

KENT NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 29

FEBRUARY 2023

URGENT MESSAGE

We have a problem with the storage of our group track GER. For those that don't know it's the small trailer the group has for transporting the track to various venues.

The committee have been looking at sites to store the trailer with not much luck, the main problem is the cost and a secure site. The cheapest that we could find was £20 a week which you can see would cost far too much for a small group this being over a £1000 per year.

If anyone has a place to store it the committee would be prepared to pay a fee that we could negotiate and that we could afford.

Please contact Jeff Fray on 07484145588

NEW KENT GROUP INDOOR EVENT – ASHFORD 9 JULY – See Last page

TENTERDEN MODEL RAILWAY SHOW – 18 & 19 FEBRUARY 2023

The committee last year decided to promote G Scale if opportunities arose where we could take GER out to other shows. The Ashford Model Railway Club was preparing for its annual show at Tenterden Kent, so we put our name forward and it was accepted. With an influx of new members willing to get involved this was a great relief to the standing committee which at the time had experienced reduced numbers with a couple of long-serving members choosing to step back.

For this show it was a full weekend from Friday to Sunday so it was important that we had enough bodies to set it up on Friday evening and to operate trains for the public on Saturday and Sunday and with a team to dismantle at the end. On Friday evening Richard Riley, Roger Allen, John Morgan, Wayne Evans-Addy, Alan Jones plus myself were able to put GER up in two hours, a good job.

The Show opened on Saturday morning and the group members covering the day were Richard Riley, Roger Allen, Alan Jones, Martin Piper and David Groves. All brought their own stock which gave the public a good opportunity to see different locomotives and rolling stock and to ask questions about the hobby, which I am sure the guys covered well. On the Sunday Wayne and Alex Evans-Addy plus Richard Barton, Andrew Wyld and myself were on duty and I would also like to thank Andrew's dad Paul for helping take down GER at the end of the day.

Looking at the weekend it worked well with new and old members meeting up and having a great time running trains and talking to both the public and old friends as well as getting to know how to put GER up and away. On the whole a good weekend. Please watch out on our web site and Facebook page for all the shows we have coming up and any new ones that we may get invited to in 2023.



Setting up Friday evening from left to right John Morgan preparing track connections in the background Richard Riley carrying a section of GER, Roger Allen thinking what next, Wayne Evans-Addy and Alan Jones assembling a section of GER.



A part of the Saturday team in attendance left to Right Martin Piper, David Groves and with his back to us Alan Jones.



On Sunday a change of team and a change of stock. Alex Evans-Addy and Richard Barton are operating with Norman Caney from the East Sussex Group looking on.



Contrasting locos - In the foreground the LGB Saxon 2-10-2T with on the inner track an 0-4-0T Porter

SPRING HAS ARRIVED, SO TRACK MAINTENANCE REQUIRED

So, winter has nearly gone and like most of us your garden railway has been through the rigours of the winter months and in most cases no trains have run and the track is dirty and some of the rail joints will not be making a good electrical path, (for those members that run live steam this will not be a problem one of the benefits of live steam). To get back to track cleaning some of us will have a track cleaning train that will do the job of cleaning the top of the rails, but for most of us it will be down on our knees using the LGB cleaning blocks. Whichever method you use you may find areas where the trains slow down due to voltage drop, when passing over rail joints. This will be seen when the track cleaning train stops or when you have finished cleaning, have a test run of the train and it slows down or stops when passing these rail joints (Fishplate). The cause will usually be a poor connection in the electrical supply from one section to the next. You can also check this if you have a voltmeter by placing the voltmeter leads across the track on either side of the joints. Putting your train controller on its highest setting will help or in the case of MTS or DCC, 24 volts should read either side of the joint. If the voltage drops it means the joint requires cleaning. Re-test to check the voltage is identical on both sections.



