



KENT GROUP

NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Newsletter 35

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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:



There is a basic table of what
events there is on page 8

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

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2024 TENTERDEN MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

The 2024 Tenterden Model Railway Exhibition was organised by the Ashford Model Railway Club over the weekend 10 & 11 February 2024 held at Homewood School, Tenterden within two sports halls. Like last year the Garden of England Railway (GER) layout was located next to the Gauge 1 Society Invicta layout albeit offset by 90 degrees which seemed to improve the flow of visitors around the hall better.

We attended with the layout setting up on the Friday evening. The layout received lots of interest from those attending over the weekend with a lot of interactions front of house between members of the group and members of the public showing interest. We also took the pop-up banners and including the new ones which themselves had interest by other groups and organisations as well as the visitors. These came in handy as two exhibitors pulled out of the event on the morning of the event so the banners were moved to help fill the now vacant space along with some chairs to create seated viewing area to watch our trains go by. At one point there was 8 trains on the move on the layout all at the same time. The group has already been asked to attend the event next year! Many thanks to those members who assisted over the weekend with the group attending this event.



CHAIRMAN VISITS – By Jeff Fray

This is something I am going to try as your new Chairman which is going around to visit members and if permitted see what we have as a group in Kent and try and get members to have open days.

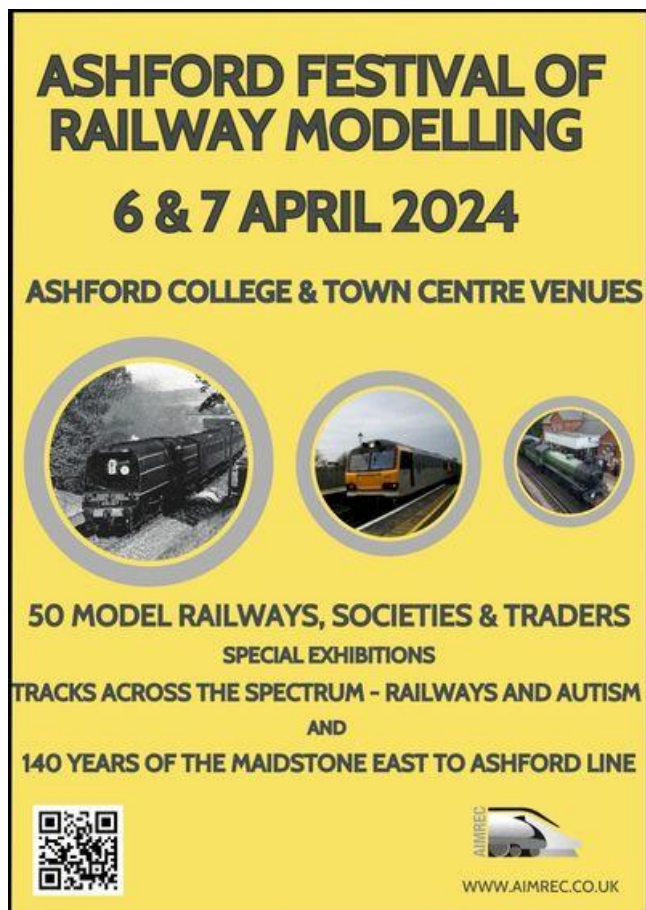
Since Covid it has taken a while for people to return to normal and in my previous position the person to contact if you intended to hold an open day, I noticed how much it had dropped and I am hoping that I can get a positive response with my visits, Wayne Evans-Addy now carries this position, so please contact him if you would like to host an open day or if you need any help or advice etc.



My first visit was to John Dean a member that you may know if you have been to any of the groups winter meetings, the member with a prize-winning hand-built Hasting Units and the chicken train. John has been building his garden railway for a number of years and the committee has been asking him to have an open day, John is a committee member and has been helping out for a number of years. It has only been recently that John has completed his track which allows him to run trains all the way around his large garden. John has installed a double track running around the garden and has also completed a purpose-built Signal box as a control centre for the garden plus a storage facility, what a great addition!



