



KENT GROUP

NEWSLETTER

June 2024

Newsletter 36

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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 5

Contact Us

To contact the committee in general please email:

gsskent@aol.com

To submit an article for the website or Newsletter email:

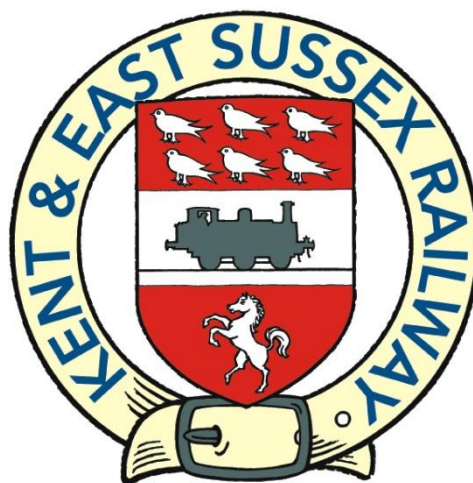
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KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND 01 & 02 JUNE 2024

During the Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling that was held over the weekend 6th & 7th April 2024 it was noted that interest had been received from the Kent & East Sussex Railway (K&ESR) being interested in having the Garden of England Railway (GER) layout present on their railway as part of their 50th anniversary gala weekend on 1st & 2nd June 2024.

The layout being located within a marquee at Tenterden Town Railway Station. It is really nice to be approached to participate in a milestone event on a heritage railway celebrating such an occasion as this. We congratulate them and wish them all the very best for the next 50 years and thank them for their invitation.



The K&ESR have visiting locomotives attending operating between Tenterden and Bodiam, Bodiam and Robertsbridge being connected by a heritage bus service exclusively for K&ESR freedom ticket holders. The line between Robertsbridge Junction and Northbridge Street being open for the first time in years with a shuttle service operated by BR Standard Class 7 Locomotive 70000 'Britannia'.

If you are attending why not pop into the marquee at Tenterden Town Station and say hello. For further details on the event <https://kesr.org.uk/50th-anniversary-gala/>

ASHFORD FESTIVAL OF RAILWAY MODELLING 6 & 7 APRIL 2024 EVENT

The Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling was held over the weekend 06 & 07 April 2024 in Ashford College and other town centre venues hosted by the Ashford International Model Railway & Education Centre (AIMREC). The Group attended with the Garden of England Railway layout (GER) and David Groves with his interactive radio-controlled display Springthorpe Valley Gravel Works. Set up occurred on the afternoon of Friday 05 April 2024 in the Parish Hall also present in the hall was 'Kingsnorth' an N Gauge layout. After setting up GER we took the opportunity to carry out some running repairs to the layout which is starting to show its age as it is now over 24 years old from when it was originally built. Although further work was required and carried out at a later date.

There were lots of visitors to the hall paying a lot of attention to all of the layouts. From interest shown it looks that the society and group will be gaining new members, if they have already joined and seeing this article, Welcome! The organisers of the event were very pleased with the numbers attending the event which were far higher than the Ashford 180 event they organised approximately 18 months previously.

Eric Upton the Vice Chairman of the Society and his wife Margret visited the event and called by to both the GER and Davids layout for a chat. It was good for a catch up and see how they are doing, also seeing how things are on the wider front with the other events in general they have attended.



David Groves with some visitors to his layout



An Aristocraft Class 66 with NQD Fuel tanker wagons



KENT GROUP

"Garden Railways in the Garden of England"

CHAIRMANS MONTHLY GARDEN VISIT By Jeff Fray

On the 15th April 2024 I made a visit to Ben, Jude and Phil in Dartford along with Sue and had a great time talking about all the things that the family are planning to do over the coming years. The plans are laid out and Ben Jude and Phil are looking forward to the summer like most of us, they have a long garden which has given them the chance to make some long straight runs of track with room for planned sidings. There are two separate layouts within the garden, The Kneehigh & Awdry Lines.

Phil and Ben showed me round the garden while Jude showed Sue around. Phil has constructed a large workshop at the end of the garden to the rear of a summer house which has given him the space to work on their exhibition layout which the family have constructed to take part in model railway shows which they did for the first time at the Longfield model railway show earlier this year with great success and will be on show at our groups Autumn indoor meeting in October at (Luton)Chatham.



The Kneehigh track is laid along alongside the garden fence, which some of the track is on Square Flower Pots upturned down to give the appearance of piers. With two loops one at each end so that you can run trains continuously. Near the middle of the layout is a siding road ready for a platform area. The Awdry line is laid at ground level which gives you a number of loops to run trains so looking forward to their first open day that will be great. When you visit other peoples gardens, you can usually pick up some great ideas and on this day was no exception as Phil had used flower pots turned upside down as bridge supports to bridge a long stretch of track with 8 separate bridge sections which look rather impressive.



