



Chairman's Thoughts

The Society's trip to Exbury Gardens as guests of Southampton Society was well attended and the weather was kind to us, not warm but still very pleasant, an enjoyable way of spending an evening. Teas and coffees were served in the Engine Sheds before having one last ride. A good evening out was had by all.

Two members from Southampton attended our last Meeting and enjoyed the talk on *Computer Design and Evaluation of Valve Gear and Valve Events*. It is hoped we can arrange more events between the two Societies. One idea has been to do each other's passenger hauling on a Sunday, so if you are interested please contact David Finn.

We have a very busy day on the 15th June as we have a special event in the day followed by the Gauge '0' Guild and MERG who will be visiting us in the evening. I will have to get the BBQ out of mothballs for that night. Peggy has asked for cakes, please and, of course, locos will be required to give rides to both groups.

The next outing for the BBQ will be on Tuesday evening 12th July, Locos and helpers would be appreciated for that night.

Frank Woodward from the Northeast Florida Live Steamers & Railroaders came and visited us at the track on Sunday 22nd May and then returned on the following Wednesday and spent all day at the track. He has seen quite a bit of change in and around the track since his last visit four years ago. Dick asked him how he managed to get his members to contribute to their weekly newsletter, *The Whistle*, as we could always do with articles for our own *Newsletter*. So, if you have something interesting such as photos, articles, etc. to be included please forward them to Dick.

We still have had nobody come forward for the post of Social Secretary, I know we have some speakers arranged up to the end of the year, but that may be it for the forthcoming year.

Thanks to the members who have been cutting the grass around the track and to John Hoyle for repairing the front wheels of the mower and balancing the blade before it shook the machine to bits. We are in the process of looking for a new machine to run alongside the one we have got, but there are not many machines with side discharge.

Unfortunately, my Sundays at the track at present are limited as my son has just bought a house in Fordingbridge and I am redoing his bathroom and kitchen. It's not easy when you work all week - still, hopefully, it will be finished in a couple of months so I can run my loco again.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at The Littledown Centre at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 22nd June 2011.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

The lathe still needs some work doing to it but most important is the provision of some sheet metal belt and gear guards. We urgently need a member to volunteer to make and fit these guards - without them we cannot allow the lathe to be used and it will just languish unloved and unused in the Engine Shed.

How about writing a piece for the *Newsletter*? Without your input it will remain just a couple of sides of basic Society information.

Dick Ganderton

Junior Club

Two dates have been arranged for the School Summer Holidays. Both events will be run over two days, Monday and Tuesday and will have the same format. The final details have yet to be finalised, but will include learning to drive battery electric and steam locomotives and practical sessions, during which they will build a small project.

FunLec 2011

Fourteen members have entered for this fun event, so to give all the entrants a good run this will be a two-day event to be held on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th July.

Runs will be spread over the two days, and help will be needed from Members over the two days! More details for Competitors will be available in advance of the event. Come and have some fun at the track.

Barry Linger

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Bullet Points from the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 25th May 2011

- The Junior Section has two proposed dates for the initial programme. It will consist of two, two-day events.
- Barry Linger has his provisional programme for the FunLec event and will publish it shortly.
- John Hoyle gave a warning about the condition of the Sheddon Wheals batteries. It was proposed that the Society obtains or builds a petrol/hydraulic version of Sheddon Wheals.

David Finn, Society Secretary

Model Engineering Events

11th to 12th June 2011 North Wilts MES Rally Weekend, Coate Water Park, Swindon, Wilts. SN3 6AA (SN3 6AD with engines). 5" & 7¹/₄" gauge ground level track. Valid Boiler Certificates required. Barbecue on Saturday evening from 6.00pm. To attend reply to the Secretary: Mrs. Hilary Foley, 5, The Butts, Crudwell, Malmesbury, Wilts. SN16 9HF. Tel: 01666 577596 E-mail: hilary@nwmes.info

9th & 10th July 2011 Guildford Model Engineering Society. Model Steam Rally & Exhibition. Stoke Park, London Road, Guildford GU1 1TU. 11.00 to 17.00 both days. www.gmes.org.uk/

Direction of Running

Sunday	12 th June	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	15 th June	Clockwise
Sunday	19 th June	Clockwise *	Wednesday	22 nd June	Anticlockwise
Sunday	26 th June	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	29 th June	Clockwise
Sunday	3 rd July	Clockwise *	Wednesday	6 th July	Anticlockwise
Sunday	10 th July	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	13 th July	Clockwise
Sunday	17 th July	Clockwise *	Wednesday	20 th July	Anticlockwise
Sunday	24 th July	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	27 th July	Clockwise

* denotes 16mm Garden Railway open - weather permitting.

