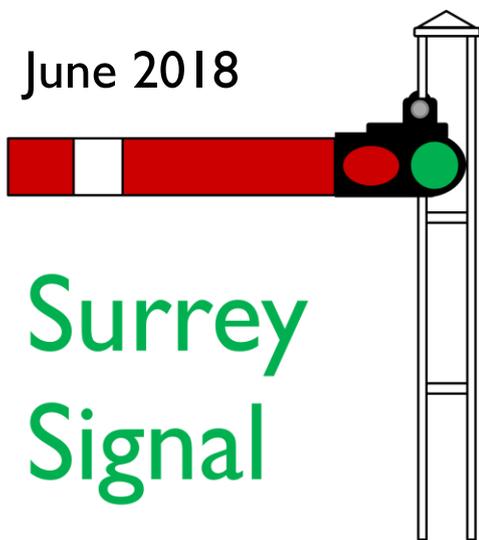


June 2018



Surrey Signal

An occasional newsletter
for the GIMRA Surrey Group



Bluebell Model Railway weekend 23rd-24th June

The South East Group's Invicta track is off on its holidays to Sinsheim. In its place, the Oval has been invited to run in the big shed at Sheffield Park for the Bluebells' model railway weekend which this year is **23rd-24th June**. Setup will be on Friday afternoon: the track should be arriving around 13.00.



(Wikimedia commons)

There's a web page about the event at:

www.bluebell-railway.com/whats_on/model-railway-weekend/

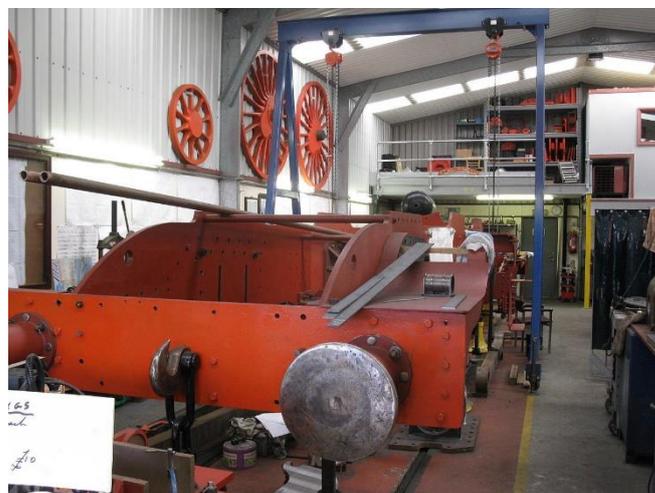
or just search for *Bluebell 2018 model railway*. The web page features a very nice shot of a Brighton Atlantic (although it's O-gauge...)

We are expecting some of the South East runners to join us. Unfortunately, I am away at the NRM that weekend for the Early Mainline Railways Conference (rhs.org.uk/early-main-line-railways-conference; report in next issue) so James Mander and Peter Jackman are handling the organisation for this event.

I'm sure it will be a terrific weekend: please send me some good pictures afterwards so that I can construct a piece for the next *Signal*.

Atlantic progress, of sorts

Some years ago I acquired a kit for a coal fired Brighton Atlantic, and there has occasionally been speculation around whether it will be finished before the 12" to the foot model making down on the Bluebell. These days, it feels more like a question of whether I'll get mine started before they finish...



(Wikimedia commons)

Every so often I look at the list of bits they need funding for: recently I noticed that they were requesting a 'sponsor' for the blower valve so I sent them a cheque and now have a very nice certificate announcing that I've funded it.

I'm rather pleased to think that I'll be able to hear it in action when the loco starts running – every time they want to heat the fire before starting a train I'll know they've turned the handle that sort-of has my name on it – but more to the point it seems to me that the blower is the quintessential G1 control: correct use being much more subtle than the regulator, at least on my rather cranky locos.

A big noise in Cranleigh

We've had three successful runs in Dorking, but visitor numbers were a bit down in Autumn 2017 so Ian was keen to try a new venue. After some research and visits, we decided to try Cranleigh Village Hall on the late-May Bank Holiday weekend.

G1MRA has graced the hall before (see previous issue) but this was the Surrey Group's first visit. It is a large, high space with a separate annexe for refreshments. They've had a thorough recent refurbishment, including new fire detectors, of which more below...

Access was only from 9.00-17.00, so we needed to set



up the day before. This entailed Peter hauling the trailer back-and-forth twice too since there was no secure place for it near the hall. Thus we convened at 15.00 on the Friday – Iuan, Ian, Peter, Yves and Adrian – and had everything set up by 17.00.

