

**W**ell, it's come to that time of year again; when all systems are go for our Santa Special on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The scenery will be checked out and repaired, the lights sorted and the presents wrapped, all in time for Santa's arrival and hopefully the weather will be kind to us. Please, if you are not bringing an engine and are able park in the Littledown car park it will help. The grass it is very wet at present and we do not want to churn it up too much.

We hope to see you all at the Christmas Party on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please bring cakes, crisps, sandwiches, etc. as per normal for the party, also prizes for the Christmas raffle would be gratefully appreciated.

I would like to thank Bob Devereux and his happy band of helpers who have been carrying out re-gauging and the replacement of the fixings screws to our track; this has involved removing the original screws and washers and replacing them with stainless steel washers and screws. Not an easy task as I have helped him on a few days, it is an ongoing maintenance task as we intend to replace all the screws and washers with stainless steel in the forthcoming new year. Our trolleys have had new brake blocks fitted, but need further work done to them and this is being overseen by Merlin Biddlecombe and David Finn, I know that David has already re-profiled four sets of wheels. Mike Clay kindly manufactured the plates for the rollers that have been fitted. I would like to thank them on behalf of the members for their hard work.

A few Fridays ago I was lucky enough to be invited with David Finn and Barry Linger to have a run at the Fareham Society of Model Engineers' track; this was kindly arranged by Merlin who is a member of that society. The day started off a bit damp when I left Bournemouth and headed towards the M27,

I eventually arrived at the track gate closely followed by David Finn. They have a long driveway leading to a very impressive Club House and surrounding buildings. Barry had already unloaded and was in the steaming bay, so I turned my car around and was greeted by Clive and David from the Fareham Society and offered tea. I unloaded my Polly into the steaming bays and David Finn followed behind. Their steaming bays were impressive with water hoses in the roof for filling your loco, 6, 12 & 24V power for steam raising built into the track and they had a roof fitted over them.



We all prepared to raise steam and I was first on the track. Our host let me onto the track and off I went around the first bend and into the tunnel, around another bend over the bridge into the Station then another bend passing the steaming bays and up a gradient to go around the boating lake. Then along the main straight back to where I started from. I carried on for about five or six laps before stopping for water and by that time David Finn came on followed by Barry. The only problem we all had was that due to the weather we made a lot of steam from our chimneys and most of the time we had steam in our faces. We stopped for lunch and by that time I had been running for over two and half hours and as everything was going well I decided to drop my fire. After a break David got his BI going again and I took some video of the ride around the very impressive layout.

A good day out was had by all with thanks to Fareham Society for their hospitality.

My pictures show David Finn approaching the tunnel with plenty of steam and three of us at the steaming bays. More pictures elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The BDSME Annual Dinner at the Crooked Beam restaurant will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 and I would suggest that if you wish to attend you get your booking into Dick as soon as possible - it is well recommended by all members who have attended in the past.

Diane and I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

**David Martin**



Editor  
Dick Ganderton  
'Graskop'  
76 Dewlands Road  
Verwood, Dorset  
BH31 6PN  
[dick.ganderton@me.com](mailto:dick.ganderton@me.com)  
Tel: (01202) 822701

Hon. Secretary

Littledown Railway  
Tel: 07879355399

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**T**he December Committee Meeting will be held in the Gallery Room at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.  
The Minutes of the November Committee Meeting will be available at the December Meeting.  
*George Wheatley, Secretary*

**T**he way in which we alternate the direction of running at the Littledown Miniature Railway has been changed. The direction of running will now be clockwise for even months and anticlockwise for odd months. So December will be clockwise and January anticlockwise.  
The 16mm Narrow Gauge Garden Railway will still be running on the First and Third Sundays of each month, weather permitting. The next dates are 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

**A** Mobile Phone has been installed in the Engine Shed at Littledown for the convenience of Members. It can be used for outgoing calls on Society business and in an emergency. Members who are at the track can also be contacted if required. The number, \_\_\_\_\_ is on the 'Contacts' page of the Society's Website

### B&DSME Diary Dates.

- 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Santa Special; Littledown Miniature Railway.  
*Volunteers required. **This is a Sunday event.***
- 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.  
*Christmas Party. Please bring seasonal food and cakes.*
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 There will be no Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting) this month.
- 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.  
*Topic to be decided.*
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 Annual Dinner; 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Crooked Beam Restaurant, Christchurch.
- 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.  
Gordon Miles. *Please let Gordon know if you are attending.*
- 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.  
*Topic to be decided.*

18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013 London Model Engineering Exhibition. Doors open 10.00 am.  
Alexandra Palace.  
Sat-Nav N22 7AY.

Humbug Day December 22<sup>nd</sup>

If you want to receive your copy of the Society's monthly Newsletter as a .pdf file, in full colour, you 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 v7.0 on an Apple Mac mini 2.3GHz Intel Core i5 running Mac OS X v10.8.2 Mountain Lion.