Having such a garden gives the opportunity to run long trains which a large number of members cannot do including myself. Looking at some of the work John is undertaking i.e. building a double garage alongside his house it may not be this year that we see his garden railway open for members to enjoy, but John said if things work out, he may have an open day sometime in the late summer so keep an eye out on the website for dates of garden running days.



GR NEWS DISTRIBUTION – WE HAVE LISTENED

Some members have commented about receiving emails notifying them of GR News and had filtered the previous email address to send items to the Bin/Spam folder as did not want to receive the emails/notifications. As a result the Newsletter which is planned to be Bi-Monthly a link and details on how to access GR News will be within the Newsletter. Apologies for any inconveniences caused!

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! Elsewhere in this newsletter there are event posters for two multi-day events, firstly the “ASHFORD FESTIVAL OF RAILWAY MODELLING” and secondly the “CHATHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB CHATHAM DOCK YARD EVENT”.

It is requested for assistance at the Chatham Dockyard Event, you will not be on your own! There will be people who have assisted 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).

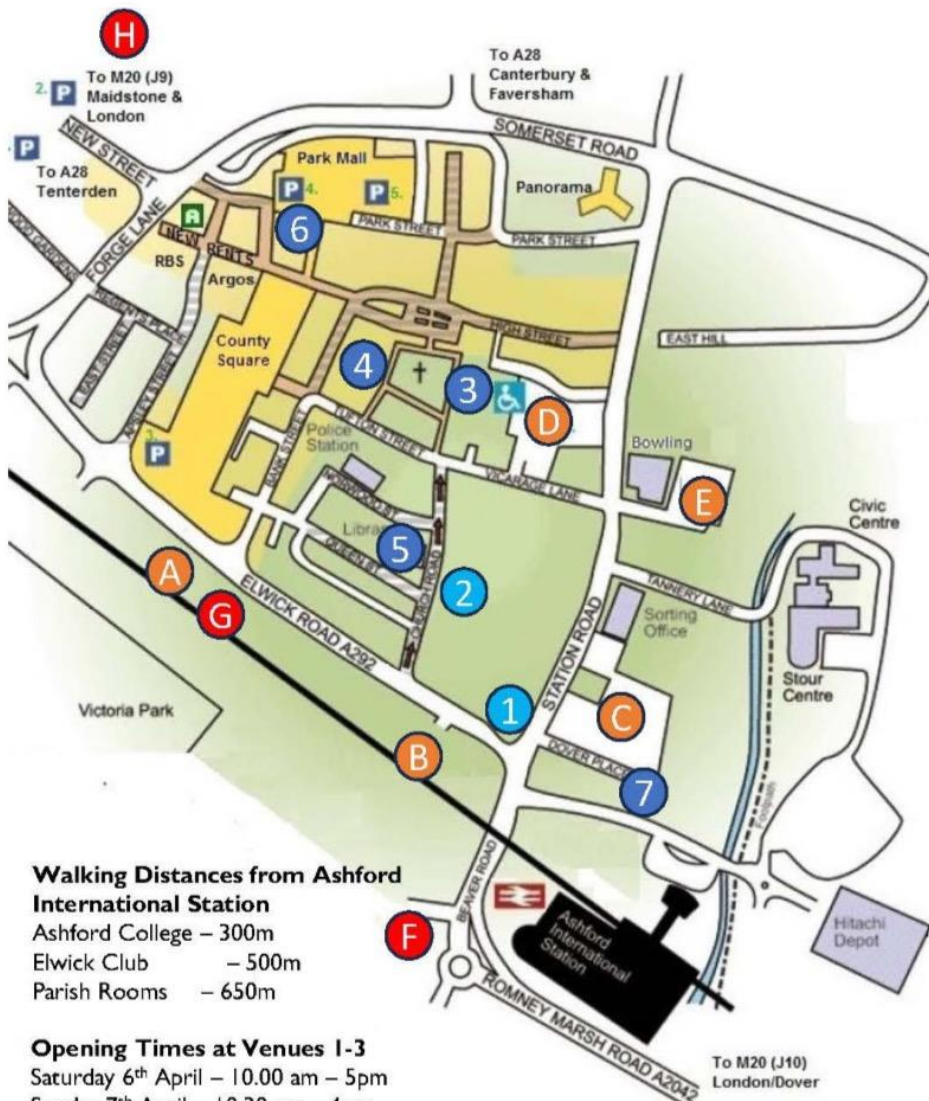
If you are able to assist, please contact Wayne at events@scalekent@gmail.com