B&DSME Diary Dates

- 15th June 2011 Monthly Meeting; 7.00 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway.
Gauge 0 Guild & MERG visiting Littledown.
- 18th & 19th June 2011 Open Weekend; Littledown Miniature Railway.
*Entertaining visitors from other Societies. (Visitors with locos have precedence over B&DSME Members.)
Help will be needed from our Members, please.*
- 7th July 2011 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.
- 15th & 16th July 2010 FUNLEC 2011; Littledown Miniature Railway.
*Help will be needed from as many of our Members as possible, please. **NB: Friday & Saturday.***
- 20th July 2011 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
AGM followed by Bits & Pieces. Bring your latest piece of work to show us what you are doing.

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Summer Gala	July 30 th & 31 th
Autumn Run	September 10 th & 11 th
 Humbug Day	 December 24 th

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.

Typeset by Dick Ganderton in Gill Sans using Adobe InDesign CS2 v4 on an Apple Macintosh Dual 2.5GHz PowerPC G5 running Mac OS X v10.5.8 Leopard.

John Constantine – An Obituary by Richard Knott.

John came shuffling into our lives a little dishevelled in September 2007. He had contacted me to ask if he could come along and take some photographs earlier in the year, which of course I agreed to. Little did I realise what a huge asset to the Luscombe Valley Railway he would become.

The reason I describe him as 'a little dishevelled' was because he arrived with a pair of shoes whose soles were rapidly disintegrating, leaving large lumps of rubber wherever he trod! This of course caused great embarrassment to John and he never forgot this episode.

As time went on John became an integral member of the LVR team. There did not seem to be anything he couldn't turn his hands to. The list of his achievements is long and varied but here is a simplified version.

Sales Items; Printed Tickets; Booklets & Statistics; Track Cleaning Vehicle; New Rolling Stock; Refurbished Rolling Stock; Many different electronic gadgets; etc.

It is not just his great input into the workings of the LVR that he will be remembered for. Initially John was not an easy person to get to know, but I put this down to his initial shyness. Once you did get to know him he was a most generous, endearing and true gentleman in every sense of the word.

John, we shall all miss you more than I am sure you ever realised. Your health got the better of you in the end, but you will be a true friend to all that met you and will be commemorated by the many items you left behind. The best memorial I can offer is that we will finish off your various current projects and build the one item you never got round to - a water tower to your favourite design.



RIP

John had often appeared at Littledown taking lots of photographs of our activities on special occasions.

The Derek Adams Video Library

Lena Adams has kindly donated Derek's collection of VHS videos to the Society to form a library. I have catalogued the collection and the listing was sent out with the July 2009 Newsletter. A list can be supplied on request.

Members are able to borrow up to four videos at a time and keep them for a maximum of four weeks. Collection, by prior arrangement, can be made at the Engine Shed on Wednesdays or most Sundays; from the monthly meetings at Muscliffe; or from my home address.

David White

Social Secretary Needed

We are still looking for a Social Secretary to organise the speakers at our monthly meetings.

My experience has been that at least one has been recommended by a member, another has already been to us before and is willing to speak on another subject. The others are found by talking to people in the normal way and asking if they would come and speak to us, in most cases they have agreed and enjoy the experience. The other way of finding people is to contact organisations such as Swanage Railway, who will almost certainly produce a willing volunteer.

What is required? As you go about your normal activities, speaking to fellow members or someone at a show. If you think they are interesting, then so will the rest of us. You would probably be surprised at how easy it can be to get people to agree to come and speak once they have had a few minutes to impress you with their knowledge. It is only later the truth dawns on just how much work is required to put together a reasonable presentation, but that is not your problem. I have found that most speakers thoroughly enjoy the challenge and freely admit it – at the end of the evening.

Speakers have been booked until the end of 2011. All that will be required is to make contact a couple of weeks before the evening to check they are still coming and make sure they know where we meet. Therefore, you have plenty of time to find people to fill the seven spaces in 2012.

Dave Martin made a valid point when he pointed out that our Meetings are interesting and vibrant because so many members regularly attend them. It would be a shame if attendance fell because the Meetings were no longer interesting.

Brian Merrifield