**W**ell, at last we can inform you that the new extension to the marshalling yard on the 16mm layout at Littledown is now in full operation. Initially we found the extension board too heavy and awkward for us oldies to manage safely, so it had to be cut in half and additional lifting handles added.

Next, we found an annoying problem with the original design because of the angles at which the tracks had to cross over the joint between the original and the new extension baseboards. The slightly protruding rail ends sometimes caught on each other when the base boards were being lifted on or off, in spite of the reduced weight, resulting in damage. Removable joint sections now appear to be



Nearly a full house - we may need more sidings!

the answer with pin & tube fixing/locators. The photographs on the right should help to explain how this works, or better still come and see for yourself. We will be running on the First and Third Sunday, except for the 16<sup>th</sup> December, our Santa Day at Littledown.



A Merry Christmas to all our readers and many Happy Steaming Hours for 2013.

**Gordon Miles & Dave White**

I would like to start with a thank you, in fact a huge thank you to the Ladies who, on most Wednesdays and Sundays, make sure everyone has a drink of some sort, not so much making the drinks but the clearing up and washing up afterwards, so again thank you.

Another vote of thanks is to the small number of members who came to the track on Tuesdays and Fridays from August to November helping to re-gauge the 3 1/2" and 5" tracks. Some 16,000 screws were taken out and put back in to achieve same, 5,000 new stainless screws and washers have been purchased and of course, time and money permitting, all screws will be replaced with stainless ones. Only one little problem, the washers have to be put on to the screws, so one or two of us have taken home 500 at a time to prepare them for the next session at the track.

The first photo is of Bob, John, Dave and Alan about half way down the last straight, the second photo is of Bob and John about to put in the last screw at the end of the long straight. This finishes the re-gauging of the 3 1/2" and 5" tracks. (Photos by myself.)



Something I would now like to mention is that David Finn and myself are now looking after the maintenance and any updating of the trolleys as agreed at the November Committee Meeting. I have compiled a Log Book with a section for each trolley, so that now all work, adjustments or modifications can be recorded, something on the lines of the Track Log that Bob has implemented. So far most trolleys have had new brake blocks fitted and bogie wheels are now being re-profiled. Any one believing there to be a problem of any sort with a trolley should mention it to David or myself.



To finish off with a request, would members who wash their hands in the wash basin at the track clean the basin afterwards. On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November I went to wash my hands and the basin had been left in a filthy state. It only takes seconds to wipe it over.

**Merlin**

**T**he Committee has been mindful for some time of the need to rationalise how Subscriptions are paid and recorded and how we collect and maintain Membership Records. For 2013 all members will be asked to complete and return a Membership Renewal Form together with their Subscriptions.

You will find this Form with your copy of this *Newsletter*, either as a paper document or an attached .pdf file. Please complete and return it to Phil Drake, the Treasurer. You will either have to post it or give it Phil in person - perhaps one day we will be able to offer the facility to complete it and pay 'on line'.

If any member has constructive ideas on improvements or alterations to the layout or contents, please contact me.

*George Wheatley, Secretary*

**T**he Menu for our Annual Dinner at The Crooked Beam restaurant is included with this issue. Places are strictly limited - we have for several years now taken over almost the whole of the restaurant - so if you want to partake please ensure that you get your Menu Choice Slip returned to me, with your cheque made payable to B&DSME, as soon as possible.

I am slowly catching up with the backlog of jobs that have piled up during my six weeks away. It's amazing just how much post drops through the letterbox in six weeks! At least taking the iPad with me enabled me to keep on top of my e-mails.

While I was staying in Portland, Oregon, with Andrew, we drove past a factory that he told me made 'composite railroad ties'. This intrigued me so I Googled and found out that there are several companies producing what are, in effect, full-size versions of the sleepers we are using at Littledown! Apart from 'saving the planet' by recycling plastic milk bottles and bags, they have a life estimated at between 40 and 50 years and hold screws and spikes better than wood. Apparently they also have an advantage over concrete sleepers in that they can be handled with the same equipment as wooden ones. As you can see from my picture of a section of main line, they need something better than wood!

Have a good Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year with as much time in the workshop as you want to get those projects finished.

*Dick Ganderton*



**I**f anyone who will be helping at the Santa Special next Sunday has a genuine food allergy, please let her know so that she can make provision for you. She does mean genuine allergies, not just that you don't like something! She also needs some cakes for afternoon tea, please.

**H**ere are a couple of extra pictures taken when four of our members visited Fareham Society's track with their engines. Below left: Barry Linger has a well earned cup of tea and a chat with Clive, while below right David Finn appears to be praying for David Martin to return to his *Polly* as he waits in the Station. *Photographs by David Martin.*