KENT GROUP

“Garden Railways in the Garden of England”

Map of the Ashford International Model Railway Education Centre (AIMREC)
Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling event. The GER layout, David Groves and
an N Gauge layout will be in venue 3



AFRM VENUES	
1	ASHFORD COLLEGE TN23 1NN * Wristband Sales, Model Railways, Traders, Societies, Miniature Railway, Refreshments
2	ELWICK CLUB TN23 1RD * Wristband Sales, Tracks Across the Spectrum Model Railways
3	PARISH HALL TN23 1QG* Model Railways
4	ASHFORD MUSEUM TN23 1QG Local Heritage & Railway History
5	GATEWAY PLUS TN23 1AS Maidstone-Ashford Railway 140 Exhibition (closed Sunday)
6	MADE IN ASHFORD/CRAFTSHIP TN24 8RY Advance Wristband Sales, Children's Activities**
7	THE COACHWORKS TN23 1HU Beer Festival, Food, Music
*Wristband needed for entry £10 adults, Free for U16s & Carers **Additional charges may apply	

ASHFORD CAR PARKING	
A	ELWICK PLACE TN23 1DY Charges 9am-3pm Min £2.60 for 2 hrs, then £1.30 per hr
B	ELWICK ROAD TN23 1LH (Station Car Park F) Daily Rate: Sat £4.80; Sun £3.50
C	DOVER PLACE TN23 1HU Charges 8am – 6pm £1.30 per hour; £6 over 4 hours
D	VICARAGE LANE TN23 1NJ Short Stay, Charges 8am-6pm £1.30 per hour; £13.20 over 4 hours
E	STATION ROAD TN23 1PP Charges 8am – 6pm £1.30 per hour; £6 over 4 hours

ASHFORD HOTELS	
F	HAMPTON BY HILTON TN23 7HJ Victoria Road 01233 557799
G	TRAVELODGE CENTRE TN23 1AX Elwick Place 0871 9846545
H	INTERNATIONAL TN24 8UX Simone Wolf Avenue 01233 219988

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KENT GROUP

“Garden Railways in the Garden of England”

MY BIG WINTER PROJECT - By Jeff Fray

It all started with my youngest Grandson Odie swinging on the banister rail of our garden decking and it soon became apparent that the posts and the base of the decking had become rotten! It was time after 27 years for it to go. I have always wanted a double track in my garden and at my open days I would use loose lay so more than one train could be ran at any one time. The plans in my head were put in place to alter my garden and my track layout by first talking it over with the other half. First remove the decking and replace it with slabs Secondly make the seating area larger and with the banister rail removed, enlarge the flower beds which in turn would make the lawn smaller.

Removing the decking revealed the original patio of 1200mm concrete slabs which you can still purchase so with help from my youngest son we laid an extra row of slabs making the patio larger. When that work was completed, I started digging out the track bed which caused a problem as I did not realise the amount of soil I would be removing, so where could it go as I did not want to get a skip as most of the rotten decking had been taken to the council tip. Then I had a brain wave, make a large planter out of the decking boards and the wood that had not rotted and use that earth to fill it.



