

## DUE SOUTH

The Southern Area Magazine

Autumn 2010

### Fareham Plus BBQ



Fareham Plus and much of Southern Area enjoyed Fareham's BBQ and games in August.

Held in Hampshire's picturesque Queen Elizabeth Country Park, we had sunny weather interspersed with showers, but this failed to damp our spirits.

After Fareham members arrived early to set up the BBQ, the other guests arrived from 3pm onwards.

Upon arriving, guests went off on their walk combined with quiz, a 45 minute walk through the park picking up clues, answering questions and competing in competitions at the various checkpoints along the route.

Upon arriving back at the BBQ site various members battled to get the BBQ lit, with the aid of copious amounts of firelighter fluid and WD40. After this was eventually done and the food was prepared, the guests tucked into their spread, being outside giving an edge to people's appetite.

After the meal, the guests got stuck into the music quiz, which went on until it got dark. Once this finished, people set off for home, admiring the spectacular starscape in the night sky as they walked back to their cars.

Adrian Partington

Fareham Plus

# Avon Valley Railway Trip

When I was perhaps five years old, my dad asked me if I'd like a train set for Christmas. I did, and I wanted an 'N' gauge one so that you could have some sort of strategic purpose on a 4' x 6' base board. Well my dad got an HO/OO gauge, note that – my dad! Well he enjoyed it and I got to play with it sometimes, but it kind of killed my enthusiasm for getting into railways, probably a life altering moment there.



None the less there is a lot of engineering and enthusiasm goes into the restorative actions of some dedicated rail buffs in the various lines and engines restored to use around the country, so I enjoyed a trip out to the Avon Valley line in early May. The station is authentic and they're working on making the restaurant there match. The engines and rolling stock were operational – if in need of a new roof felting. The scrap sidings also proved of great interest, not least as there was a dead 'Thomas' there – HA! He's a clone boys and girls!!! The diesel shunter versus the steam saddle tank engine drag racing was interesting too, steam wins by the way. Unfortunately the aforementioned live 'Thomas' had followed me from his usual Didcot haunt, Thomas I must explain is a steam tank engine with a fibreglass face on the front, not an errant member J. Thomas arrives with hordes of obstructing screaming things in tow, and the children they are looking after come a close second! J. It kind of modifies the day a bit, so we cut it short and went to a line north of Swindon, it took a bit of locating but there were open workshops to wander around in and presumably practice Darwinism in, and somewhat more stock to look over. Given I went with a railway enthusiast, I now know what a loading gauge is and the history of some of the trucks, trains and other units to be found at the two stations.

I wonder if I'd get away with buying the cat a 10' x 16' 'N' gauge in the conservatory?

Adrian Barnard

Didcot Plus



## Southern Area Committee

The Southern Area Committee Meeting was held at Totton Community Centre on the 7th of February 2010. The Southern Area Committee was elected as follows:

Chair	Janet Rintoul	Reading
Admin	Becki Cooke	Reading
Treasurer	Leo Glover	Thattham
Publicity	Michelle Silsbury	Southampton
Area Diary	Simon Good	Abingdon
Development	Iain Parkes	Fareham
Magazine Editor	Adrian Partington	Fareham
Internet Publicity	Paula Oakley	Southampton
General Members	Kath Good, Susan Glover, & Becky Horne	Abingdon & Thattham



## Find your Local Plus Group

Abingdon	Most Mondays from 2030	The Brewery Tap, 40-42 Ock Street, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 5BZ .
Andover & Newbury	1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 2030;	The Whyke Down, Picket Piece, Andover, Hants, SP11 6LX.
	2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 2015	The Blue Ball, Greenham Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 7HY.
Didcot	Thursdays from 1900	The Fleur-De-Lys, 30 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon, OX11 9LN.
Fareham & Gosport	Tuesdays from 2030	The Fareham, 54 Trinity Street, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7SA.
Oxford	Tuesdays from 2000	The Fairview Inn, 16 Glebelands, Headington, Oxford, Oxon, OX3 7EN.
Reading	Every Wednesday from 2000	The Griffin, 10-12 Church Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks. RG4 7AD
Southampton Friends	Every Wednesday except last of the month from 2030	The Slug & Lettuce, 103-105 Above Bar Street, Southampton, SO14 7FG
South Bucks Quest	Most Tuesdays	The Magnet Leisure Centre, Holmanleaze, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 8AW

