



MERG East Midlands Area Group News

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Joint area group coordinators - Pete Brownlow and John Gowers

To send us an email, use the [MERG East Midlands Area Group contact form](#).

For MERG members, you might also like to look at our [area group forum](#).

AUGUST 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Saturday 7th August 2021 from 10:00

This is our first face to face meeting since 14 March 2020, before Covid restrictions.

This meeting is kindly hosted at the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough, Northants, by the Kingsway Model Railway Society (KMRS)

We will ask for a donation of £3 per head to cover the venue hire. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue, we will donate the difference to KMRS.

The venue has level step free access and good parking. If you need a disabled space reserved, please let us know.

You can either bring a packed lunch or nip out to somewhere locally, such as the Sainsbury's cafe which is about 5 minutes drive away.

We will limit numbers to 30 to make sure that the meeting is not crowded, and chairs can be set out with a little spacing.

We will have a Zoom connection for the meeting, for those who cannot come in person. However, the meeting will be optimised for those who manage to get along, who will get the best experience.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members

- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Introducing my new role as MERG Education and Training - John Fletcher
- 11:00 - A demo of automation on Missenden St Mary's - Pete Brownlow
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - Sounds for South Town - David Page
- 12:45 - A summary of the Arduino SIG (Special Interest Group) - John Fletcher
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Making it work - Practical session and problem clinic plus demos and Soldering help

For the practical sessions, as we have done before, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please bring it along and we'll work on it with you as a demonstration for all those interested.

If you already know what you want help on for this session, please email or post the details in advance so we can gen-up on it and look like we know what we are talking about!

If you would like to come, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message here in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. I will add you to the list and, in due course, you will get a reply with full address details, directions to the venue and parking information.

Let us know if you need a lift from Wellingborough station. Please plan to arrive at Wellingborough station no later than 10am, so whoever picks you up does not have to miss any of the meeting.

(Those who have already let me know that you are coming, I will be sending out confirmation emails in the next few days.)

JULY 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our July 2021 online area group meeting.

Saturday 3rd July from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues, have a chat.
 - 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
 - 11:00 - Planning for my CBUS layout - Jim Heck
 - 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:45 - StaRFishrail - new CBUS RFID system - Martin Snashall
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - QnA and clinic for anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

If you would like to join in, please go to the MERG website, select the menu option MEMBER LINKS→MY UPCOMING EVENTS, or go directly to <https://merg.org.uk/membership/summary.php>, and you should see the details of this meeting together with the Zoom link to join in.

Please don't share the Zoom links with anyone outside MERG, or post them on any public social media or web page.

If you cannot see the details for East Midlands area group meetings, go to <https://www.merg.org.uk/membership> and make sure you are subscribed to the East Midlands area group. There is no requirement that you live in the East Midlands, any member can subscribe and join in. If you would like to introduce a visitor to the meeting, please email their details to eastmids@merg.org.uk.

If you still can't get the Zoom link, send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk and I'll email you the Zoom link.

MAY 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our MAY 2021 online area group meeting.

Saturday 29th May from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues, have a chat.

- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
 - 10:45 - Round-up of what members have been doing - anyone and everyone
 - 11:15 - An easier way to connect Tortoise point motors - John Gowers
 - 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:45 - Choosing CBUS modules for a layout - Pete Brownlow
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - QnA and clinic for anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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APRIL 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our April 2021 online area group meeting.

Saturday 24th April from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues, have a chat.

- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
 - 11:00 - A design for coach lighting - John Gowers
 - 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:45 - Loco speed profiling with JMRI - Pete Brownlow
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - QnA and clinic for anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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MARCH 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our March 2021 online area group meeting.

Saturday 27th March from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues, have a chat.
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions

- 10:45 - Design process for PTP-Lite on my layout Great Shefford - Richard Wilson
 - 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:45 - Update on my 3D designs using Sketchup - Gordon Hopkins
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - QnA and clinic for anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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FEBRUARY 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our February 2021 online area group meeting.

