



KENT GROUP

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Newsletter 34

Inside this issue

QR Codes – What are they and why are we using them – Page 2

Request for event assistance - Page 2

Erith Model Railway Society Longfield event – Page 3

Multi-Day model railway show posters – Page 5

Donated Pop-up Banners – Page 5

Facebook update – Page 6

To see what events the Group is hosting or attending scan or click on the following QR Code to visit the Events Diary on the website:



Contact Us

To contact the committee in general please email:

gsskent@aol.com

To submit an article for the website or Newsletter email:

socialwebkentgscale@gmail.com

Editor: Wayne Evans-Addy

THE CHAIRPERSONS BATTON RELAY CONTINUES

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) Roger Allen stood down as the Chairman of the Group after many year.

Jeff Fray stood and was subsequently elected as the new Chairman of the Group. A vote of thanks was passed and carried at the AGM to Roger for his efforts over his many years on the committee. Thank You Roger and all the very best to Jeff for his time as chairman of the group!

TEYNHAM WINTER MEET 2024 & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual Teynham Winter meet and Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place as usual on Sunday 28 January 2024 at the Teynham village hall. The event was also attended by Alan Eccles (the national Society Vice President) and his wife Sylvia. Also from the National Society was Eric Upton, the Vice Chairperson with his wife Margret. They attended with a good selection of Battery-operated Radio/Remote Control Locomotives of different makes along with rolling stock for each of the locomotives. The draft minutes of the AGM will be distributed once typed up. The next Teynham event will be Sunday 26 January 2025.



Picture courtesy of John Denbury of the Battery Radio/Remote control exhibit by Eric Upton

QR CODES – WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY ARE WE USING THEM

This article will hopefully explain what a QR code is and why we as a group are using them.

QR stands for Quick Response and works in the same way as a barcode. The QR code is a square shaped black-and-white grid containing certain information—like web addresses or contact details—that you can access with a compatible device such as a smartphone or electronic tablet.

You find these QR codes pretty much everywhere: bars, gyms, grocery stores, cinemas, etc.

Importantly, a QR code cannot be hacked, but a hacker can generate a malicious QR code that sends you to a fake website where they can steal your personal information or data and can track your locations, so always try to verify where your QR code originated from.

Having a QR code as a link to a particular page on a website can be a lot easier than trying to remember the pathway to type into the internet portal (web Browser) to access the page. An example being to post the web address for the groups events page on its website would be: www.gscalegent.co.uk/events_diary.htm (Link has been de-activated), some pages have by far longer addresses so harder for people to quickly note down the address without making an error resulting in what they are trying to find. Scanning a QR code on a device such as a smartphone or electronic tablet can open the advised page on their browser so can be read at their convenience.

To scan a QR code it is fairly easy. You will need an enabled Smartphone or electronic tablet or similar device. You do not need a third-party application to do it.

1. Open your camera app/application.
2. Point the camera towards the QR code.
3. Your device (Smartphone or electronic tablet) will usually detect the link and will display usually with yellow markings around the QR code, it is asking if you would like to open the link. By touching the area, will usually open the link in your browser.

If you have an older smartphone or electronic tablet that does not recognise QR codes, you will require to install a QR code reader from where you get your applications. These are often free.

The QR code has certain instructions written within it. When you scan this code, your phone displays the information contained in the code. In case the code has an action on it, say it's the details for a Wi-Fi login, then your phone will follow those instructions and connect you to the specified Wi-Fi network. In our case we use it to take people to a page on a website.

REQUEST FOR EVENT ASSISTANCE – YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

As you have probably seen numerous times before the requests for assistance to help out at one event or another! Further in this newsletter there are event posters for two multi-day events, firstly the “2024 TENTERDEN MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION” and secondly the “ASHFORD FESTIVAL OF RAILWAY MODELLING”.

It is requested for assistance at both of these events, you will not be on your own! There will be people who have been there before. We are asking for assistance to help set up, run trains on the Garden of England Railway layout and/or to help pack up at the end of the event(s). At the Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling event David Groves will also attending with his display layout and is seeking assistance to help run his layout during the event.

If you are able to assist at all at either of these events please contact Wayne at eventsgscalekent@gmail.com

ERITH MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY SHOW 27-28 JAN 2024 – By Judith Maskell

Our first G Scale Exhibition with the Lehmann Bachmann & Lego (LB & L) line, was with our Erith Model Railway Society clubs annual show, at their regular venue in Longfield, Kent.

On the evening before the show, our layout modules were kindly delivered to the venue by the exhibition manager. Setting up was easy as we had carried out a dry run the week prior to the show at home in the garden. We knew it would be much easier to set up at the venue as it would be on an even surface and there would be no obstacles.



Setting up the modules and track on Friday evening, took about an hour so on the Saturday morning we arranged the scenery and unboxed the locos and rolling stock. We were fairly organised, even having a running schedule for the trains.

Our placement in the venue was perfect as we were near the entrance. We could hear the excited voices of the little ones as they were queuing up to come into the show. The "there's Thomas" was the main comment from the little people. We absolutely loved both days with our LB & L Line.





