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MERG East Midlands Area Group News

Return to Area Groups Index
More about our Knowledgebase

This is the public page, members please check here for the latest news EMAG Members Pages

Joint area group coordinators - Pete Brownlow and John Gowers

To contact us, use **Contact MERG** and please indicate East Midlands Area Group in your message

For MERG members, you might also like to look at our area group forum.

Please use the contents entry on the right or scroll down to see details and agenda for our next and recent meetings.

May 2025 East Midlands face to face area group meeting

Saturday 17th May 2025 from 10:00

The meeting will take place at Kegworth Village Hall.

This is our first meeting at this new venue, thanks to our members that suggested this as a possible venue.

Our meeting at Kegworth coincides with a meeting of the Black Diamonds model railway group who hire the main hall on the 3rd Saturday of each month. They model American outline, and are happy for our members to go and have a look at what they are working on. I have also invited their members to drop in and see what we are doing.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover the venue hire and teas/coffees. Note that one payment covers both, you don't need to pay separately for the teas and coffees.

The venue has level step free access and reasonable parking.

You can either bring a packed lunch or find somewhere locally, although I don't have any local knowledge of this area. We have the use of a kitchen attached to the room we are hiring, which has a microwave.

Provided we can connect to the Internet at the venue, we will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. I will add a Zoom link to the meeting info, so

that it appears in your upcoming meetings on the MERG website.

The venue is about 3 miles from East Midlands Parkway station, if you would like to come by rail, let us know and we can arrange a pickup from the station. If you are coming by train, please arrive at East Midlands Parkway before 10am, so whoever picks you up does not have to miss any of the meeting.

The venue is convenient for the M1, and also very close to East Midlands Airport, if you wish to fly in!

More details of parking and how to find the venue will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place. Please remember to book a place and not just turn up on spec, in case there are any changes we need to let you know about, so we know how many people to cater for, and so we can confirm we have enough bookings to go ahead with the meeting.

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
- 10:40 - How to connect up my first two CBUS modules (CANINP and point driver module) - Tim Calnun-Pratt - Continuing our sessions for those just getting started
- 11:00 - My experiences getting started with CBUS and JMRI - David Griffiths
- 11:45 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - QnA on getting started with CBUS/JMRI - David Griffiths and other CBUS/JMRI users
- 12:30 - Pros and cons of different types of point motors and the ways to control them - Pete Brownlow
- 13:00 - Kit locker Update - Judi Rastall
- 13:15 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic.

During the afternoon you can also visit the Black Diamonds in the main hall to see what modelling they are doing.

David will have his CBUS/JMRI demo “plank” and Tim will have his CBUS demo so you can get close up with those to learn more during the afternoon.

During the afternoon we will, of course, have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving, techniques such as soldering etc.

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, a week or so before the meeting, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

I believe that the email problems that plagued bookings for our last meeting are fixed now, so it should be service as usual.

April 2025 East Midlands face to face area group meeting

Sunday 6th April 2025 from 10:00

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FROM 30TH MARCH

This change was necessary to avoid the clash with Mother's day, as we were getting very few bookings and many members reported mothers day commitments.

This meeting is on a Sunday for a change. This is due to venue availability, but may also allow some who have other regular commitments, or have to work, on Saturdays to get along.

This meeting is Kindly hosted by the The Kingsway Model Railway Society (KMRS) at the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover the venue hire and teas/coffees. Note that one payment covers both, you don't need to pay separately for the teas and coffees.

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, the town centre is about 5 minutes drive away and there is a co-op shop a few minutes walk away. The venue has a microwave.

Provided the Internet connection at the venue is working, we will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. I will add a Zoom link to the meeting info, so that it appears in your upcoming meetings on the MERG website.

More details of parking and how to find the venue will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place. Please remember to book a place and not just turn up on spec, in case there are any changes we need to let you know about, and so we know how many people to cater for.

This is provisional and subject to change.

