

Chairman's Thoughts

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

The morning of the Santa Special started off dull and overcast, but with everybody mucking in, the scenery and decorations all went up easily and in no time at all the engines were in steam. Bacon and sausage rolls followed, by cups of tea, were served up and we were ready for our 11am start. The rush of passengers quietened down at lunchtime, just as predicted by Phil Drake's timetable, enabling us to eat our helping of shepherds' pie followed by trifle or cherry crumble, which was most welcome.

Well done to everyone who helped on the day and thanks to Alan and Jean Hodgson for sorting out the roster and the two Santas, who played the most important roles of the day. We were once again fairly fortunate with the weather as we were able to pack up most things before the heavy rain started just as we were having tea and cakes.

Our annual Christmas Party at the Muscliffe Community Centre went off well, except for the fire alarm going off all the time. Plenty of nibbles were to be had. The raffle was well supported with plenty of prizes and some surprise prizes at the end. Thanks must go to the ladies for looking after us so well over the past year.

I managed one final run on the last Wednesday of the Old Year, which started wet. However, the weather turned showery soon after I had raised steam, but I did manage about five or six laps in the dry. Unfortunately, there were very few people looking for rides, so we all packed up and went home early. Hopefully, we will have some drier weather in the forthcoming New Year.

David Martin



Photograph by Mick Baker

Sheila found time from her elf duties to enjoy a laugh with Peggy outside the kitchen.

Merlin's Musings

Just a comment on the Santa Run. I thought it was a good turnout, both by Members and public. The weather was on the damp side with very light drizzle, but not all of the time. Quite a few Members worked very hard preparing everything before the event, so that when the first passengers were due, everything was ready for the off.

Once up and running every thing went very well, all the engines gave no trouble and in no time at all the first session was over and the Ladies started serving the food, which I thought was five star. Only one slight mishap - whilst carrying the trifle from his car to the kitchen, Dick managed to turn the container upside down. Wife Peggy was not amused! (I didn't do it on purpose, honest, Guv! The Tupperware cake container that she had put it in decided that it had had enough after more than 40 years and one side of the handle broke. Dick)

After consuming our food the second shift put their engines onto the track, allowing the first shift to have their food - having said that an hour was allowed for lunch. So now all that I can say is a very big thanks to everyone who turned out and helped.

Four Generations

It just so happened that our daughter came over from Llanelli in South Wales to stay during the weekend of the Santa Run, bringing with her our granddaughter Alice and great grandson Mathew.

Mathew is very interested in the model railway scene and wanted to visit our track, so I could not resist asking the station staff to arrange a special 'four-generation' train, which they very kindly did for me, with Malcolm Batt acting as Guard. Station Master John Trew even took a picture. Thanks chaps!

Merlin



Photograph by John Trew

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2011 Annual Subscriptions

Treasurer Phil Drake will be collecting Annual Subscriptions at the January Meeting. So bring your cheque book with you. Subscriptions are still £20 for just you, or £21 for you and your partner.

Santa Specials 2011 - 'Thank You'

As instigator of this year's roster for the Santa Specials, I would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to all those Members who volunteered to help with the event. In spite of the poor weather, everyone shared the workload with good humour and made my job so easy on the day. Special thanks are due to the ladies who had a very heavy workload, particularly around midday, looking after the Grotto, mince pies and feeding the hungry horde.

Jean and I enjoyed the day and hope you did, too. No doubt we will do it all again next Christmas – let's hope the weather is better!

Alan Hodgson

The Ladies had a very busy time during the Santa Run and I would like to thank you all very much for all your help during the day. I feel that I must say sorry for all the fuss that I made about the 'upside down' trifle, but at least it gave everybody a good laugh!

Peggy

Engine Shed Mobile Phone

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 will be on the 'Contacts' page of the Society's Website www.littledownrailway.co.uk
Please make a note of the number: **07879355399**

Direction of Running

Sunday	8 th January	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	11 th January	Clockwise
Sunday	15 th January	Clockwise *	Wednesday	18 th January	Anticlockwise
Sunday	22 nd January	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	25 th January	Clockwise
Sunday	29 th January	Clockwise	Wednesday	1 st February	Clockwise
Sunday	5 th February	Clockwise *	Wednesday	8 th February	Anticlockwise
Sunday	12 th February	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	15 th February	Clockwise
Sunday	19 th February	Clockwise *	Wednesday	22 nd February	Anticlockwise
Sunday	26 th February	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	29 th February	Clockwise

* denotes 16mm Garden Railway open - weather permitting.

B&DSME Diary Dates

18 th January 2012	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>3D Printing by Edward Ward.</i>
25 th January 2012	Annual Society Dinner. The Crooked Beam Restaurant, 2, The Grove, Christchurch BH23 2HA. <i>All places have been taken.</i>
2 nd February 2012	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i>
15 th February 2012	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Subject to be arranged. Please let Phil know if you are attending.</i>
1 st March 2012	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>Phil Drake.</i>
21 st March 2012	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Richard Knott's Annual Video Evening.</i>

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

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

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.

Santa Run 2011



Santa Run 2011. A selection of photographs taken by John Hoyle and Mick Baker.