# Southern Area Beach BBQ 2010

Another sunny midsummer day heralded this year's beach BBQ, organised by Southampton Friends. A change of venue this year to Southbourne beach near Christchurch meant a slightly shorter journey for most of us.



Fig1. Not Southbourne beach..

Although the BBQ was due to start at 4pm, some of us arrived earlier to take advantage of the fine weather. Upon arrival, each of us were allocated our Hawaiian name. The activities on offer this year included limbo dancing, Frisbee throwing and footy on the beach. After building up an appetite taking part in these the BBQs were fired up.

Now that the famous Southern Area half oil drum BBQ has gone to the big scrap yard in the sky, a variety of other BBQs were wheeled from the car park across the sand to the beach location. Unfortunately the car park height entry barrier prevented access by the Southampton Friends' minibus, and Adrian B's car with roof box must have made it underneath with millimetres to spare! However this was a minor aside.

After dining, paper lanterns were lit, and proceeded to rise into the evening sky. Some people left once it got dark, whilst others retired to a nearby pub. There ended another year's beach BBQ..

Many thanks for Southampton Friends for organising this year's beach BBQ, here's looking forward to next years'..

Adrian Partington

Fareham Plus

## **SADY 2010**

I would like to express my thanks to the Members of King's Lynn who made their recent camping weekend such a success - going above and beyond the call of duty to make sure everything worked out OK!

This weekend very nearly got cancelled at the last minute due to a legal wangle between the local village council and the contractor who laid the grass where we would normally erect our tents! Fortunately, some fast thinking and even faster strimming action by intrepid KL Plus members ensured that we were able to break through into uncharted camping lands in the middle of the local woodlands (even though at night it felt more like the Blair Witch woods....)



Fig 2. The forest encampment..

By the time the rest of us Plussers turned up, all arrangements had been made and we settled in to setting up our tents in a more scenic setting than normal!

Friday night was fairly relaxed, well, for us anyway.... The poor pub just down the road didn't quite know what hit it, I think their normal Friday night crowd would have been a couple of regulars and a dog - not the 20 or so Plussers who all turned up at once wanting meals and a few drinkies! Still, Their bar staff rose to the occasion magnificently and we all got served eventually! Af-



ter a few hours of that, it was time to go back to the village hall and grove the rest of the night away to karaoke provided by Excalibur Roadshow (Adam Redshaw) til about midnight and then sat around chatting, drinking and generally plussing till the sky started to lighten up again! (it was around this time that the Member who had spent the last couple of hours curled around the male porcelain managed to find his feet again!)

Saturday morning was a bit delayed, I think the woodland setting made the tents a bit darker for longer - so we were not dragged out this year by the hot sun bearing down directly! About 10am enough of us had surfaced to make going to the pub for breakfast viable - although once again we overwhelmed the staff who didn't have enough in stock for 15 or so hungry Plussers - The poor landlord had to make a quick trip to Tesco in a hurry! lol!

Saturday afternoon found members attending National Rounders in King's Lynn - I am reliably informed that one team won and the other came second...

Saturday evening found the fires being stoked for the traditional BBQ, Having been to Tesco's ourselves earlier, we were well supplied with meat products and the King's Lynn group supplied the salad and buns! Such a yummy feast - was had by all.

Later that night found some people winning the endless raffle (I swear there must have been dozens of prizes!!!) although the numbers were only coming up for Chris Porter and Serena Horsewell! How many redraws can one couple have???? Still everyone had fun doing it!

