

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

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Chairman's Thoughts

We have just had a few days away and decided to go up north to visit Beamish in County Durham. Beamish is set in two time periods; 1913 with Trams, Town, Colliery Village, Mine and Station and Home Farm, Pockerley Manor and Wagonway set in 1825.

We started with a tram ride around the site to see all the attractions and I decided that the first thing to see was the replica of George Stephenson's *Locomotion No.1*. So we alighted at the nearest tram stop. With just a short walk to the engine sheds and then onto the platform. We got into the front carriage in the front wagon I was surprised to see a petrol driven compressor, but this operated the air brakes as they have to comply with the dreaded Health and Safety Regulations. *Locomotion* was blowing off nicely and we were locked into our carriage for a short ride up and back along the 1825 Pockerley Wagonway. The engine is a replica and only two years old. It takes three men to run the train, two driving and one as the guard operating the brakes.

The rest of the day was spent visiting all the other interesting sites, interspaced with more rides on the trams and buses. If you are in the area for a few days it is well worth a visit. Even Diane thought so.

Whilst in the area we visited the *Angel of the North* - a very impressive construction which can be seen for many miles. It is basically 2 inch thick steel plate welded together and left to go rusty. I think it might have been just a little too much for our own welder.

The next day I had planned to go on the Tanfield Railway, but as a mere male I got it wrong and it wasn't running. So we decided to visit Durham. Alas, the Castle was also closed that day - well that's life. The following day we travelled down to the Peak District staying near Matlock. I saw a sign for the Peak Railway, well let's see if that one is running and I was in luck. We had a ride to Matlock and back behind a tank engine, Robert Stephenson & Hawthorns Ltd. 0-6-0ST No. 7136 *Royal Pioneer*, it reminded me of the early days of Swanage Railway, Still, a very pleasant ride was had, even if Diane nearly disappeared when she sat down on the seat as most of the springing had gone. Well that's enough of me rambling on.

We had a good turnout of members from the Gauge 0 Guild, MERG and our own members on Wednesday. Again our track and the 16mm NG Garden Railway were well used, with members from the Gauge 0 Guild running some of their own locos on the 16mm Garden Railway, one was even having its first outing. I was busy keeping the flames burning under the BBQ with the aid of Diane and Hillary and the 80 burgers and 80 sausages went very quickly. Thanks to the other ladies who kept everybody happy with cups of tea and cakes, not forgetting the washing up.

For our open weekend we had ten visiting engines on Saturday and six on Sunday, with those who came really enjoying themselves. They were all well fed and watered. Thanks again to Peggy and her lady helpers for all the work they put into the catering. They were caught having a break as you can see from the picture elsewhere in this issue; still it was a well deserved break.

Please do not forget that the AGM is on the 16th July followed by Bits & Pieces from both male and female members. So bring along your latest projects to show. There will also be an Auction during the evening, so don't forget to bring your cheque books.

The next **Committee Meeting** is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 23rd July at the Littledown Centre.

David Martin



Photograph: Dave Martin

16mm Update or should it be 32mm Update?

It has been pointed out to me (Gordon) that in strict terms we should call this entry 32mm Update, as 16mm refers to the scale of one branch of modelling the other being 0 Gauge to use the same track gauge i.e. 32mm.

The track at Littledown is constructed using Peco Narrow Gauge Flexi track to comply with 16mm standards rather than Peco 0 Streamline although 0 Gauge equipment will usually operate satisfactory on this type of track. My defence for using 16mm Up Date is that, as both Dave and myself model in 16mm = 1ft and, together with our friends, we commonly use the term 16mm to represent the 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers (16mm NGM). If the club wishes I will in future use 32mm in the mean time it's 16mm.

Looking back over last month we have been busy in spite of a rather dismal weather forecast for our regular running dates 1st and 3rd Sundays each month, on both occasions only a few club members brought along their locos to run alongside usual runners. On Wednesday 18th June B&DSME played host to the local Gauge 0 Guild members for a BBQ and track run, we played our part by opening up the 16mm or should be 32mm track? Some of the 0 Gauge modellers brought along their own locos with a chance to run their non-track powered equipment as they usually run indoors on their portable test track. Live steam or battery powered, radio controlled, locos hopefully made a welcome change and we may have some new members in the pipeline. In addition to these activities, members of the 16mm NGM Somerset & Dorset Group have their usual Garden Meets on the fourth Sunday of the month, hence most Sundays are spoken for. Luckily we are a social, family orientated, lot with wives, girl friends, and children all joining in, so domestic restraints do not apply - usually.

