

KENT NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 31

July 2023

Modelling Article

It's good to get ideas from members (in this case Richard Barton) and this is one worth taking a look at, its cheap and will do a great job concerning large constructions that can cost a large amount of money. You can use this idea to do most things on your garden railway from walls for railway cuttings, tunnel mouths, bridge supports, and anything you may think to create. First, which you may find strange are the materials we are going to use. They are the following

1. Polystyrene (easy to get hold of, packaging or even by purchasing)



2. Plywood or any wood that can stand up to our English weather conditions hot, cold and wet.
3. Best to use Masonry paint and purchase the small test pots, which will be fine and will also water proof the Polystyrene and plywood base board or you could try acrylic paint



4. The usual items screws and glues (Evo- Stik Multi-purpose silicone) that can deal with the above.



With Polystyrene it is important to use the silicone as a fixing medium to your wooden base board as most glues will make the Polystyrene melt (At this stage you may think Polystyrene really? However if applied correctly it will last forever as it does not degrade and is a waste product that is hard to dispose of)

5. Normal tools and have a look online or on eBay for a hot wire foam cutter to cut and make the shapes you require in the polystyrene.



Using the hot foam cutter enables you to cut and make shapes as can be seen below:



The images above also show the hot wire engraving tool used to shape the stone or brick look and the finished item painted.

The example below is for a single tunnel mouth.

Cut out the shape of the tunnel mouth in weatherproof plywood, ensuring that the mouth is to gauge and that your trains and rolling stock pass through with space to spare. Cut out your polystyrene to fully cover the wooden tunnel mouth and, glue with the silicone and wait for this to set. When set using the hot wire cutter cut around the wooden shape cutting away the excess polystyrene to give you the tunnel mouth opening and supporting wall. Then using the engraving tool melt the shapes of stone or bricks and then paint to finish. If you are making more than one tunnel mouth, use the first wooden base as a template to mark out the others before installing the polystyrene.



In the photo above you can see the polystyrene tunnel mouth painted in grey stone and with a red brick surround around the mouth and in the back ground top left is a supporting wall again using the polystyrene again to create the appearance of a stone supporting wall.

This method can be used for anything you might like to recreate: the appearance of stone, brick or even wood. The engraving tool is easy to use and with minimum practice you will be surprised what you can achieve.

Richard Barton's open day

Report by Jeff Fray



Group members catching up after winter break.



Table for preparing trains to run.



Great view from the back of the garden.



Again, good view of the siding roads.

Richard has created a great layout with lots of train movements and items to look at. There are buildings, tunnels, train sheds, sidings and running along the length of the garden fence. The back fence has a rack railway section that is connected to the main area as shown above. Richard has the Z21 digital control scheme and all the control equipment is located in a weatherproof box in a position where you can see most of the layout which gives the opportunity to shunt trains to and from the main two running loops.

PS catch up on the group's web site for more photos and videos courtesy of Richard and our new web master Wayne.

Our new Summer Show at Ashford

We had our first venture into a show with multi gauges in July at the Swan Centre in Ashford.

To date we have had our indoor meetings in January and in the Autumn at Teynham and Pratts Bottom respectively but these are essentially large scale. For Ashford we were supported by a number of non-G exhibitors. These were a 5-inch gauge WW1 Simplex Tractor locomotive and workshop wagon beautifully modelled by Richard Barton; a stand from the South East and Chatham Society with an excellent O gauge diorama featuring steam trains and wagons from the era; a compact N layout and the 4SUB Preservation Association ("The Train that brought you home").

Kent Garden Railways attended with opportunities to see and purchase in many different gauges. In G scale our GER layout was present and David Groves provided his loose lay and a selection of his splendid scratch-built locomotives, including the Class 56 that featured in the Summer Journal.

The day as an experiment turned out to be a success with over one hundred visitors and even one visitor signing up to join the G Scale Society, the committee would like to thank all involved from Sue, Gill and Carol in the kitchen to those on the door.