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
- 10:40 - The Kingsway Model Railway Society - John Wood
- 10:45 - What CBUS modules do I need? Part 1 - Pete Brownlow - First of a series of sessions at

our meetings for those just getting started
- 11:00 - Setting up conflicting DCC shuttles with CANCMD/CANCSB and CANCOMPUTE - Pete Brownlow
- 11:45 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - MERG Kit locker update
- 12:30 - Committee news and Ask the Chairman - John Gowers
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK

- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic.

The talk on DCC shuttles is developing the theme from what I have shown before, using updates to the CANCMD/CANCSB shuttle facilities, together with using a CANCOMPUTE to resolve the conflict between two shuttles that share the same track. I will also cover setting up and programming the CANCOMPUTE using FCU.

The Kingsway Model Railway Society 00 gauge layout will be open and running. This uses the MERG DCC system and CBUS.

Feel free if you want to bring something to run, the 00 gauge layout is DCC.

During the afternoon, you can operate the club layout and we will, of course, have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving, techniques such as soldering etc.

If you would like to come, please send an email to merg@upsys.biz or post a message in the East Midlands Area group section of the MERG forum.\

PLEASE NOTE: Sending email to eastmids@merg.org.uk seems unreliable at the moment, so please use the email address above for the moment.

I will add you to the list and, a week or so before the meeting, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

I've been advised that, at the moment, there are sometimes issues with emails sent to MERG email addresses getting delivered (for the techies, it's an SPF issue on forwarding).

If you try to book for this meeting by email to eastmids@merg.org.uk and you get an “undeliverable” message back, please report this to the committee and then either post a message on the forum to book your place or send an email directly to me on merg@upsys.co.uk

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

November 2024 East Midlands face to face

area group meeting

Saturday 2nd November 2024 from 10:00

Here is the agenda for this meeting:

The meeting is Kindly hosted by the Nene Valley Railway at Wansford. Thanks to MERG and NVR member Russ Jenner for arranging the venue for us.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover both the venue hire and teas/coffees for the day. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and supplying refreshments, we will donate the difference to the NVR.

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

There is a cafe on site, I will confirm arrangements, but most likely we will pass the menu around in the morning so you can order lunch if you wish.

It is a freight day at NVR, so there should be freight trains running. Russ tells me the class 45 Peak should be in action. There is also be a “Drive a shunter in the yard” activity planned.

If the Wifi at the venue is working well enough, we will endeavour have a Zoom connection for the morning 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 to NVR and housekeeping
- 10:35 - Group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Demonstration of using CANXIO, including setup with latest FCU - Pete Brownlow
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:45 - Demonstration of latest MMC, including use with CANXIO - David Ellis
- 12:30 - CBUS kit updates - Tim Calnun Pratt (CBUS kit product manager)
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 13:30 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic

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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. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

Let us know if you need a lift from Peterborough station. Please plan to arrive at Peterborough station no later than 9:30am, 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 have noted you and I will be sending out confirmation emails in the week before the meeting.—-

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July 2024 East Midlands face to face area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our July 2024 area group meeting.

Saturday 6th July 2024 from 10:00

Kindly hosted by Judi Rastall at her place in Sutton on Sea.

Come to the seaside for our Summer meeting!

It is difficult to believe, but we havn't had a meeting at Judi's for 6 years, the last being in 2018.

The venue is about 5 minutes walk from the Prom, so you might like to bring the family for a day by the seaside, whilst we get on with the far more important stuff!

Judi can accommodate up to 20 people, so bookings are first come first served. If we become fully booked, we will keep a waiting list in case of cancellations. Note that the 20 limit is for the room where we have the meeting, any partners or family who would like to come along for a day at the seaside are additional to the 20 limit.

If you would like to come, please let us know as soon as possible. If you do decide at the last minute, it is still worth getting in touch as, with the longer distance that most have to travel, the numbers are usually less than more centrally located meetings, so there might still be a place available.