LGB Track cleaning train if you are lucky enough

At this point if the voltage is different or your test train still slows down, the track will need to be taken apart so you can check that the fishplates are tight by removing them (in some cases a new fishplate /rail joiner may be required) but first you can try squeezing the fishplate with a small pair of pliers to make a good fit. When you remove the fishplates you will observe that both the fishplates and the inside edges of the rail will be dirty and will require cleaning. Use a wire brush to remove any dirt and may be some LGB cleaning fluid will help you bring it back to a nice brass and shiny look. (see Photos next page)

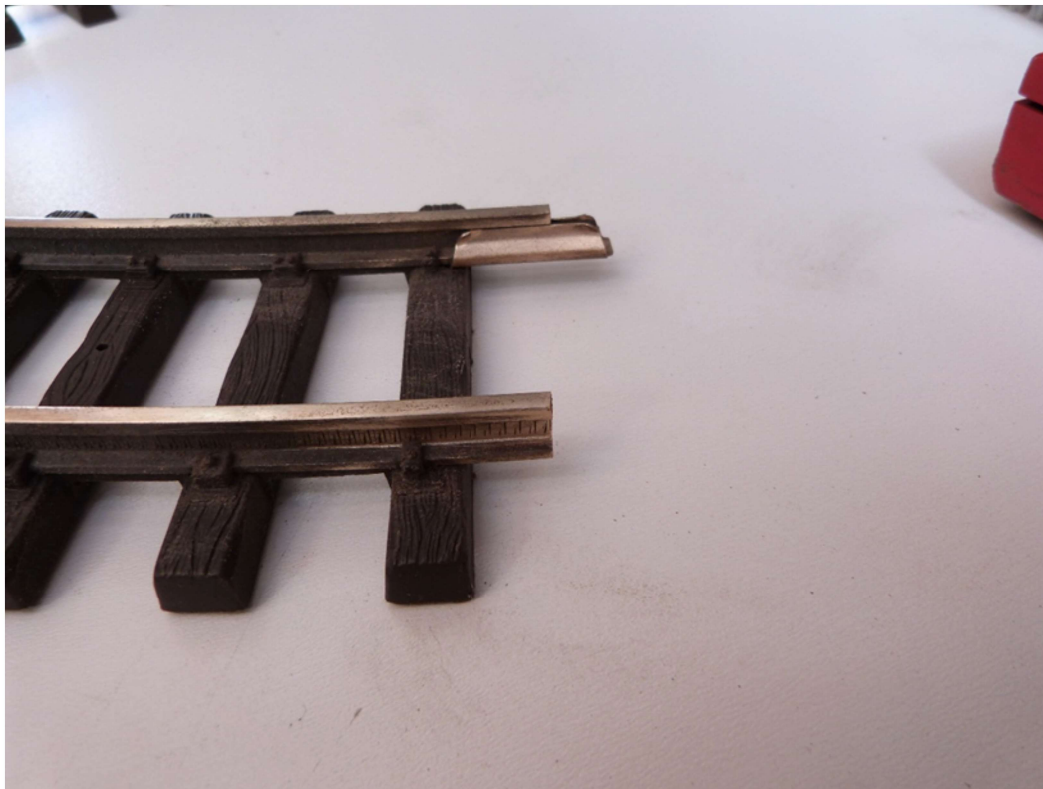


Cleaning items required to carry out track and rail joint cleaning

In the photo above you can see the four cleaning items required to give you a clean track with good electrical connections. From left to right we have the LGB track cleaning block, Seuthe Smoke and Cleaning Fluid, Massoth graphite paste and the fine wire brush. The last two items can be purchased in LGB form and most are available from Peter at Chalk Garden Rail or Andy at Kent Garden Rail



Dirty rail removed and ready for cleaning



You can see the difference from the photo above. The Rail top is clean plus the fishplate (Rail joint)

Having completed the cleaning of the fish plate and rail heads (both sides), when you re-join them it will help to place a small amount of graphite paste into the inside of the fishplate before re-joining the track. This will help with conductivity. After fitting the track back together you can do a test run or check the voltage both sides of the joint to see if the voltage is identical or your test train runs smoothly across that point. Remember that both sides will require the same amount of work.