Many people were making positive remarks about the trains and several people were reminded of their childhood because we had Noddy strapped to the back of Winston (*Ed: Winston being the Fat Controllers Car*).

We had an operator timetable set and Phil and Ben took the early lunch, whilst I took the controls. I somehow managed to derail the trains. Thankfully no one was hurt or damage caused. Seriously though a very kind on looker saved my day.

We found there was no shortage of people willing to help at all times and there were many compliments and positive remarks.

We had G Scale royalty visit. How honoured were we?. (They know who they are)

We are very thankful for the support from within the G Scale Society and know we made the right decision to become part of the society.

The Erith Model Railway Society are equally excited about our layout and were very complimentary about the speed in which we achieved the result produced that weekend.



2024 TENTERDEN MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Presented by
Ashford Model Railway Club
At Homewood School, TN30 6LT
(Next to Fire Station)



Two Halls of Quality Layouts,
Demonstrations and Trade Stands
Refreshments and Free Parking

Saturday 10th February - 10am - 5pm

Sunday 11th February - 10am - 4pm

Adults £6.00 Family of four £15.00

Children 5-14 years £3.00

Children under 5 FREE

Concessions £5.00



Further Information - Email info@ashfordmrc.co.uk
Or visit our website - ashfordmrc.co.uk.



ASHFORD FESTIVAL OF RAILWAY MODELLING

6 & 7 APRIL 2024

ASHFORD COLLEGE & TOWN CENTRE VENUES



50 MODEL RAILWAYS, SOCIETIES & TRADERS

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

**TRACKS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM - RAILWAYS AND AUTISM
AND**

140 YEARS OF THE MAIDSTONE EAST TO ASHFORD LINE



WWW.AIMREC.CO.UK

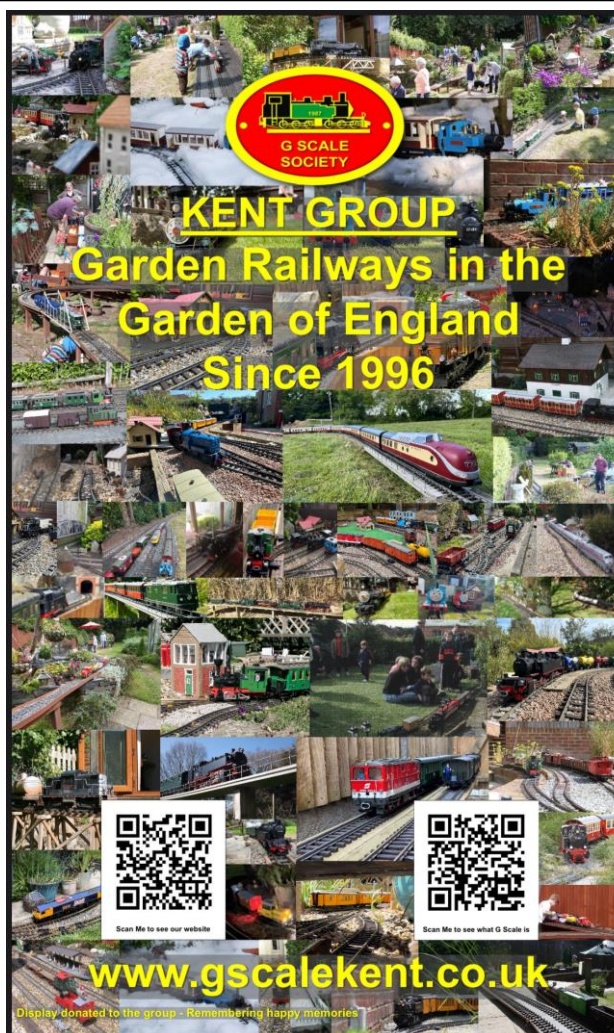


Image of the first donated Pop-Up banner

REMEMBERING HAPPY MEMORIES – DONATED POP-UP BANNERS

To aid with publicising of the Group activities at events two Pop-up banners have been designed and donated to the Group which an image of the first banner is shown to the left. The dedication at the bottom of the display reads "Display donated to the group – Remembering happy memories".

A number of the images featured on the banners date back to the early years of the Group and members who no longer walk amongst us or have moved away from the County. All images are of members garden layouts within Kent.

The banners went down very well at their inaugural event at the West Sussex Winter event at Henfield held on Sunday 03 December 2023 by visitors and members of other G Scale Society Groups also at our Teynham event. These will be used in conjunction with the main Society pop up banner.

The displays measures 120cm wide x 200cm tall.



FACEBOOK UPDATE & OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

If you participate on the Social Media platform known as Facebook, the Group has a Facebook page which currently has 26 members. Pictures, questions and events can appear which do not appear on the website.



The page is known as a 'Private Group' which means that non members cannot see what is posted on the page. If you are already a member of the National Societys' Facebook page it should be noted that things are posted on the County page which is not posted on the National page.