Saturday 27th February from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues, have a chat.
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Progress update on my DCC/CBUS layout - Colin Head

- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:45 - An O gauge destination blind - Graham Clark
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - QnA and clinic for anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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JANUARY 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our January 2021 online area group meeting.

Saturday 30th January from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Installing DCC decoders in older locos - John Gowers
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)

- 11:45 - JMRI with automation on Missenden St Marys - Pete Brownlow
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - QnA and clinic for anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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DECEMBER 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our December 2020 online area group meeting.

Wednesday 30th December from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - ASANWEN - chat and walkaround of my layout - David Page
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - QnA for David's 's presentation and anything arising

- 12:15 - Update on Railcom, RFID and linking them to JMRI - Pete Brownlow
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - General QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
-

For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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If you still can't get the Zoom link, send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk and I'll email you the Zoom link.

NOVEMBER 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Saturday 28th November from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Theobald's Yard, a DC layout converted to DCC using CBUS - Neale Brodie
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - QnA for Neale's presentation and anything arising
- 12:15 - Update on using Railcom with CANCMD and CANCSB - Pete Brownlow

- 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - General QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

If you would like to join in, please go to the MERG website, select the menu option MEMBER LINKS→MY UPCOMING EVENTS, or go directly to <https://merg.org.uk/membership/summary.php>, and you should see the details of this meeting together with the Zoom link to join in.

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If you still can't get the Zoom link, send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk and I'll email you the Zoom link.

OCTOBER 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Saturday 31st October from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - A tour round my T Gauge layouts and how I've implemented MERG/JMRI automation - Doug Kightley
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - QnA for Doug's presentation - DCC in T gauge, JMRI automation etc - following on into general QnA

- 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - Continue general QnA on all things MERG and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

If you would like to join in, please go to the MERG website, select the menu option MEMBER LINKS→MY UPCOMING EVENTS, or go directly to <https://merg.org.uk/membership/summary.php>, and you should see the details of this meeting together with the Zoom link to join in.

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If you still can't get the Zoom link, send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk and I'll email you the Zoom link, but with the new system that allows you to see the Zoom link directly from your events page, I no longer need to send out confirmation emails to everyone and you don't have to post a message here or send an email to reserve a place at the meeting. However, still feel free to post a message here to let us know you will be there if you wish.

SEPTEMBER 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Saturday 26th September 2020 from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Guided tour of my layout - Folkstone International - Martin Perry

- 11:15 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:30 - The MERG modules on Folkstone International (PTP-Lite, PD3, Servo4 etc) - Martin Perry
 - 12:00 - My terminus with loco release line, part 2 - Michael Newton
 - 12:30 - Lunch
 - 13:30 - QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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AUGUST 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Saturday 29th August 2020 from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:50 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)

- 11:00 - Introduction to my terminus with loco release line, using modified Pocket Money Projects. - Michael Newton
 - 11:15 - Update on my projects, including CANINP/CANOUT and the Universal Experimenters Module - Pete Brownlow
 - 11:50 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 12:00 - Charnwood - my PTP Lite layout - Judi Rastall
 - 12:30 - PTP Lite QnA
 - 13:00 - Lunch
 - 14:00 - QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

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JULY 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Saturday 18th July 2020 from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of roughly 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
 - 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
 - 10:50 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:00 - My projects update and a demo of Voice Control using JMRI+CBUS - Pete Brownlow
 - 11:45 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 12:00 - Locke Town - A tour around Roxeter and the PC that controls it.(A bit of a CBUS fest!) - by Nick Locke
 - 13:00 - Lunch Break
 - 14:00 - Kit locker Update
 - 14:15 - QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
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For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

If you would like to join in, please go to the MERG website, select the menu option MEMBERS LINKS→YOUR EVENTS, or go directly to <https://merg.org.uk/membership/summary.php>, and you should see the details of this meeting together with the Zoom link to join in.

