

# Surrey G-Scale Society

<http://www.surreygscale.co.uk>

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Hi there,

I don't know where the time of this summer has gone but we are overdue for a Surrey G Scale Newsletter.

## **REPORTING BACK – Garden meets and other activities**

We have been a bit reduced on the number of garden meets in Surrey this year, although the weather has not been that conducive to such events.

Roger Tidswell commenced the garden season in May with his layout in Guildford. Luckily the afternoon, unlike the morning was dry, and it was great to see this layout which was featured in the G Scale Journal. The layout is very neat and planted really attractively. Should anyone have any doubts about the visual impact of a railway on a garden, a visit to this line should dispel them! Roger, Elizabeth and their two boys made us all very welcome and attracted a mix of Solent and Surrey members.



On the morning before Roger's open day, Mike Webber had his layout, Albany Garden Railway, at the Reading Large Scale Show. Josie and I went along and were able to provide cover to give him a lunch break. As the pictures show, the layout was extremely popular, with young and old trying their hand at controlling the trains. Several children were returning for another go, so that they could control another engine! It proved an excellent advert for G Scale – well done Mike!



Also in May, we ran a publicity stand at the Merstham Model Steam Show. A big thank you to all of you who helped cover the stand. We handed out leaflets to quite a few potential new members for the G Scale Society as well as chatting with other members. Photo: Derek Williams with Josie.



Our own Catmint Line was open in June with truly warm Summer's day, which was just as well as the numbers attending reached 31. Visitors came from Surrey, Solent, Essex, Kent and Sussex. A large and varied amount of stock was run including some live steam (and "0" gauge!). I must say the afternoon went in a bit of a blur and trust all who attended managed to run their trains on the two circuits and my apologies to anyone I didn't get to speak to.



Adrian and Trish Knight's railway again attracted a good turn out from Surrey and Solent to view this well established and pleasantly planted garden line. The catering was excellent as usual (thanks Trish) and a lot of chatting was done as well as running of stock.



Paul Herold's open day was well attended and featured a tremendous thunder storm. Trains, however, continued to run throughout the downpour both two rail and steam. The live steamer, however, eventually succumbed during the storm as the burner lost the battle with the contents of the boiler and the deluge of cold water falling from the sky. Steve Riley's LGB Southern Pacific ABA unit kept going with full sound although he did pour some water out of it when it was time to take it off the track.



The afternoon (and the storm) has been immortalised on DVD by Alan Broadway. Most of us sheltered under a gazebo or in the kitchen, but as the photo below shows two intrepid G Scalers remained out in the rain!



Richard Atkinson held an open day in mid-September, but unfortunately there was insufficient time for most G Scalers to be notified. Steve Riley did attend and reported back that Richard and Chris had made a number of improvements to their layout since last year. Sorry about the low turn out Richard; hopefully, you will have more visitors next year.

Josie and I had an enjoyable day at Amberley Working Museum in Sussex on 23 September. We took a couple of engines to run on Ian Hedgecock's Fairhaven Railway and also enjoyed seeing a variety of steam traction engines, model boats, as well as riding behind on Amberley's preserved narrow gauge engines.



Last but not least - **Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Riley.** Steve and Celia got married on 28 September. A number of you may have already met Celia at some of this year's open days. We wish them every happiness in their married life.



## 2. SOLENT MEET

The Solent winter meet is on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Please note the meet is on a Saturday this year. The new venue is Wickham Community Hall, Mill Lane, Wickham, Hampshire, PO17 5AL. The new venue has plenty of parking all on the level with the hall.

Instructions courtesy of the Solent newsletter:

From the East: "Follow A27 which becomes the M27 (Jn 12) and continue west on the M27 about four miles leaving at Jn10 (signed "Alton"). Head North on the A32 for two miles. At the A32's mini-roundabout junction with the A334, keep right (second exit) - thus remaining on the A32. After a further quarter mile (a large church is on right) turn left under the old railway bridge, and immediately turn right at the old "Chesapeake Mill" into Mill Lane. Hall entrance and car park is on the left about a quarter mile along (the winding) Mill Lane."

From the West: "Leave the M27 at Jn11 (Jn 10 has no exit from the west). Follow signs from Jn 11 to the A32 and thence as above.

**Roadwork warning:** At busy times, there are major delays on the A3 both sides of Hindhead. Depending on where you live, you may prefer to reach Wickham via the A31 (Hoggs Back) to Farnham and Alton, and then down the A31 to Wickham.