On the morning of the day we found ourselves a bit short of person-power: we had Peter, Ian, Adrian, Elizabeth, Yves, Michael, Graham, Geoff and Keith: very fortunately Joy had also somehow agreed to come along and work the refreshments. We still managed to muster 15 live steam engines along with a class 66 and a class 03 so on we went.



Everything was ticking along nicely until about 11.30 when off went the fire alarms. They must be very sensitive: I couldn't smell much in the hall at all. They were *extremely* loud.

To our great good fortune, the building manager had brought his dad along to see the show and was able (eventually) to quieten the alarms down: I think we would have had to abandon ship otherwise.

The system also dialled up the fire brigade, who came along to see what we were up to. I sidled away and left Peter to explain...



The rest of the day was mostly undisturbed, and in total we had 92 paying visitors, not quite matching our best-ever event which provided 105. With refreshments we took £497 which covers our costs and leaves a little over for new scenery.



For me the highlight of the day was seeing both Graham White's and Yves Bozz-Rey's 140C's double-heading whilst pulling a very long mixed train that ran a third of the way round the track. Ian Russell's Midland compound made stately progress with a perhaps more prototypical freight in the other direction. These shots (from Peter's video) also show Ian's development of the Surrey Oval station, along with Peter's re-boilered Aster School's cooling off.



Joy's cake stall

Joy spent almost all of the Cranleigh meeting running the refreshment stand which was rather beautifully presented, as you can see.



I took over for an hour or so before lunch and was heartily relieved when she returned and put her apron back on; the tea bar was out of sight of the track and in my slot I wasn't exactly overwhelmed with customers. Altogether we made £37 of sales which was excellent: all thanks to Joy.

The eighth Bulleid

Well I had a sneaky feeling that when I said the group had seven Aster BoB locos that more would appear. Of course I forgot Brian George's example, seen here at Martin's May GTG.



More on Yves' new coach

Yves was running his recently completed new coach at the Cranleigh day. It is an LNER diagram 50 semi-corridor lavatory composite. The



prototypes were built between 1924 and 1927 and are rather unusual vehicle in that the first and third class accommodation are separated by two separate loos.

The model is built from a kit by KA Lasercraft (<http://www.kalascraft.co.uk/>) in Peterborough. Yves reports that it is the best kit he has built and that the chassis runs very well.



Painting and detailing are now complete, and Yves has another two kits in the pipeline. There is talk of a review in a future issue...

The night garden

Ah, long summer evenings. These were taken at 21.30 over the Bank Holiday weekend.



I need to figure out how to get some appearance of motion into these pictures: the flash is so short that they look posed. Actually, the sensor is so absurdly fast that I should have tried using the dusk light alone.



Martin's May GTG

We had a good turnout at Martin's on 8th May with friends old and new, and fine weather to boot.



Brian George captured this fantastic shot of Richard Burkett's King in flight



Mike Bland and Martin Hulse discussing the fine details of Mike's Flying Scotsman steam test

Scenes from Cranleigh



Our mission: to entertain and inform the public...



Jeff Rose's dock tank and Peter's class 03



Keith Burgon's Pannier



Michael Wrottesley's tinplate: LNWR Lavatory 1st/3rd Carette for B-L coach and van, circa 1914



Michael's Mills Brothers LMS Brake 3rd, perhaps 1936



Elizabeth (J65) and Michael (Marsh Atlantic) steam up



Yves' J38, now nicely run and doing sterling work



A class 66, minding its own business and not setting off any fire alarms

An unusual safety valve

Liz and I went to the Branch Line Weekend in May at the Bluebell, and witnessed something that I've not seen before.



The Q class was sitting awaiting a clear road and clearly getting a bit frisky, so the fireman opened the steam heat pipe at the front, and they exhausted steam for some minutes, as you can see above.

This is the event where they like to get as many small engines out as possible: here's their first P class *Bluebell* awaiting its passengers.



My students bought a train set...

I've been teaching undergraduates for 31 years during which I've received the odd bottle of wine and a few kind words.

Just after Easter a deputation arrived in my office. To be honest, one's heart sinks when this happens because it usually indicates that they need to let off steam about some problem or other that they can't do, but on this occasion they produced, with a flourish, a digitally controlled train set that they'd clubbed together and bought for me.



Apparently one student had mooted that they might get something to mark my obsession with steam engines, and then there was an impromptu social media crowd-source event. I was so taken aback that I didn't quite know what to say: what a great bunch of students they are. I am now writing software to get it to perform a version of the Inglenook shunting puzzle.

GMES Gala – 7/8 July 2018

Guildford Model Engineering Society are replacing their rally with a two day gala which will have free admission. They need G1 runners on both days so please swing by and entertain the masses!

Sutton track news

The track at Sutton is undergoing extensive board replacement. We are hoping to run there on July 10, but will revert to Martin Hulse' track. Watch out for notification via email.

