

Hello again from me, plus seasonal greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. We hope that Father Christmas found your chimney on Christmas Eve and left something you really wanted for unwrapping.

Steady progress has been made with the club layout Kings Thorpe. On the second Thursday in the month, we now have our extra hall hire working afternoon and quite a few of the retired members get stuck in to produce a noticeable difference to the layout each time that day rolls around; so well done them.

Although it will have long-gone by the time this article is read we're now in a three-week period with no actual club meeting. That is down to a combination of Christmas dinner outing and how the calendar falls. Wednesday 18th was the Christmas meal at The Horseshoe in Sywell. I didn't go myself due to other commitments, but I'm told I missed the camaraderie and ambience more than the food. We'll discuss next year's do in our committee meeting on 20th January. We've only had one good event in recent years. That was the outing to the Great Central Railway when we dined in a restored first class Mark 1 coach that one of our members had been very involved in. Well done Mick. Our next club night will be running night on 8th January. If there hasn't been a chance beforehand, I'm sure that will be when new items will be able to turn their wheels for an extended run around the test track. The work to lay an extra circuit of O gauge track has been recently completed, so four tracks will be available that night. However, I think that will be a one-off as the current inside radius (that some locos don't like) will be lifted to make way for an additional OO circuit to cater for the greater numbers of those in the club who model in that scale.

My own layout Eden – en – Upvale has now been temporarily moved to Northampton whilst Roger progresses the DCC electrics. It would be nice for it to have an exhibition debut at our club show in July 2014, but I don't know if it will be finished in time for that to become a reality or even whether it would sit well within the overall layout list. If there's anything to report in future issues I'll let you know.

Several of the NOGGies attended the Reading trade show on Saturday 7th December. Congratulations to the Guildford group who put on an excellent gathering of traders. My morning was a bit traumatic as the train to London was a bit late and when I arrived at Paddington there was a half-hour gap in departures to Reading, but worse was to follow when I did arrive as very soon after entering the hall I found I'd mislaid my wallet. Retracing my steps didn't bring about the recovery I'd hoped for. So I then went to the information desk to ask if an announcement could be put out and as I was waiting to speak to the lady there, so I saw she was speaking to someone who'd found the wallet and was handing it in. Phew, what a relief! I was then able to go about my normal business and purchase the items on my list.

Finally, I'd like to offer our collective best wishes to some of our members, Roger and Tim mainly who've been suffering health wise recently to hope that 2014 cures your ills and discomfort.

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