Below are a couple of photos for members who could not make it on the day. There are more to be seen on the Group's Facebook page.



We were very pleased to sign-up a couple of new members on the day and look forward to welcoming them to future group events.

Tunstall Coronation Festival

For the Coronation celebrations in May, David and Helen Groves attended the Tunstall Village Coronation Festival on behalf of the Group and to generally fly the G Scale flag. David exhibited his pop-up 45mm layout and with audience participation invited it proved very popular. David and Helen were ably assisted by Carol and Richard Riley throughout the day.



Martin Piper moves home

As some of you will know, Martin moved from Kent to Dorset at the end of June and we wish him and wife all the very best in their new home. Martin had been a member of Kent Group committee since 2010 and became very involved in updating the electronics and wiring on the Group track GER. He also became something of a DCC-guru and was very happy sorting problems and giving advice/guidance. The Piper Eynsford garden was the scene of a number of successful open afternoons and we are pleased to hear that Martin plans to build a new track once established in the new house. We thank Martin for all his efforts on behalf of the Group.

Kent Committee membership

With Martin's move he has resigned from the Kent Committee. There remain 5 members, which is just a sufficient number under our rules for the present but come January's AGM with at least one member standing down we do definitely need new members. Do please think about putting your name forward and helping the Group continue and expand, its range of activities. New ideas are always welcome, indeed they are essential. Whether you are an established member or a newcomer to the Group do please consider this request. It is not an arduous task. Don't hesitate to contact Roger Allen if you would like any more information. roger.allen1@btinternet.com

A couple of matters on the National front

In late April the refreshed National website went live. It certainly looks to be an improvement over the previous version and importantly up to date. As well as useful carryovers from before a couple of new sections have been introduced: "Members layouts" and "Advice, Tips & Ideas". If you have not done so already do have a look at gscalesociety.com

The Journal editorial team are making an appeal for more Journal content. Articles on any aspect of G Scale inspired garden and indoor matters and related prototype articles are welcomed. To get in touch email: journal@gscalesociety.com

Kent Group Pratts Bottom Autumn Indoor Event – Sunday 15th October

Our Autumn Indoor event will be held on Sunday 15 October 2023 at Pratts Bottom Village Hall. It will be open to members and the public general membership from 10:30am - 4:00pm. The address is Pratts Bottom Village Hall, Norsted Lane, off Rushmore Hill, Pratts Bottom, BR6 7PQ

The event will follow the same format as previous years, with the Garden of England Railway (GER) taking centre position within the hall, Chris Worby will be attending with one of his excellent layouts and there will be an interactive layout within a modular layout on the stage. Andy from KGR will be attending with a selection for sale. There will also be displays along with refreshments available throughout the day.

If you are able to assist with the event, whether to help set up, help out during the event or assist with the take down at the end please let Wayne Evans-Addy know at eventskentgscale@gmail.com

Remember this event is free to all members of the G Scale Society. If you wish to bring some rolling stock to run on GER please do.

Also does anyone have batteries & remote control system fitted to any of their locomotive(s)? If so, would you be prepared or interested to run/display/demonstrate them at the Pratts Bottom and/or Teynham event(s)? Again please contact Wayne. Many thanks in advance

The Annual Winter indoor Teynham event and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held as usual in the Teynham Village Hall on Sunday 28 January 2024.

A poster for Pratts Bottom appears on the next page. Do please share it with friends or family who you may think would be interested in attending.



**Pratts Bottom
Model Railway Show
Sunday 15th October 2023**

10:30am-4:00pm

**Village Hall
Norsted Lane
Pratts Bottom
BR6 7PQ**

What3words: Snow.Moth.Cape

**Various layouts
(including an interactive layout)**

Refreshments

KGR will be attending as Sole Trader

**Admission: Adults £4, Children £1.50,
Family: (2A+2C) £10,
G Scale Society Members: Free**