



KENT NEWSLETTER

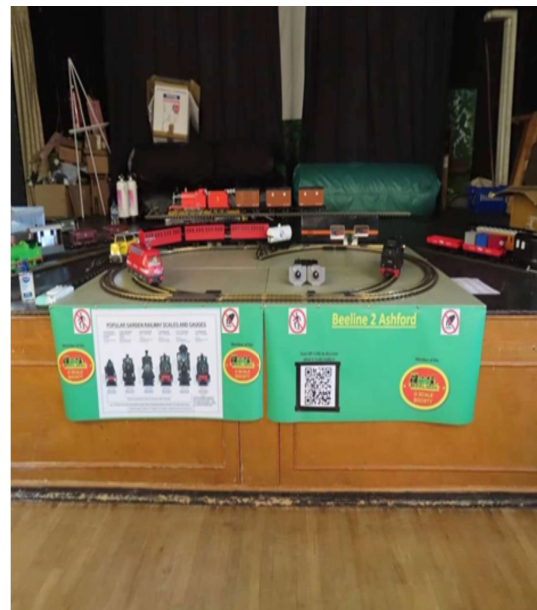
Newsletter 32

October 2023

Autumn meeting Pratts Bottom October 2023

On a sunny Sunday morning we set off for the first of two autumn/winter meetings being held by the Kent. The first being at the village hall at Pratts Bottom on 15th October. The event did not start too well as a couple of days beforehand Andy at KGR informed us that he was ill and unable to attend. However thanks to the group's web page and emails addresses we sent out a message that we would have a bring and buy sales stall and asked members to bring items. This worked well and a fair number of members provided items for sale and these attracted a goodly number of purchases, which is good for the Group as the 10% commission helps our finances.

There were around 40 attendees including 24 G scale members. 16 members were from Kent including our newest member Ben Maskell. For the first time, we had some modular boards set up by Wayne the group's new organiser for garden open days and exhibitions. Wayne had also brought number of trains and wagons for children to operate which turned out to be a good thing as we had 10 or 12 children turn up during the day.



Wayne setting 4 modular boards and the completed display

Garden of England Railway (GER) was out as usual for members to run trains, but for the first time we had the group's new purchase a Massoth DCC control system in use to replace our ageing LGB MTS system. With the newness of the Massoth to us we required some help from two group members Alan Jones and Richard Barton to explain how to operate the new control system. Thank you to them for stepping forward to help set it up and to explain those operating their trains on this system the first time. While the group was setting up GER it was noticed that a number of repairs are needed to be undertaken. GER is showing its age and thus at our next meeting we will be carrying out some of these repairs when the layout is erected. Anyone that would like to help, please contact a committee member as the more who participate, the faster we can get the work completed.



GER setup and ready for the Kent members and visitors to enjoy the trains

Chris Worby from the Essex group, always a supporter of our events, exhibited his Crib Lane layout with a number of new locomotives that he has been busy building. It is a treat to see and listen to Chris on how he has built-up his stock of engines. It seems that no matter what time you see him on his display there is always something new or different. Amongst the 10 or so locos on display, below are two of his newer creations. On the left an amazing model of a Bo-Bo EM1 electric loco and on the right his Highland Railway Jones goods.



Making and Engine Shed

article by David Groves

I was thinking about what buildings I could have on my shunting puzzle set up to give it some height, interest and texture. I remember seeing some articles over the years of scratch-built G scale buildings both indoor and outdoor. I remember seeing something about using foam boards but I throw the magazines away after a while, and so I was on my own, so to speak.

I had a pile of foam board. It had been used for project displays at work which then had been destined for the bin until I intersected them! I set to work on ideas. I have drawing software to help. I downloaded the instructions for the Piko engine shed for inspiration. A simple design emerged. The next question is how could I print several A3 pages out without using gallons of ink. I went into Hobbycraft and bought some A1 sheets of coloured heavy paper. I wanted a red brick colour but the closest was brown. I settled for grey. I cut the sheets down to A3 size and started printing on them. All I did was the mortar and window outlines. I pre-cut the sides in the board first because I needed to wrap the outer paper around the ends for the corners.