Gordon Miles and Dave White

Beamish

Dave Martin took these pictures during his recent adventure 'up north'.

Top right: The replica of George Stephenson's *Locomotion No. 1* and train on the 1825 Pockerley Wagonway.

Below right: The *Angel of the North* 'sculpture' impressed Dave.

Below: Dave described this rather attractive vertical boilered 0-4-0 engine as *Coffee Pot*.



Lifeline Batteries

Norman Kitcher has been tidying up his office and found the details of where he bought the new Lifeline batteries for his 5" Gauge 'Peak' diesel locomotive.

They are available from:

Merlin Equipment Ltd, Unit 4. Cabot Business Village, Cabot Lane, Poole BH17 7BX.

Telephone: 01202 697979

e-mail: sales@merlinequipment.com

Web: www.merlinequipment.com



Strawberries & Cream

Our brave photographer John Hoyle took this photograph of Irene and Peggy having a well earned break. All the ladies really enjoyed the strawberries and cream provided by our Chairman as a reward for their hard work in the kitchen during our Open Weekend.



Direction of Running

Sunday	6 th July	Anticlockwise *	Wednesday	9 th July	Clockwise
Sunday	13 th July	Clockwise	Wednesday	16 th July	Anticlockwise
Sunday	20 th July	Anticlockwise *	Wednesday	23 rd July	Clockwise
Sunday	27 th July	Clockwise	Wednesday	30 th July	Anticlockwise
Sunday	3 rd August	Clockwise*	Wednesday	6 th August	Anticlockwise
Sunday	10 th August	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	13 th August	Clockwise
Sunday	17 th August	Clockwise*	Wednesday	20 th August	Anticlockwise
Sunday	31 st August	Clockwise	Wednesday	27 th August	Clockwise

* denotes 16mm Garden Railway open - weather permitting.

B&DSME Diary Dates

- 3rd July 2008 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Dick Ganderton,
- 16th July 2008 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
AGM followed by an Auction and a Bits & Pieces Evening.
- 3rd August 2008 Charity Day, Littledown Miniature Railway.
In aid of Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.
- 7th August 2008 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Gordon Miles.
- 20th August 2008 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway.
Evening Run & BBQ.
- 4th September 2008 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Venue to be advised.

Newsletter By E-mail

If you want to receive your copy of the Society's monthly Newsletter as a .pdf file, attached to an e-mail, then you **must** let Dick know, by e-mail, sent from the computer you want to receive it on.

Luscombe Valley Happenings

Gala Weekend	26 th - 27 th July
Autumn Running Weekend	6 th - 7 th September
Steam Enthusiast Weekend	27 th - 28 th September
Humbug Day	20 th December



Editor's Ramblings

What a busy time we have had a Littledown recently. Our Open Weekend proved to be a great success - it looks like the numbers of visiting engines is on the increase at last. All the visitors really enjoyed themselves and in some cases almost had to be prised off of the track.

We had a very pleasant evening with the local Gauge 0 Guild group at Wimborne. We watched the trains go round and round on their test track, chatted a lot and ate the food they had provided. The following week they visited us, along with members of the local MERG Area Group. For those who don't know, MERG stands for Model Electronics Railway Group - Neil and myself are members, hence the connection. Although Peggy and myself were unable to attend that evening, I hear that it went off really well. Peggy appreciated the kind thoughts of everyone who phoned to ask how she got on earlier in the day.

The Verwood Brownies and Guides certainly had a good evening when they visited the railway - the trains were running continuously from 5.00 pm to well past 8.00 pm. It was estimated that there was a train every six minutes throughout the evening. If that was the case then my Metropolitan 'Growler', John Milton, did over ten real miles. Thanks to all the members who turned up and helped.

Don't forget the July Tech-Chat Meeting on the **First Thursday** of the month. One member has done really well out of the meetings he has attended. Three Tech-Chat evenings and three totally different problems solved. He's really impressed!

Dick Ganderton

Open Weekend 2008



Mick Baker took these pictures at our recent Open Weekend. They are in black & white as Mick was experimenting with his new 'toy'.

Below: Brenda from Bracknell prepares her 5" Gauge Speedy.

Left: The 5" Gauge L1 version of LBSC's Maid of Kent is owned by Brenda's husband. They both had a very enjoyable Saturday with us at Littledown.



Below: This superb 5" Gauge model of an Austrian Railways B-B electric locomotive even had operating pantographs.



Above: A visitor from Basingstoke with his very nice 3 1/2" Gauge Schools Sherborne on the Steaming Bays.