Mike

Mike Bland has had his cardiac surgery and is now convalescing. It is a slow process, but he is hoping to be back up to full steam later in the summer.

Dates for next year:

8/9 June 2019

GMES Garden Railway Show

Guildford Model Engineering Society are going to try something new next year: a full show focussing on garden gauges. Here is the press release.

*Guildford Model Engineering Society (GMES) are pleased to announce that it will be staging a Garden Railway Show on **8th & 9th June 2019**.*

This new event will fulfill the need for a Garden Railway Show in South-East England, and will be unique among Garden Railway Shows as it will be offering trade stands, visiting layouts, GMES GR layouts in operation, plus miniature steam train rides on the Society's 3½" and 5" Gauge raised track, and the 7¼" Gauge ground level track.

Refreshments will also be available on site. The show will be open from 10am – 5pm on both days and there will be an admission charge.

This will be the first time that GMES has organized an event specifically aimed at the Garden Railway scene, but the Society has over 50 years experience of holding annual two day model engineering events at its site in Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey.

The GMES Garden Railway Group has been running an outdoor 16mm Narrow Gauge layout onsite for over 25 years, with extensive improvements being made to the layout over that time, there is also a portable (16mm/45mm) layout which has attended many shows around the country in recent years.

An outdoor Gauge 1 layout has relatively recently been added to the facilities on site at GMES and is subject to on-going development.

It is hoped that the new Guildford Garden Railway Show will become an annual feature at GMES helping to promote and support the Garden Railway movement.

For further information please contact GMES PR Officer Mike Sleigh pr@gmes.org.uk

Dates for next year:

11 May 2019

Haywards Heath

John Ely, who organised the very successful Haywards Heath 150 exhibition has been in touch and invited us to participate in a repeat event on **11 May 2019**.

Originally things were looking a bit tight on the space front, but the team were so keen to have us that they have changed the venue back to The Dolphin Centre where we were last time so that we can fit in.

John is a Good Thing: apart from driving the whole organisation of the event John was outside greeting exhibitors as they arrived. I hope we can put on a really good show for them.

Frontpiece

Exquisite detailing on Yves Bozzo-Rey's LNER teak .



SURREY G1MRA GROUP

2018 fixture list as of June 17th 2018

Surrey group meets second Tuesday afternoons

Please refer to your membership list for venues or
email **Adrian Johnstone** as a.johnstone@rhul.ac.uk



Tue 9 Jan	Sutton MEC	13.00
Fri 19 Jan-Sun 21 Jan	London Model Engineer Show: Invicta Track at Alexandra Palace	
Tue 13 Feb	Ken Lowes	13.00
Sat 17 Feb	Bacon Butty Bash, Durrington; Salisbury and Stonehenge Track	
Sat 10 Mar	Oval at the Royal Holloway Science Festival; setup Friday from 16.00	
Sun 11 Mar	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Tue 13 Mar	Martin Hulse	13.30
Sun 18 Mar	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Sun 8 Apr	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Sun 15 Apr	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Tue 17 Apr	Michael Wrottesley	13.00 Note: third Tuesday this month only!
Sat 21 Apr	G1MRA Spring meeting; Shepshed	
Tue 8 May	Martin Hulse	13.00
Sun 13 May	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Sun 20 May	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Sat 26 May	Oval public run at Cranleigh Village Hall 09:00; public from 10.00 (setup Friday 15.00-17.00)	
Tue 12 Jun	Ken Lowes	13.00
Sun 10 Jun	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Sun 10 Jun	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Sat 23 Jun -Sun 24 Jun	Bluebell Model Railway Weekend	
Sun 8 Jul	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Sat 7 Jul -Sun 8 Jul	GMES Gala	
Tue 10 Jul	SMEC/Martin Hulse	13.00
Sun 29 Jul	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Sun 12 Aug	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Tue 14 Aug	Peter Jackman	13.00
Sat 18 Aug-Sun 19 Aug	Oval at Weald and Downland Museum Vintage Steam Weekend; Singleton	
Sun 19 Aug	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Sun 9 Sep	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Tue 11 Sep	Bob Boorman	13.00
Sun 16 Sep	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Tue 9 Oct	Guildford MES	13.00
TBC	Oval at the G1MRA AGM, Woking	
Sun 14 Oct	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Sun 21 Oct	GMES open afternoon: G1 running 14.00-17.00	
Sun 11 Nov	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Tue 13 Nov	Sutton MEC	13.00
Sat 24 Nov	TBC Oval public run at Dorking URC hall; setup from 08.00; public from 10.00	
Sun 9 Dec	Sutton open afternoon: G1 running from 12.00	
Sun 9 Dec	GMES open day: G1 running 11.00-15.00	
Tue 11 Dec	Bob Boorman	13.00