If you are not a MERG member and would like to participate as a visitor to the meeting, please email to eastmids@merg.org.uk.

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If you still can't get the Zoom link, send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk and I'll email you the Zoom link, but with the new system that allows you to see the Zoom link directly from your events page, I no longer need to send out confirmation emails to everyone for online meetings. Thanks to Allan and Martin S for all the work they have put into that system.

This means you don't have to post a message on the forum or send an email to reserve a place at the meeting, but still feel free to post a message to let us know you will be there if you wish.

I will send out the usual reminder emails to everyone subscribed to the area group in the next day or so, the updated membership system now allows me to do that without having to maintain a separate list of members email addresses, it will go automatically to everyone who is subscribed to this area group.

JUNE 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group

meeting

Sunday 28th June 2020 from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that breaks of 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
 - 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
 - 10:45 - Kit Locker news Special
 - 11:15 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:30 - Progress with my Garden Railway - Colin Head
 - 12:15 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 12:30 - CBUS and JMRI update, including CANINP and CANOUT - Pete Brownlow
 - 13:00 - Lunch Break
 - 14:00 - QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
-

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MAY 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Saturday 16th May 2020 from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

During our online courses, we found that breaks of 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will plan to do the same again.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
 - 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
 - 10:45 - Fitting crystal adapter boards to CBUS modules - Graham Clark
 - 11:15 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:30 - Update on my projects - Pete Brownlow
 - 12:00 - QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
 - 12:30 - Lunch Break
 - 13:30 - Kit locker update from Judi Rastal
 - 14:00 - Continuation of QnA and advice clinic, until everyone has had enough!
-

For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

If you would like to join in, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. I will add you to the list and, during the Friday before the meeting, you will get a reply with Zoom link and meeting id.

APRIL 2020 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our Easter online area group meeting.

Saturday 11th April 2020 from 10:00

This meeting would have been at the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough, home to Kingsway Model Railway Society. Thanks are due to Kingsway Cenetre and KMRS, and hopefully we can re-schedule another meeting there at some time in the future.

In the meantime, this meeting will now be online using Zoom.

During our online courses, we found that breaks of 10-15 mins per hour worked well, to avoid people getting fatigued from staring at their screens, so we will follow that idea for the area group meeting.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Get connected, sort out any microphone/audio/video issues
 - 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
 - 10:45 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
 - 11:15 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
 - 11:30 - CBUS & JMRI update - Pete Brownlow
 - 12:15 - Another break
 - 12:30 - QnA and anyone looking for advice and help on any projects
 - 13:30 - Lunch Break
 - 14:30 - Optional continuation of QnA and advice clinic, if we hadn't finished in the morning
-

For the QnA sessions, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please be ready to wave it at the camera, and we'll see what help and advice we can give from afar.

If you would like to join in, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message here in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. I will add you to the list and, during tomorrow Friday, course, you will get a reply with Zoom link and meeting id.

I will also host a test Zoom meeting at 7pm on Friday evening, for anyone who wants to test out that they can get connected ok before the meeting proper.

MARCH 2020 East Midlands area group meeting

Saturday 14th March 2020 from 10:00

Our March meeting is Kindly hosted by the Historical Model Railway Society (HMRS) at their Museum and Study Centre located at The Midland Railway Centre, Swanwick Junction, near Derby. (See <http://www.hmrs.org.uk>)

We will ask for a donation of £2 per head to cover teas/coffees and a donation to HMRS for our use of the room.

I have been advised that there will be no catering on site that day, other than the teas and coffees, so you will need to bring a packed lunch.

The meeting room is upstairs, but HMRS have a platform stair lift which I have confirmed is working, so step free access is available. The platform should accept a standard wheelchair, but will not take the larger mobility scooters. When confirming your place, please let us know if you have any mobility requirements.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - An Arduino based timed shuttle - Jeremy Cole
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - CBUS/CANMIO update & building CBUS modules that are not yet in the kit locker - Pete Brownlow
- 13:00 - MERG Kit locker Update - Judi Rastall – News on new/updated kits, availability, changes to the kit locker
- 13:30 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:30 - 16:30ish - Making it work: Practical session & problem clinic plus demos & Soldering help (inc surface mount) with John Gowers

For the practical sessions, as we have done before, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please bring it along and we'll work on it with you as a demonstration for all those interested.