CHAIRMANS MONTHLY GARDEN VISIT – Cont'd

Ben has been working on a number of ideas as well and one has been converting the LGB couplings on his Thomas Loco and wagons to a hock and chain method that look more realistic. Ben has purchased the hocks where necessary and fixed them to each end of the vehicles and has used paper clips painted black to connect the trains and wagons together, he also showed me the conversion of a Percy tank engine into a more realistic steam engine.



AUTUMN INDOOR MEET & RUNNING DAY

The Kent Groups Autumn indoor meet and running is to take place on Saturday 21 October 2024 at the Christ Church & Hall, Luton Road, Luton, Chatham, Kent ME4 5BT between 10:30AM-4PM. Sadly there will be no live steam locos permitted.

There will be a variety of layouts present including the groups Garden of England Railway (GER) layout which members will be able to bring and run stock on. At this event we shall be having both Chalk Garden Rail and Kent Garden Railways (KGR) for which we are very grateful to both Nick and Andy for their continued support.

We shall also be welcoming Ben, Jude & Phil Maskell with their Lehmann Bachmann & Lego (LB & L) line along with and the Rainbow Rock layout both a first time at one of the groups events. Chris Worby is returning with one of the incarnations of his Crib Lane layout.

THE FIRST TWO 2024 KENT GARDEN RUNNING DAYS

2023 saw a good number of garden running days located across the county. Richard Barton was the first to announce a date to open his garden in Herne Bay. For those who have previously visited it will be an opportunity to see what changes Richard has made. It is good when members gardens are opened to allow fellow members to attend and share the enjoyment of our hobby. Richards' event is on Sunday 16 June 2024 11:00-4:00. Locos are to be DCC due to the layout control system. Rolling stock is not to be bigger than medium length to allow for the curves and clearances on the layout. There will also be Tea, Coffee, biscuits and cake available. If you are contemplating hosting a Garden Running Day, remember that 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. Jeff Fray then announced a running day which was held on 26 May 2024. An article on this event appears on page 5.

KENT GROUP EVENTS

The following events are correct at time of publication:

Date	Event	Times	Venue/Additional comments
Sat 01 Jun 24	K&ESR 50 th Anniversary Gala Weekend	10:00-5:30	Tenterden Town Station, TN30 6HE
Sun 02 Jun 24	K&ESR 50 th Anniversary Gala Weekend	10:00-5:30	Tenterden Town Station, TN30 6HE
Sun 16 Jun 24	Richard Barton Garden Railway event	11:00-4:00	Herne Bay. DCC locos only and medium sized rolling stock. Email if attending via Events page on the groups website.
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
Sun 21 Jul 24	Charity Open Garden - Bromley	2:00-5:00	Bromley contact Jason jjwayle@googlemail.com
Sun 01 Sep 24	Charity Open Garden - Bromley	2:00-5:00	Bromley contact Jason jjwayle@googlemail.com
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 22 Feb 25	Tenterden Model Railway Show	10:00-5:00	Homewood School, TN30 6LT
Sun 23 Feb 25	Tenterden Model Railway Show	10:00-4:00	Homewood School, TN30 6LT
Sat 20 Sep 25	Spa Valley Railway Model Railway Weekend	10:00-5:00	Spa Valley Railway- LB&L Railway layout will be attending this event
Sun 21 Sep 25	Spa Valley Railway Model Railway Weekend	10:00-5:00	Spa Valley Railway- LB&L Railway layout will be attending this event

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 is event posters for a two multi-day event at the “CHATHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB CHATHAM DOCK YARD EVENT”.

It is requested for assistance at either or both of these events, you will not be on your own! There will be people who have been 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 at all at either of or both of these events, please contact Wayne at events@scalekent@gmail.com

CHAIRMANS GARDEN RUNNING DAY – SUNDAY 26 MAY 2024

Jeff Fray the Group Chairman was the first to host a Garden Running Day of 2024 which was held on Sunday 26 May 2024 in Luton, Chatham. A good time was had by all from first time attendees to the seasoned (regular) attendees alike. It was an opportunity to see in person the changes and enhancements Jeff carried out to his layout over the Winter and in addition to what appeared in his article in Newsletter 35.

Jeffs house and garden is located on the side of a hill with the garden sloping away from the house. Jeff has built up some of the garden to form terraces, The layout operates on the different levels. The lowest part of the railway near the bottom of the garden being a Rack and Pinion line with a station where there is also a cable car. The rack locomotives can access all parts of the layout. Jeff also has a shed where he can retreat and utilise the layout he has created therein. There is a track at a raised level going through the side of the shed over a bridge onto the layout.



