



DARSTAED

Trains de luxe



Bringing model railways *ALIVE*

Pictured our previous design made in 2004

Darstaed Newsletter No. 59 July 2016

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

Welcome to our DArstaed newsletter No: 59

We just arrived in The Netherlands after a marathon visit to the UK to see most of our distributors and gurus. I apologise for the first delayed issue of our NL in five years but the internet at my Mother's was not up to scratch upon our arrival.

We kicked off our journey in Kent with a visit to John and Valerie Fowler of 7Mills, the only O Gauge made in Britain today. Their layout is as wonderful as their hospitality and as always when soul mates meet some interesting projects are conceived.



Our next stop was the Stationmaster who came up with some very interesting ideas that no doubt will please our customers. Proceeding along the coastal road to Purbeck we visited Martyn Pring and the layout i.s.n. Hereby the short introduction by Martyn Pring :

Purbeck Model Railway Group

One of the UK's largest O gauge model railway layouts is being constructed within the first floor of a Grade 2 listed barn at Godlingston Manor Farm - a mere stone's throw from the Swanage Railway. You can actually hear the whistle and clanking of the railway's steam locomotives from the farm buildings.

The layout is a depiction of the Swanage Railway which departs from the main Waterloo to Weymouth line. Two outer tracks of Peco 124 two rail code track that can be switched for either digital or analogue running follow the entire 120' length of the barn on either side making the layout equivalent to two scale miles.

An inner single track follows all the key installations and stations along the branch line from Wareham including the Furzebrook cutting, the former BP onshore oil terminal, Norden park and ride, the village stations at Corfe Castle and Harman's Cross and in to the main railway terminus at Swanage.

The group has been based at the farm for the past 18 months where the building of the layout is still very much work in progress. It is planned the layout will become a visitor attraction and open to the public in approximately a year's time. The Purbeck Model Railway Group plans to become a constituent member of the Gauge O Guide. Running nights open to the public are on the second Friday of the month.

Two model railway businesses are based at Godlingston including Martyn Pring of Shamrock Trains and Mike Green whose firm produces precision laser cut railway buildings. An O gauge three rail layout in the vintage tinsplate style with separate British and Continental sections linked together as well as a model railway shop is planned for the ground floor part of the barn.



We proceeded due north in Dorset, to stay at one of the most magic places on earth once the labyrinth of hedges was negotiated.



We had a most convivial dinner with a Warden of the City of London, a Scottish Professor of Economics, an EU negotiator, a Psychologist and an Officer in a Tank Regiment. Not surprisingly the dinner party lasted into the wee hours. The lady Psychiatrist explained to me the quaint oddity present in the British psyche of bullying and being bullied even to the extent of believing the most outrageous lies without any questioning as to their veracity. This led me to a greater understanding of many things that puzzled me for a long time.

A pleasant drive next morning through amazingly beautiful landscape brought us to our new distributor for 2-R coarse scale Scale Link. On the way we met some deer standing in the middle of the road which for my wife Michelle was a first and unique experience.

With Bob Whyatt of Scale Link we decided on the various technical requirements of our new line of 2-R products such as couplings to be supplied and coach details.

The next day we had a meeting with our chief guru John Roberts and the 2-R O Gauge group of fellow gurus with their portable layout in a Village Hall near Bruton in Somerset where our 2-R A4 with new motor has been tested during a few sessions. I implored the members to be frank with me and share their observations without reserve and hopefully they did, our 2-R A4 passed with flying colours. The suggestions they made are worthy of consideration such as changing the composition of some sets and offer single brakes. Interesting to hear that since PECO came out with a 3ft radius curve many would be interested in making a 2-R layout indoors at home so 35cm stock would be welcome too. It appears that many 2-railers already owned our 35cm coaches as can be seen on the picture of our 2-R A4 pulling 18 of them.



To Check the video click this link : <https://www.facebook.com/Darstaed/videos/1730456040545174/>

After a day in the Cotswolds with my cousin who retired there we visited Christine and David Upton who kindly invited us to stay with them in the Peak District. David has worked very hard to get the garden railway up and running and just before we left the rain stopped and we had a good running session.

Our latest distributors Rails of Sheffield were only a stone throw away, we discussed our program for the next two years and much more...



The most North this time we had the opportunity to visit was Ellis Clark in Skipton, North Yorkshire. Recently moved into new premises we had the chance to admire a wide range of very excellent models that Ellis has in stock. Together we will exhibit at Telford in September.

Then it was down South again to Peterboro where we met our 2-R/3-R distributor Paul Lumsdon of WJ Vintage and from there to Luton to conclude our trip with a visit to Colin Toten.

From Luton next morning it took us more time to reach Wassenaar in The Netherlands than to fly straight to Bangkok but that is another story.

Our too short trip to Britain was made with the purpose to engage with our distributors and customers according to the principles of *seek, ask and enquire*.

Seek

For us this means we have to continue to find good distributors to serve our clients. We have had far more than our fair share of distributors who have very badly let down us as a company and you as the customer. It is our duty to continuously seek out the best.

Ask

It is up to you, the customer to inform us what are your requirements, what you wish for, how we should improve and what you do approve of. If we do not know what you wish for it may not happen.

Enquire

This means a two way engagement between the manufacturer and the customer to make things happen and it does, we thank all who take the trouble to share their observations with us

We thank you for the advantage to work with you.

Enjoy your trains,

Cheers,
Andries



Authorised Distributors

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“We are now the proud distribution agent and factory warehouse for all Darstaed products in Europe. As well as servicing our European dealer network we are happy to supply customers directly. For customers outside the EU we will deduct 21% VAT.”

UK - London & South East
Bruce Coleman

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Tel: 07792 889778



“I normally have most models in stock, both current and out of production. Will split sets of coaches and wagons, depending on stock position. All postage by secure courier.”

UK - North & Scotland
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chrisreeve@sky.com
Tel: 01557 860080

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

UK - Midlands
Colin Toten

www.raylo.co.uk
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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 have been in the Collectable Toy business since 1990 and specializing in O gauge since 2011. Check out my ever expanding product offering either online or at one of the many UK shows I attend. Happy to ship worldwide."

UK
The Station Masters Rooms Ltd
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"The Station Master Rooms Ltd (TSM) is known all around the world, having customers in many different countries. At the Station Masters Rooms we offer a huge range of vintage & modern model railway items. We provide a friendly & knowledgeable service of all 'O' Gauge Railway items."

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"I have always had a passion for Model railways and for the past few years I have been specializing in O gauge. I have always run my business on a friendly and down to earth approach and I am extremely excited to now be offering 2-rail Darstaed products"

Benelux
Rob Giskes

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Rob is dealer too for the Lehnhardt, MERKUR and ETS. Competitive shipment rates in and outside the EC. Shipment outside the EC without VAT. You may email Rob in English, Deutsch, Français and Nederlands.

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