If you already know what you want help on for this session, please email or post the details in advance so we can gen-up on it and look like we know what we are talking about!

If you would like to come, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. I will add you to the list and, in due course, you will get a reply with full address details, directions to the venue and parking information. Let us know if you need a lift from a nearby station - Alfreton is the closest.

(Those who have already let me know that you are coming, I will be sending out confirmation emails in the next few days.)

OCTOBER 2019 East Midlands area group meeting

Saturday 26th October 2019 from 9:30

Kindly hosted by the Nene Valley Railway in their Study Centre meeting room at Wansford

Thanks to Russ Jenner for organising the venue for us.

This is an Arduino themed meeting.

AGENDA

- 09:30 Members arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members
- 10:00 Group news and events update

- 10:15 Introduction to Arduino - Alex Hamilton
- 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:30 Case studies of Arduino in model railway projects - Duncan Greenwood
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 Kit locker news - Judi Rastall
- 14:00 Afternoon practical sessions, including:

A chance to talk in more detail with our speakers

Various Arduino demos by MERG members and others

Our usual practical problem solving clinic session

We may also have some NVR signal box tours available organised by Russ Jenner

We will ask for £2 per head to cover the room hire cost and £1 each in the "honesty box" will cover as many teas and coffees as you want all day. This money will all go to the Nene Valley Railway.

A selection of MERG kits will be available for purchase. If you have specific requirements, then it would be best to pre-order what you want from the kit locker for collection at the meeting, as we will only have a selection of stock at the meeting.

The NVR cafe will be open from about 8:30 for bacon butties or full breakfast, and also open at lunchtime. However, as it is a running weekend including Thomas the Tank Engine, it may be very busy. For that reason, we have scheduled lunch fairly early, and we will probably make arrangements to pre-order during the morning.

The meeting room is step-free accessible. If you need a disabled parking space reserved close up, please let us know.

For those who would like to come by train, we can arrange to collect you from Peterborough station or, if you can get there early enough, I can collect from Wellingborough station on my way to the meeting about 7:30am.

If you would like to come, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. You will get a reply in due course with full address details and directions to the venue.

Members from outside the East Midlands are always welcome at our meetings, as are visitors. Please just let us know you are coming so we can plan for the numbers expected.

AUGUST 2019 East Midlands area group meeting

Saturday 17th August 2019 from 10:00

Kindly hosted by David Straker at his place in Leicester.

Weather permitting, there will be an opportunity to see and operate David's 'O' gauge garden layout, Victoria to Beckenham Junction.

Collection can be arranged from Leicester station for those who would like to come by train.

Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring your own packed lunch.

The meeting is on the ground floor and easily accessible with no steps.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 Arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members
- 10:30 Welcome - David Straker
- 10:40 Introductions and group news
- 10:50 Kit locker Update - Judi Rastall
- 11:15 Short coffee break
- 11:30 CBUS enhancements to JMRI, demo and discussion - Steve Young
- 12:15 Finding your way around the MERG website, forum and wiki - Pete Brownlow
- 13:00 Lunch - bring your own packed lunch (tea and coffee provided)

- 13:30 A chance to operate David Straker's 'O' gauge garden railway
- in parallel with:
- 13:30 Making it work - our usual problem solving clinic

- 16:00 "Wrap up" discussion, confirm next meeting and thanks to our host

If you would like to bring anything to run on David's layout, it is 'O' gauge with dead track, so battery and radio control is usually the best bet.

There will be some kits available for purchase, but we can only bring a selection so If you want any specific kits, you would be best to order them in advance from the kit locker and specify collection at the Leicester area group meeting at the checkout page.

