

THE DISTANT SIGNAL

EAST ANGLIAN GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Happy New Year, and to those that managed to get to Bressingham to run and entertain the masses, a big well done and thanks. I personally only managed 1 visit early in December before going down with the flu which put me well and truly out of action all over Xmas. I hope no one else succumbed, but from what I heard around and about it was very widespread. It was a great shame as I enjoy the Santa Specials immensely, it was nice also to meet again some familiar faces of the returning spectators who attend regularly. It really is turning into quite a social event.

In my absence therefore I have asked Keith to put pen to paper to summarise the events of December as he attended most open days. Thanks Keith.

A quick reminder that the Alexandra Palace Model Engineering show starts on the 19th Jan. Although not a strictly 16mm event there is a 16mm presence each year and it's a good chance to spend your Xmas money, also Bressingham reopens for half term from 10-18th Feb. and we are advised the heating will be on!

Suffolk & Borders Light Railway at Bressingham

Once again, a big thank you to all who helped during the Santa Specials in December. Every session was covered; the children (and parents) thoroughly enjoyed watching our trains; a record (I think) number ran their locomotives – 14 Association members. Our efforts were noticed by the management at Bressingham who commented that there were runners they had not seen before. This, I think, is just one indication of how the layout is moving forward. At the layout we now have a slate train, a general goods train, a rake of four-wheel coaches (ideal for the inner circuit) and a growing rake of bogie coaches, which are suited more to the outer. To run at Bressingham, therefore, is getting easier in that it is becoming less important to carry rollingstock up the stairs – stock is there, ready to use.

During the last year, improvements were made to the trackwork and more rolling stock was acquired; some work was carried out to the scenery with more to do. Some members have volunteered to do a bit more during the winter, namely work to the track and more storage for rolling stock. The layout is very much a communal asset and if there is a project you have in mind to improve it, please have a chat with other users to see if they agree it is a good idea, and then set to work. From time to time the funds build up and so help may well be there with the cost of raw materials. Please do not expect others, however, to do the work; the idea is that we should all row in with whatever skills we can bring.

The Association clothing range with an added motto about the layout is a good way to publicise the Association and the layout. It also looks smart when all the runners are wearing it. The cost of items goes down, the more that are ordered. Please have a think to see if you would like a poloshirt, sweatshirt or fleece and let me know as soon as possible. As soon as I have a sensibly sized order, I shall contact the suppliers.

Happy 2018!

Keith Froom 01449 672670

I have been advised that the Distant Signal typically centres around events at Bressingham far too much and as such sends out the message that Bressingham and the SBLR have become the de-facto region centre piece.

Whilst I agree my scribbles do tend to be mainly concerned with the SBLR, I would remind all readers that I cannot invent articles, nor extract information from people who do not want to contribute. Without any input from the wider community I have no option other than to write what I know about and as my running is mainly at the SBLR, that is what I do. I work full time and can't get to all the garden meets and events. So I must rely on people sending reports/photos to me for publishing.

So my message is simply please send me your musings, on any aspect of the hobby, and I will do my best to print it.

This stuff don't write itself...

Regards

Glen

In an attempt to better display the various events, garden meets, Bressingham events for next year I have been working on a calendar planner which will accompany the newsletters, this will let people see at a glance the adjacency of items and will be colour coded for ease of use. It's still work in progress but its attached to this DS, so garden meets are green, Bressingham days are Purple, and other events will be blue e.g. the AGM. And other exhibitions etc. If any dates or phone numbers are incorrect please let me know.

Dates will still be advertised in the newsletter also where more information will also be available as the calendar can obviously only hold minimum info. Of who, where, phone etc.

Open meeting for this year.

Chris Moody Running session at the South Arbury Railway.

Dates for next year.

Saturday 16th June 2018 Bertie – Fest on the South Arbury Railway

A celebration of the Roundhouse Bertie, Sammie & Millie classes of loco.

We'll be running these locos & any derivative of them only on this day. Times 13:00 until 17:00. Please contact Chris & Eileen if you wish to attend by email – mail@loco-boxes.co.uk (24 hours a day) or phone – 01223 864029 from 08:30 to 18:00 weekdays only.

We will have general steaming days for ALL types of locos later in the year, this is a day purely for enthusiasts of these 3 types of loco.

Sunday 17th June 2018 Garratt Sunday on the South Arbury Railway & Ttarrag Shed.
An occasion for Beyer-Garratt type loco's to stretch their legs!
Times 13:00 until 17:00.

Please contact Chris & Eileen if you wish to attend by email – mail@loco-boxes.co.uk (24 hours a day) or phone – 01223 864029 from 08:30 to 18:00 weekdays only.

We will have general steaming days for ALL types of locos later in the year, this is a day purely for enthusiasts of Garratt locos.
Many thanks

Neil Piper has advised of garden events for next year's calendar, at Great Bradley.

Sunday May 13th 2-5PM

Sunday August 5th 2-5PM. Please phone 01440 783022 for further details

And from **Ed Bull** for 2018

Sunday June 24th, 2018. 2pm to 5pm.

Sunday September 23rd, 2018. 1pm to 4pm.

Ed Bull, Brinkley, Nr Newmarket Line is 32mm with minimum radius 5ft 6in curves with gentle gradients and long passing loops.

01638 507 495

Andy McMahon, will probably keep the same weekend for 2018 but this isn't confirmed as yet so just pencil in Sunday 13th May 2018 into your calendars.



Makes a change from those blue ones



Pick a gauge- any gauge.

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!