Why not join in the page. Your application will be accepted once membership has been confirmed.



It has been asked if the Group is have an 'X' (formerly Twitter) account to which at this time it is unlikely but who knows what the future will bring. A 'TikTok' account is more likely. For those who are not aware, 'TikTok' is a short-form

video hosting service. It hosts user-submitted videos, which can range in duration from 3 seconds to 10 minutes. This could be used in conjunction with the Groups 'YouTube' Channel.

OBITUARY – MARTIN COOK

It is with sadness to report that Martin Cook who was an active member of the group over many years and was the previous treasurer of the Group passed away on Saturday 16 December 2023. His funeral took place on Friday 26 January 2024.

Although Martin no longer walks amongst us images of his garden railway feature on one of the recently donated pop-up banners Remembering Happy Memories.

2024 KENT GROUP INDOOR EVENTS

We have just had our first indoor event of the year at Teynham. This year the Autumn indoor event will be held on Saturday 19 October 2024 at The Christs Church and hall, Luton Road, Luton, Chatham ME4 5BT. This will be the first time in many years (except during covid) this event has not been held at Pratts Bottom Village Hall, however, it is hoped that with a change of venue additional members will be able to attend. The event will be utilising part of the Church and its hall located within the same building.

This venue is the largest that the Group has hired for a Group hosted event. If you as a member have a display or layout you would like to exhibit/ display or want to find out more information please drop Wayne, the Events Coordinator an email to eventskentgscale@gmail.com so requirements can be discussed. Andy at KGR along with Nick at Chalk Garden Rail have already confirmed they will be attending the event subject to illness. Sadly live steam is not permitted at this event. Jude, Phil & Ben Maskell will be bringing their LB&L Line layout to the event. Chris Worby will also be attending with one of his display layouts. At the Teynham event he bought along his latest incarnation which was to his usual excellent standard.

It would be nice to hold an event in the Summer towards the South of the County. Venues and dates are being looked at. If we go ahead with such an event members will be informed of its details.

2024 KENT GARDEN RUNNING DAYS

2023 saw a good number of garden running days located across the county and it would be good to replicate or increase the amount of members gardens opened to allow fellow members to attend and share the enjoyment of our hobby. It is your layout and you decide numbers attending and what is ran on your layout. The committee can potentially assist you in a number of ways to host and run the event.



KENT GROUP

The Kent Group of the G Scale Society hosts and attends various events throughout the year. The following QR code will take you to the Groups event page on their

Alternatively, details can be found at the following web address
www.gscalekent.co.uk/events_diary.htm

"Garden Railways in the Garden of England"

WHAT IS THE G SCALE SOCIETY

The G Scale Society was formed in 1987, for those interested in large scale model railways, we aim to be the "Home of Garden Railways" aimed at those using 45mm gauge track regardless of what scale or scales they run on it.

Local Area Groups around the Great Britain give you the opportunity of friendly and informative local meetings and garden visits. The quarterly Journal is a glossy colour magazine with articles covering members railways, construction of stock prototype detail plus Area Group News, Society News, hints & tips, members sales and trade adverts. There is also a Society Facebook page for members to share their railways, latest projects and ask questions of the wider membership.

The following QR Codes will take you to the websites as indicated above the code

G Scale Society
www.gscaleksociety.com

Kent Group
www.gscalekent.co.uk



Kent Group

"Garden Railways in the Garden of England"

KENT GROUP A5 LEAFLET

The two images above are either side of the new A5 leaflet the group has produced. This is a more cost-effective option than that previously which was by using a domestic laser printer and cutting the paper or card down to size. This also allows us to provide other event organisers along with other organisations who we are and what events we are hosting or are attending. The leaflets have already been available at the Canterbury Model Railway show, Erith Model Railway Society event both held in January as well as at our Teynham event. Retail outlets are being approached to have the leaflets.

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS – HAVE YOUR SAY

The Group is here primarily here for its members then to increase the awareness of the Society to the wider community within Kent although we can attend events outside of the County.

If you have any ideas and/or suggestions that the group should be doing, why not let the committee know for consultation and consideration. We all want to enjoy our hobby!

This includes any suggestions or ideas we can look at to improve our existing events.



Photo by John Denbury of Alex Evans-Addy on a modular layout at the Teynham 2024 Winter indoor meet



Photo by John Denbury of the GER layout at the Teynham 2024 Winter indoor meet

NEWSLETTER NEW YEAR NEW LOOK

As you may have noticed the Newsletters format has had a refresh with the change year and change of editor. It is planned to publish a Newsletter in February, April, June, August, October and December. There may also be specials. If you wish to submit an article, this includes any photos of your garden layouts or any projects you may have underway, please email it to socialwebkentgscale@gmail.com



Photo by Wayne Evans-Addy of Chris Worbys latest display layout at the Teynham 2024 Winter indoor meet



Photo by Wayne Evans-Addy of the Modular layout at the Teynham 2024 Winter indoor meet



KENT GROUP

"Garden Railways in the Garden of England"