

Wings and Wheels

...enthusiasts of Aviation + Rail + Road + Sea

Hello and welcome...

to this, our **7th** Wings newsletter. Enjoy yet another Bumper issue, let's start with this recent image of West Country Locomotive 'Taw Valley' for our front page. She's pictured here in its new guise as Elizabeth II to celebrate 70 years of her majesty's reign.

As usual the articles and photographs included have been sent to us during the last few months.

Looking forward, the next issue of our newsletter will probably be released in late Autumn 2022, so please keep your interesting stories and photos coming in... Ta, Ed.

We try our best to keep the accuracy of each story line, however we reserve the right to edit included articles in order to fit them into the newsletter.

If you've any articles for future issues, please drop us a line at:

wingsteam@debsillustration.co.uk



More details of our next meeting coming up can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

As a local Society approaching our 20th year... yes, 20! we would still like to emphasise that the current social situation highlights how, living with Covid, rising fuel prices and world conflicts, that it remains VERY important, to be socially aware and take care, look after loved ones, friends and neighbours.

<https://wingsandwheelsociety.org.uk>



34027 Taw Valley as No70 Elizabeth II, in purple livery for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration at Bewdley 17-6-22 © Ian Thomas

For all the latest information on the Wings and Wheels Society's future meetings and write ups of past ones, including past newsletters, please see our website.

Disclaimer: Any opinions expressed here are personal to the individual authors, which don't necessarily reflect those of our society. Wings and Wheels Society, Dursley and its voluntary team of helpers, accepts no responsibility for inaccuracy of information and the copyright of text and images is owned solely by the relevant authors.



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An Aviation Modelling Special... thank goodness for hobbies

As you have seen in previous issues of this newsletter the 'Woollard household' has certainly become a Mecca for modelling, and yet again they have produced an awesome build!

Thomas has just completed a 1/72nd Interceptor/Fighter MiG-31 'Foxhound' by Revell. In Reality the MiG-31 is a development on from the MiG-25 'Foxbat'. The aircraft has been in service since 1981, and the prototype first flew in 1976 (46 years ago!).

Specifications are: Mach 2.35, Service ceiling of 82,000ft with a maximum take off weight of 46,200 kg powered by x2 Soloviev D-30F6 afterburning turbo-fan engines.



And on the right hand... what's that again you may ask?

Well it's a story we are following for something rather big! This is part of a highly detailed large scale **B24 Liberator**, as you can see the tail section is huge - sitting in Society member and keen modeller Ian Edwards palm. When good weather allows he has also started the first layers of spray paint and prep outside on this very large model. This kit will feature again in the next coming Magazine as it nears completion, the details are below:

Aircraft: B24 Liberator 1/32nd scale kit by HOBBY BOSS

Wingspan when built: 1050mm (that's approx. 3ft!)

Length when built: 676mm

Total plastic parts to assemble: 560+



The Aln Valley Railway Classic Vintage Vehicle Show - Saturday 18th June '22

Article & Photos by Rik Treasure

One of our original Wings and Wheels Society founder members, 'Rik T' now lives North of Newcastle, and guess what! He still enjoys a good Classic Vehicle Rally and recently purchased an MG Midget to tinker about with.

Located near his new home is the Aln Valley Railway at Lionheart Station at Alnwick, Northumberland. Each year they hold an annual Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show and so, we got our Northern correspondent to cover this very prestigious event, showcasing modern and old classics and sports cars.

Also featured are agricultural vehicles and stationary engines along with steam and diesel hauled train rides also available on the day, and what day it was with cracking sunny weather as well!

The Aln Valley Railway is a relative junior in the heritage railway movement, having only opened in March 2012. Constructed and run by volunteers, it aims to recreate the rail link between Alnwick and the East Coast mainline at Alnmouth. Rik T notes that he would like to thank the Aln Valley Railway Staff and Organisers for their hard work to make this event possible.

Enjoy the photos Rik T @ W&W's Up-North.