The rest of the night passed in a bit of a drunken haze, the music was very 80's I seem to recall, and a large number of us just sat outside the hall around a fire-pit (BBQ with no food on!) for several hours just chatting, drinking and chilling out. I am sure that the KL member who informed us that we were being boring, was probably right - but there is a time for everything and the fire was very watchable! :) Those who spent time on the dance floor seemed to enjoy themselves just as much!

I understand that some members managed to stay around the fire till about 4am (long after the wood should have burnt away - maybe it had been treated differently to normal wood....) ;)

Sunday morning found us up around 9am packing our tents away and eventually departing (fter everyone helped out cleaning up the hall and its surrounds!) A short detour to the local burger van was made (We gave the pub landlady a break!) and I can recommend their double cheeseburger!



I got to the local train station about 3 minutes after the hourly service to Kings Cross had just passed through, so had to entertain myself by stinging together some thoughts on what this years KL weekend Podcast should include (although I didn't take as much footage as normal - so at least the editing should not take so long!)

Thanks again to King's Lynn group, Hope to see some of you at Scalextric's in a months time and the rest of you at WASH 2010!

Iain Parkes / Biggles  
Southern Area Development Officer

# Southern Area Narrowboat Holiday 2010

13 Plussers from 5 different Plus groups piled into cars and drove up to Bunbury in Cheshire for the start of this week long navigation of the various canals in the area & the River Weaver.

## Day 1 Saturday 11th September

Setting off bright and early from Fareham at 8.45am, myself and 3 other Fareham members piled into a car and set off for Cheshire. After a rendezvous in Didcot with the others driving up there to re-distribute luggage and passengers, we set off again in a loose convoy. After a couple of stops en route, we arrived at the boatyard in Bunbury at around 1.15pm. We then set about loading up the boats with luggage and a weeks worth of supplies. Once this was done we got a couple of hours travelling under our belts before mooring up in the village of Wardle. After changing into our glad rags we sauntered down to the Jack Tar pub, where we had dinner before returning to the boats for the night.



*Loading up the boat with supplies at the start of the week.*

## Day 2 Sunday 12th September

The crew were up and out at 7.45am for the daily chores of clearing out the prop shaft and bilges, and cooking and clearing up breakfast. Today we headed up the canal towards Rudheath. Unfortunately this turned out not to be an ideal mooring spot, as it was not really geared towards boaters.

We initially moored up not far from the Old Broken Cross pub there, but discovering they didn't do food on Sunday evening, we headed further along the canal to Lostock Gralam. In



*A rural section of the canal.*

what turned out to be rather a trying evening, the others settled for a small pub/restaurant by the canal whilst myself and a fellow crew member headed further into town to try and find a takeaway shown on a GPS phone. This turned out to be a bit of a wild goose chase in the end, with us heading ever further out into the countryside in search of the elusive establishment. Eventually, not finding it, we headed back and got a Chinese takeaway which we took back to the boat to eat.

### **Day 3 Monday 13th September**

We headed up the canal and through the Anderton Boat lift today, a Heath Robin-

sonesque contraption which transports boats the 20 vertical metres from the canal to the river Weaver and visa versa via large water containers, which move up and down the hill with the boats floating in them. Built for the salt trade around 100 years ago, the lift now caters to leisure traffic after an extensive restoration a few years back.



*The Anderton Boat lift with the soda ash factory in the background.*

Dominating the surrounding

landscape was the giant steam belching soda ash factory across the river, like something out of the film Bladerunner, one of many salt industry factories which dot the landscape of the area. We chugged past this and various other semi-derelict looking factories before mooring up in Northwich. A notable sight here were the large swing bridges over the river, built to allow large boats through and opened on average 2 or 3 times a week. We dined at a fine Italian restaurant here, and took advantage of the good selection of shops there to re-stock on things we needed for the rest of the week.



*Approaching Hunt Lock.*

boats together, which made things more sociable, as well as meaning that one person could drive both boats. After passing a derelict looking boatyard we turned round soon after and headed down the river again. Passing through Northwich and up the Anderton Boat lift again, we moored at Barnton where we dined at the Stanley Arms pub adjacent to the canal.