Sutton on Sea is on the east coast of Lincolnshire between Skegness and Grimsby. Parking is available on street near the venue. We have scheduled this meeting before the start of the peak summer season. Once the school holidays start, from late July, parking becomes much more difficult and there will be long queues on all roads into the resort on a Saturday morning – so come and enjoy the seaside before the mad summer rush.

This venue is less convenient for arrival by train. The nearest railhead is Skegness which is at the end of a long branch line and is an hour round trip from Sutton.

Tea and Coffee will be available, lunch can be purchased from the local fish and chip shop, or bring your own if you prefer.

Judi is kindly offering the use of the room and teas and coffees free of charge, so there is no charge for attending this meeting - just get yourself there!

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 and housekeeping, Judi Rastall
- 10:35 Introductionsand group news
- 10:45 Kit locker news, Judi Rastall
- 11:00 ESU Decoder sound programming, James Cunningham +++
- 11:45 Short coffee break
- 12:00 ESU Decoder sound programming continued, James Cunningham
- 12:45 CBUS news, Pete Brownlow
- 13:15 Lunch. Fish and chips from the local shops or bring your own
- 14:30 Afternoon sessions:
- Further demonstrations
- Making it work - our usual problem solving clinic
- Help with soldering and kit construction
- See Judi's loft layout
- Or just relax in the garden or on the sea front (maybe we'll have some sunshine?)

+++ During his talk and demo, James will cover topics including audio capture, sound editing, using ESU Lokprogrammer, sound programming a steam loco and a demonstration of a completed project.

To access the loft layout, you do need to be able to climb up the loft ladder, so this will not be possible for everybody. Judi is working on the layout and hopes it will be operational on the day. There is the option to visit the layout in the afternoon for those who can access it.

John will have a subset of the mobile kit locker with some kits available for purchase.

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.

The venue is reasonably accessible, there are a couple of shallow steps up through the front door and a step down into the kitchen of 5“. The width of the kitchen doorway is 29”. Please advise if you need any assistance.

Please note that Judi is owned by her two Kit Cats who may be in attendance, so anyone who has any feline allergy or intolerance should be aware of this.

If you would like to come, and have not already done so, 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.

If you have already emailed or posted that you are coming, I will send out confirmation emails, with full details of the address and parking information, in the week before the meeting.

May 2024 East Midlands face to face area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our May 2024 area group meeting, which has a Railcom theme.

Sunday 19th May 2024 from 10:00

Please note that this meeting is on the **Sunday** for a change. This is due to venue availability, but may also allow some who have other regular commitments, or have to work, on Saturdays to get along.

This meeting is Kindly hosted by the The Kingsway Model Railway Society (KMRS) at the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover the venue hire and teas/coffees. Note that one payment covers both, you don't need to pay separately for the teas and coffees. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and refreshments, 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, the town centre is about 5 minutes drive away and there is a co-op shop a few minutes walk away.

Provided the Internet connection at the venue is working, we will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. I will add a Zoom link to the meeting info, so that it appears in your upcoming meetings on the MERG website.

More details of parking and how to find the venue will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place. Please remember to book a place and not just turn up on spec, in case there are any changes we need to let you know about, and so we know how many people to cater for.

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
- 10:40 - The Kingsway Model Railway Society - Roger Barker
- 10:45 - Introduction to Railcom - what it is and why you might use it - Pete Brownlow
- 11:00 - Railcom in detail - Michael Smith
- 11:45 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - Railcom continued - Michael Smith
- 12:30 - Setting up Railcom on JMRI, and demo of Railcom in action on the MSM layout - Pete Brownlow
- 13:00 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 13:15 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic.

The Kingsway Model Railway Society 00 gauge layout will be open and running. This uses the MERG DCC system and CBUS. Pete will also have the Missenden St Mary's layout set up and running, to demonstrate Railcom and other MERG systems in use.

Feel free if you want to bring something to run, the 00 gauge layout and MSM are both DCC.

During the afternoon, Michael will be on hand for further discussions and demonstrations of Railcom.

We will of course have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving, techniques such as soldering etc.

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, a week or so before the meeting, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

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

March 2024 East Midlands face to face area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our March 2024 area group meeting.