For the clinic session, as we have done before, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please bring it along and we'll work on it with you as a demonstration for everyone. If you know in advance what you would like to get sorted, let us know in advance so we can gen up on it.

If you would like to come, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. You will get a reply with full address details and directions to the venue. (If you have already done so - your confirmation email should arrive in the next day or two)

If you would like to come by train, please let us know if you need a lift from the station. If coming by train, please plan to arrive at Leicester station by about 09:45 so that whoever comes to pick you up does not have to miss any of the meeting.

All visitors, and MERG members from outside the East Midlands, are always welcome at our area group meetings.

SUMMER 2019 East Midlands area group meeting

Sunday 7th July 2019 from 10:00

Kindly hosted by Julie and Brian Chapman at their place in Skegness.

Collection can be arranged from Skegness station for those who would like to come by train.

Full details and directions to the venue will be confirmed to those attending.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 Arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members
- 10:30 Introductions, Group news, future meetings etc.
- 10:45 Driving and firing a steam locomotive, and how to apply this to correct use of a steam sound decoder : John Gowers
- 11:45 Short tea/coffee break
- 12:00 Report on a recent visit to Minatur Wunderland with some photos and video - Pete Brownlow
- 12:45 Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Making it work - practical sessions and problem clinic on any members projects, MERG kits or anything else.
- 16:00 Final discussion, confirm next meeting and thanks to our hosts

As always, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please bring it along and we'll work on it with you during the afternoon clinic as a demonstration for everyone.

There will be some kits available to buy, but if you want something specific, I would recommend ordering it from the kit locker now and marking it for collection at the meeting.

Julie and Brian can accommodate a maximum of 20 people, so it will be first come first served for booking a place.

Parking is quite limited, with double yellow lines on all roads nearby, Brian and the next door neighbour can accommodate about 10-12 cars max on the driveway. So please car share as much as possible. If it looks like we will have too many cars, then we will identify a car park in the vicinity where people can meet up and come on to the venue in one car.

The venue is accessible. There are two steps but wheelchair ramps are available if required. If you need a parking space reserved on Brian's drive, please let us know.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available all day, bacon butties will be available in the morning. Please indicate when booking, if you would like a buttie, so Julie has a idea of numbers.

Let us know if you need a lift from the station. If arriving by train, please plan to arrive at Skegness station no later than 10am so that whoever picks you up does not have to miss any of the meeting.

If you would like to come, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. You will get a reply, in due course, with full address details, directions to the venue and parking information.

For those who have already indicated you would like to come, I will be sending out confirmation emails over the next few days.

EASTER 2019 East Midlands area group meeting

Saturday 20th April 2019 from 10:00

Our next meeting is Kindly hosted by the Kingsway Model Railway Society (KMRS) in Wellingborough.

KMRS is a small club that has a room in the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough, where a small 00 gauge layout is under construction. They also have portable N gauge and 009 layouts at various stages of development. The society uses the meeting room in the centre for their weekly club meetings.

Normally it is not possible to hire the meeting room at weekends, as there are regular weekly meetings on Saturdays and Sundays by a language class and a dance school.

However, neither of these organisations are meeting on Easter Saturday 20th April, so we have been able to hire the room.

Collection can be arranged from Wellingborough station for those who would like to come by train.

We will ask for a donation of £2.50 per head to cover the room hire, and £1 each in the pot to cover teas/coffees biscuits etc. for the day. Any excess over the costs will be donated to KMRS.

There is a Sainsbury's with a cafe less than 5 minutes drive away, and a local convenience store about 350yds away, or bring your own packed lunch.

The venue is level access with no stairs. If you need a disabled car parking space reserved close to the door, please let me know.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 11:00 - CBUS update, developments and news - by Pete Brownlow
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:45 - Setting up JMRI routes with CBUS by Graham Clark

JMRI is a free software program for computer control, Graham will show how he used it to set up routing using the MERG CBUS system. Graham is bring a demo board, and invites questions and discussion after his presentation.

