



# MERG East Midlands Area Group News

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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](#).

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## 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.

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### 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.

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If you would like to come, please send an email to [eastmids@merg.org.uk](mailto: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).

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## **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.

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## 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.

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If you would like to come, please send an email to [eastmids@merg.org.uk](mailto: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.)

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# 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.

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## 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](mailto:eastmids@merg.org.uk).

If you still can't get the Zoom link, send an email to [eastmids@merg.org.uk](mailto: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.

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# NOVEMBER 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

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

## **Saturday 27th 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.

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## **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 - Keep alive circuit - design and description - Julian Coles
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - Keep alive circuit - building, installing and using it - Pete Brownlow
- 12:30 - Kit locker update - Judi Rastall
- 12:45 - Lunch break
- 13:45 - 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)

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If you still can't get the Zoom link, send an email to [eastmids@merg.org.uk](mailto: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.

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# OCTOBER 2021 East Midlands area group meeting

## Saturday 16th October 2021 from 10:00

This 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 £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 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 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, I'm not sure if it will be steam or diesel.

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## 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 - O gauge headcode module - live demo - Graham Clarke
- 11:15 - Tea/coffee break
- 11:30 - DCC basics - Colin Head
- 12:00 - Introduction to Surface mount assembly using the hotplate method - Duncan Greenwood
- 12:30 - LUNCH BREAK
- 13:30 - 16:30 ish - Demonstrations, soldering clinic and practical problems help clinic

During the afternoon the following activities will be available:

- Duncan will give close up demonstrations to smaller groups of the hot plate method of surface mount assembly
- John Gowers will give advice and surface mount hand soldering

- Graham Clarke with further demos of his headcode unit
  - Colin Head will be available for digging deeper into DCC topics such as the JMRI roster
  - General help on problems with kits or other electronic projects, building, testing, problem solving etc.
  - NVR now has a Railwayana shop which we hope will be open
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If you would like to come, please send an email to [eastmids@merg.org.uk](mailto: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 me know that you are coming, I will be sending out confirmation emails in the next few days.)

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## SEPTEMBER 2021 East Midlands ONLINE area group meeting

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

### **Saturday 11th September 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.

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### **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 - EzyAutomation (no additional wires system) by Julian Coles
- 11:30 - Tea/coffee break (make your own!)
- 11:45 - Group news and updates
- 12:15 - Lunch
- 13:15 - QnA and clinic for 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.

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](mailto:eastmids@merg.org.uk) and I'll email you the Zoom link.

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## AUGUST 2021 East Midlands 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
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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](mailto: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.)

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## 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.

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## 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.

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

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# 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.

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](mailto:eastmids@merg.org.uk) and I'll email you the Zoom link.

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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.

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](mailto:eastmids@merg.org.uk) and I'll email you the Zoom link.

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

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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
- 

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](mailto:eastmids@merg.org.uk) and I'll email you the Zoom link.

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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
- 

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](mailto:eastmids@merg.org.uk).

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

## Details of Earlier East Midlands Area Group meetings

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

[AGS 1](#)

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