For a full hit of Mr T's cracking 'Up-North' photos, please see our Society's Classic Cars Gallery:

<https://wingsandwheelsociety.org.uk/classiccars.htm>

The Travelling Post Office (TPO) Passenger Finale, 40 year Anniversary

Article & Photos by Ian Thomas

The concept of moving the Royal Mail by train began in Midland Railway days and the cross country network then expanded connecting Bristol with Derby, Sheffield and on to Newcastle. These trains ran overnight and also for many decades and had passenger accommodation as part of the train.

These services ran much the same until 40 years ago, when British Rail withdrew the passenger portion of these trains for various reasons, one of which was an economy drive at that time.



45002 at York as the 19:37 Bristol - Newcastle train on 30-1-82

By the late 1970's the first evening train of such through Gloucestershire was the 19:37 Bristol-Newcastle (The Midland Travelling Post Office) arriving in Newcastle at around 04:06 where one could connect into the overnight service from London- Edinburgh.

Next up was the Derby-Bristol TPO, as a part of the 17:35 Leeds to Bristol train, departing Derby at 20:10 and arriving at Bristol just before midnight.

The TPOs off this train then returned north on the 01:10 Bristol-Sheffield (Mon-Friday) and Leeds on Saturday.



45055 at Bristol Temple Meads as the 01:10 Bristol - Leeds service on 21-2-81

Finally the 20:00 Newcastle-Bristol passed through in the small hours, arriving at Bristol at 04:28. The Bristol-Newcastle was a very popular train on a Sunday evening, with the military travelling back to Catterick Camp in North Yorkshire. So popular was it that in the past there was an additional train direct to Catterick acting as a relief service.

And so the end of the passenger services attached to these trains came on Friday May 14th or Saturday 15th 1982. Many rail enthusiasts travelled on these last trains including Rich (the Ed) and myself, whilst we were out 'bashing' Class 45/46 Peaks!



45055 at Standish as the 19:35 Bristol - Newcastle train taken in July 83

The last Bristol-Newcastle train had locomotives 45014 to Gloucester and then 46049 from there to Burton-on-Trent, where it caught fire and 45009 rescue engine to Derby. The 20:00 Newcastle-Bristol saw 45038 up front. The 17:35 Leeds-Bristol and 01:10 Bristol-Leeds went unobserved. These trains were usually in the hands of Classes 45, 46 or sometimes Class 47 diesel locos. This effectively brought overnight travel to Yorkshire and Newcastle to an end!!

R.A.F. Cosford Air Display - 12th June '22

The R.A.F. Cosford Air Display of 2022 was held on the 12th June and featured the usual, varied, mix of aircraft types in the flying display; ranging from a pair of De-Havilland Canada Chipmunks to thunderous fast jet displays from the Belgian Air Component 'Dream Viper'



F16, a French Air Force Dassault Rafale, and of course, our very own Typhoon display aircraft 'Black Jack'. The Red Arrows are displaying with seven aircraft this year instead of the usual nine due to operational requirements, but were as impressive as ever.



Article & Photos by Dave Lamb

Some of the rotary winged highlights of the show were displays by Historic Helicopters Westland Wessex and Lynx. The same organisation also had a Westland Whirlwind featured in the static display.



For a full hit of Dave's excellent photos, please see our Society's Aviation Gallery below:

<https://wingsandwheelsociety.org.uk/gallery.htm>

Buccaneer Aviation Group 'Anti-Det Run' Kemble - Sat 9th July '22

Article & Photos by Rich Kelsey

About the Buccaneer Group: Having moved from Bruntingthorpe in August 2020, The Buccaneer Aviation Group (TBAG) are a not-for-profit organisation of volunteers, now based at Cotswold Airport (formerly RAF Kemble). TBAG plan for both XX894 'Norma' and XW544 to regularly perform Fast-Taxi/Anti-Detector Runs for the public, and to take part in photographic night shoots. Also Buccaneer XW550, a restored cockpit section exhibit, will continue to be seen at several events and Kemble (near

the 'AV8' Cafe on certain days), to promote the group's activities. The preservation of these aircraft is to honour the service and dedication of the air and ground crews, the people who built them and the memories associated with the Buccaneer. The aircraft in service had exceptional low-altitude performance and was one of the most capable aircraft of its kind. A triumph for Britain's aviation industry, the subsonic strike jet was best known for being operated by the Royal Navy, and the RAF in 'Operation Desert Storm.'