Saturday 16th March 2024 from 10:00

This meeting is Kindly hosted by the The Bassetlaw (North Notts) Railway Society at their clubrooms on Retford Railway Station.

Thanks to MERG and Bassetlaw Railway Society member Julian Pratt for arranging the venue for us.

The Bassetlaw Railway Society are not charging us for the use of the room, but we will ask for a donation of £2 per head to cover the cost of teas & coffees and biscuits, and make a donation to the Society.

Access is step free, but the entry door to the clubrooms is probably not wide enough for a powered wheelchair.

For those coming by train, there are reasonable arrivals from east (9:50), west (9:20) and north (9:38). From the south, there is one from Peterborough and Newark arriving at (8:45) and one from Kings Cross and Grantham arriving at (8:51), so you will be waiting a while before the meeting starts, but as railway enthusiasts you can of course enjoy watching the trains pass by during your wait. :)

Parking is now: £6.25 at the station, £4.95 at https://victoriaroadcarpark.com or £4 at Cobwell Road, DN22 7DD https://parkanddonate.co.uk, 3 mins walk.

There is a Costa Coffee on the station, a convenience store 2 minutes walk away and Retford has many excellent eating places, just 12 minutes walk away, or you may bring a packed lunch.

There is no Wi-Fi at the venue, so a Zoom connection will not be possible. If presenters need to access something online, we may be able to use mobile phone hotspots, 4G coverage permitting.

More details of parking and how to find the clubrooms will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place.

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
- 10:40 - The Bassetlaw (North Notts) Railway Society - Julian Pratt
- 10:50 - MERG news - John Gowers (MERG chairman)
- 11:00 - The CANXIO - Pete Brownlow
- 11:45 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - The Raspberry Pi Pico - David Jones
- 12:45 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 13:15 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic.

During the afternoon our chairman, John Gowers, will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about MERG committee matters etc.

The Bassetlaw Railway Society modelling rooms will be open, where the main 00 gauge layout will be operated by society members and other layouts will be on display, including a newly started N gauge, a nearly ready O gauge and a Triang TT.

We will of course have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving etc.

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, a week or so before the meeting, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

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

January 2024 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

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

Saturday 20th January 2024 from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that regular breaks of roughly 10-15 mins 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, Informal chat
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Essex Brick part 2 - getting into using YAAT for automation - Eddy
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - My initial exploration of the Hornby HM7000 system - David Page
- 12:15 - QnA on the above talks
- 12:30 - Kit and other news
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 on - General QnA and help clinic

For the help clinic session in the afternoon, 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.

I will send out the usual reminder email, it will go automatically to everyone who is subscribed to this area group.

December 2023 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our December 2023 online Zoom area group meeting.

Saturday 9th December from 10:00

This meeting will be online using Zoom.

As before, we have found that regular breaks of roughly 10-15 mins 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, Informal chat
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - Essex Brick a lockdown to exhibition layout - Eddy
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - Update on my developments with DCC, CBUS and JMRI - Pete Brownlow
- 12:45 - QnA
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 on - General QnA and help clinic

For the help clinic session in the afternoon, 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.

I will send out the usual reminder email, it will go automatically to everyone who is subscribed to this area group.

OCTOBER 2023 East Midlands MERG Area Group FACE to FACE meeting

Saturday 21st October 2023 from 10:00

The meeting is Kindly hosted by the Nene Valley Railway at Wansford. Thanks to MERG and NVR member Russ Jenner for arranging the venue for us.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover both the venue hire and teas/coffees for the day. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and supplying refreshments, we will donate the difference to the NVR.

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

There is a cafe on site, I will confirm arrangements, but most likely we will pass the menu around in the morning so you can order lunch if you wish.

