

## Chairman's Thoughts

I spent a very enjoyable day on Good Friday with David Finn, Barry Linger and Merlin Biddlecombe at Littledown. We only had three locos between us, as Merlin was still having a few minor problems with his. We managed a few continuous laps, but kept being asked for rides and if they were lucky they had two laps around the track. A good job there were some bags of sand in the station building as they came quite in handy to weight the back of the trolleys down as we seem to have lost the weights out of the saddle bags. Do we need to find some bricks to fill up the bags?

It was proposed at the Committee Meeting that a sub-committee be set up to consider the training and testing of members in the operation of locomotives and trains. I would like some feed back from the members on this matter. I can remember when I first joined the Society I had purchased my first loco, a 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" Gauge *Miss Ten to Eight*, made a makeshift blower and came to the track, had a boiler test and then proceeded to drive the loco on the old track. On reflection, some instruction at the time would have been much appreciated. Hopefully we, as a society, have moved on from those days and help is freely given, but I think it would be a good idea if some form of certificate of ability to drive was available.

Looking ahead I have had an e-mail from Neil Mortimer confirming that the Polly Owners' Club would like to come to our track on the 18<sup>th</sup> May next year, 2013, for their Rally. It would be nice for all the Pollys in our Society to make an effort and be there on that day.

Our annual St George's Day Cream Tea will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, the day before the actual St George's Day. It will be our first event of the year and Peggy has asked if anyone would like to make some cakes, but only cakes, please. Thank you.

The next Committee Meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at the Littledown Centre.

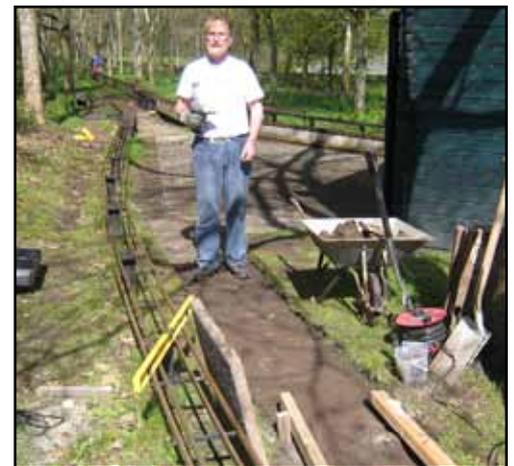
**David Martin**

## Editor's Ramblings

As you can see from John Hoyle's photographs, John Hancock has taken up our Chairman's challenge and has been relaying the uneven paving slabs alongside the Spur down to the Bandy Beam. A major problem has been the large tree whose roots go underneath the slabs.

Ever resourceful, John's solution has been to construct a substantial wooden structure over the offending large root to support the paving slabs. The result looks very good and has removed what was an ever worsening trip hazard.

**Dick Ganderton**



## Ray Day - Saturday 14th April from 10am

At my suggestion Richard Knott has agreed to give over the Saturday of his first running (non public) weekend at Luscombe Valley to remembering our friend Ray Warren, who died ten years ago at Richard's house.

Ray was a long standing B&DSME member, a part of the group that built Luscombe Valley Railway and a regular visitor to Poole Park Railway, where he spent countless hours helping me to run it. His passion was railways, especially steam, with a prestigious knowledge of American railways in particular. He was a man of few words, but when he made a comment it paid to listen and give proper consideration, as he was often right.

The day will be given over to steam only, with the exception of Ray's Maxitrak Ruston. There will be lots of pictures and tales of Ray. Please come along and remember a past Society member, your pictures will be especially welcome. If you have no recollection of him you are still welcome to come and join us and enjoy what made Ray Warren tick - steam locomotives.

**Brian Merrifield**

Editor

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### Insurance

The Society's Insurance Policy has been renewed with effect from 1st April 2012. This year the Policy has been extended to cover Boiler Testers and the Society owned Locomotives. Custodians of these Locomotives and Boiler Testers will be given copies of the appropriate parts of the Policy.

As part of the new cover all members are indemnified against loss caused by their advice to any member of a bona fide club/society with certain provisos. (See Notes to Section 8 of the Policy for more information). A photocopy of the complete Policy will be placed in the Engine Shed.

### Secretary

The duties of Secretary will be undertaken by the Company Secretary, George Wheatley, until a new Secretary can be elected at the AGM in July. This is to fill the vacancy caused by the early resignation of Dave Finn. G.Wheatley, 67 Moorlands Road, Verwood, Dorset BH31 7PD. Tel: 01202 825307 e-mail: [tinker@lds.co.uk](mailto:tinker@lds.co.uk)

### Merlin's Musings

Have you ever thought about the situation of having a puncture with a loco, tender and everything that goes with same all in the back of the car or estate, on top of the spare wheel and jack? Some cars these days do not even have spare wheels. To overcome this situation there are one or two things that come to mind if you are able to change a wheel yourself. Take the spare and jack, etc. out of its designated place and put it in the back with the loco.