Our visit: On a hot summer's day 'Wings Web Meister' Dave Lamb and myself attended our first TBAG event – in the form of an Anti-Det Run and what a brilliant event. Buccaneer XX894 'Norma' was prepped and ready for a static run up of its x2 mighty 20,500 lbs of thrust Rolls-Royce Spey Engines. This was usual practice in order to detect faults when on an aircraft carrier – prior to take off. Also attending the event was TV star Hornby/Airfix aircraft designer Paramjit Sembhi showcasing the new release of Airfix 1:48 Blackburn Buccaneer S.2 C/D model kit (watch out for the next series). Both model designer Paramjit and TBAG volunteers were great to chat to and extremely helpful throughout the afternoon's event. Also we discussed with TBAG members about a potential Wings & Wheels Society talk and the possibility of a future visit.

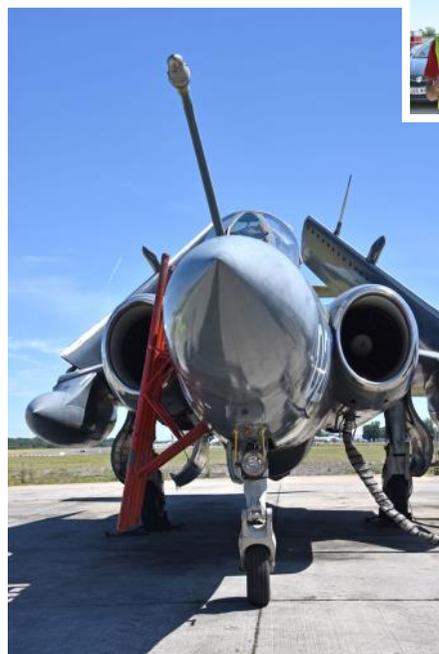
We would like to give our thanks to this Buccaneer Group for making our visit a trully fascinating event.

Cheers Rich & Dave.

Why not visit :

For a full hit of these photos coming soon, please see our Society's Aviation Gallery below:

<https://wingsandwheelssociety.org.uk/gallery.htm>



Nicks Trips - The 'White Rose' Tour to York

Article & Photos by Nick Clarke

Vintage Train's 'White Rose' tour of June 2022 provided the unusual opportunity for steam haulage behind LMS 6233 Duchess of Sutherland between Birmingham and Newcastle via Derby over two days.

Logistically this didn't work for me, but cheap tickets were available for the Friday leg with steam to York and diesel back at only £50 in tourist class.

I offset the saving on a hotel in Birmingham, so was able to pop into the Wellington pub the night before for a couple of pints of North Cotswolds "Jumping Jack Flash" ale to toast Mick Jagger's recovery from Covid.

I joined the tour at Coleshill Parkway, and after a long pathing stop we finally got onto the old Midland route from Tamworth to Chesterfield.



The Duchess wasn't unduly taxed although there was some glorious noise between Burton and Derby, where we arrived in formation with a modern class 222 unit from St Pancras.

A circuitous route through Yorkshire culminated with a phantom water stop at the unlikely location of Pontefract Baghill - this was unnecessary because the train included its own GUV van carrying water! We then plodded onto York finishing with a brisk sprint over the ECML to arrive 14 minutes or so early.



After the Duchess shuffled off to the NRM, I headed to York for a few local ales at the Maltings pub. Suitably refreshed I decided it would be rude not to pop into the NRM too – although preserved trains for me should be about noise and movement rather than static exhibits. The only live steam locomotive on the premises was parked out of sight ...surely a missed opportunity to

educate visitors into the hard graft of coaling, watering & oiling round etc? Anyway at least my favourite exhibit D1023 Western Fusilier was outside in the sunshine.

Then I returned to the superb York Tab pub - ideally located on the station. Quaffed some excellent Thornbridge Melba ale (yep it's peachy!) in between taking snaps of the colourful array of contemporary trains. Then 47773 took us back to Derby in spirited style, much to the surprise of the various aging 'Peak & Hoover' loco bashers on board.