If the Wifi at the venue is working well enough, we will endeavour to have a Zoom connection for the morning 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 to NVR and housekeeping - Russ Jenner
- 10:35 - Group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - CBUS and JMRI at Gwynne Junction - James Cunningham - including some or all of CANMIO Rev K, JMRI semaphore signalling, my JMRI touchscreen signal box and Railcom
- 11:45 - Tea/coffee break
- 12:00 - MERG & kit locker updates - Judi Rastall
- 12:30 - The Universal Experimenters Module - Pete Brownlow
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 13:30 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic

During the afternoon, as well as our usual help and problem solving clinic, Russ advises that the railwayana shop at NVR will be open which now has quite a lot of double 00 and a few N and O gauge second hand stock.

If he can get the 00 layout running for the afternoon he will do so.

Short trips to the NVR shed will be available during the afternoon.

It is a running day at NVR with 3 trains, pulled by W D Austerity.

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 the week before the meeting, you will get a reply with full address details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers. Please don't just turn up on spec, in case there are last minute changes we need to let you know about.

Let us know if you need a lift from Peterborough station. Please plan to arrive at Peterborough station no later than 9:30am, 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 have noted you and I will be sending out confirmation emails in the week before the meeting.)

JULY 2023 East Midlands MERG Area Group FACE to FACE meeting

Saturday 8th July 2023 from 10:00

Due to Judi's building work not being complete in time, we have swapped the venues for our July and September meetings.

This meeting will now be at Aisthorpe Village Hall, near Lincoln, Kindly hosted by Lincoln & District Model Railway Club (L&DMRC) at Scampton and Aisthorpe Village hall, near Lincoln.

Thanks to Richard Joyce for organising the venue for us.

Tea and Coffee will be available all day, please bring your own packed lunch as there are no other facilities nearby.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover the venue hire and teas/coffees. Note that one payment covers both, you don't need to pay separately for the teas and coffees. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and refreshments, we will donate the difference to L&DMRC.

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

Provided the Internet connection at the venue is working well, we will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. I will add a Zoom link to the meeting info, so that it appears in your upcoming meetings on the MERG website.

More details of parking and how to find the venue will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place. Please remember to book a place and not just turn up on spec, in case there are any changes we need to let you know about.

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 - Introduction to the Lincoln & District Model Railway Club - Richard Joyce
- 10:50 - The CANPROG - what it is, building one, using it to program PICs - Pete Brownlow
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:45 - Update on FCU development (CBUS FLim Config Utility) - Julian Pratt
- 12:15 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:00 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic - including FCU tutorial if requested

There should also be a chance to see some of the L&DMRC layouts.

We will of course have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving, techniques such as soldering etc.

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 the week before the meeting, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

Please book a place rather than just turning up on spec, if there are any last minute changes we need to know who is coming so that we can contact you.

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

May 2023 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our May 2023 online Zoom area group meeting.

Saturday 27th 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, Informal chat
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:45 - MERG and kit locker news
- 11:00 - FCU (CBUS Config utility) - development news and status - Pete Brownlow
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - WebFCU (alternative CBUS config utility) - David Ellis
- 12:15 - From the MERG chairman - John Gowers
- 12:45 - MERG AGM event - possible East Mids Area group involvement
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 on - General QnA and help clinic

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.

I will send out the usual reminder email to everyone subscribed to the area group, it will go automatically to everyone who is subscribed to this area group.

APRIL 2023 East Midlands MERG Area Group FACE to FACE meeting

Saturday 8th April 2023 from 10:00

Here is the agenda for our April meeting.

This meeting is Kindly hosted by the The Kingsway Model Railway Society (KMRS) at the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover the venue hire and teas/coffees. Note that one payment covers both, you don't need to pay separately for the teas and coffees. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and refreshments, 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, the town centre is about 5 minutes drive away and there is a co-op shop a few minutes walk away.

Provided the Internet connection at the venue is working, we will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. I will add a Zoom link to the meeting info, so that it appears in your upcoming meetings on the MERG website.

More details of parking and how to find the venue will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place. Please remember to book a place and not just turn up on spec, in case there are any changes we need to let you know about, and so we now how many people to cater for.