The old banister, track and supporting wall for the deck



Large planter filling with earth

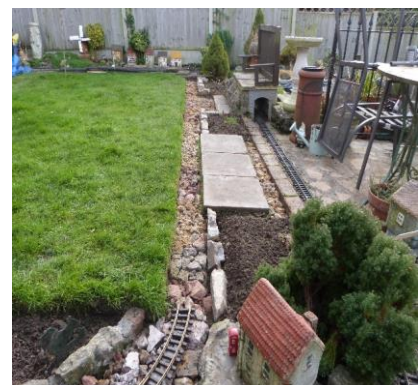
I wanted a power supply at different points around the garden so I can sit in different positions to control trains from my new mXion and Z21 DCC control system as I did not want to go down the road of hand free and just use hard wire Z21 hand controllers. Installing cables in protective trunking and weather proof sockets undertaken before covering these with concrete.



One socket installed



Levelling the track bed and ensuring clearance for small wall



Track bed dug out with hard core in place awaiting concrete

(MY BIG WINTER PROJECT Cont)

The wall above was also left quite large amount of rubble but I did need to fill the 3 new track beds before concreting as required to install the extra tracks. Digging down and hammering the rubble into the ground took a while and then I took my time finishing the track beds with concrete with a skin of cement on top with grit pushed into it to give a stone effect for the track to lay on.



Track bed dug out with hard core in place awaiting concrete

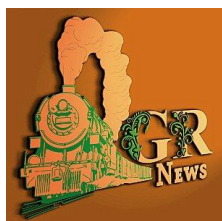


Safety fencing running along the top edge of the wall

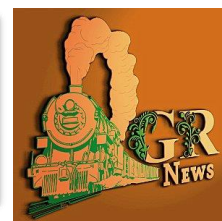
Track required. I used the Kent group's Facebook page to ask if anybody had spare track for sale and within minutes a message from Jude, Phil and Ben stating that Phil had been at Chalk Garden Rail in Gravesend and had noticed a large amount of 120cm lengths of second hand LGB track and that saved me £60 which as a result the loose track I used for open days I had enough track to complete what I wanted. At the Pratts Bottom autumn meeting in October, I had purchased 2 sets of points required to move trains from one loop to the other. On my recent visits to members gardens and also on Wayne and Alex's module track I noticed people are using rail clamps so I have decided to use them so I can get good electrical connections between the rails and also a stronger rail connection.

Finishing. I laid the track checking it had the correct clearances both on the straights and the bends, one thing more important is to run the longest trains. Passenger's wagons and goods to ensure the clearances are correct with other walls and buildings in the summer I am planning to secure the track to the track beds with stainless steel screws.

Extra ideas On a recent visit to Richard Bartons' garden I had notice that Richard had used some large chicken wire on the edge of a section of Rack track running high around the back of his garden. He had cut the wire into long strips and had fixed it along the edge to safe guard against trains falling at a high if derailed. On a new part of my double track it runs along a drop onto some steps running down to the bottom of the garden so I used this idea.