Made the last Cross Country service back comfortably, but track circuits melting in the heat at Water Orton meant we missed our connection for the last train at Gloucester. Cross Country stumped up for a taxi and I was home for a slice of pizza by 11pm. What a trip. Well done Ed!

Fred's Birthday Bash - June '22

Our good friend, Dave Winter otherwise known as Fred, had organised a 'birthday bash' to celebrate his 70th birthday and it was to take place on the Severn Valley Railway. As everyone knows, covid 19 arrived and put pay to any sort of get together so the 'bash' was postponed.

With the situation much improved and all things moving forward again, a new date was set for Friday June 17th 2022. With this date OK with all, time moved on and the glorious day arrived, as did the very warm tropical continental air all the way from Africa.

Fred and Andy joined the 07:30 Warminster to Worcester at Yate and were then joined by others at Cam & Dursley and then Gloucester.



Fred's party goers gathered for a group photo

The train was late due to a swapping of Class 165s at Bristol that morning, but we got to Worcester Foregate Street and changed to a West Midlands train to Kidderminster, where others joined our party. By now the mercury was around 27°C in glorious sunshine.



A sunny hot day & the 'birthday boy' himself

Following refreshments at Kidderminster station, we boarded the lovingly restored GWR Inspection Saloon. The Saloon was booked and arranged by Fred. Prosecco for all to start the proceedings and a toast to Fred on his (belated) birthday. A fine buffet was on offer with a good assortment of sandwiches, scotch eggs etc. and wine and beers also available, all on the 13:55 service to Bridgenorth. Arrival there, gave a break of around an hour before we headed back to Kidderminster.

Article & Photos by Ian & Jill Thomas

The heat was now touching 30°C, the hottest day of 2022 so far. After a great afternoon, it was time to head home again via Worcester with a change of train at Shrub Hill.



Fred takes it easy!



The view from the Saloon

Great Western services were running late that day, but with a turnaround, we eventually arrived back to Cam & Dursley about 30 minutes late.

By then we were in need of a cold shower and a beer at home to reflect on the day.

Many thanks to Fred for organising it and all who attended on the day...Ian.

Sailing ships at Sharpness, en-route and at the Gloucester Tall Ships Festival - June '22

Article & Photos by Editor & Ian Thomas

A cracking start to Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee weekend, with a sunny morning as the final 3 tall ships made their way into Sharpness Docks to take the inland shipping canal to Gloucester to join the Tall Ships event.

The 'Irene', registered at Fowey, Cornwall was built in 1907 and used in the filming of 'Pirates of the Caribbean.' 'TS Anny' from Charlestown was built in the 1930s and the 'Greyhound' also of Fowey, complete with cannons, was recently built in 2012.

Featured below is a pencil drawing of 'The Irene' that retired Severn Pilot, George Woollard sketched in 1983. This was supplied via his son Paul - ta Ed.



Ian and Jill travel on the GREAT BRITAIN XIV (No14) - April '22

Article & Photos by Ian & Jill Thomas

After many cancelled tours and changes, Jill and I decided to go for gold and do something we'd wanted to do for many years, which was to book for the Railway Touring Company's GREAT BRITAIN Tour. With the tour booked, we set off from Stroud to London on Thursday April 21st with GWR Class 800.80008.

A night at a premier Hub overlooking Kings Cross station and then meeting up with the RTC team at 6am at Kings Cross. The ECS came in at 6:30 with 47803 and cases were loaded into the Mk-1 brake coach, pictures taken of the 47



and LMS 6233 Duchess of Sutherland on the front. We boarded our 1962 built BR Mk-1 first-open and then left promptly at 07:08.

The train went ECML to Peterborough and then diverged via Spalding. A good view of Lincoln cathedral and on to re-join the main line at Doncaster and away to York for a break and loco change.

We then met fellow enthusiast Neale Long and had a liquid lunch before re-joining the train with SR 4-6-2. 35018 "BRITISH INDIA LINE" up front a spirited run to Durham and Newcastle, before water was taken at Heaton. Speeds of over 85mph were achieved en-route to Edinburgh.

