

Welcome to the memory book for John Edgson, 1932 - 2008

28th November 2010.

The memory book is now closed, as regrettably the kind of people that send spam email were also trying (and failing) to post un-warranted entries here. Genuine comments are always welcome, so please contact Andrew (email ANDREW at EDGSON dot NET) if you have memories you wish to add.

Having re-read these memories of friends and family I thank you for all of them, they are a wonderful reminder of my Dad. I have now met many of the people who posted here and it is always a pleasure. John's legacy to the world has indeed been his collection of drawings which I am proud to say are now reaching as many modellers as possible.

Dad, rest in peace.

Andrew.

Name: **Steve Golding**

Date: Mon 20 Oct 2008 19:28:03 BST

Subject: Farewell John

20th October 2008

I was so much looking forward to speaking with you again John to order some drawings ... but I have just found the very sad news. You will be remembered by myself and my family as such a wonderful man, quietly spoken and with such skill and enthusiasm. I remember often visiting your home and your workroom with such delight and a lengthy chat over a coffee. Such happy times.

My thoughts are with your family.

Rest peacefully John ... God bless

Steve Golding (ex professional 0 gauge model maker)

Name: **Catherine Edgson**

Date: Thu 09 Oct 2008 09:49:01 BST

Subject: I will miss you

When I first heard about granpa's death, I didn't I was just comforting others in my family and feeling angry about myself. I cried afterwards in secret but still felt sorry for his wife, Margaret who had lost her brother a few months before. As I write this I still remember him after 8 months. The time between the funeral and today has been difficult as the process of grieving as I think affected my school work but staying strong is what granpa would like me to do so I try my best! I miss him so much. Rest in Peace.

Name: **Dennis Stephens**

Date: Wed 02 Jul 2008 22:42:40 BST

Subject:Memories of John Edgson

I first met John I about thirty five years ago. I was introduced by a mutual acquaintance who knew a man who had the answer to a question. With what I now know to be typical friendliness when he found I lived not too far away he invited me round for an evening of looking at his drawings, explaining the answer so well I remember it to this day, and sharing his memories. There then followed a gap of twenty years or so before I saw him at an exhibition. He instantly remembered me and the subject of my query all those years ago. For the last ten years or so I met him once or twice a year at exhibitions. I always found I had a question; knowing I would see John I tended to keep them. He always had the answer and time for a chat between his other customers. A very knowledgeable and patient man who was open and generous with his vast fund of information. He will be greatly missed.

Name: **George Gunn**

Date: Sat 14 Jun 2008 07:56:06 BST

Subject:LNER coaches

Firstly my condolences to all concerned. I first met John at a school in Enfield,i think it was an exhibition or a toyfair.I arranged with him to purchase a full set of Silver jubilee/coronation coach kits which i collected from him at his home in Barnet.I well remember that visit some years ago,his recollections of the LNER and watching the trains nearby was magic,he also showed me his collection of railwayana which was memorable.I'm really sad to hear that he passed away this year,he will be greatly missed by all,especially in the model railway world where his knowledge of the LNER was unsurpassed.Yours sincerely George Gunn

Name: **Chris Robinson**

Date: Sun 11 May 2008 11:14:14 BST

Subject:Memories of John Edgson

I first met John at the inaugural meeting of the Great Northern Railway Society held at British Rail Sports Association in Doncaster, while on the train back to London where we lived, we chatted on many subjects, mostly of course GN/LNER.BR(E) including modelling. He also introduced me to Barnet Model Railway Club there I met many friends, Including Jim Armstrong, whom gives me useful advice as John did. I have many of John's drawings which I find are of great value when it comes to building model locomotives. I am very sadden to hear of john's passing even at this late stage, I shall value Isinglass drawings as a memory of John Edgson which I am proud to have known him.

Name: **Steve McNeil**

Date: Mon 14 Apr 2008 18:56:52 BST

Subject:An inspiration to many

I first met John in 1985 or 1986 at an exhibition, not long after I had made the decision to model LNER locomotives and rolling stock. He was kind enough to spend an hour talking to me and showing me some drawings that he had produced, at the time if I recall, he only had the drawing of a Class A4 and a Gresley 61'6" composite brake, plus a leaflet with the list of drawings.

He said he had spotted my A3 and a few Ian Kirk coaches (not fully completed) running on a layout. During our chat he said that I should contact him a few days later and he would help me improve on my attempts at modeling the stock. Over the next few years we talked and His knowledge rubbed off on me, and my standards of modeling improved.

I bought a lot of the drawings (mainly coaching stock) over the years.

I am both privileged to have known him and saddened by the news of his passing (which I have just found out about).

John was an inspiration to me and many others. Rest In Peace my friend.