The next issue was how to glue them to the board. I have used spray mount before but found that it does not seem to have such a strong bond on foam board. I have a gallon of PVA so I gave that a go. I discovered that if one uses a wide flat artist's brush and paint on the thinnest layer of PVA on the thick paper (or thin card?), firstly it does not crinkle the paper and it acts like an instant adhesive. Of course, this means one needs to be accurate placing in on the board. I find that putting the board onto the paper was easier. I then used a wallpaper edge roller to press the paper home and to get rid of ripples.

At the corners, a butt joint meant that one side piece needed the paper to wrap around make the joint look better. The process was helped by gently scoring the paper prior to applying the glue so it wrapped considerably easier around a corner. I also did this around the window frames. I then cut some strips of foam board and wrapped them to form pillars. I stuck them to the sides in various places and half over the butt joint to partly disguise the joint.

I printed out the big windows thicker card, cut out the panes and superglued them to PETR clear plastic. The smaller windows in the roof are just printed, not glazed.

The doors have paper detail front and back. The hinges are made of laminated tea stirrers and shortened pins. I sharpened the piece of stirrer like a pencil and pushed it into the foam, with added glue for strength. If put together it is a big building which is vulnerable to transport. I made it to be flat pack. I used hot glue to put small pairs of cleats at each join and put a cocktail stick through

them. The smaller vertical windows are fixed in a similar manner but the large roof pieces are loose. That allows access to switch the locos on. Also, there is not a rear wall for the same purpose.



The shed had its debut at the Folkestone Model Railway Exhibition and fared quite well. It is crude. It took me about 16 hours in total to make. It could stand taking some more detail. At the back of the layout with a loco partly sticking out, it added interest to see the loco slowly emerge. When a new crowd was there the loco would retract.

Report on Kent Garden Open days

Jeff Fray

The first thing I must say is to thank Alan Jones in Wittersham, Richard Barton in Herne Bay and Jason Workman in Bromley for opening their gardens this year. It just shows that across Kent we have members that are willing to open their gardens so members and friends can get together run trains and talk about the hobby we all love. I would like to see more of the Kent group members getting involved in opening up the gardens we have not seen. We have around 50 members and it is sad to say that only a small number do open up their gardens for members and friends during the year.

Jason Workman is a great example. Since I became a member of the Kent group, Jason has opened up his little garden railway and telephone exhibits in Bromley for many years to raise money for his local charity that he and his partner supports. And by the way small is wonderful with his other love telephones it makes a great afternoon out.

As I say small is wonderful but so is large as Alan Jones Garden railway at Wittersham proves. It is a must space to visit where you can go and run very long trains and for some members that is something that you should not miss out on. Alan uses most days of the week to help people that may not be able to go out at weekends so look at the event's page on the web site (G Scale Kent events) or Facebook pages for information. Can I also say that this area of Kent is truly the garden of England for a great day out. I recommend the HOOK and HOOF in Tenterden high street for Lunch (Rack of lamb)

For New Members or old take a page out of Richard Barton's book. Started during the covid pandemic and with work still in process he still opened his garden this year and what a treat. We all like new ideas that we have not previously thought about and Richard has demonstrated some great ideas and modelling techniques in his garden.

With this year's season of garden meets over we should start thinking about 2024. Meets afford a good opportunity for members and others to gather and spend a friendly and enjoyable few hours

with a garden railway background, maybe even with a cup of tea. If you have a garden railway and would welcome other members do please consider having an open afternoon in 2024. Should you wonder what's involved and how it might be arranged and set-up then please do get in contact with me or Wayne Evans-Addy. I am happy to help or even come out and have a look and advise you if I can. I know people are still wary after the pandemic but we all need to get out, life is too short.

Finally my own open day this August was one of my best and with members and friends I would like to thank you for taking the time to come and also for the money you donated towards my local church solar panel fund.

For all you North American railway lovers

Jeff Fray

To start this off it was while I was visiting a friend in Nova Scotia Canada this year. He lives way out in the wilderness some 4 hours' drive from the main town of Halifax. On the drive from the airport, he pointed out some railway bridges and embankments that were no longer in use. He explained that the government had decided to close the railway in the 1970s and replace it with a coach service, but after a couple of years the coach service was closed down as it was running at a loss. Knowing how much I liked railways he had a surprise for me a week later when he took me out for the day to the Middleton Railway Museum some 3 hour drive away. It is the only remaining part for the Annapolis Valley CN Railway which ran down the coast from Halifax to Yarmouth in Nova Scotia.