Day two saw LMS 4-6-0. "SCOTS GUARDSMAN" powering our train, now heading across the Forth Bridge to Ladybank and on to Perth for a break. We then travelled the Highland mainline with its steep gradients to Aviemore for water and pictures before the final push to Inverness. Day three got off to a drizzly start but



brightened up as we headed back south with 46115. We had a stop at Aviemore and then on south to Stirling.

Our accommodation overnight then was

in Dunblane, with all our luggage being moved around by van.

Day four and a circular day with 35018 again via Mossend, Carstairs Midcalder and the Edinburgh suburban line (freight only) into Waverley. A brief stop and then across the Forth via Kirkcaldy, Longannet, Alloa and back to Stirling. Day five and 46115 took us back into England on the WCML to Carlisle.

A change now to JUBILEE 4-6-0 45690 "LEANDER" to take us via the Cumbrian coastline to Grange-over-Sands. Day six and now double heading with LEANDER and classmate 45596 "BAHAMAS" to Preston and on to Chester for a break. We then took the route via Wrexham to Shrewsbury and then the beautiful North and West line down to Cardiff. Day seven and with 6233 back up front, through the Severn Tunnel, on to Filton

around Dr Days, on through Bath and down the Avon valley to join the Berks & Hants line to Taunton and Plymouth.



A suitable break, and away across the River Tamar into Kernow, following the Cornish mainline to the end in Penzance. The last day saw us retrace our steps back to Bristol

and on to Reading where we alighted and caught the Cheltenham train back to Stroud.



WHAT A TOUR !

Totalling 1,886 miles behind steam and 2074 miles in total.

That's the way to see Great Britain, ABOARD THE GREAT BRITAIN.

Ian and Jill would like to give our sincere thanks to all at RTC caterers for their hard work in making tour enjoyable and very special.

Please view our Society's Railway Web Gallery for a full photo report on this Awesome trip - Ed.

<https://wingsandwheelsociety.org.uk/railwaygalleries.htm>

The Cambrian Coast Express Friday - 20th May '22

Article & Photos by 'the Ed'

After a couple of years Hiatus from riding the rails due to the pandemic etc, I decided it was time to go on a day trip that I fancied doing a couple of years previous! After much rescheduling of dates and a Barmouth bridge closure now in the past, Pathfinder tours fully booked land cruise tour to the Cambrian Coast – was finally on! My ticket and train times arrived in the post prior to the tour, due to pathing the tour would now start from Bristol significantly earlier at 4.30am (that's right! there's 2 of these in a day Gulp), this meant that me and my fellow travellers Ian and Jill had to be at Cam & Dursley station for a prompt 5am departure. On the day DBS loco 66034 arrived on time hauling the train, with a busy station full of waiting eager passengers, that included Dougal Fred and Andy, with some already aboard, many other people we knew from Wings and Wheels were on the trip including the usual crew from Gloucester (it was nice to see Musto, Mike and Co too). Ian, Jill, and I sat near our mates the Tocknell's from our locality, also making new friends from Coaley village Dai and Karen that sat opposite us. As a treat we had booked in premier class comfort, and at 6am prompt after a pickup at Worcester Parkway (where a new travelling companion Mr Mike the Blacksmith from Tewksbury joined us in our block of 4 seats) we started off with Bucks Fizz and a large fry up breakfast followed by lashings of coffee and tea. At Shrewsbury our class 66 loco was swapped for 2 named class 97's No's 97302 & 304



(these shiny yellow ex class 37 Syphon twins, of ex TOPS numbers 37170 & 217), here we had a 2 hour stop over, so a bit of exploring architecture including the Severn rail viaduct that carries the station above had to be done. Once the train was serviced and the Syphons (nickname for class 37 locos) were ready - we were off. Once into Central Wales the locos thrashed their 'Syphonic Symphony' of English Electric noise through the narrowing valleys and over the summit at Talerddig – showing it no mercy... before a winding descent to Machynlleth. After a bonus photo stop, we soon crossed the Dovey Estuary to Aberdovey, before the final climb to the Friog rock shelter and another descent to the famous bridge across the sandy Mawddach Estuary at Barmouth. The relentless Syphons then continued north through Harlech, with setting down at Minffordd before going onto Porthmadog and the lines end at Pwllheli. My self-Ian and Jill and about 15 others got off at Minffordd and

