

# THE DISTANT SIGNAL

EAST ANGLIAN GROUP NEWSLETTER

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October 2017

## Editorial

With Xmas around the corner the time has come to ask for volunteers to help with the Santa special running weekends at Bressingham steam museum, if you are able to spend some time running your loco at weekends between Dec 2-24th please contact Keith Froom - keithffroom@gmail.com - 01449 672670. This is a good opportunity to run before the long winter lay off.

Sat 2-Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> – Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> –Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> -Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> –Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> –Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

Whilst on the subject of Bressingham we are told that there will be a new event for next year, Narrow Gauge East, all scales from 009 to full size and some visiting locos hopefully, make a date for 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

Keith is also putting together a clothing order with the combined 16mm association and SBLR logo, if you would like to order something please contact Keith.

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.

Cont.

It was nice to have had a response from Steve Kite in regard to the end to end layout seen at the garden railway show earlier in the year. It seems it's not so original an idea after all, a short description was sent to me for the newsletter.

Hi Glen,

Thanks for the newsletter: something for you to publish in the next one!

Further to your comments about an end-to-end shunting layout, my "Pudding Norton Creek" is a similar format and has appeared 3 times at Bressingham! It's first appearance at the AGM was in 2004 and its last appearance was at the 2017 AGM. It uses two sector-plate fiddle yards, one at each end and is about 17 feet long in total, operated from the front as per the smaller scales. I found you have to choose the right off-the-shelf engines, in my case the Roundhouse Forney and 'Taliesin' models and the Accucraft Shay as it is geared. It helped turning down the gas to a 'pip' which is not easy in an exhibition environment owing to the relatively high level of ambient noise. Both Roundhouse models use a similar method of construction with a swivelling bogie, and I could get up to 50 minutes running if I got it right. The other alternative is to modify the loco with a 'Slo-mo' which Peter Leney (one of my operating pals, along with Selby Gunning) made to his 'Katie', which performed brilliantly at the 2017 AGM. The 'Mann' fine-control regulator is also useful but unfortunately no longer available (unless enough people get together and persuade Mike Ousby at Acme Engineering to make some more). I noticed at Bressingham that 'Hambledon' used Timpdon Electronics controllers so it is likely that has something to do with slow operation. I use standard joy-stick radio TXs. Live steam shunting may not be mainstream and it takes a bit of practice, but it is certainly possible and a lot of fun: at exhibitions with PNC, it was not unusual to hear people saying something like, "Ooh, I didn't think you could shunt with steam and I could fit that in my garage!" Of course, shunting with radio-controlled battery 'diesels' is straightforward and with the advent of sound (if that is your thing - it is for me) it works well. With PNC, we would use battery locos in between firing up, but steam was definitely the most popular.

As it happens I have decided to hang up my exhibitor's overalls and Pudding Norton Creek is for sale. It will pack into a large SUV/people mover or small van: the two fiddle yards are 5' x 2'6" with the two scenic boards 3' 4" x 2' 8", complete with 5 trestles . It could be used to exhibit or tucked along a wall (in that garage!) as operation is from the front (currently woodyard/active stone unloading/brewery). Track is handbuilt from Peco code 124 with 6' radius points and a diamond crossing. All buildings/backscenes dismount so it can be stored/stacked away. No locos or stock; accessories negotiable. Offers IRO £400. More info/photographs from [stephenkite52@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkite52@gmail.com) .  
Steve Kite.





A report from Keith on the EAG stand at LOMEX on 21/22 Oct.

From our roving reporter:

Thanks to Andy Belcher, the East Anglian Group of the 16mm Association were invited to have a display stand at the Lowestoft Engineering and Model Making Exhibition (Lowmex). Andy McMahon was dragooned into being our organiser as the man on the spot. Our thanks to both Andys therefore.

The Saturday was the busier of the two days and our volunteers were Michael Barwise and Keith Froom. The display had good variety ranging from a 25 year old Lady Anne via a coal burning Katie to a range of Indian locos and a Monarch.



Richard preaching to the converted as the guy in the grey coat is Steve Mantripp

There were also items, such as an IP kit, to show that getting into the hobby need not cost a fortune. As a visual display we had a Presentation Folder with photos from 4 lines in the district. It is fair to say that our stand attracted a lot of interest and did a lot of good for the hobby.

On the Sunday, Keith was joined by Andy McMahon and Richard Copperwheat. The display inevitably had a greater Indian bias but also a greater diesel presence. Andy had spent a long time putting videos of railway gardens in our district onto a memory stick. With help from the school caretaker, we were able to have this running as a loop on a large screen above our stand. Needless, to say this raised still further our profile at the show. Andy's efforts paid dividends. As on the Saturday, visitors studied the locos, took photos, asked questions and picked up leaflets.

This was a good opportunity well taken to raise the profile of our hobby and to publicise our group. Thanks to all concerned.

During the show at Lowestoft, the organiser of the **Norfolk Railway Show** approached us and indicated that he would like to invite us to have a stand at their show in Norwich on **Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**. It would be good to share the shows around and so please give it some thought as to whether you might be able to help out.

#### **Open meeting for this year.**

**Chris Moody** Running session at the South Arbury Railway.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017** Festive steaming session on the Ttarrag Shed layout at Waterbeach.

Chris & Eileen will be supplying free tea & coffee, if attendees could bring token sausage rolls or mince pies etc. Times 13:00 until 17:00.

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

For those of you that don't remember or have joined the 16mm Association since, Ttarrag Shed was on the exhibition circuit for around 10 years, attending just over 100 shows in that time. In 2011 ( it's final year on the road), it won the best layout award at the National Garden Railway Show. Since that time, a purpose built building has been erected to house the newly extended layout. Although the layout was (& still mainly is) used for the running of Beyer –Garratt hauled trains, on this occasion we'll be running everything & anything that you care to bring.

Please note that we will be running on the Ttarrag Shed line only on this day, the South Arbury Railway (outside) will not be in operation due to the unsuitability of the ground at this time of year.

Cont.

**Dates for next year.**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 Bradely.

**Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2-5PM**

**Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2-5PM.** Please phone 01440 783022 for further details

And from **Ed Bull** for 2018

**Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### 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!