AGENDA

- 10:00 - Arrival, Informal chat and get to know the other members
- 10:30 - Welcome, group news and Introductions
- 10:40 - Introduction to the Kingsway Model Railway Society - Roger Barker
- 10:45 - CBUS update - what has been happening in the CBUS world - Pete Brownlow
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:45 - The new improved MERG ATC system - Mike Collins
- 12:30 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic

The Kingsway Model Railway Society 00 gauge layout will be open and partially running (one corner currently has an engineering possession for relaying the track). This uses the MERG DCC system and CBUS. The N gauge layout will also be set up. Pete will also have the Missenden St Mary's layout set up and running.

Feel free if you want to bring something to run, the 00 layouts are DCC, the N gauge layout is analogue.

We will of course have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving, techniques such as soldering etc.

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, before the event, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

Please book a place rather than just turning up on spec, if there are any last minute changes we need to know who is coming so that we can contact you. Regards,

Pete

SEPTEMBER 2022 East Midlands MERG Area Group FACE to FACE meeting

Saturday 3rd September 2022 from 10:00

Here is the agenda for our September meeting.

This meeting is Kindly hosted by the The Kingsway Model Railway Society at the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover the venue hire and teas/coffees. Note that one payment covers both this time, you don't need to pay separately for the teas and coffees. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and refreshments, 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, the town centre is about 5 minutes drive away. There is a co-op shop a few minutes walk away.

Provided the Internet connection at the venue is working, we will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. I will add a Zoom link to the meeting info, so that it appears in your upcoming meetings on the MERG website.

More details of parking and how to find the venue will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place. PLease remember to book a place and not just turn up on spec, in case there are any changes we need to let you know about.

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
- 10:40 - Introduction to the Kingsway Model Railway Society - Roger barker
- 10:45 - Turntable Tales - My journey so far with the Peco Turntable and MERG Turntable Controller - kit John Wood
  (Also includes using Julian's auto-reverser to power the deck)
- 11:15 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:30 - DCC and CBUS new developments with live demo - Pete Brownlow
  (Including new features in CANCMD, CANCOMPUTE and development news on CANMIO (Universal))
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic

The Kingsway Model Railway Society 00 gauge layout will be open and running, this uses the MERG DCC system and CBUS. The N gauge layout will also be set up. Pete will also have the Missenden St Mary's layout set up and running.

Feel free if you want to bring something to run, the 00 layouts are DCC, the N gauge layout is analogue.

We will of course have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving, techniques such as soldering etc.

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 a day or two, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

Please book a place rather than just turning up on spec, if there are any last minute changes we need to know who is coming so that we can contact you.

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

JULY 2022 East Midlands MERG Area Group FACE to FACE meeting

Saturday 9th July 2022 from 10:00

The meeting is Kindly hosted by the Nene Valley Railway at Wansford. Thanks to MERG and NVR member Russ Jenner for arranging the venue for us.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover both the venue hire and teas/coffees for the day. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and supplying refreshments, we will donate the

difference to the NVR.

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

There is a cafe on site, we will pass the menu around in the morning so you can order lunch if you wish.

If the Wifi at the venue is working well enough, we will endevour have a Zoom connection for the morning 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.

It is a running day on the NVR, purple timetable, scheduled to be a mix of steam and the Peak diesel. See the NVR website for more details.

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
- 10:40 - Developing FCU - progress and challenges, David Radcliffe
- 11:20 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:30 - Colin Head - Demo and progress report on my layout (which has no name yet!)
- 12:10 - MERG & kit locker updates - Judi Rastall
- 12:30 - LUNCH BREAK
- 13:30 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic

Note: “FCU” is the FLiM Config Utility, used to configure CBUS modules from a computer

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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. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

Let us know if you need a lift from Peterborough station. Please plan to arrive at Peterborough station no later than 9:30am, so whoever picks you up does not have to miss any of the meeting.

Those who have already let us know that you are coming, you should have received a confirmation email with directions, parking, lunch details etc. If you have not received your confirmation email, please get in touch.