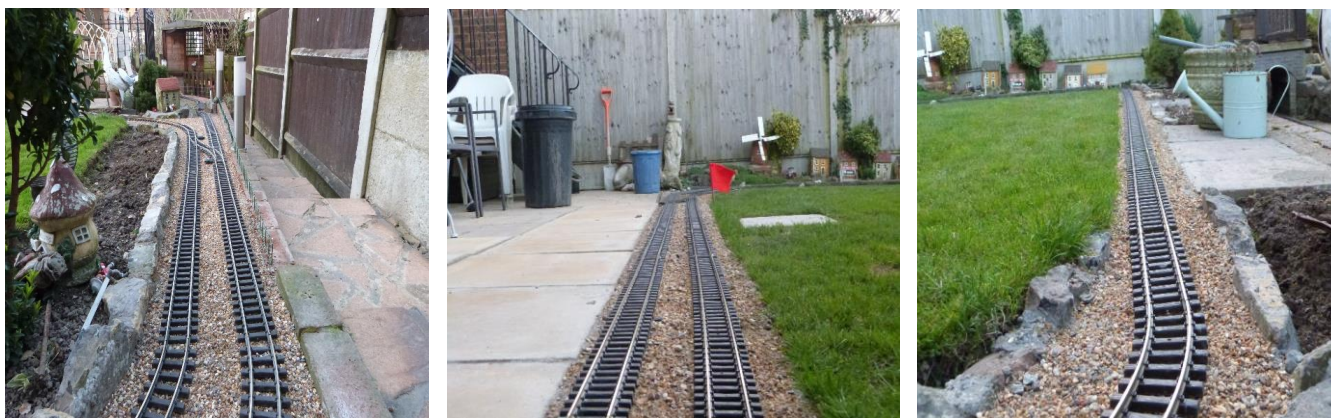


Garden Railroading News



GR News is a **FREE** Bi-Monthly Digital magazine produced by Garden Railroaders for Garden Railroaders. Click on the logos above which are links to: www.grnews.org

(MY BIG WINTER PROJECT Cont)



Double track running at one side and across the front of the new patio on the right new single section completing the loop around the lawn which I used before as a loose lay on

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 decree 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.

KENTISH G SCALE RETAILERS – NEW & PRE-LOVED

Where do members purchase their items located within the county if anywhere? The Committee is aware of the following establishments that sell G Scale items new and/or old within Kent, which appear on the weblink page of the website, however, not everyone is aware of them or may know of other outlets that could do with support from a wider audience:

<i>Retailers listed in alphabetical order</i>			
Chalk Garden Rail	Dream Steam Ltd	Kent Garden Railways (KGR)	Kent Model Exchange
4 Brewhouse Yard Gravesend DA12 2EJ	Vangard House Mill Road Aylesford ME20 7NA	68 High Street St Marys Cray BR5 3NH	106 High Street Hythe CT21 5LE
01474 351672	01622 793700	01689 891668	01303 762456
chalkgardenrail.co.uk	dreamsteam.co.uk	kgrmodels.com	

If you know of a different outlet why not let others know by letting us know so the website can be updated and members reminded periodically through the newsletter. We do not receive payment for this but like to support local businesses where practical.

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.

2024 KENT COUNTY SHOW

Whilst at the Tenterden Model Railway Show the group was approached regarding it attending this years Kent County Show at the Detling Showground with the groups Garden of England Railway layout. Before committing to this three-day public event setting up the day prior, members were approached asking for volunteers which sadly we were not able to attract sufficient numbers to make our attending viable. The layout would have been operating from 08:15-18:00 each of the three days then dismantled after the show concluded. Maybe another year.

SURREY GROUP EAST HORSLEY EVENT

Wayne Evans-Addy attended the Surrey Groups Winter indoor event at East Horsley on 3rd March 2024 with his mini modular layout which was a basic starter set with a few additions. It stood approximately 50cm from floor level so is easier for the potential members of the future (children) to view and interacted with. The layout went down well especially with families due to its height. The mini modular can be expanded.



KENT GROUP EVENTS

The following events are correct at time of publication:

Date	Event	Times	Venue/Additional comments
Sat 06 Apr 24	Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling	10:00-5:00	Various locations Ashford
Sun 07 Apr 24	Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling	10:00-4:00	Various location Ashford
Sat 20 Jul 24	Chatham & District Model Railway Club	10:00-5:00	Chatham Historic Dockyard, ME4 4TZ
Sun 21 Jul 24	Chatham & District Model Railway Club	10:00-5:00	Chatham Historic Dockyard, ME4 4TZ
Sat 19 Oct 24	Autumn Indoor Meet	10:30-4:00	Christ Church & Hall, Luton, ME4 5BT
Sat 28 Dec 24	Maidstone & Mid Kent Model Railway Exhibition	10:00-5:00	Lockmeadow Market Hall, ME16 8LW
Sun 29 Dec 24	Maidstone & Mid Kent Model Railway Exhibition	10:00-4:00	Lockmeadow Market Hall, ME16 8LW
Sun 26 Jan 25	Winter Indoor Meet & AGM	10:30-4:00	Teynham Village Hall ME6 9TU
Sat 15 Feb 25	Tenterden Model Railway Show	10:00-5:00	Homewood School, TN30 6LT
Sun 16 Feb 25	Tenterden Model Railway Show	10:00-4:00	Homewood School, TN30 6LT