The lowest part of the layout needing rack and pinion locomotives to rejoin the main layout



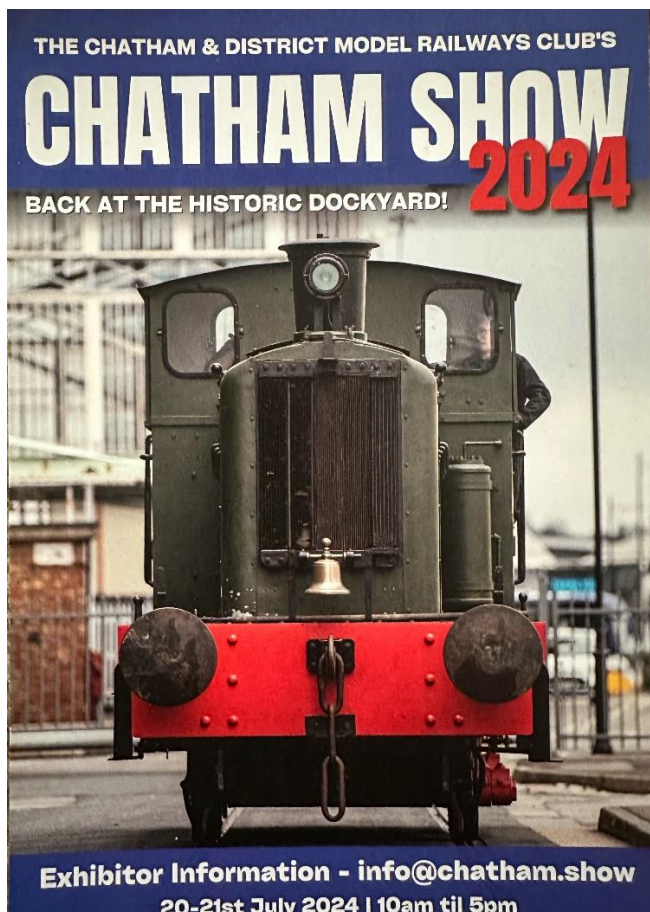
The Station halt on the inner loop on the main part of the layout.



The station interchange on the top leve of the layout but the outer line drops down to the middle tier of the layout



A different view of the station interchange on the top leve of the layout but the outer line drops down to the middle tier of the layout



CHARITY OPEN GARDEN AND GARDEN RAILWAY EVENTS

Jason Workman & Ruby will again this year be opening their garden and garden railway up to members of the general public to raise money for local charities. This years dates are Sunday 21st July and Sunday 1st September 2024 between 2-5PM. They live in the Bromley area.

If you are interested and wish to go along to see their garden, garden railway and telephone memorabilia please contact Jason by email jjwayle@googlemail.com

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS – HAVE YOUR SAY

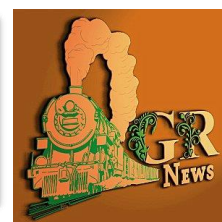
The Group is here primarily here for its members then to increase the awareness of the Society to the wider community within Kent although we can attend events outside of the County.

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.



Garden Railroading News



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REMEDIAL WORK DAY ON GARDEN OF ENGLAND RAILWAY LAYOUT

On Thursday 16 May 2024 there was an opportunity to set up the GER layout to set up the layout in a small hall near Appledore to carry out some more of the required repairs.

Jude Maskell had taken measurement of the layout when at the AIMREC event and has generously designed, produced and donated to the group new side skirts/curtains for the layout. These were trial fitted and any adjustments made to their length. The first outing for the new side skirts/curtains being at the Kent & East Sussex Railway 50th Anniversary Gala.

We thank Jude for her generous donation to the group. They certainly look far better than what we had before and elevate the appearance (no pun intended) of the layout to the next level.

Many thanks to those who came along to assist, it was certainly a productive day!

Special thanks also goes to Sue Fray who attended with Jeff and looked after us with refreshments.

KENT GROUP VISIT TO REDCOATS ORCHARD

Although all members of the Society are welcome to attend the East Sussex Group site at the Redcoats orchard near Battle, East Sussex. The Kent Group had received an invitation to attend on Wednesday 15 May 2024 although the original plan had been to have a meal after the running of trains, members from both groups did not want this as having other commitments so was cancelled prior to the event.

Six members from Kent attended on this occasion. There is a large indoor multi track layout where the different tracks can be individually isolated from the rest of the layout. There is also a good size outdoor multi track layout which is primarily used for live steam and battery operated stock. The weather was kind to us and we thank the East Sussex Group for hosting us and I look forward to returning at a later date.

For further details of the site running days the East Sussex group website is www.eastsussexgardenrail.co.uk



Members of both the East Sussex & Kent Groups at Redcoats Orchard