAF Dragon insignia in the right hand corner.

Photos © Paul S

The Cost of 1950's household items...



- Bic Crystal Pen in 1958 - 1s
- Daily Mirror in 1950 - 1d, in 1959 - 2½d
- The Times Newspaper in 1950 - 3d, in 1959 - 6d
- 5oz Heinz Baked Beans in tomato - 5½d
- Batchelor's Garden Peas - 1s 1d
- 7oz HP Sauce - 10½d
- 11½oz Crosse & Blackwell Branston Pickle - 1s 4½d
- 4oz Colman's Mustard - 1s 4½d
- 12oz Kelloggs Corn Flakes - 1s 4½d
- Tin Bird's Custard Powder - 1s 6½d
- 1lb Brooke Bond PG Tips Tea - 6s 8d
- ¼lb Ty-Phoo Tea - 1s 5d
- Nescafé Instant Coffee - 2s 9d
- 16oz Nestlé Ideal Milk - 1s 2d
- Kia-Ora Orange Squash - 3s
- Izal Toilet Paper - 1s 2d
- Andrex Toilet Paper - 1s 3d
- Swan Electric Kettle - £3 10s 3d (1957)
- Kodak Brownie Camera - £1 14s 11d (1959)
- Morphy Richards Electric Fire - £10 8d (1958)
- A gallon of petrol went from 3s in 1950 to a peak of 5s 4d in 1956, at the height of the Suez Crisis





Wings and Wheels Society

WINGS AND WHEELS SOCIETY

Members 'Allsorts' Gallery ...trains, planes and automobiles!

- Adam's (1/12th scale) Lunch Box Van
- Fred's snap of 'Gipsy Patch' Rail bridge replacement in Little Stoke, Bristol as part of the Metrobus network extension.
- Rich's Peaks and Glos & Warks' Sept '20
- Bill's impressive '0 Gauge' LNER bargains
- Charlie's CH-47 Chinook buzzes dad, Paul's model railway ...awesome!!



Bill's bargains!



Line-siding from Toddington Road bridge



Charlie's Chinook



Before

Gipsy Patch Lane construction work Nov '20



Woodview Mill additions



Adam's Lunchbox



'Allsorts' Gallery ...more miscellaneous images from members ...enjoy!

- Chris R's Avon Valley Sunset and East Somerset Railway Ivatt
- Rich L's Spitfire photo at Biggin Hill
- RK's 34046 passes Stonehouse
- CMDG's 45149's (graphic) tribute to the NHS



Chris R at Avon Valley Railway



Chris R at East Somerset Railway



Rich L at Biggin Hill



Rich K at Stonehouse



Graphic to raise awareness of Frontline workers



Wings and Wheels Society

WINGS and WHEELS SOCIETY

Latest News

Farewell to a local rail enthusiast

Unfortunately, we have sad news to report regarding the loss of another Wings member. Richard Buffrey and frequent Wings attendee passed away on 20th January, aged 78.

It is with great respect that we remember Richard with his many friends as a young lad when he was often seen loco spotting at Coaley Junction station, where he could be found penning numbers with one of our well known speakers Gilroy Kerr.



Here's a photo Richard (far left) and friends *gricing* at Highley at the **Severn Valley Railway** Spring Steam Gala in 2018 - they were thrilled to ride behind visiting ex **LNER B12 Class locomotive No. 8572**, that looked superb.

Also it was requested that we include a *bygone days of steam* picture of Richard's old stomping ground from his youth! So we have included a Coaley Junction photograph taken by Gilroy Kerr of a north bound train blasting through the station at speed on the 22nd Aug 1964 ...*halcyon days*.

Our thoughts are with his wife Monica and their family.



Photo © Gilroy



Loco 8572 by Rich K

Future Meetings

Well Folks - when's the next meeting?

As of end of January we now have no meetings planned until the 14th October 2021. All previous advertised meetings are now rescheduled into future programmes that will be confirmed, when we are back to the new normal. We have these dates booked with Dursley Community Centre until the end of 2022.

Future meetings will depend on NHS and Government advice - please visit our website and bulletin emails for details of rebooked speakers. Please look at our website for amended programme at:

www.wingsandwheelssociety.org.uk

Most importantly, take care, look after loved ones friends and neighbours so we can all return to our meetings when this crisis is over and we'll look forward to seeing you all then.

Special Thanks

A **'Big thanks'** to all newsletter contributors and snippets from articles that were emailed to me, and which, if not featured here, will be coming up in future issues.

We hope you'll find these articles of interest.

Bye for now