

G SCALE SOCIETY KENT

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RETIREMENT OF PAUL NEWMAN AS GROUP LEADER

At the end of the Annual General Meeting in January Paul's retirement was marked with a few words of appreciation on behalf of members by Mrs Pat Maynard- Smith whose late husband, Robert was a great support to Paul and was one of the longest serving members of the Society. A pair of wooden garden chairs, purchased with donations from members, was presented, with the hope that he and Thelma might now find time to enjoy relaxing watching the trains go by. Flowers for Thelma and a card were also presented. In expressing his thanks Paul said that "the chairs will be cherished and the many messages re-read many times and wished the Committee every success for the future of the Group". Members will be glad to know that Paul is continuing, with Ross Shimmon's assistance, to organise the very successful Faversham Exhibition in July and will be around to assist at other events. Thanks Paul, for all your efforts over the past 12 years, which has put this Group on such a firm basis.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Seventeen members attended the AGM at Teynham before the Big Winter Meet on 19 January. The following were elected:

Chairman – Andrew Lloyd

Treasurer – Martin Cook

Secretary to the Committee – Julia Hudson-Morgan

Committee Members: Roger Allen

John Gold

Colin Scholey

John Spann

Paul Newman presented the accounts for the 2007 year which showed an excess of expenditure over income of £551 mainly by the purchase of the trailer for the 'Garden of England Railway'. The balance in the bank at 31 December 2007 was £1425.

In the light of Paul's retirement as Group Leader and with no one person offering to take on the role, a structure of responsibilities was put to the meeting outlining who had agreed to undertake the various roles. Andrew thanked those who had volunteered and pointed out that there were still some areas which needed to be covered.

RAILWAY TIMETABLE

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the Spring/Summer edition of our events at which we hope to see you. Please remember to contact the host of 'open days' to confirm that it is still on and to let them know of your intention to attend.

DID THIS ARRIVE IN THE POST?

Quite a number of people on our mailing list now receive the Newsletter and other information about the activities by e-mail. If you are able to join this method and save us postage it will be of great benefit to the funds. Last year over £200 was spent in Kent on postage. To join this system please email Andrew at the address at the top of this page. Many thanks.

Number 25

March 2008

Web site: gscalekent.ik.com

(There is a problem with the site at the moment which we are attempting to overcome)

TWO BIG EVENTS at which your help would be appreciated

KENT SHOW 10-13 JULY

Once again we have been invited to take the 'Garden of England Railway' to this prestigious 3 day show and Andrew has agreed to organise it on the lines of last year. Crucial to this is having enough members to help – with setting up on the Thursday, running the track and talking to the public over the 3 days and breaking down on the Sunday evening. It was good fun last year and if you missed out, then give it a go this year. If you want to give it a try let Andrew know now – contact details at the top of the Newsletter. Passes are hard to get and he needs to know numbers as early as possible, particularly for vehicles that will need to enter the site for setting up and breaking down. For the really keen, free camping is available over the whole period but we do need to know as soon as possible in order to reserve a site stating whether you want a site for a tent or caravan/motorhome.

FAVERSHAM EXHIBITION 26 JULY

Paul and Ross are once again organising this event as part of the Swale Festival on Saturday 26 July, with setting up on Friday 25. They are in need of help on both these days to ensure that this very public display is fully functional. Seven tracks from Kent will be on display plus other stalls from local railways, a raffle, Society's information desk and much more. It would be good to know as soon as possible who can help so that they know which tasks can be covered. Contact Paul by email at newman@clematisnorton.co.uk or by letter to 1, Clematis Cottages, Lewson Street, Norton, Sittingbourne, ME9 9JT

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Your committee met immediately after the Teynham meet – in the local pub! – and agreed a schedule of meetings for the year. As the responsibility for the day to day running of the Group now rests with the committee, meetings will now be bi-monthly, having previously been quarterly. Dates for 2008 are 20 April, 15 June, 17 August, 12 October and 14 December. All meetings are held in the Gallery at the Kent Wildlife Trust Headquarters at Sandling with the generous agreement of the Trust and has proved an idea venue. If members have anything that they wish to raise this can be sent to the committee Secretary Julia Hudson-Morgan at 61 Hawthorne Avenue, Rainham, ME8.6TS or by email to frankieshouse61@yahoo.co.uk.

HERNE BAY FESTIVAL 23 – 25 AUGUST

Andrew has been approached to take the 'Garden of England Railway' to this event over the late August Bank Holiday. He has been offered a section of the Tourist Information Centre situated in the Bandstand on the sea front. This would be a great opportunity to show off our hobby – but once again it needs people to help set up and run the track over the 3 days. Any offers please to Andrew as soon as possible. Why not bring the family for a day by the sea and spend an hour or two running trains!

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL YEAR – Following the discussions at the AGM about the difficulties to produce audited accounts in time for the meeting and the agreement that the Committee should look at this, it has been agreed that the end of the financial year will be changed to 31 October from 31 December. The AGM will remain at the Teynham meet.

WINTER MEETS – The Committee have decided to open these three meets to the public with admission charges being £2.50 for adults and 50p for children. Members and families will of course still be free. The idea is to encourage more interest in this hobby and to share it with a wider range of people.

FINAL APPEAL – We could do with some help to produce Newsletters and other publicity material. If this would appeal to you – then please get in touch. Many hands make light work!

STOP PRESS: The group track 'GER' has been invited to the Arriva Bus Fun Day at Detling on Sunday 11 May – all welcome. John Gold is coordinating the arrangements.