The platform area has a number of carriages and they also had two steam trains on show. Below left is 1274 built in 1905 by the Locomotive & Machine Company of Montreal.



The Museum plans to install a donated turntable at the end of the far platform. When the turntable is up and running the group are hoping to run the small shunter loco from the platform onto the turntable, turn the train around with its coach and head back into the platform. There are also some rolling stock renovation projects and they have an HO model railway with plans for G Scale.

For more information take a look at <https://middletonrailwaymuseum.ca>

Staying in touch

Roger Allen

Before the Pratts Bottom Show I was contacted by a long-standing member who had been a regular attendee at our events but was unable to attend due to long-term family commitments. It made me think, particularly with the winter season approaching that we all should remind ourselves to stay in touch with others who we have not seen for some while, perhaps because they have demands at home that do not allow them to attend an event. An e-mail or phone call will often be much appreciated.

Kent Committee News

As usual members will be sent formal Notice of January's Annual General Meeting at Teynham in December and this will include an invitation for nominations to serve on the Committee. With one exception the present members are content to serve for a further term but we will need at least two additional members. At the AGM Roger Allen will be standing down as a committee member and thus a new chair will need to be appointed. Subject to member agreement Jeff Fray is prepared to take over the Chairman & Group leader roles but we will need somebody to carry out the function of secretary.

The main tasks of the Secretary are:

- act as the contact point for the Group.
- Maintain records of meetings and details of members
- on advice of a new member from National send out welcome message
- with the Chair involvement in the administrative matters of the Group.
- Circulate Group Newsletters and other communications
- look after the group email address - gsskent@aol.co.uk.

The role is not onerous or time-consuming but the postholder must be an e-mail user and have access to word processing and spreadsheet software as well as scanning, printing and copying. The Secretary will be a joint signatory on the Groups Bank accounts. In recent years this role has been carried out between Roger Allen and Andrew Lloyd and either will be happy to be contacted if you are considering the role and would like any more information.

Should you wish your name to be put forward for committee membership at the AGM then please let Roger Allen know.

Henfield Show – West Sussex Group

We will be taking GER to this show on Sunday 3rd December and as usual help from members is required. If you can help, please contact Roger Allen

As well as supporting our own track this is a very good event to visit with 10 layouts attending and trade support. For visitors admission is free but donations are appreciated. Food and refreshments are available all day. The exact address is The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield, BN5 9EQ and opening times 11am to 4pm

Dates for your Diary 2024

Besides our usual winter meet and group AGM at Tenham on Sunday 28th January, the Group is involved in a number of other events next year, including the following :

10 & 11 February – Tenterden Model Railway Exhibition

6 & 7 April - Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling

As ever, help and support from members will be needed in setting up and manning our exhibits. Please make a note of the dates in your diary and if you can help or would like more details then please contact Wayne.

All our events are listed in the diary on the Group's website.

The Net Magazine

This magazine has promoted the G Scale Society Kent for several years for free. We not only appear, as space allows, in the various local editions but are also on their website. The Magazine which is delivered free to a large part of Kent have appealed to the groups that they publish for help in two areas

1. The Net Magazine is looking for distributors in your area and as valued club advertisers I would like to call upon you to ask for your help, you may know someone who would like to earn some extra cash in their spare time and would like to take on one of our rounds. Distributors are from age 13+ Details contact Jane Vivash <jane@thenetmag.uk>

2. It is also important to us that we have confirmation that our magazines are going through letterboxes. If you are not able to distribute the magazine or know anyone that would be interested in doing so it would be very helpful to us if you became one of our monitors, all we would need is an email from you each month with your postcode letting us know that you have received your latest copy of the magazine. This helps us to know our magazines are reaching your homes. If you are willing to help then just contact Emily Palin <emily@thenetmag.uk>

Andrew Lloyd has been doing this for his area for a number of years and it is very simple - just send an email eg - Issue 222 arrived on Wednesday in North Kent - Herne Bay CT6 8HD..... You will get a "thank you" reply. To see the area covered by the Net, go to <https://thenet.uk.net>

Tunstall Christmas Tree Festival

Our group was invited to the Tunstall Coronation Festival in May and represented by David and Helen Groves and Richard and Carol Riley. The organisers have sent us this poster for their Christmas event.