Jack Nisbet has promised there will be some 11 layouts present (including one or two 16MM). Of the G Scale layouts, three are being provided by Surrey members:

- Mike Webber
- John Budd and Kevin Kercher
- Lastly, I shall be taking track again to set up "Katzbahn".

Those of us taking layouts would very much appreciate assistance for setting up, running and taking down – the hall will be open from 8am! I do hope a number of Surrey members will be able to assist. Please let me know in advance if you are attending and can assist.

In particular, I would be pleased to have the assistance of some helpers as Josie is away with her work that weekend and I will be on my own. Can volunteers please contact me on 01737 351862 or by e-mail please.

## 3. LGB News

Many of you will know that LGB went into receivership last year and appeared to have been saved. In April however the bid to save LGB was in trouble with its financial backers and LGB was in receivership again. Various rumours regarding who wanted to buy LGB circulated and in late July LGB of America (LGB of A) stated on their website that they hoped to take over LGB when the German Courts decided. When the Courts finally assessed the offers in early August they decided that LGB should be purchased by Marklin who are owned / supported by a British financial group Knightsbridge. Since early August little solid information has been published and neither the LGB nor Marklin websites have shown any further information ( At least as far as my internet skills could determine!)

Steve Riley has now forwarded information that he has recently received which indicates that LGB should soon be available again and that the manufacturing of track has restarted. Factory stock and spares should become available in October.

I have just picked up my copy of the October Garden Rail which makes this item superfluous for readers thereof but hopefully for the rest this is of interest. It is also indicated that manufacturing of new stock will commence soon although there may be a delay on USA items due to ownership issues with LGBa who have stated they will commission the USRA 0-6-0. (But when??)

It will certainly be good to see the dealers with new stock again.

Piko are bringing out a G scale track range for delivery in October but Gaugemaster's prices don't look too clever!

#### **4. EAST HORSLEY**

Our own Surrey Winter Meet is on **Sunday 2nd March 2008** (See events list below for full details). Paul Herold is busy arranging layouts and trader for another great day out. Please put the date in diary – don't miss out a chance to meet up and run trains. Also do look out any excess items that you want to include on the members' bring and buy stand. Helpers will be required for the day – setting up, manning the door, raffle, packing up, etc. Please let Paul or myself know in advance if you can help out.

#### **5. EAST HORSLEY CATERING**

With the departure of Anne (and Derek) to Spain, the catering team for 2008 will be short-handed. We are looking for some volunteers to help with the essential and much appreciated task – making sandwiches, serving teas and coffees, etc. If anyone or their partners can help out for all or part of the day, please can they contact Paul or Josie.

#### **6. EVENTS LIST**

##### **Saturday 6 October**

Merstham Autumn Steam-up, St Nicholas School, Merstham  
Ian Hedgecock is taking the Fairhaven Railway\*

##### **Saturday 27th October**

3rd Solent Autumn Indoor Meeting  
Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, PO17 5AL  
11 am to 4.30 pm (helpers from 8-9am)  
Our layout, Katz Bahn, Albany Garden Railway (Mike Webber) and Fentilly Railroad (John Budd & Kevin Kercher) in attendance

##### **Sunday 18 November**

Essex Winter Meet  
Roxwell Memorial Hall, Roxwell, Essex  
11am to 4pm

**Sunday 25th November**

Sussex End of Year Meet  
Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux, Sussex  
11am to 4pm

**Sunday 2 December**

Kent Christmas Meet  
Village Hall, Norsted Lane, Pratts Bottom, Kent  
11am to 4pm (helpers from 9am)

**2008****Saturday 19 January**

Kent Indoor Meet  
Teynham Village Hall, Belle Friday Close, Teynham, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9TU

**Sunday, 2 March**

**Surrey Indoor Meet, East Horsley Village Hall, Kingston Venue, East  
Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6QT**

Opening times: 11am to 4pm (Helpers from 9am)

**NB. All events are for G scale members only and not open to the general public**

There are now 99 G Scale members living in or around Surrey.

**Email is our preferred distribution method.**

If you can receive email, please email Martyn Dix and request email newsletters – you will also get the benefit of the colour photos!

If you have received both email and postal newsletters, please let Josie know so that she can remove your address from the postal label file and we can save on postage. **Please let us know if you move or change email/phone details.**