Name: **Ian Kirk**

Date: Thu 03 Apr 2008 23:18:40 BST

Subject:Help and encouragement

I only ever met John at exhibitions or spoke on the telephone but I considered him to be a friend. The help and encouragement that he gave me over the years was invaluable. Those who have found my coach kits useful should realise that without John these would never have been so varied. His knowledge of things LNER was legendary and he was generous in his sharing of it. I feel that a light has gone out.

Name: **Richard Hill**

Date: Tue 18 Mar 2008 10:15:44 GMT

Subject:Memories of John

I am saddened to learn of John's death.

My memories of him go back to our commuting days from Oakleigh Park in the 1960s. John was often on my morning train, the busy 7.59am. This train had come all-stations from Baldock and was popular because it then ran non-stop through to Finsbury Park. In steam days it was usually B1-hauled. Later, it was the province of the 'Baby Deltics', which despite their reputation were rarely absent and kept very good time.

The popularity of this train meant that John and other passengers joining at Oakleigh Park usually travelled standing in the front-end brake of the Quad-Art set. Here we would spend the journey discussing railway topics. One of the sights we looked for on the way to King's Cross was the Morning Talisman and the ex-Coronation twin-first coaches that were in that train. Later, in Brush Type 2 days, our Quad-Art set would be whisked to unseemly speeds in the 70s through Wood Green.

Please convey my condolences to John's family.

Name: **Frances Hunt**

Date: Tue 04 Mar 2008 21:08:22 GMT

Subject:In remembrance. . .

John.

Warmly welcoming and greeting new comers on Sunday morning. A kind unassuming gentleman always willing to serve and sensitive to the needs of those less able.

A true servant of Christ.

Frances Hunt.

Name: **Ivan Tan**

Date: Fri 29 Feb 2008 17:59:45 GMT

Subject: The passing of John Edgson

Will be much missed. His drawings will be a lasting tribute.

Welcome to the memory book for John

Your administrator is Andrew

Name: **Philip A. Millard**

Date: Wed 27 Feb 2008 08:09:20 GMT

Subject: John Edgson guestbook

A meticulous researcher and fine modeller who has made a unique and invaluable contribution to the study of the LNER. I did not know him well but often exchanged a few words at exhibitions. A sad loss to us all. It is good to know that the drawings will continue to be available.

Name: **Morgan Gilbert**

Date: Fri 22 Feb 2008 12:09:42 GMT

Subject: Thank you John for your help

May I extend my condolences to John's family at this difficult time. It is saddening to hear of the loss of another great force in the railway modelling community. I cannot claim to have known John personally but I had a number of conversations with him at exhibitions where I always found him kind, helpful and knowledgeable. His drawings, both accurate and informative, were always my first port of call in the modelling of LNER subjects. Just recently John had also been of great help to me in providing copies of works drawings for locomotives that he had not yet drawn. It is encouraging that, in time, his drawings will remain available to the wider modelling community as it is a fitting memorial to the man and his considerable contribution to the hobby.

Name: Jonathan Wealleans

Date: Wed 20 Feb 2008 12:51:07 GMT

Subject:

I am delighted to see that the drawings will remain available. They will be a fitting and lasting memorial to a very nice man who contributed immeasurably to the model railway hobby. I can only echo what others who knew him much better than I have already said and add that I hope you will be shown patience and understanding as you decide how best to go forward.

Name: **Ruth Edgson** (mother of Andrew's children)

Date: Tue 12 Feb 2008 09:53:29 GMT
Subject:Father figure

When I got married to Andrew in 1989, John was so welcoming, friendly, kind and loving towards me. John and Margaret welcomed me into their family with such love. Throughout my married life he continued to be loving, kind %26 friendly every time I saw him for family get togethers. Andrew %26 I have gone our separate ways, but we are still the best of friends. John was still loving, friendly %26 kind towards me. When I heard about John's death I was very upset. John, I love you so much and I will miss you.

Name: **Sam Edgson**
Date: Mon 11 Feb 2008 21:41:35 GMT
Subject:About my beloved Grandpa

I know that I and my siblings and cousins will miss our grandpa as well as the rest of our family. I thank every one who has left messages like I am doing now. When I heard the news from my dad, I continuously cried onto his t-shirt (as I am not yet tall enough to reach his shoulder). I'll miss my Grandpa dearly. I love my Grandpa
Sam-this also on behalf of my brother and sister

Name: **Nick Campling**
Date: Mon 11 Feb 2008 16:44:19 GMT
Subject:THE PASSING OF A GOOD FRIEND

John was a good friend of 40 years standing. We shared information and our interest for most of that time. He will be sorely missed but never forgotten. Isinglass will be the benchmark as long as people continue to be interested in the GNR and LNER. My sincere condolences to his family - I am sorry that I shall be unable to be at his funeral.