APRIL 2022 East Midlands MERG Area Group FACE to FACE meeting

Saturday 16th April 2022 from 10:00

This meeting is Kindly hosted by the The Kingsway Model Railway Society at the Kingsway Centre in Wellingborough.

We will ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover the venue hire and teas/coffees. Note that one payment covers both this time, you don't need to pay separately for the teas and coffees. If we collect more than the cost of hiring the venue and refreshments, 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, the town centre is about 5 minutes drive away. There is a co-op shop a few minutes walk away.

We will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. I have added the Zoom link to the meeting info, so that it appears in your upcoming meetings on the MERG website.

More details of parking and how to find the venue will be included in your confirmation email when you book your place.

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
- 10:35 - Introduction to the Kingsway Model Railway Society - Roger barker
- 10:45 - My CBUS & JMRI journey - Julian Pratt (held over from the previous meeting)
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:45 - Kit locker update - news about MERG kits - Judi Rastall
- 12:15 - CBUS update - developments and things I am working on - Pete Brownlow
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations and practical problems help clinic

The Kingsway Model Railway Society 00 gauge layout will be open and running, this uses the MERG DCC system and CBUS. The N gauge layout will also be set up.

We will of course have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving etc. There will also be the chance to operate the Kingsway 00 gauge layout using the MERG DCC system.

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 a day or two, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

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

FEBRUARY 2022 East Midlands MERG Area Group FACE to FACE meeting

Saturday 26th February 2022 from 10:00

This meeting is Kindly hosted by the The Bassetlaw (North Notts) Railway Society at their clubrooms on Retford Railway Station.

Thanks to MERG and Bassetlaw Railway Society member Julian Pratt for arranging the venue for us.

The Bassetlaw Railway Society are not charging us for the use of the room, but we will ask for a donation of £2 per head to cover the cost of teas & coffees and make a donation to the Society.

Parking is available in the station car park at a cost of £5. You can of course come by train to Retford Station.

If we can get a Wi-Fi connection at the venue, we will have a Zoom connection for the morning meeting, for those who cannot come in person. However, I understand we are reliant on the LNER hosted Wi-Fi at the station, so we don't yet know if this will be possible.

Numbers will be limited to 20, to ensure reasonable separation. Mask wearing is now optional, please make your own choice. We would recommend that everyone takes a lateral flow test before coming.

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
- 10:40 - The Bassetlaw (North Notts) Railway Society - Julian Pratt
- 10:50 - Different cabs for the MERG DCC system - Simon West, John Gowers & Pete Brownlow
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:45 - Different cabs for the MERG DCC system - continued
- 12:15 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 12:30 - My CBUS & JMRI journey - Julian Pratt

- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations, soldering clinic and practical problems help clinic

The cabs session will cover basic how to use the MERG DCC system, circuit designs, the standard MERG CANCAB and other variations designed by members.

During the afternoon John Gowers will provide a soldering clinic, both through hole and surface mount.

We will of course have our usual problem clinic providing General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving etc.

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 a few days, you will get a reply with full details, directions to the venue and parking information. Even if you are not sure yet whether you can get along, please let us know anyway so we can plan for likely numbers.

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

JANUARY 2022 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

Here is the agenda for our January 2022 online area group meeting.

Saturday 15th 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, have a chat.
- 10:30 - Welcome and Introductions
- 10:45 - - CBUS miscellany - Pete Brownlow
- Latest CANMO (Universal) firmware release
- Using RFID and Railcom in JMRI
- CBUS control panels for Burnden Park

- Any other CBUS updates

- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 12:00 - Lunch break
- 13:00 - 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.

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 (Note- I updated the link earlier this week as there was a problem with the original one posted)

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.

I will send out the usual reminder email to everyone subscribed to the area group soon, it will go automatically to everyone who is subscribed to this area group.

Details of Earlier East Midlands Area Group meetings

Details of previous East Midlands Area Group meetings
and Details of more previous East Midlands Area Group meetings
NB. These links are for MERG members only.

AGS 1

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