

# THE DISTANT SIGNAL

EAST ANGLIAN GROUP NEWSLETTER

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## Early Spring 2017

### Editorial

Well as the evenings draw out and the temperature nudges ever upward, we turn our attention to things garden orientated, pleased to say we have 5 members who have generously invited members to their railways, new this newsletter are invites from Ed, Andy and Phillip. Thanks in advance.

I will try and get along to as many as possible and hopefully we can get a few words and pictures to share.

It's encouraging that we have members willing to open their layouts to the group; I was reminded recently that although we are blessed to have a permanent home at Bressingham, it could have the effect of stifling member meetings; glad to say this seems not to be the case, but something we should be mindful of none the less. So well done chaps, hopefully the weather will be kind and you get a good response.

On matters Bressingham, we have managed to do some realignment to the inner steam up sidings over the winter, and the tight bend has been eased, (trains used to falter in the bend due to a narrowing of gauge it seems) All but the longest locos seem to run through better now, and a head shunt is included to make it easier to swap engines.

Sadly one of the group has made the decision to stop steaming, so some of his locos and rolling stock are advertised here, he is keen that they go to group members so if you are interested please contact Richard Copperwheat directly, he has other rolling stock available which will be offered generally at the August show.



Personally, I have spent my winter assembling as many slate wagons as I can carry to try and emulate the long slate trains once so common. I hope they will make a great sight snaking through the points, I understand that the Festiniog has under construction a dedicated carriage shed for its collection of around 200 slate wagons, apparently a train of 120 + was not uncommon. I don't think I'll go that far as they may end up being caught up by the loco!

I had a thought of trying to power the wagons and set brakemen on the slates to represent a gravity train, perhaps someone has already done this, if so please get in touch.

Lastly the new web page is up and running, search for [sblrab.org](http://sblrab.org) and is linked on the association area section web site.

Early Roundhouse Billy £600 ONO.



Roundhouse Lady Anne,  
approx.. 2 years old, little use  
£800 ONO.



Very rare, P&J box cab loco,  
Essel chassis and RCS control  
system. Brunswick green, fully  
detailed. Powerful and in  
V.good condition. Cost near  
£1000 when new, will accept  
offers around £600.

Please contact Richard Copperwheat on 01508 578693 email  
richardcopperwheat@btinternet.com



**Accucraft open wagons £25 each 4 off**



**2 Accucraft closed wagons £30 each**



**Accucraft brake van £50**

Please contact Richard Copperwheat on 01508 578693 email [richardcopperwheat@btinternet.com](mailto:richardcopperwheat@btinternet.com)

## **Garden events**

### **Ed Bull,**

Has a couple open days for the calendar.

Sunday 25th July 2 to 5 pm & September 17th 1 to 4 pm.

In Brinkley just south of Newmarket

01638 506 495

### **Andy McMahon**

I have an open day planned for Sun 14th May

The Crowfoot Light Railway, Beccles. 1200 to reasonable time in the afternoon.

Contact Andy McMahon on 01502 471788 OR [andymctractor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andymctractor@yahoo.co.uk)

The railway is a single line continuous run with two main stations with long passing loops. Check out the website for more information closer to the date [The Crowfoot Light Railway](#)

### **Philip Burkill**

23rd April and the 6th August . I have an approx 80 meter run ( out and back ) line including 3 balloon loops the ruling radius of 38 inch (peco set track ) . I have plenty of stock so members only need to bring locos . My wife Rosy and I will provide buffet lunch / tea so no need to bring your own . By the way we have two inclines of approx 1in 55 gradient .

Our address is No 1 Covert Terrace ,Covert Road , Reydon , Southwold IP18 6HX  
telephone : 01502 723152 or 07885 231106 . Would members please confirm they are attending as soon as possible . We will be open house from noon until 6PM

**Mike Thorpe** will be hosting 45mm gauge open days in Roydon on Sunday 23rd April and Sunday 24th September 2017

Rolling stock will be available for those 'narrow gauge' types willing to re-gauge a loco for the day.

Railway open 11am until 5pm on both days, contact 01379 650657.

### **And from Neil,**

As promised some info on progress of our new garden railway and proposed 2017 open days.

Following our move from Castle Camps construction of the new line had to wait until the house refurbishment was complete. The line is 32mm and situated in Great Bradley, near Newmarket.

Progress on phase 1 of the new line is now well advanced with the trackbed substantially completed and laying track started. The line is level having been set out with a laser, currently comprises a continuous circuit of about 50m, with a reversing loop, passing loop and sidings, curves to a minimum radius of 1200mm (except in a couple of sidings). The site has a slight slope with the line at ground level in one

corner and about 300mm above ground elsewhere including the loco sidings. There is unlikely to be much scenic detail in place for the inaugural opening but some planting has already taken place and hopefully more of the green stuff will follow in the spring.

A planned phase 2 will add a level single track of about 80m and dedicated steam up tracks about 500mm above ground. Further extension involving a long incline is possible.

Having checked old copies of the 16mm Bulletin, 2017 diary dates, and Bressingham web site to try to avoid clashing with other events we have settled on Sundays 21 May and 3 September 2017

as these seem to be clear. If you know differently please advise asap

Neil

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#### Suffolk and Borders Light Railway at Bressingham

If this is your first visit, you are most welcome; if a return, then good to see you again. Thanks for your support.

Bressingham ask us to sign in at the office behind the café, presumably so that they know who is on site in the event of an emergency. If you have not yet done so, please pop across the way in order to sign in as soon as you can. We also have our own book, kept above the tunnel, so that we know (and have the evidence) as to how much the circuit is used. Please enter your name whenever you attend. Thank you.

The steaming up area for the outside track is at the rear of the layout, for the inside track both at the rear and next to the locoshed. Anyone working there, steaming up, servicing a loco or just running a train, is encouraged to speak to members of the public, in fact we all are, to try to encourage more to join the hobby and to increase public awareness of the 16mm Association.

When running, please be considerate of others i.e. it is your responsibility to ensure that your train does not collide with another, to remove your rolling stock if it is in the way, and so on. Common sense really. You are more than welcome to use the slate wagons resident at the layout.

Finally, there is no funding for the layout, its maintenance or development, other than is contributed by those using it. If therefore you have enjoyed steaming your train here, please consider making a small donation. There is a tin lid under the circuit, roughly under the rear steaming area. Thank you.

Above all, have a good time!