



# G SCALE SOCIETY KENT

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CHAIRMAN: Andrew Lloyd, 15 Queensbridge Drive Herne Bay CT6 8HD. Email [alloydgscale@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alloydgscale@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.gscalekent.co.uk](http://www.gscalekent.co.uk)

**Whoosh!** That was the summer – here we are in October and planning the Kent Christmas Meet. We have all had a busy and eventful summer, I have tried to get round to as many events as the small matter of building a house, coordination of the Kent's Garden Railway Show and family commitments etc etc, would allow. Regrettably G Scale has had to take a bit of a back seat which is why you have not heard anything for a while. Those on Email have had messages sent to them on occasions, but apologies to those of you who receive things by post, time has not allowed undertake this task – it's amazing how long it takes to print, envelope and stamp them all!! If you are on E mail and have not let me have your address, please do so and I'll add you to the list. Not only does it save me time it also keeps our postage cost down.

Since Easter a range of events have taken place including G Rail in Nottingham, at which we were delighted to see that John Dean won second prize in the modelling competition, Paul Newman and Jason Workman have held open days – any other members willing to follow their example would be very welcome as these are the only two who undertake this in Kent and I know we have plenty of tracks which could be enjoyed by others – don't be shy – let me know if you are considering it – the Committee might be able to help. Colin Scholey has been flying the G Scale flag with his Pear Tree Lane Railway at several venues including our friends at Baldwyns Park Baptist Church Summer Fair and a Garden Centre on the Isle of Sheppy – Thanks Colin. Over 20 Members enjoyed a very pleasant social day at the Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway in June when, despite the weather forecast the sun shone for most of the day. Plans to repeat next year – probably the first Sunday in June – why not book it now.

Charles Darley has done a wonderful job in keeping the web site up to date and it is his commitment that allows us to have an excellent site. News and photographs are always welcome and do keep a regular eye on it as it is the quickest way of knowing what is going on - great photos of the Faversham Event – also taken by Charles - our Official Photographer.

## Kent's Garden Railway Show

**Gosh.....** What a great show this turned out to be and our thanks must go to the members who turned out to help.....could have done with more..... but those who did help pulled out all the stops and made sure it all ran smoothly. Despite a last minute hitch with the use of our new banner by Swale Borough Council banning the use of the proposed site for any advertising, over 350 visitors found their way to the Alexander Centre and all appeared to enjoy the new format of the event. The support from other groups involved with garden railways was popular with both the groups and the public and we received a number of 'thank you' messages indicating they would love to be involved next year. There was a risk this year that the enlarged format would cost more to put on and might not attract the numbers but visitors were up and with a slight increase in the charge we managed to boost the group coffers and bring them back to the level of 3 years ago. The committee have discussed the pros and cons of the event and would welcome any comments from members who attended either as helpers or visitors, as plans are in the early stages for a repeat in 2010. The support which we have received from Swale Borough Council over the past 6 years looks as though it may not be available in the future – all part of the cut backs that we are all experiencing. We have had to book the Centre for next July in order to ensure the venue, but if the Council do remove their support we will be faced with a rental bill of £505.

## Forthcoming Events.

Unfortunately time does not allow me to produce our normal 'Railway Timetable' but please check the website and I have listed those events in Kent up to our AGM in January.

**Expo Narrow Gauge** – Swanley Saturday 31 October 2009. We will have a small publicity stand for the Society at this annual show put on by the Greenwich and District Narrow Gauge Society, **See you there!**

**Pratts Bottom** – our Christmas Meet on Sunday 6 December 2009 which will include the National Draw. Setting up from 9am with running from 11am until 4pm.

**Our AGM** will be held at Teynham Village Hall at 10.30am on Saturday 23 January 2010. The formal notice will be sent out in December, but please make a note of it now and do try and attend.

**Teynham Meet** – is immediately after the AGM, Setting up from 9am with running from 11am until 4pm

### **Meets in neighbouring Counties at which you will be welcome**

31 October - Solent Group's 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Autumn Indoor Meet, Wickham Community Hall, Hants 11am to 4.30pm

22 November – Sussex Meet Herstmonceux Village Hall 11am to 4pm

29 November – Essex Meet, Roxwell Memorial Hall 11am to 4pm

7 March 2010 – Surrey's 10<sup>th</sup> Indoor Meet, Village Hall, East Horsley 11am to 4pm

### **Committee**

John Gold has informed the committee of his resignation, mainly owing to work commitments and we have written to him to thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the group. John was a founder member of the Committee and until a change of job, transported the group track to venues in a van. When we purchased the trailer he undertook most of the towing and arranged for a place to keep it. Thanks John, for all your efforts in the past and we hope that, as time allows we will see you at most of the events.

This means that there is a vacancy on the committee which will need to be filled at the AGM, so if anyone would like to join..... or consider joining..... do get in touch with Andrew, who will be very willing to explain what is involved and the fun we have. We meet 6 times a year on a Sunday morning – not too early... 11am start, break for a sandwich lunch and are normally finished by 3pm.

### **GER**

We are urgently looking for secure storage for the trailer – Any ideas, assistance would be much appreciated.

#### **Workshops (GER) Refurbishment/upgrade**

Please contact any member of the Committee for details/times/location etc

### **G Scale Society Membership**

As you know, Julia attended the Group Leaders Meeting on behalf of the Kent Group on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> October. News to report: An increase in membership fees was approved at the Society AGM – from Jan 2010 the subs will be £22.00 (there has been no increase for 5 years)!

### **G Rail 2010**

24<sup>th</sup> April 2010 – Again to be held in Nottingham.

### **Open Days????**

Please think about opening your garden railways for other G Scale members – a committee member (who shall remain nameless) has been encouraged to do just that next year! He, like many of you, thought his Garden layout was not good enough – RUBBISH – It is our hobby and we just enjoy the opportunity to get together – play trains for a few hours, chat, drink tea/coffee. Please contact any of the Committee who will be happy to help or encourage where necessary.

### **Late News**

Rolf Richter the son of our Hon President (Wolfgang) has died in a car crash. Paul Felton has sent condolences from the G Scale Society.

### **Welcome – Welcome – Welcome!**

We have three new members:- Tony Golding (Maidstone), Peter Illsley (Sheerness) and Martin Piper (Eynsford). Hope to see you all at Pratts Bottom.

Introduce yourselves to any of the Committee. (Look out for the Badges)

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