



## THE HENFIELD SHOW 2023

The Group were invited to a great show and group meeting at Henfield in early December organised by the West Sussex G Scale group. We took our layout GER to this their bi-annual winter meeting. The volunteers from our group made an effort to turn it into a seasonal theme with a goodly number of items relating to Christmas. We sent out an email asking for help for the day and had a very good response with 9 members turning up. This at first worried Mike Wakeling the show organiser, as he stood counting the working members from Kent installing GER, "oh there are 9 of you and I have arranged for groups to have complimentary bacon rolls and tea". Roger stepped in and said we would make a contribution towards the cost but Mike kindly said no need. So, a number of us had a rest with a hot bacon roll and a cup of tea. With a good turnout we were well set throughout the day to run trains for the visitors and to meet people asking questions about G scale in general and also on the construction of GER.



Jude taking some photos, next Wayne answering questions with right Richard having a go at the new Massoth system.

New members Ben, Jude and Phil Maskell came along and were a great help both in setting up and running trains. Jude has recently purchased a new camera and was taking a large number of photos that you may find on the group's Facebook page, Richard Barton was a little bit cheeky and asked if she would like to become the group's photographer! For older members you may remember Charles Darley as our group photographer over a number of years but this position has been vacant since he stood down to support his wife with illness. Maybe Jude will think about it? It would be great to have that position filled again. Wayne and Alex made a great effort with the Christmas fayre scene at one end of GER with Christmas market stalls, a carousel and 2 bands. Ambient Brass Band festive music was played using a hidden mobile phone. There was also a wagon loaded with sweets for the children to grab and eat. Although ecologically sound some of us were less than impressed with the new style matt paper-wrappers

I would like to thank the following members for all their help: -

1. John Dean
2. Richard Barton
3. Roger Allen
4. Wayne Evans-Addy
5. Alex Evans-Addy
6. Phil Maskell
7. Jude Maskell
8. Ben Maskell



Wayne's Christmas fayre scene carousel

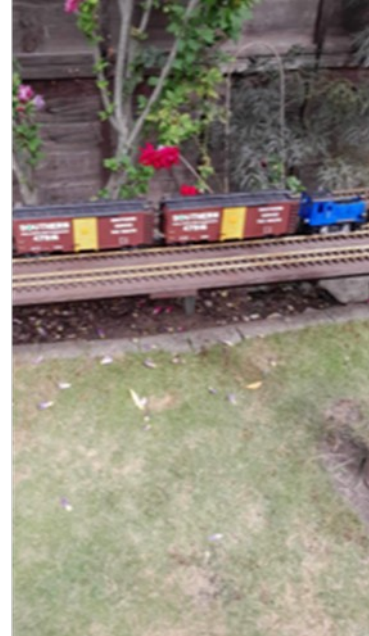


Marching band with music

## Article By Jude, Phil and Ben Maskell

Hi all please find below a brief outline of our G gauge story so far.

It all started about 25 years ago when we purchased one G Scale loco. It was brought out from time to time and ran on a transformer to ensure it still worked. Then came Covid and Jude suggested this would be the ideal time to start the G Scale layout in the garden. With both of us getting on in years a layout off of the ground would be a good idea, and so the Knee High was born. We started by making some Gallows Brackets using treated timber, these would be fixed with strong mechanical fixings to the side of the raised brick flower beds.

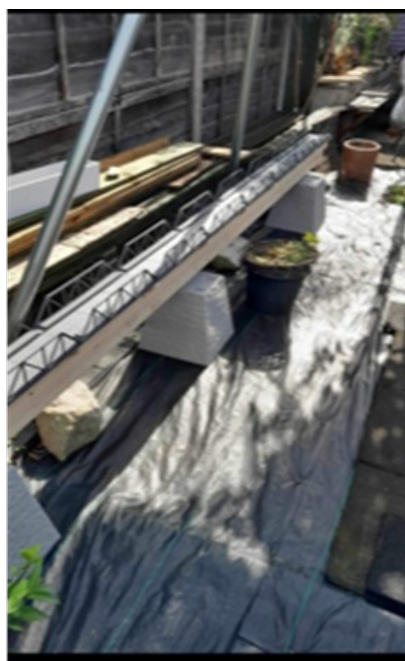


We discussed taking the line further down the garden, which has a slight gradient down towards the house. On a trip to our local garden centre, which was closing down we noticed a pile of Galvanised fence post holders at a price that could not be turned down. These were purchased along with some wooden gravel boards and bags of fencepost quick setting postcrete. A string line was set about 60 feet long down the planned route with a spirit level and posts set in the ground ,after some plants were removed from the trellis in the middle of the arbour.

This line would run between the back of the frame of the basket swing and the fence. Four wooden frames were made and screwed to both sides of the trellis where the trains would go through and the middle of the trellis was cut out using a small panel saw. The radius one curves were set out on the ground and more holes dug for our post holders to be set in. Again, the levels were checked with a spirit level but this time not only east and west but north and south too so everything was level. We have plans to put a radius one point in the semi-circle so a spur can come off and go straight to a turntable.

With the track going through the trellis and pointing back to the raised flower bed it was to be joined to the twin track proposed station area. The station would have a typical station set up whereby the trains could change from track to track and run round from the front of the train to the back as required.

