

ARRIVA FUN DAY

On Sunday 11th May the GER was in attendance at the Kent County Showground. Maidstone for the Arriva Fun Day. John Gold who drives for this company had invited the GER to attend.

After the initial set-up and suitable refreshment (many thanks to Pauline Gold for the early brew) time was made available to look around the show.

There were many vintage vehicles on display along with various dancing troops and even a Chinese dragon. Along with the free bus rides on various vintage and modern models and various other displays a varied and interesting day out was had by all.

As well as the GER layout Andrew Lloyd had brought along a Playmobil kit, which was set up at a suitable height for the children to use for a small donation to the Arriva charities, and in return they received an exclusive 'I have been a Train Driver with the G Scale Society Kent' sticker. This raised about £30.

The day involved a varied programme of running with the children (of all ages) being amused by Paul Newman's very noisy Heidi loco and John Gold's huge crocodile diesel loco. Our thanks go to Tony Fox (a friend to the Kent group) for his help and assistance throughout the day.

A good team effort by those in attendance made for a very good day out for the GER and we were asked a large number of questions, gave out flyers for the Faversham Exhibition and a few Application Forms for Membership.

John Sorrell

VISIT TO BREDGAR

On Sunday 1st of June Andrew Lloyd arranged for the Kent branch to visit the Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway. Although the weather was not at its best on the day, the rain stayed away therefore giving access to most parts of the mainly grassed site.

A friendly greeting party was found on arrival at the site, giving a chance to catch up on news from G Scale friends old and new.

The first part of our visit took us into the huge museum area, this incorporates the workshop area so there was plenty to see for every body, this leads you to the large model railway (G scale of course), which is run on all the open days.

This model is very well presented, with lots of interesting features for the children to look out for and the staff were very helpful in answering questions about the layout.

Next we made our way to the trains themselves, it was noted that nearly all of the rolling stock was newly built on site, and I must say to a very high standard of workmanship, especially the woodwork. The staff were very friendly and relaxed, although it was good to notice there was always someone looking out for any safety matters. Although the train ride itself is short the unlimited rides and great scenery all added towards a fantastic day out. This is a privately owned railway and all the staff are volunteers, which makes the high standards experienced, and the smooth running a credit to the team.

There was a good overall turnout with 17 full members and 14 guests, with some from Essex and Sussex

Our thanks go to Andrew Lloyd for organising the day out and to Bill Best, the owner and his team for an enjoyable day and for bringing this great venue to our attention. If you missed it this year then look out for a date in 2009, as I am sure the Committee will want to repeat this worthwhile event.

John Sorrell.

GARDEN MEET IN SURREY

Andy and Josie Saulter – the Group Leaders in Surrey – are having an Open Afternoon on their Catmint Line in Banstead on SUNDAY 15 JUNE 2 – 5 pm. Telephone 01737 351862. Electric – MTS/Analogue plus O scale/16mm track.

Thanks to Jean and John Sorrell for their help in the production of this edition