

## Chairman's Thoughts

All systems are go for our Santa Special this year, which is on Sunday 11th December. Alan Hodgson has organised a roster for those who have offered to help on the day. The scenery, I hope, will have been checked out and repaired (it always is), the lights sorted out (David White does a grand job of sorting them out every year) and the presents wrapped, well done Irene for taking on the task of buying the presents again this year. All we need is for the weather to be kind to us for an enjoyable day all round.

Good news! We now have a new Social Secretary, or should I say an Evening Events Co-ordinator, or whatever he would like to be called. I will leave this up to William Powell, who has kindly offered to take over the post. I would like to thank Brian Merrifield for all his hard work in the past organising some very interesting speakers.

My Polly is now back in one piece after a partial overhaul that has taken me longer than expected, and I was able to run it last Sunday. It is now running very well, I am pleased to say. It was also good to see both Speedy and Royal Engineer running at the same time with their new custodians.

Our Christmas Party is on Wednesday 21st December. Please bring cakes, crisps, sandwiches, etc. as per normal for the party - prizes for the Christmas Raffle would also be gratefully appreciated.

I believe that all the places at the Annual Dinner at The Crooked Beam restaurant on Wednesday the 25th January 2012 have now all been taken; this is always a very popular event.

I wish everybody a very Merry Christmas.

**David Martin**

## Editor's Ramblings

Work has been going on steadily on the small odds and ends to finish *Sheddon Wheels's* new home. Bob Devereux and Mike Clay have designed and built a very natty automatic stop to prevent a loco being run out through the hole in the wall when the bridge piece is not in place. John Hoyle's pictures show how the device is operated by a tongue on one rail of the bridge.

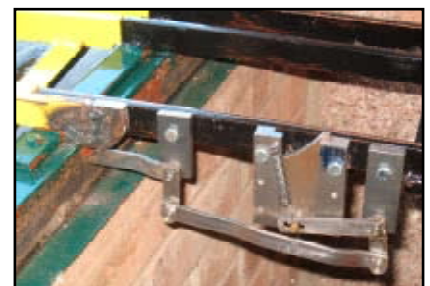
During the fitting of the steel door frame in the hole in the wall I decided to use some stuff called Gorilla Foam to fill the inevitable gaps and augment the frame fasteners holding it in place. Having managed to inject the foam into the gaps and then remove the injector nozzle, the cap was replaced and the can left on the bench. Obviously the self-sealing nozzle wasn't self-sealing enough, as over the next few days some foam had escaped and produced a sculpture worthy of display at the Tate Modern where it would probably have won the Turner Prize.

The Annual Dinner is on 25th January 2012 at the Crooked Beam Restaurant, as in past years - 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The good news is that the price has stayed the same as last year, but the bad news is that all the places have been taken! I did warn you all that this could happen. I will need your menu choices as soon as possible and payment by the January Meeting at the very latest.

We have decided not to hold a TechChat Meeting in January, so the next one will be at John Hoyle's house on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, with the March one at Phil Drake's house at Barton-on-Sea on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and plenty of quality workshop time in 2012 so that you can get on with all those unfinished projects.

**Dick Ganderton**



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## Merlin's Musings

I understand that we now have a new 'Social Secretary' so, to help ease young William into his new job, I would like to suggest an idea for members to ponder over. Why not all of us try to find one Speaker? It's unlikely that every member will find one, but try and have a go. Then give the details of who you have found to William. It's only an idea, but think about it - remember, it is your Society so why not try and become more involved.

Remember in the last Newsletter I said 'watch this space'? Well, Speedy had a run on Sunday 20th November and the lubricating system is now working as it should.

**Merlin Biddelcombe**

## Christmas Greetings From Down Under

At the moment I am helping Karen put the Christmas decorations up. We have just come back from a week long holiday at Forster, about two hours by car from home. To finish we went to see Dolly Parton at an open air concert and in a couple of weeks we are going to see Elton John. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Lena Adams**

## Direction of Running

Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> December	Clockwise	Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> December	Anticlockwise
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> December	Anticlockwise *	Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	Clockwise
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Clockwise	Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup> December	Anticlockwise
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> January	Clockwise *	Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> January	Anticlockwise
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup> January	Clockwise
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> January	Clockwise *	Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup> January	Anticlockwise
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> January	Clockwise
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> January	Clockwise	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> February	Clockwise

\* denotes 16mm Garden Railway open - weather permitting.

## B&DSME Diary Dates

- 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011 Santa Special; Littledown Miniature Railway.  
*Volunteers required. **This is a Sunday event.***
- 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.  
*Annual Christmas Party. Please bring seasonal food and cakes.*
- 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.  
*Subject to be arranged.*
- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Annual Society Dinner. The Crooked Beam Restaurant, 2, The Grove, Christchurch BH23 2HA.  
*All places have been taken.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.  
*John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.*
- 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.  
*Subject to be arranged.*
- 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.  
*Phil Drake. Please let Phil know if you are attending.*
- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.  
*Richard Knott's Annual Video Evening.*

## Luscombe Valley Happenings

[www.luscombevalleysteam.com](http://www.luscombevalleysteam.com)

Humbug Day

December 24<sup>th</sup>

## Newsletter By E-mail

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

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