The problem being that the electric supply would be flowing back to itself. As I was trained in Building and Civil Engineering this stumped me. But out of every problem comes a solution, we would look at the Remote-control locos. One club member suggested a Playmobile yellow shunter to start with, so one was purchased and a very nice loco it is too.



Coming back down the garden the line would run in front of the swing and this provided the opportunity for a long bridge, so 8 sections of LGB 450 MM long grey plastic bridge sections were purchased. With the bridge section secured to selected straight 75 x 50 MM treated timbers thoughts turned to the bridge piers. Another trip to a shop would come up trumps, square upside-down grey plastic flower pots with an Embossed stone pattern would form three piers. Grey wooden pads painted the same grey would connect the 75 x 50 timbers.

Along the length of the line, sidings and passing loops have been installed to add to the operational use of the layout. It is proposed that the station being made for the LB & L line (see next article) can be used on the Knee High too.

## Article by Jude Maskell

### A little bit about the L B & L Line.

Early this year I decided I would start planning a G Scale exhibition layout for our son Ben to operate. This was for a few reasons. At exhibitions he has no focus and while mum is busy taking photos and helping with visitors attending the shows, Ben is generally walking around mostly getting bored. I ran the idea past Philbert and he was very interested.



Some photos of Phil's work to get the exhibition track up and ready

We began working out what size layout we would need to run a basic line. We decided on 8' x12' and Phil began designing the sections that would be modular with legs attached. Phil is a retired carpenter and joiner so he is in his element. The name L B & L stands for LEHMANN, Bachmann and Lego. The concept is fictional and aimed at younger persons, because it features Thomas and friends with a Lego twist. I know for sure the layout will help Ben, who is autistic, with his communication skills and also give him great purpose at exhibitions. Phil has built some platforms, a railway station and the modular sections. A footbridge is also planned. The track will be cable tied to the boards rather than pinned. We will have loose gravel scattered onto the layout once it has been erected at exhibitions to give a nicer effect on top of the painted scenery. There are two stations on the layout. 1, Brickend and 2, Shambles. Ben is in charge of the Brickend station and the Lego wagon display. (There are photos on the Facebook group) This layout is meant to be a group effort. Ben is happy to sit back and let others do all the work and I am struggling to get a look in because Philbert is having such a great time creating buildings etc. Plus, he is a perfectionist! Grrrrr!.....

## Article for Members

Jeff Fray

### Having problems replacing an ageing LGB MTS digital control system?

If like myself you have been controlling your garden railway with the LGB MTS control system and some of the equipment is in need of repair or even not working correctly and you are thinking of replacing it, there are a number of digital control systems available. When you look them up it works out to be expensive with most costing over a £1000, Gaugemaster, LGB new control system, Massoth and Z21XL and others all run into this category of EXPENSIVE.

Looking online I found this system in Germany called eXion MZSpro Digital Zentrale . In the search box type in **eXion MZSpro Digital Zentrale** which will lead you to all the systems available both hard wired and wifi



I purchased the wire only as my garden layout is on the small side and I did not need wifi connections to the handset or phone /tablet. The photo on the left shows what is required to PLUG IN AND PLAY. The mXion comes with the control unit and transformer only and you will need to purchase a wire Z21 handset separately. The two items cost £325 and the separate handset £120 from Gaugemaster.

Setting up is easy photo on the right (in Germany but is self-explanatory) connect the transformer to the green right hand socket and connect your track to the left green socket plug in your Z21 handset and off you go. You will find a number of other functions that are available both for the mXion and the Z21 handset.

When you think that most systems are coming in at over a £1000 it a look idea to have a look.

## A couple of requests

Back issues of the G Scale Journal required. Usually when we put up the group display we have some issues available for interested members of the public and prospective members. If you have any surplus copies or just want to thin down your stock then please bring them along to Teynham on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January. But only the Society Journal or Garden Rail, no other magazines please.

At some of our indoor meets we have included a static display of G scale locomotives and rolling stock. At a recent committee meeting we felt it would be good to extend this idea by having examples of member projects. These could be simple conversions and kits, buildings and lineside displays or indeed any other project that you have been working on. The displays provide a good talking point for members, prospective members and visitors and show what can be achieved in our scale. If this idea takes your fancy then please get in touch with Jeff Fray or Wayne Evans-Addy and indicate what you might be able to contribute.

## Dates for your Diary 2024

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January - our usual winter meet and group AGM at Teynham. The AGM notice is published and circulated separately

In addition the group is involved in the following events:

10 & 11 February – Tenterden Model Railway Exhibition

6 & 7 April - Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling

20 & 21 July – Chatham Model Railway Show

As ever, help and support from members will be needed in setting up and manning our exhibits. Please make a note of the dates in your diary and if you can help or would like more details then please contact Wayne. All our events are listed in the diary on the Group's website

## Garden Meets 2024

As we move into 2024 it will be good to include dates for garden meets on the Events Diary. It is hoped that the regulars will once more open their gardens and also that we can add some additional attractions during the year.

Meets afford a good opportunity for members and others to gather and spend a friendly and enjoyable few hours with a garden railway background, maybe even with a cup of tea. If you have a garden railway and would welcome other members do please consider having an open afternoon in 2024. Should you wonder what's involved and how it might be arranged and set-up then please do get in contact with Jeff or Wayne Evans-Addy. They are happy to help or even come out and have a look and advise you if wished.

**With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year**