I have actually bought another spare from a scrap yard for £15 - saves unpacking and re packing the boot each time. Even if you call the breakdown service the spare is still quite handy to reach. If you decide to change a wheel by yourself, care and thought should be given to the safety aspect. Are you on a motorway or a narrow road? If you are it might be far better to call the break down service. What's that old saying - "it might never happen". Don't believe it. **Merlin**

### Direction of Running

Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> April	Clockwise *	Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup> April	Anticlockwise
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> April	Clockwise
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> April	Clockwise	Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Anticlockwise
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> May	Anticlockwise *	Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup> May	Clockwise
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup> May	Clockwise	Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup> May	Anticlockwise
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Clockwise *	Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Anticlockwise
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> May	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup> May	Clockwise

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

### B&DSME Diary Dates

18 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Railways and Signalling, Paul Steedman.</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2012	St. George's Day Cream Teas. 2.00 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Cakes only, please.</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2012	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>Graham Osmond. Please let Graham know if you are attending.</i>
16 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Ship Wrecks in Bournemouth Bay. Andrew Powell.</i>
7 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>Venue to be arranged.</i>

### Luscombe Valley Happenings

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

Cobweb Run	April 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Gala Weekend	July 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>
Autumn Run	September 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>
Humbug Day	December 22 <sup>nd</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.

Typeset by Dick Ganderton in Gill Sans using Adobe InDesign CS5 v7 on an Apple Mac Mini 2.3GHz Intel Core i5 running Mac OS X v10.7.3 Lion.

## Royal Engineer

**R**oyal Engineer is a 5" Gauge battery electric model of a BR Western Region Hymek diesel hydraulic loco and was kindly donated to the Society by our President Dick Mantle. It is presently being looked after by Peter Burton and his young son James.

Recently Peter has refurbished the engine and given it a super paint job. Peter has chosen to repaint it in the green livery and, in keeping with Dick's request, the name and number has been kept - the name *Royal Engineer* was chosen by Dick to remember his old Regiment and 8479 was his number,

The loco is now a regular performer at Littledown, giving much pleasure to James.



## 16mm Update

**W**ith the gift of some good quality ply sheets to replace our badly delaminated 16mm track covers our main occupation at Littledown has been the cutting and preparation of these boards prior to fitting. We have given these new covers some serious consideration as to their design to make them fit for service.

Although they will be of the same overall dimensions the replacements are thicker, 18mm instead of 12mm, so they will be slightly heavier. To encourage the rainwater to run off they are being given a 1" slope this time

So far we have been able to cut and fit six cover boards, then prime and top coat them with a Dark Green paint. The type of surface coating chosen this time is water based and should not attack the glues as has happened with the original boards, but only time will tell. And finally, after one or two experiments, we have now decided in future to store these covers inside the portable loop (on H & S grounds) away from the public walkways when the track is in use.

It would appear that Father Christmas has been kind to a few members. We have seen at least two new locos and a handful of new rolling stock has graced the Littledown Garden Railway recently. So if you have also been lucky then please come and give them a run on your 'Track in the Park'. Just remember that we run on the First and Third Sunday of each month, weather and other commitments permitting

**Gordon Miles & Dave White**

## Wanted

I am looking for some **Metric Collets**, 6mm - 10mm - 12mm - 16mm for a Clarkson 'S' Series Autolock chuck. The 'S' Series is the smaller of the two Autolock chucks that Clarkson make.

Nigel Moody e-mail: [nge.moody@ntlworld.com](mailto:nge.moody@ntlworld.com)

## More Dates For Your Diary

April 14 - 15	Basingstoke Rally Taunton Exhibition Worthing Exhibition
May 11 - 13	Harrogate ME Exhibition
May 19	Southern Federation Spring Rally, Guildford
May 20	Host Society Open Day, Guildford
June 3	Worthing Open Day (NB Fully booked.)
June 9 - 10	Welsh National Rally Cardiff
June 16 - 17	Sweet Pea Rally Hereford
June 16	Bournemouth Open Day
June 23 - 24	Little LEC 2012 Swansea
July 7 - 8	Guildford Rally
July 14 - 15	IMLEC 2012 Nottingham SM&EE, Ruddington (GCR)
July 21 - 22	Dreaming Spires Rally, Oxford
July 28	GWR Pannier Tank Day, Bournemouth
August 17 - 19	Bristol ME Exhibition
September 8 - 9	National Loco & Martin Evans Rally, Birmingham
September 15	Southern Federation Autumn Rally, Chelmsford
September 16	Host Society Open Day, Chelmsford
October 17 - 21	Midlands Exhibition

## Visit To Fawley Refinery

Charlie Betteridge has suggested that some members might be interested in taking a tour of the ExxonMobil Oil Refinery at Fawley.

The tour can only take place on a weekday between 1.30 pm and 4.00 pm. If you are interested then please contact Charlie directly and if there is enough interest he will make the arrangements.

# Come visit us!

Ever wondered how many barrels of oil are processed at Fawley each day? Do you know how many tonnes of chemical products are produced at the refinery each year? Or perhaps you're curious to find out how many ships visit our marine terminal each year?

If you want to learn more, join us on one of our award winning refinery tours.

Visitors must be 16 and over, and up to three people may attend per household. All visitors must bring either a **valid photographic driving licence** or a **passport** with them. To comply with security regulations, this information may be subject to external verification. If you don't have a valid passport or a photographic driver's licence, please contact Lois on 023 8089 6133.



*Guests visiting Fawley Refinery on the community tour. Photo credit: Ian Jackson.*

Each visit starts with an introductory talk about the refinery in which Dave Dando, a former head of the Environment Group at Fawley, will talk about how the refinery works, and answer your questions.

The talk is followed by a coach tour of the site (please note that visitors aren't allowed to leave the coach during the tour). All tours take place on weekdays, between 1.30pm and 4.00pm.

If you would like to join one, email **lois.clarke@exxonmobil.com** or send the application form at the bottom of this page to: Lois Clarke, Community Affairs, Esso Refinery, Fawley, Southampton, SO45 1TX, giving your full name and address. We will then post an application form to you. **Both individuals and groups are welcome!**