started our hike to Portmerion (The 1925 Clough Williams -Ellis styled Italian Village – famous for the late 1960's Prisoner TV series), so after a well needed walk and visit, where I must say that we discovered some local blonde Ale that was also consumed, it was time to walk back to the station, we thought it would be nice to see some narrow gauge steam, we were in luck , one of the oldest steaming railway locos in Britain - Prince (0-4-0ST+T from 1863) arrived on a permanent way train, so a chance for a few photos ensued. After this it was time to get in place to photograph our train arriving that I could hear in the distance making the climb (with lots of thrash) from Porthmadog, once aboard we retraced our route homewards, with even more bonus photo stops to pass service trains – as our bright yellow pair of locos arrived early at most passing station loops, this reminded me of classic F&W tour photo stops from the 1980's. After a stop at Barmouth it was time for our 4-course meal washed down with wine then more wine and guess what more Ale. At Shrewsbury - this time a quick swap over of locos for 66034 and a return home via the midland urban conurbations of Bescot, seeing us arrive at Cam & Dursley at midnight. Phew what a day! and it certainly was indeed, We would like to thank Pathfinder for organising and looking after us in style (on my first trip back on the rails since early 2020). Cheers and MANY THANKS again to Pathfinder tours from Rich Ian, and Jill.



Members 'All sorts' Photo Gallery...



Rich @ Watchet on the WSR 6-22



Rich @ The Little Vintage Show A38 Cambridge 5-22



Bahamas departs Kemble 18-6-22



GWSR Festival of Steam Gala 6-22 by Ed



BEAST! 46045 @ Kidderminster by P. Woollard 5-22



Rich @ The Little Vintage Show 5-22

Members 'All sorts' Photo Gallery...

This issue's Star Image



Rob @ Brighton Stn - Southern Rly Piano!



Rich @ The Little Vintage Show 5-22



Charlie Woollard @ the WSR 6-22



Ivo's Bentley at Toddington by Ed



D4 @ Harmans Cross by D.Ede



Pathfinder's Cambrian Coast Tour @ Barmouth 5-22 by Ed



L92 @ Mendip Vale by Chris Roscoe

Notices: Future Meetings

Well folks... when's the next meeting?

We returned successfully to the Community Centre for the both our April and May 2022 meetings with a good turn out, however we will continue to keep a close eye on the covid situation especially in the depths of winter, where we may have to resume virtual meetings, but for now we aim to hold Thurs meetings in person.

Meanwhile, our next Community Centre meeting is the:

My Favourite Jet Fighters

Thursday 13th October 2022, 8pm

All Welcome £4 on entry

When Group Captain Jock Heron OBE returns, to give a talk on his Favourite Jet Fighters including early Pioneering designs, and his experiences of flying the RAF's Vampire and Meteor and the USAF Sabre, and a lot more, an evening not to be missed!

Please Note: The above talk has been rescheduled from the 10-11-22 due to logistical reasons. However the intended 1968 end of BR Steam show will now be shown on the 10-11-22. Issue 2 of our New Programme to follow in due course.

This will be the first meeting of Programme No.20 in October 2022. Yes that's correct, 20 years, of Wings & Wheels! We will certainly end this new season of speakers with a Celebration. If you've recently changed your email address, please update us with your new details.

<https://wingsandwheelsociety.org.uk>

Charity Donations

Following our last meeting in May 2022, we made a donation to our speakers from the Mission Aviation Fellowship, (MAF) through a combination of Society funds, contributions and 'sold' model kits, previously donated for such an event by my good friend, Dr Gayle Rew. The amount donated was **£200** for which MAF formally thanked us in their letter below. A further **£90** was also raised through merchandise sells, so thanks to all members on that evening, Ed.



Notice's and Special Thanks...

A big thanks to all newsletter contributors and snippets from articles that were emailed to us.

We would also like to thank once again Colleagues in the Stroud Vintage Transport & Engine Club (SVTEC) for their help through our 2021-22 season of talks.

Here's a date for your diary for the SVTEC show :



Bye for now, the Wings Team