

B&DSME News

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Final call for subs

As of 1st January 2006 all subscriptions are due. As before its £18.00 single and £19.00 joint. Cheques to M.Mortimer 18 Collwood close Poole Dorset BH15 3HF made payable to BDSME please. This is your last newsletter if you havent paid. ■

Chairmans Thoughts

Hopefully Saturday 1st April will be dry as that's the day we need help to move the slabs (160+) from Muscliff Community Centre to the track. All offers of help and trailers would be appreciated to help with the move it's planed to start around 9.00. Don't worry if you cannot lift slabs but have a trailer please come along there will be hopefully plenty of help to load and unload the trailers. Soup and sandwiches will be available at lunch time for all helpers.

Now folks we are looking for a new editor for the news letter Richard wants to give up the reigns due to his work commitments so anybody interested please contact me.

Our planned St Georges Day run on Sunday 23rd April will be our first event this year and it was proposed to lay on cream teas in the afternoon for the members so ladies please come along. We have been invited to the Gauge O Guild on Wednesday 14th June 7.00 for 7.30 at the Allendale Centre Wimborne. The unloading spur is now back in use and the 7¼ steaming bay has been raised and ready for use. David Martin ■

Editors Bit

This month's news contains an appeal from the Chairman for assistance. Not only to move slabs at Littledown but to find a replacement for the editor. Having done the job since 2001 it is time for a change especially as my work takes me further and further from home so let's has some names to Dave Martin ready for the AGM.

News on the Britannia 70051 Firth of Forth, It Lives hurrah! Yep last Sunday saw its inaugural outing at Littledown where it pulled fare paying passengers with me hanging on behind and it barely breaking a sweat. My thanks to all those who were helpful and didn't make to many disparaging remarks. Time, weather & family permitting you will definitely see it as a frequent passenger puller this season. Lets hope the back holds out as it weighs a ruddy ton. If any member knows of an exhibition quality Britannia for sale a friend of mine is anxiously looking (I think he really wants to race me around the track however). The model must be in tip top condition. This is a genuine request as unfortunately he has been let down by several recent viewings of models that are not to his expectations. If you know of anything you feel may fit the bill please call me. Happy Big Engine Steaming! ED ■

Bits and Pieces

Just a reminder that April's evening meeting will be bits and Pieces and as in the past two years this is open to all handy work not just model engineering. We have been fortunate in having some very nice examples of work from member's wives and partners and I hope this will continue this year. Members will be asked if they would like to say a few words about the things they have brought, I hope people say something as it will get boring listening to me!

The July evening will be the AGM as usual and I try to find a member willing to give a short talk on something afterwards but this year have failed to find anyone brave enough. Therefore I have suggested that we have a second Bits and Pieces evening as well as an auction for anyone wishing to sell items. Brian Merrifield ■

The monthly club newsletter for Bournemouth & District Society of Model Engineers

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March News

Diary Dates

Date	Event / Speaker
15-Mar-06	Peter Kent Mason - Tallylyn Railway
19-Apr-06	Bits and Pieces (inc ladies items)
23-Apr-06	St. Georges Day run. Normal passenger hauling but help required from members, Flag pole Duties etc.
10-May-06	Joint visit with the Soton Soc. To Exbury Gardens, 1830hrs Approx.
14-May-06	Traction Engine Day at Littledown (Club traction engines only).
17-May-06	TBC
17-18-Jun-06	Club open weekend, BarBQ on Saturday Evening, Club members help required over the weekend, for this event.
21-Jun-06	"0" Gauge Guild to visit Littledown, 1800 hrs until late. BarBQ. During the evening.
19-Jul-06	AGM + 2nd Bits & Pieces
16-Aug-06	BBQ Littledown
20-Aug-06	Charity Day. This year will be for the 'First Opportunity Group'
20-Sep-06	TBC
18-Oct-06	TBC

Profile Of A Member

This month's member profile features a man who can best be described as quiet with a wicked sense of humour. To give you an idea, whilst discussing this story we ended up redesigning the new "Vibrating" bed him and his wife had just taken delivery of, wondering if it could go any faster, and talking about his pay rise of 25p as an OAP not bad for an Octogenarian. Not sure who I mean? Well let me tell you the story. Evacuated to Ashford in Kent during the war and not really learning anything at school, his father brought him back to Kidbrook. Now his father worked for the Sunday newspapers as a typesetter, being interested in photography the young lad was put to work as a gopher for the war correspondents carrying around the heavy 5 x 4 plate cameras and equipment during the blitz. During this time he joined the British institute of photographers and at the tender age of 17 had an article published in the New York Herald, quite some achievement especially by today's standards. Always wanting to be a model engineer and now having the money, he purchased a new 3 1/8" Zyto lathe for £14 and set about making model parts for his hobby which had first attracted him since the age of 9 when he was a member of the Blackheath model engineering club.

As his skills progressed he realised that engineering was his passion and applied to work at a local aircraft engineering factory but was turned away many times, so what was it to be? Of course, the RAF as a flight engineer working on the most famous Merlin engine, this is where he discovered the ease of the right machine for the job and found model engineering a lot easier

with machines for each purpose rather than doing it all on a lathe. The war ended and in 1945 being interested in photography he went to work again as a gopher for a company called "Photofinish" running from event to event photographing the finishing lines for horse and dog races, to this day its still referred to as a "Photo finish" During this period he met his wife and they married in 1949 they will soon be celebrating 60 years together.

In 1950 still wanting a job in engineering, having nagged the boss for ages he got a start in the tool room of an optical company in Bromley called Rayflex Optical for the sum of 2s.5 1/2 d per hour!, this combined the interest in photography as well as engineering. Progressing onwards it was suggested that he should try his hand in the drawing office and finally our man found his niche and felt right at home designing and drawing, it was discovered that he had a natural flair for this.

Now this is where it becomes even more of a story. What does the words Pentaprism or Eye Level reflex mean to any off you, anything? Well to our man it does, remember we are talking of the 50's when photography was in its infancy and you looked downwards into a box camera, unlike to day where we hold it up to our eye.

Ever wondered how the image comes out correct on the film? Yes we know a bit about single lens reflex but what about the fact that the image not only is reversed but the left/right image is also transposed? Yes you're right this month's member took the faulty design from the German engineers who were on secondment to the factory and successfully redesigned the whole thing to make the image come out exactly as the viewfinder sees it. It was called the "Rayflex Camera" named after the company. If you ask him nicely maybe, just maybe he will show you the prototype which he still has today.

Progressing onwards he then took on the works manager's position, eventually ending up as managing director with 300 staff.

Things in life sometimes take a bit of a turn and eventually following a messy take over and share deal done before his time, the factory fell into the hands of Rank who closed it down. The family had to decide between Leeds or Dorset. In 1970 it was decided to move to Dorset and open a grocer's shop which kept the whole family very busy what with deliveries, bookkeeping and the rebuilding of the premises it was all hands to the mill. Fortunately they realised that the supermarkets were around the corner and sold up, so for the last ten years of his working career our man worked as an estate agent (well we all make mistakes!)

As for model engineering today, well he always wanted to build a Speedy being interested in the design of LBSC but fate struck again and one day his wife was sewing a tapestry of a loco and she asked if they could have one like this instead of Speedy. Why not he thought it only has a few more wheels after all, so the garage was built the tooling moved in, special tools were made for specific jobs along the way and today you can eat your dinner off this mans workshop floor. I kid you not, when I say that I have kept a bottle of champagne especially for the day, when the finished loco will run. As I say to him every time I call him, "How's my Evening Star coming on Ron" Many thanks to Ron & Betty Bettell for allowing me to write this story.

