



G SCALE SOCIETY KENT

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008 - NUMBER 27

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THAT WAS SUMMER

The summer – if that's what we can call it - has slipped by and now we are heading towards the winter and this newsletter is later than planned. We in the south seemed to have been a little luckier than some of our colleagues further north as far as being able to get outside and run trains but we hope that you had a productive time.

KENT COUNTY SHOW AND FAVERSHAM EXHIBITION

July proved to be a busy month, once again, with both these shows coming within two weeks of each other. Reports of both events appeared in the Journal which arrived with us all at the end of September. As a local Society we must thank all the Members who helped with these shows as without their commitment we would not be able to put them on. Faversham was a little short of help and those who handled the running of GER and the Children's Track did an excellent job and our thanks must go to them for 'saving the day' At the County Show 17 members were involved over the 3 days and the addition of the Children's track proved popular in allowing our younger fans the opportunity to drive trains – and receive a special sticker. £89 was raised for funds by charging 50p a drive but owing to the use of battery power on the Playmobil train the AA batteries for the 3 days cost nearly half that amount! John Gold provided a collecting bucket on behalf of Demelza House Children Hospice which was put on the GER track and raised £26.41 without any bucket shaking being done. Well done John – if any of you travel on the Arriva buses in the Dartford area around Christmas, then look out for a Father Christmas driver –that's John, raising more money for the Hospice.

NAME BADGES

The Committee have the facility – thanks to contacts by Julia Hudson-Morgan – to produce plastic credit card size Name Badges for Kent Member which include the National logo. These were very successful at both the July Shows and helped to identify members to the attending public and as aid to us all in remembering names! If you would like to join this scheme just drop us a line by email or post and we will get one made up for you.

CONTACT BY EMAIL

This was introduced earlier this year and nearly half the members have signed up to receiving information in this form. This has reduced the amount of work needed to circulate Newsletters and other information and has reduced our postage bill by about a third. Last year's accounts show an expenditure of over £200 on postage, so with the increase in postal rate since then, the saving is quite significant to our funds. If you have an email address and are not part of this scheme and would be happy to receive news this way, please email Andrew at his address at the top of the page. We will, of course, happily continue to use snail mail for those without this facility

WELCOME

We say welcome to 6 new members this year – so far. Shane and Tanya Alvis from Gravesend, Alan Dines from Whitstable, Derek Whitehead and his son Samuel (possibly the youngest member, ever, aged 5) from Maidstone and Karl Heim from Whitstable who was actually a lapsed member who rejoined at Faversham. Please do make yourselves known to others at any event you attend – we are sure you will receive a warm welcome

It is with sadness that we report the death of member Peter Coulter on Saturday 20 September. He lived in Eythorne near Dover and was the man behind Talisman Castings. His castings have been used by mainly 16mm people around the globe and in time his wife Glynis will continue his work. Our thoughts go to her and their family at this difficult time

WEB SITE

Members on the email list were informed in June that we had a new site – and Web Manager. Difficulties had been experienced on updating our old site and Ross, who set it up for us, was finding he had limited time available to solve the problems. Charles Darley – yes, the very same member who managed to get at least 5 credits in the latest Journal! - suggested a way forward, and agreed to be the Manager. Do look through the site and let us know if there are other issues you would like to see on it – address at the top of page one. It is worth keeping a regular eye on it as it is a way of letting you know what is happening in your Society.

GER – Garden of England Railway – the Kent portable track.

The Committee are planning some improvements and general maintenance during the winter months as the track is showing it's age. This is likely to happen in Sittingbourne as Committee member John Spann has involvement with a Bowls Club and has permission to use their facilities during their closed season to work on the track. This will mean that we do not have to take it down after each session and will give time for paint to dry! This is likely to take place during the day on week days, which we know will prevent some of you from becoming involved. If you could spare the time, then please let Andrew know. You know the saying 'many hands make light work'.

The track is off to Essex on 30 November to support their Meet at Roxwell – 5 miles west of Chelmsford. If you are free and would like to join the trip, your help would be very welcome.

Another area of help that is needed to support the track on it's travels are members who have tow bars. At present we have just 2 very willing members who transport the trailer to the venues, but one works every Saturday driving a bus (guess who) which certainly can restrict our Saturday outings. It would be a help if we had a list of members who could help so that the load could be shared. Offers to Andrew please.

COMMITTEE

The Committee meet bi-monthly on a Sunday and have been discussing various plans to enhance the Society in Kent. One of these was the visit to the Bredgar & Wormshill Light Railway in June which turned out to be a very pleasant social day and is planned to be repeated in 2009. The Faversham Show is now under consideration - looking at the organisation, objectives and layouts - as there is a feeling that after six years it may be becoming stale. The 14th Big Winter Meet at Teynham in January has already booked two new tracks for this event and there will be a Member's Sales Stand, for Kent Members only, to sell stock they no longer require. Unfortunately Andy of Kent Garden Railways cannot be our trade stand owing to one of his big shows moving their date to clash with us. So be warned that you will not be able to pick up supplies from Andy, this time. We are hoping to fill this gap – so watch out for news. The funds, for which the Committee are responsible, stand at a healthy balance of £2227, thanks to the income from this year's Faversham Exhibition.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Society in Kent's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 24 January at 10.30am at Teynham – formal notice will be sent out in December – but please note the date now.

AROUND THE TRACKS

Darley Light Railway - Charles Darley has been hard at work all through the rain of this summer updating his track, isolation to the track to have shunting area and running area, signalling with upper quadrant, signals with LEDs behind the lens, all points now pneumatically operated. See the Autumn Journal for details of how he did it

If you are interested further then visit Charles' web site at www.dlr.gb.com which he keeps up to date with his latest developments.

Redfern Railway - Members who are into our new web site will be aware that this railway has been closed and the track lifted, owing to your Chairman having other plans for the site – a new house. Hopefully by this time next year a new railway will have been established – and the early planning application indicates a raised track, as the previous ground level one started to become out of reach!

Congratulations to Keith Barnes from Folkestone on having his photograph of a Union Pacific freight train crossing the mountain bridge on his extensive track, chosen for the Society's 2009 Calendar.