

MEMBER PROFILE DICK

GANDERTON

This month's member profile is of a very special part of the BDSME and has caused much difficulty trying to cram in as much as possible of a very full and interesting life. Dick Ganderton's first steps into the world of models came as a present from an aunt, being a Hornby clockwork train. This was the start of his first railway layout. It was swapped for a tandem as a young teenager, which in turn was swapped for a 1932 350cc BSA motorcycle.

After leaving school at eighteen Dick started a five-year apprenticeship that was destined to make him a design engineer with English Electric in Luton where he lived, working on guided weapons. Like many of these large companies English Electric had a policy of apprentices working in all departments to give them a full understanding of their work. So although Dick's work was to be on the electronics side, he spent time in the machine shop as well as other departments. I am not sure if it was a great help in his day to day work, but must have proved invaluable given his future hobby of model engineering.

The Apprentice Association supported the charity Dr Banardo's and as a result Dick became friendly with a lady member of staff. Their friendship suffered a major set back when Dick was chosen as the best technician apprentice and was offered a year's secondment to Voluntary Service Overseas. With just a day's notice he had to report to Devonport Docks to travel to Jamaica. His year was spent teaching, six months English and Maths etc, the rest of the time TV servicing & repair. Six weeks after returning home he married his patient girlfriend, Peggy, and she only cost 7/6d for the licence, what a bargain!

Three years later he decided to make a change in his career and turned to publishing, becoming News Editor of a trade magazine "Design Electronics" where he worked for 2 years. He then moved to a new mag by the same publishers "Computer Aided Design" for 3 or 4 years, then taking on a failing magazine "Instrument & Control Engineering" in an effort to turn it around. Features Editor on "Electronics Weekly" followed for 5 years. When the IPC company he worked for moved to Sutton, Dick took the Assistant Editor position on "Practical Wireless", which had moved to Poole, an area more to his liking. He joined a management buyout of this mag in 1988, taking over as Editor of "Shortwave Magazine", before selling his share 20 years later to retire in 1998.

Model Interests: Small scale railways, with an interest in modelling to a scale of 4mm to foot using exact scale wheels and track. Later helped to evolve "Scale 7", again exact scale wheels

and track, but this time 7mm to foot. This interest involved in depth research into wheel and track design. **Models include:** His first big loco, a 5" gauge LBSC "Speedy" was well under way when he decided the design was too far from the prototype and work stopped. "Marie E", designed by Don Young; took a year to build but he did enough in a week to enable it to run on air! "County Carlow" 4-4-0; another Don Young design, built by Eric Eustace. Bought for sentimental reasons and undergoing a rebuild after a lot of running at King's Park. "Metro Tank" 2-4-0 GWR designed by Martin Evens "Mastiff" 4-cylinder, horizontally opposed, water-cooled engine, under construction; as is a Mills 1.3cc diesel replica. A skeleton clock, designed by John Wilding, is to be Peggy's 25th anniversary present; that was 18 years ago! Lots more unfinished projects. He has also made several pieces of workshop equipment such as a "Quorn" tool & cutter grinder; George Thomas dividing head; pillar tool; spherical turning attachment. All needed to make the "Quorn", which is still not quite finished. Also a power hacksaw and a pillar drill.

BDSME: After moving to Dorset, Dick befriended BDSME member Eric Eustace who introduced him to the Society in 1979. It was not long before he was asked to take over the role of Vice Chairman, as the then Chairman, Rev. John Gibson, was in ill health. Sadly it was not very long before he died and Dick found himself Chairman. He alternated in the role with Dick Mantle until the Society became a Company Limited by Guarantee in 1999. Throughout this time his bargain wife, who works tirelessly in the background for the Society's benefit, has supported him and there is no mistaking Dick's pride when he speaks of Peggy's input.

Littledown: The move from Kings Park to Littledown has been so successful, due in no small measure to Mike Baker & Dick's negotiations with both Bournemouth Council and Football Club for our new track. These were long and difficult, with little help from the latter. Dick designed the new track and happily reports that throughout we have been able to maintain a good relationship with Bournemouth Council. **What Else?** Licensed amateur radio operator call sign "G8VFN", but no longer has any radio equipment. Rebuilding a Honda motorcycle 400cc 4 cylinder, owned from new but in very poor condition after being stored unused for 20 years; Built his first car in 1961 based on a Morris 8 Series E with glass fibre body and tubular chassis - fully trimmed with Connolly leather bucket seats. Built a Mirror dinghy in 1965. Oh yes and he wrote a book published in 1999 "James Stanley Beeson" by Richard A. Ganderton ISBN: 1902888006

Many thanks to Dick for allowing me to write this précis of his activities so far. Brian Merrifield

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

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Diary Dates

Date Event / Speaker

14-May-06 Traction Engine Day at Littledown (Club traction engines only).

17-May-06 TBC

14-Jun-06 Visit to Wimborne Society O Gauge Guild 19:00Hrs

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

29-30-Jul "Grand Charity Weekend" Luscombe Valley Railway

16-Aug-06 BBQ Littledown Triple A Triathlon

20-Aug-06 Charity Day. This year will be for the 'First Opportunity Group'

9-10-Sep "Autumn Running Weekend" Luscombe Valley Railway

20-Sep-06 Dick Ganderton - Railway Wheels and Track

18-Oct-06 Keith Shepard - The foundry and its technology in 2006

15-Nov-06 Ladies night

20-Dec-06 Christmas Party

23-Dec-06 "Humbug Day" Luscombe Valley Railway

Chairmans Thoughts

St George's day has been and scone and another fine day was had by all those who attended, thanks ladies for all the work that went into preparing the cream teas and cakes. A good opening for the start of the season hopefully this will become an annual event. Nice to see that all those who attended got into the spirit of the day with the flags etc..

Saturday 29th arrived cool but dry and I got to Littledown just after 8.00. The digger and driver turned up with Martin just after followed by many of our members armed with shovels and picks. A trench was dug by the digger from the station to the foot path. It then moved to the inside of the compound to continue the trench making it

long enough to get the scaffold pole in with its bullet end it was placed in position and the digger proceeded to push the pole under the footpath making a hard job easy, this all happened within an hour of us starting. The digger and driver proceeded to get on with digging the trench as the cable and blue duct was pushed through the scaffold pole under the pathway on to the station. As quick as the trench was dug the cable was laid and partly back filled. It was the decided we had enough spare cable to run power to the new 16mm track that is going to be built around the inside of the steaming bay fence. Just before lunch we had reached the engine shed with most of the trench partly filled in. The digger was now back filling and levelling the ground. Lunch again was provided, thanks Peg and Margaret for keeping us all fed and watered. Once again we were all finished and cleared up by early afternoon proving that many spades do make light work. Thanks to all those who helped.

The Editor's position is still vacant and needs filling. Also Brian Merrifield is retiring from the Post of Events coordinator at the AGM so there is another post vacant and without this post being filled our meetings could be just a general discussion each month!

Reminder, the June meeting will not be at the Muscliff Centre but a BBQ at Littledown for Gauge O Guild. David Martin

Letter to the Editor

This is courtesy of Ted Rouse. I thought this name and address may be useful to other members. It is a address of a local foundry that will do short runs eg. 1 or 2 items, they cast in Aluminium, Iron, bronz, and even lead ect. and very friendly people.

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