Article by Kent Group

TEYNHAM WINTER MEETING 2023

With the New Year let us all hope we can all get back to normal and indeed looking at the our winter meeting on the 29th January at Teynham, I am thinking we are getting there as the number were up on the previous year, which was so good. I would like to thank all those involved on the day from the exhibitors to the kitchen staff that made again for a great day running trains.

The committee would have liked to seen more members at the AGM as its your group and your opinions are important so we can move forward and know what you would like to see and do. I was approached by several members concerning opening their gardens this summer and I am hoping that they will contact me so I can put it on the group web site and Facebook page.

Contact me on: -

jeff@ME57JS.com or phone me on 07484145588

Teynham exhibitors

David Groves with his tabletop showing some of his handmade rolling stock and working buildings



David tabletop layout



Gravel and stone loading factory building



David's hand built loco "Jane"

(see Newsletters 17, 18 and 19 for more info)



Hand built loading equipment

Chris Worby with his Cuban sugar cane depot with hand made loco's and rolling stock



Chris preparing his track ready for the day and above & below some of his hand-built steam loco's



Richard Barton with his hand built First World War trench tractor loco in 5 Inch gauge.



The Kent 16mm group

The group brought their exhibition layout Hopfields once again and ran the live steam and battery power all day



Darjeeling loco in the station and to the right a nice lineside touch of a disused carriage body



Two more shots of very fine steam locos on the track

Martin Piper on GER de-railment



Wayne and Alex's static display



The Kent Group would like to thank Chalk Garden Rail based at Gravesend Kent for their continuing support, both Peter and Nick are always ready to help any member or new comer to this gauge of Garden Rail in purchasing, technical help and repairs.



Chalk Garden Rail at the Teynham meeting with a display of new and second-hand items and advice as Nick talks to a customer.

ASHFORD BEE LINE DELAYS - by Wayne Evans-Addy

Amongst doing other worldly things, over a two-day period (2 & 3 February 2023) I had been able to resume work on the track bed around the middle flowerbed following a summer and autumn hiatus. The digging was certainly a lot easier than last time I worked on doing the excavation work and I got carried away with the depth dug out, which subsequently needed filling. It was mentioned to me that I was not doing the footings for a house! Some could say I am still putting down too much type 1 subbase. Hey Ho. With family commitments at the weekend I was unable to keep the momentum going! Hopefully it won't be as long an interval before resuming. So far picturing the circle as a clock face, I have done positions 12-7 so at least I am over halfway.



Track bed being constructed



The returning loop

A New Kent Group Indoor Meet – Sunday 9 July – Ashford

In addition to our usual Pratts Bottom – the next is on 15 October – and Teynham events we will be arranging an indoor meet at the Swan Centre, Ashford, TN24 0BE on Sunday 9 July.

Your committee felt we should try a summer indoor meet and in a different location, further east in the county.

As well as asking you to put this date in your diaries we need your suggestions, ideas and offers over possible exhibits and attractions. While we intend for it to be principally G Scale should we include one or two smaller scale layouts? If you think this a good idea would you like to display something?

Do please contact Wayne Evans-Addy with any thoughts, questions, comments or offerings that you may have, the sooner the better. **Email : wayneaddy@gmail.com**



**Kent Group
Will be hosting various events within Kent
on the date shown at different locations:**

**Sunday 09 July 2023
Swan Centre Ashford(Kent),
TN24 0BE**

**Sunday 15 October 2023
Pratts Bottom Village hall,
BR6 7PQ**

**Sunday 28 January 2024
Teynham Village Hall,
ME9 9TU**

Various layouts & displays

**For further details look at our website
www.gscalekent.co.uk**