- 12:30 MERG DCC and CBUS on the KMRS 00 layout

Pete will describe his experiences, tribulations and future plans installing the MERG DCC system and CBUS accessory control on the layout at KMRS, together with live demos on the layout itself, which is in the room adjoining our meeting.

- 13:15 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:30 - 16:00 ish - Making it work - Practical workshop session and problem clinic

For the practical sessions, as we have done before, if you have built something and/or would like any help and advice, please bring it along and we'll work on it with you as a demonstration for everyone.

If you already know what you want help on for this session, please email the details in advance so we can gen-up on it and look like we know what we are talking about!

Although the main presentations are quite CBUS-centric this time, we will of course cover anything and everything during the afternoon workshop session.

If you would like to come, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. I will add you to the list and, in due course, you will get a reply with full address details, directions to the venue and parking information.

If you are planning to come by train, let us know if you need a lift from Wellingborough station. Please plan to arrive at Wellingborough station no later than 10am so that whoever comes to pick you up does not have to miss any of the meeting.

FEBRUARY 2019 East Midlands area group meeting

Saturday 23rd February 2019 from 10:00

Our next meeting is Kindly hosted by the Historical Model Railway Society (HMRS) at their Museum and Study Centre located at The Midland Railway Centre, Swanwick Junction. (See <http://www.hmrs.org.uk>)

Firstly an apology for the clash with the Newark show, which I missed when booking the venue for this date. If anyone is not planning to come to this meeting, but could help with the MERG stand at Newark on the Saturday, or if anyone can help at that show on Sunday, then please contact the exhibition manger on exhibitions@merg.org.uk

For our area group meeting, collection can be arranged from a nearby station for those who would like to come by train.

Visitors are always welcome at our area group meetings.

We will ask for a donation of £2 per head to cover teas/coffees and a donation to HMRS for our use of the room.

I will check and confirm if the buffet on site will be open on that day, serving refreshments, they have a range from light snacks to full meals. Alternatively, you can bring a packed lunch if you prefer.

Steam trains will be running on the day between Butterley and Swanwick Junction, however the first train is not until 11:00 so too late to use it as transport to the meeting. Details of the timetable can be found here <http://www.midlandrailway-butterley.co.uk/event/>

The meeting room is upstairs, but HMRS have platform stair lift which I will double check is working, so step free access is available. The platform should accept a standard wheelchair, but will not take the larger mobility scooters. When confirming your place, please let us know if you have any mobility requirements.

AGENDA

The meeting will be informal and flexible, so these are approximate times:

- 10:00 - Arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Decoder Pro - by Colin Head
- Decoder Pro is part of the JMRI software program, and can be used to set up the CV settings on DCC locos. Colin will show how this is done with live demonstrations.
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - CBUS on Kimble - by John Gowers
- John will describe his trials and tribulations implementing MERG DCC and CBUS on the 'O' gauge "Kimble" exhibition layout at the Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Society.
- 13:00 - MERG Kit locker Update - Judi Rastall - News on new/updated kits, availability, what is coming soon.
- 13:30 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:30 - 16:30 ish - Making it work - Practical session and problem clinic

During introductions, we like to go round the room and each member can give a very brief summary (about 30 seconds max) of who they are, where they are from, what they are modelling in. Also

please tell us what subject you would like to see at a future meeting.

For the practical sessions, as we have done before, if you have built something and would like any help and advice, please bring it along and we'll work on it with you as a demonstration for everyone.

If you already know what you want help on for this session, please email the details in advance so we can gen-up on it and look like we know what we are talking about!

If you would like to come, please send an email to eastmids@merg.org.uk or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum. I will add you to the list and, in due course, you will get a reply with full address details, directions to the venue and parking information. Let us know if you need a lift from a nearby station.

(Those who have already let me know that you are coming, I will be sending out confirmation emails in the next day or so.)

Details of Earlier East Midlands Area Group meetings

[Details of previous East Midlands Area Group meetings](#)

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