

Hello again from me, plus seasonal greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. Hope you all enjoyed your festive season. Several of the NOGGies attended the Guildford group's annual Reading Trade Fair, though a few could not. All those that did attend enjoyed it a lot and most of us came away with some bargains and more projects for the remaining dark evenings. Personally, I spent way too much, though some items were bought on behalf of the club or other people, so some of the spent money has returned.

On 12/12/12 the club had our annual Christmas dinner. This took the place of the ordinary club meeting on that Wednesday night. Chairman Les had been out earlier in the day for his last ever work Christmas do prior to his retirement at the end of May. There were nearly 30 club members and family around two long tables and after about 8pm, we had the Riverside Restaurant adjacent to Billing Aquadrome exclusively to ourselves. Service was prompt and the food was edible and hot, though not in anyway outstanding, but to our relief much better than last year.

Progress on our layout Kings Thorpe continues and the pace has picked up in the last few months. Platforms have been built and the design for a three-road shed (with inspection pits) agreed. The platforms have been constructed and more wiring droppers have been fitted, though Roger our electrical star has been rather unwell for several weeks and we all wish him well for improved health in the New Year. Track alignment work prior to final positioning has been not been completed yet, but most of the boards have been done..

The Exhibition Manager job has been filled with club member Bert taking on the mantle, and Les and I as previous EM's have been guiding Bert and in that important new job he's gamely agreed to fill. And of course we're in a new venue for 2013.

The boards for part one of my own layout which I've decided to call Eden – en - Upvale (an anagram of my home street address) have been completed and track laying has started. I've decided to use C & L track rather than Peco as it is more prototypical. Part two boards should be completed in January ready for track laying. The first of two cassettes which will be used on Eden – en – Upvale and the Club's Kings Thorpe layouts have also been completed by MetalSmith of Kettering and jolly nice they are too. More will follow and I can tell you MetalSmith has decided to offer them as a commercial line, so anyone out there who is after cassettes for their new layout should give him a call. Anyone who saw his stand at Reading on 1<sup>st</sup> December may well have seen the first cassette on show there.

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