Name: Tony Edgson in Australia
Date: Sat 09 Feb 2008 22:12:09 GMT
Subject:In loving memory of my brother John

We may not always have seen eye to eye, but I have always loved you as my brother. I extend to you and your family, Margaret, sons Christopher and Family and Andrew and Family our sincerest condolences, from Tony and his Family in Australia.Rest in peace

Name: **Steve Banks**
Date: Sat 09 Feb 2008 19:14:58 GMT
Subject:John and coaches

It took me a long time to get to know John, possibly because he always felt that his deeply researched historical material was best accessed by buying his Isinglass drawings! But eventually we found we had a shared interest in original sources. It was always a pleasure to swap notes with John in subjects which had never been properly researched, and mutter about so-and-sos who rushed to print without doing their homework (or asking people like John)!

He was in fact a member of small circle which researched LNER coaches and was consulted by a RTR manufacturer over the range of Gresley coaches. Alas, not all of John's advice was taken on board and the models ended up with errors which John felt reflected on him personally.

One of John's fortes was the GNR side of the LNER and much of his knowledge was poured into the Isinglass drawings. They aren't perfect (because nothing ever is) but they became a wonderful source of info which can be more easily accessed than in books, or hasn't been written up yet. It's this aspect of John's drawings which make them stand out - not just the drawing but a potted history and all the numbers carried along the way.

I recall once at the Ally Pally Show where the rather intimate West Hall becomes a fertile meeting ground for modellers and historians, how Bob Essery asked one of the most obscure questions I had ever heard - about the position of guard's lamp irons on LNER coaches. We promptly went over to see John and within seconds he was pouring forth on how they had once been on the body side, until such and such a date, and then on the body ends, and then the gangway end.... I'd had no idea!

Another memory is of sending John some train photographs containing ex-GNR coaches and getting them back with, in his spidery hand (much worse than on his Isinglass drawings!), full descriptions and diagram numbers. Many years later and the advent of Michael Harris's book I might be able to do that homework myself, but at the time John's help was a shining light into the unknown.

John also had good power of recall - a rare commodity - and his ability to unlock information he'd filed away in his memory banks many years earlier was priceless.

John, I shall miss you. You were a good friend and fun to research with.

Steve Banks

Name: **Dave Booth**

Date: Sat 09 Feb 2008 09:28:57 GMT

Subject: John %26 Isinglass Drawings

I can't claim to have known John as a friend but I usually managed a brief chat with him at Wakefield RMS exhibition each November. His drawings of LNER locos and coaches have, over many years now, been not only a great source of help but also of inspiration. Never have I found one of John's drawings to contain an error. The last time we spoke I was querying the number of spokes on a Robinson tender wheel because John was out of step with all other information, therefore suggesting that he was wrong. John could remember from whom he had got the spoke information but regreted that he was unable to confirm that he knew certainly that it was correct. Some time later, a count of spokes on the tender of the preserved O4 proved John to be correct.

Such rigor for accuracy is unfortunately not the norm in our hobby, which can ill afford to loose men of John's calibre.

Thank you John for your help, via your drawings, on many of my modelling projects.

I hope that the drawing archive will remain as a lasting tribute to a dedicated man.

Name: **Rupert Brown**

Date: Sat 09 Feb 2008 08:51:21 GMT

Subject:A good friend and advisor

John was invaluable in helping me create my range of etched brass coaches (RDEB Kits) many of which were based on material from his drawings.

I shall miss our regular meetings at shows across the country and his advice and critique on the finished product.

Name: **Iain Rice**

Date: Fri 08 Feb 2008 21:50:42 GMT

Subject:John Edgson - Gresley's Ambassador

I first met John at the North London model engineers when I was still a schoolboy - about 45 years ago. I was bowled over by his beautiful models - I particularly remember the A3 with crank axle and inside big end and working brakes on the tender! I was also bowled over by his quiet, almost shy kindness and the interest he took in my own fledgeling efforts to build models. He gave me a lot of help and encouragement and was a continuing fount of wisdom both in practical matters and as probably the most knowledgeable man alive when it came to LNER locomotives. His enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, the work of Gresley were infectious and inspiring.

I have had many occasions to consult John throughout my years of working in the model railway hobby as a modelmaker and as an author and found him unfailingly helpful. His wonderful 'Isinglass' drawings, packed with scholarship, have always been an 'ultimate' source and will stand as a fine memorial to his work. The last time I spoke to John was at the Watford show last November; I bought a B12 drawing and got a free insight into Gresley's thinking when he modified them, with a critique of Thompson's rebuild of the 'Sandringhams' thrown in!

Like so many in the model railway world, I owe John a great debt of gratitude. May he rest in peace.