### **Day 5 Wednesday 15th September**

On the canal now, we headed towards Middlewich. The countryside was very attractive, comprising lush fields with grazing cattle, small hills, farms, wooded hollows and the high ground of the Peak district in the distance. Unfortunately the weather at this point deteriorated rather, with heavy rain and

strong wind making life unpleasant on the tiller. Wind had a tendency to make the boats drift sideways, since they lack a keel. Mooring up in Middlewich, we stocked up again at the shops there and then dined at an Indian restaurant where I had the best Indian meal I've had in a long time.

### **Day 6 Thursday 16th September**

We retraced our steps today, heading down to Barbridge Junction and then turning towards Nantwich. Barbridge Junction was notable for a massive tail back of narrowboats caused by us and other vessels queuing to fill up with water at the stand pipe there. With vessels converging on it from all directions, we headed off as soon as we had refilled with water and breathed a sigh of relief we'd made it out in one piece. Mooring up in Nantwich, a fine Tudor town, we dined at the packed Odd Fellows pub before heading back to the boat for the night.

### **Day 4 Tuesday 14th September**

Continuing up the River Weaver, we passed through the large double locks at Hunt's lock, although in reality only one lock is used, the other being abandoned since 1976, with no large vessels using the lock since 1998. Notable here were the railway style semaphore signals at the lock, used to control access to it before radios and mobile phones were invented.

Taking advantage of the river's width compared to the canal, we tethered the 2



*The boat loaded with supplies at the start of the week.*

## **Day 7 Friday 17th September**

The last full day on the canal, we headed back towards Calverley, where we moored up and dined at the Davenport Arms by the canal for a celebratory last meal together.

## **Day 8 Saturday 18th September**

Just a short journey today, we headed back to the boatyard in Bunbury to return our boats. After doing this, and unloading the boats and loading up the cars, we headed back home for much unpacking and washing of laundry..

Adrian Partington

Fareham Plus

*The crews at the end of the week.*



## WASH 2010

Overall, both myself and my fellow group members enjoyed WASH 2010.

This year, Fareham managed to send 4 of us for the biggest weekend of the Plusing year (last year it was just me!), Myself for about the 12th time in 15 years, one member who last



went about 10 years ago, and two members, both in their early 20's, who were experiencing it for the first time!

We enjoyed it! The venue was a comfortable size, the bands were to the usual excellent standard, and the comedian made everyone laugh (although the material was very dated, it has to be said, many of our members are too!)

I loved the Rugby old video clips, seeing what PLUS used to be like, back when most of our members still had some life in them, really brought home to me just what the organisation is missing in recent years - Youthful high spirits and a sense of fun/excitement and general desire to push the boundaries! If we are to survive the next 70 years, we have to recruit members younger than we are!

The quiz was very much to the usual high standard and the film was enjoyable (well, the last half of it was - I somehow missed the first half!) I liked the half board option, very reasonable price - even if I did manage to miss the Sunday breakfast!

Iain Parkes

Fareham Plus



## What's On

Sat 20 Nov 2010	NEC Meeting
Sat 28 Nov 2010	Southern Area Chess Oxford
Fri 3—Sun 5 Dec 2010	South East Area Treat, Gloucestershire
Sat 4 Dec 2010	National Pool Competition, Gloucestershire
Sat 18 Dec 2010	Southern Area Xmas Meal, Basingstoke
Sat 16—Sun 23 Jan 2011	National Skiing Holiday, Finland
Sat 19 Feb 2011	National Annual General Meeting, Northants.
Sat 5 Mar 2011	Southern Area Hedgehop, Hampshire
Fri 8—Mon 11 Apr 2011	Brean weekend break, Somerset
Fri 10—Mon 13 Jun 2011	Southern Area Elveden Center Parcs w/e
Sat 25 Jun 2011	Southern Area Beach BBQ
Fri 26—Sun 28 Aug 2011	Now Get Out Of That, Andover
Sat 10—Sat 17 Sep 2011	National Holiday Abroad