

Chairman's Thoughts

Once again Diane and I have been travelling; this time we had a long weekend in Antwerp, Belgium to celebrate my Aunt's 90th birthday. We travelled by car via to France and then through to Belgium. The roads are as busy over there with lorries as they are in this country (or worse); why can't freight be sent by rail as it would be environmentally more friendly?

I did not drive my car in Antwerp as parking in the city is very expensive, but we used their tram and bus system where in parts the trams go underground in the main centre. We did visit a very expensive chocolate shop in what was once the King's Palace and saw chocolates being made. You could buy all different types and flavours; they even made life-size models from chocolate. One thing I learned is that if you are over 65 you get free travel on the trams, buses and even the trains. In this country you have to buy a discount travel pass for the trains.



At the last meeting I mentioned that we are trying to start a Sunday Rota similar to the one used in the school holidays so that we always know there will be enough members to run the railway on Sundays. We will have the list at the next Meeting, so if you can commit to a Sunday please put your name down.

Our Santa Special will soon be upon us and at our last Meeting we agreed a date of Sunday 16th December. If you are interested in helping on the day please put your name on the list that will be circulated at the next Meeting or let either David Finn or myself know by e-mail. It is very difficult to give people a job on the day if they just turn up. We will need guards, station marshals, drivers with large engines and general helpers. By knowing the number of members who will be coming Peggy can make sure that everybody is catered for.

Thanks to all the members who have voted for New Forest Nightstop - they are now through to the Finals on BBC TV in December. If you have not yet voted you still have up to 28th October 2012 to vote at www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/project/new-forest-nightstop

David Martin



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 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

Editor's Ramblings

The November will have to be a very truncated one as I will be away for both the October and November Meetings. I fly out to Chicago next Wednesday and will then spend the next four weeks travelling 6,500 miles by AMTRAK round the USA, visiting relatives, inspecting our second eldest granddaughter - have to try to ensure that she is growing up properly - and attending our eldest son's second wedding!

The next Meeting has an interesting historical subject with John Hoyle telling us about the history of the model petrol engine aeroplane. John has restored a vintage Westbury 14cc spark ignition engine which he flies in a replica of Col. Bowden's record breaking

Dick Ganderton

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 September Committee Meeting will be available at the October Meeting.

George Wheatley, Secretary

Track Maintenance

At the Committee Meeting on 12th September 2012 a letter from a member regarding the maintenance of the track was discussed and it was agreed that a Co-ordinator should be appointed for all matters relating to the raised track and associated equipment. Bob Devereux readily accepted the appointment as Track Maintenance Co-ordinator and to head a sub-committee consisting of Dick Ganderton and Barry Linger to carry out this task.

The Track Maintenance Co-ordinator will normally be an elected Committee Member and if not can be co-opted.

Members are asked to contact Bob Devereux in the first instance for all matters pertaining to the track. In his absence either of the two members of the sub-committee can be approached.

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 October will be clockwise and November 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 4th and 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

17 th October 2012	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
1 st November 2012	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Gordon Miles
21 st November 2012	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
6 th December 2012	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. J

More Dates For Your Diary

13 th - 14 th October	Malden Visiting Clubs Weekend *
17 th - 21 st October	Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition. 10.00 am - 5.00 pm. Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Nr Leamington Spa. SatNav CV31 IXN.

* **Contact the Secretary** tinker@lds.co.uk **for more details.**

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 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.

16mm Update

At last! The new PECO small radius turnouts (points) have arrived and the installation planned. Unfortunately, the weather is now against us – as this is being penned (23rd September) it's pouring with rain and the forecast for Wednesday doesn't look much better either. Please be assured we will start ASAP, weather permitting.

We are now into the indoor exhibition season with all the goodies and locos to tempt us. The biggest commercial show in the south west will be held at Exeter on 20th October and on the following day (Sunday 21st October) we are operating our portable layout at the Southern Gauge 0 Group Exhibition at The Allandale Community Centre, Wimborne.

Please do not forget we normally run at Littledown on the First and Third Sunday of each month, but not this Third Sunday as most of the usual 16mm crew will be operating at Wimborne, sorry about this.

Gordon Miles & Dave White



The weather has been kind to us and as you can see from John Hoyle's pictures, we have made very good progress with installing our newly delivered turnouts.



Merlin's Mutterings

Hello again, As some members may already know the track at Littledown was found to be out of acceptable gauge and therefore it was decided to completely check and re-gauge all of the track. It seems that no one was officially responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of same and to that end the Committee have appointed Bob Devereux as Track Maintenance Co-ordinator.

Bob has introduced a **logbook**, so there will now be a record of everything that has been and is being done to keep the track in tip top condition. Any member using the track and has a derailment, or believes there to be a problem of any sort, should enter same in the **logbook** or mention it to Bob, giving the relevant pier number. The work is being carried out on Tuesdays and Fridays, starting at 10.00 am. Contact Bob for information. So far all the curves have been corrected and only the two straights remain to be worked on, I said, only! Someone might know just how long they are.

Here I should say thank you for the help given so far. It was requested the Society buy a battery powered drill to supplement the three that John Hancock always brings and enable two gangs to work in conjunction with each other. George switched on his magic box and sourced a very nice one, many thanks. If any member should have occasion to use same and the battery should need recharging the instruction book states that it 'should **not** be left on charge for more than two hours, normally a one hour charge should be adequate' - **Read the Instruction Book!**

That's about all for this time. Keep Steaming!

Merlin

Load Trials

Here we are conducting test to try to ascertain the exact load on the motor of **the locomotive**. Instrumentation was rather Heath Robinson, consisting of a large kitchen clock and an iPad. The iPad took a movie of a complete lap of Littledown Miniature Railway so that the clock and ammeter were monitored for the entire lap. The movie was then used to plot current against time. The object of the exercise was to confirm the motor power needed for **the locomotive**.



Health and Safety at Work

There has been for some time a misapprehension in the minds of some of our members as to the application of the to our Society. If the title of the does not clearly indicate the purpose of the , it is stated even more clearly in the first few paragraphs. It says that the applies to employers and employees in the workplace. We have neither employers nor employees and do not have a workplace. This can be readily found on the web-site.

Under the the Health and Safety Executive produce guidelines for employers (i.e. someone with at least one employee). These are written to advise employers on a course of action, which, if followed, will probably save them from prosecution under the . The advice, where it is applicable, is usually good and no harm is done if it is 'cribbed' for our own purposes.

The HSE have recently (May 2012) issued guidance on how the law applies. This is written in unequivocal language. It states: "The and the regulations made under it apply if any organisation, including a voluntary organisation, has at least one employee."

The full text is available on the HSE web-site. You can get an electronic copy from the Secretary. It is entitled

However, any group of individuals, whether a couple or a large organisation, needs guidance as to their conduct to preserve harmony and safety in their relationships. In our Society this is covered by the principles of Duty of Care, which apply to everyone without exception. In addition we are governed by our lease and the By-Laws of the Park. In our particular case, our guidance is contained in our . It is anticipated that the will be replaced by a booklet in the not too distant future.

A future will contain some information on the Society as a Company Limited by Guarantee and insurance matters.

George Wheatley, Secretary

Junior Event 2012

As promised last month here are some more photographs, taken by Phil Drake, during the 2012 Junior Event. The four eager youngsters are Stella (8), Ollie (8), Miles (12) and James (11).

