

Chairman's Thoughts

Reminder to our Santas - it's time to get in training; December 16th is getting nearer, so start by putting on weight and practicing your "Ho-Ho-Hos". I think we may have to invest in a new set of whiskers for Santa as he kept losing them last year. The drivers will need to get their engines prepared for running in the cold. If you missed out giving your name at the last Meeting as a helper and still want to help on the day, please contact David Finn or myself for details.

Our annual Christmas Party will be on Wednesday 19th December, just three days after our Santa Run, so please come along. We will have our usual raffle and prizes would be appreciated. Irene will have no doubt have one of her special prizes for some lucky person, but unfortunately there will not be any handbags to be won this year, as far as I know.

Our annual dinner menu will be forwarded with the December Newsletter when Dick returns from his travels.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

This Newsletter is, of necessity, a very truncated one as I am away for both the October and November Meetings.

At the time of preparing this issue I do not know what the subject for the November Meeting is. However, I am hoping that William will let David Martin know the details before he sends this Newsletter out so that he can put a Stop Press note in with it.

John Hoyle's photograph on the right is of a model built from the kit specially designed for us by Jurassic Models for the recent Junior Event. It is based on what the two youngest Juniors reckoned an engine should look like. Some extra kits were made and this one is owned by our Chairman.

When I return from my travels I will be taking bookings for our Annual Dinner, to be held as usual at the Crooked Beam Restaurant, Jumpers Corner, Christchurch. Put the date in your diaries - Wednesday 23rd January 2013.

Some time ago Alan Hodgson sent me some photographs that Jean had taken at the Fareham track. One particular engine caught my attention, so I asked Alan if he could find out more about it.

Phil Brien of the Fareham club built this modified Sweet Pea, inspired by the Swiss SLM loco works, who converted two tank engines to run off overhead power supply via a large evaporator to produce steam.

*I*dris was built in eight months for the Sweet Pea Rally hosted by the Fareham MES in 2010. It was then modified to a Garrett which took another year. It has an air compressor fitted to work the whistle, pantograph and the air brakes.

Alan provided the following information taken from an Internet search. The Swiss system was 15kV at 16.6Hz - very curious. Apparently, during the war, DC motors were used on AC, but if the frequency was above around 20Hz they suffered commutator flashovers and consequent rapid destruction of the motors. There were other reasons, but that seems to be the prime one.

I wonder if Fareham are planning to fit overhead wires round their track?



Dick Ganderton

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

Hon. Secretary

Littledown Railway
Tel: 07879355399

© 2012 B&DSME. No part of this Newsletter may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

B&DSME is a Not For Profit Company Limited by Guarantee. It has no Employees and the Directors receive no remuneration. Registered in England. Number 3351832

Committee Meeting

The November Committee Meeting will be held in the Gallery Room at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th November 2012.
The Minutes of the October Committee Meeting will be available at the November Meeting.

George Wheatley, Secretary

Direction of Running

The 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 November will be anticlockwise and December clockwise.

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 18th November, 2nd and 16th December.

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, **07879355399**, is on the 'Contacts' page of the Society's Website **www.littledownrailway.co.uk**

B&DSME Diary Dates.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 21 st November 2012 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Topic to be decided.</i> |
| 6 th December 2012 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i> |
| 16 th December 2012 | Santa Special; Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Volunteers required. This is a Sunday event.</i> |
| 19 th December 2012 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Christmas Party. Please bring seasonal food and cakes.</i> |
| 1 st January 2013 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>Venue to be decided.</i> |
| 16 th January 2013 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Topic to be decided.</i> |
| 23 rd January 2013 | Annual Dinner; 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Crooked Beam Restaurant, Christchurch. <i>Details will be available in December. Dick Ganderton.</i> |

More Dates For Your Diary

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 2nd - 4th November 2012 | Model Engineer Exhibition. Doors open 10.00 am. Sandown Park Racecourse. www.modelengineershow.co.uk Sat-Nav KT10 9AJ. |
|-------------------------|---|

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Humbug Day

December 22nd

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 v7.0 on an Apple Mac mini 2.3GHz Intel Core i5 running Mac OS X v10.8.2 Mountain Lion.