Iain Rice

Name: **Chris Kedgley**

Date: Fri 08 Feb 2008 20:16:21 GMT

Subject:EM Gauge Society links

I have known John personally for a number of years. He regularly attended the EMGS annual event, expoEM, hitherto held at Bletchley each May. I have been involved in the organisation of that show with other members of the Society and John always found time for a friendly chat. He also would bring with him regularly some of his very fine models which were of course a talking point. He will be very much missed by all of us who knew him and on behalf of myself and also the board and members of the EMGS, I send condolences to all the family at this sad time.

Chris Kedgley
Chairman,
EMGS

Name: **Peter Sollory**

Date: Fri 08 Feb 2008 11:11:02 GMT
Subject:A great loss

I am so very sorry to read of John's death. I had only spoken to him once or twice on the telephone but he was so helpful. He will be sadly missed by all who had any dealings with him.

My thoughts are with his family at this very difficult time.

Name: **Martin Long**
Date: Thu 07 Feb 2008 12:12:39 GMT
Subject:Thank You John

Always helpful and a knowledge that was unsurpassed on LNER matters. We will all miss his inspiration.

Regards to family and friends.

Name: **Brian Wainwright**
Date: Thu 07 Feb 2008 10:15:49 GMT
Subject:Memories of John

I wanted to offer my condolences to John's family at this sad time. He was a great gentleman and his knowledge of the LNER was an invaluable resource for me and so many others. He will be greatly missed.

Name: **John Whitaker**
Date: Wed 06 Feb 2008 18:36:37 GMT
Subject:John

I never knew him personally but his models and drawings were masterpieces.

God Bless,

John.

Name: **Alan Smith**
Date: Wed 06 Feb 2008 18:16:55 GMT
Subject:Your Loss

I am very saddened by your news. John will be severely missed.

Name: **Geoff Byman**
Date: Wed 06 Feb 2008 17:59:50 GMT
Subject:Thoughts of John

Although I didn't know John personally, I have spoken to him a few times on the phone and at shows and he was always so very knowledgeable and helpful. My sincere condolences to his family. He will be so sorely missed.

Name: **Mike Bootman**

Date: Wed 06 Feb 2008 17:05:37 GMT

Subject:God Bless You

I knew John personally, having met him in 1964 when I was working in the BR CCEs offices in King's Cross - I was a trainee in the Works Maintenance Section and John was in New Works. It was a colleague in WM Section, another modeller called Vic Goldberg, who pointed me in John's direction.

John used to work on his models at lunchtime, soldering away sat at his drawing bench, and producing beautifully-crafted masterpieces in 4mm EM, with such details as correctly-hinged smoke box doors, opened by turning the darts, all pipes in the boiler visible and the correct blastpipe in place. He was a member of a local model railway club.

John was a member of the Gresley Society and a prolific draughtsman, producing hundreds of drawings of LNE %26 constituent locomotives and carriages all drawn and lettered with a traditional drawing pen. I have copies of his earliest work as dyeline prints. I like to think I helped with that since my Father worked in GN House at the time and I was able to arrange for John to go across and photograph all the Carriage Diagram Books.

His ultimate accolade must be when reviewers and builders compare any LNER model or kit against the 'Isinglass' drawing.

I last saw John at the Gauge O Guild at Telford in 2006 and we reminisced (once again).

I offer sincere condolences to John's family and grateful thanks for John's life and work from members of several Internet-based railway and railway modelling groups, several of whom knew John personally and others through his drawings.

Goodbye John, thanks for all the drawings and past encouragement,

Mike Bootman

Name: **Peter Dobson**

Date: Wed 06 Feb 2008 17:03:53 GMT

Subject:Memories

Always friendly, Always helpful, Always a smile - A real gentleman

We will miss him.

Name: **Chris Youett, Esq**

Date: Tue 05 Feb 2008 15:24:50 GMT

Subject: John's life achievements and gifts to future generations

I first met John at the Warley MRC Show, Birmingham nearly 20 years ago. I was doing some research for Dapol on future locos and coaches. I knew that many of the existing drawings were poorly researched or inaccurate. Bumping into John was like having a birthday and Christmas on the same day! After taking away as many drawings as I could afford, I happily gave John a standing order for one of every future drawing he did. These came in bundles every quarter.

Not only did they help improve the accuracy of Ready-To-Run models but also helped me with my own models and those of customers. John was always happy to advise me on points of accuracy over the telephone so that (hopefully) many errors have been corrected!

John also played a major part in the RCTS Locos of the LNER series, which forms part of the Society's plans to document all the locos of the Big Four railways and is the biggest English language project in the world. This, plus the immense amount of detailed information in his drawings, leaves future generations a quality and depth of information which few will be able to equal.

Thanks a million John for all your help over the years.

Name: **Andrew**

Date: Tue 05 Feb 2008 09:04:09 GMT

Subject: My Dad

Dad was there for me on many occasions, childhood was filled with model railways and live steam. Many a day was passed in a field waiting for a particular loco to pass by.

In later years my children were entranced by his love for railways. We will miss him.