

Chairman's Thoughts

Our first event of 2013 will be St George's Day Cream Tea on Sunday 28th April and Peggy has asked if anyone would like to make some cakes but please, **only cakes** this time.

Can any of our members remember attending a meeting at the CBB Club in Maxwell Road? We had a talk about the internet and if I remember correctly, Dick Ganderton brought in an Apple Mac computer with a very small screen (new at the time) this must have been nearly 20 years ago. (*I think that you will find it to be nearer 30 than 20, Ed*). Who would have thought then that we would be able to send e-mails and search the web from your phone to nearly anywhere in the world. In those days if you had a mobile phone the battery was nearly as big as a car battery. The Internet is now 30 years old and many of you will be reading this *Newsletter* having received it via e-mail. Our *Newsletters* then comprised of one page in black and white with very few pictures and you would have received it by Royal Mail - how things have changed.

I have now got the new picket fencing materials to replace the old rotted fencing around the traverser. Some of the panels I made were for the old track in Kings Park and kindly painted by Derek Adams many years ago and have been used at Littledown ever since, but they are now too rotted to be repainted again.

So I hope to be carrying out the replacement in the next few weeks subject to an improvement in the weather and my back. I would appreciate some help with this project.

Wednesday 3rd July will be the Tenth Anniversary of the Golden Fishplate Ceremony at the Littledown Miniature Railway and we propose having a party in the evening. It will be on the lines of our Christmas Party, where members all bring something, but coordinated. Peggy will be posting a list of food required in the Engine Shed nearer the time. It was also decided at the Committee Meeting to invite a number of guests who had assisted in the building of the track.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

James Burton had a surprise on Sunday 3rd March, when Irene presented him with a birthday cake and card signed by Society Members. This followed his sixteenth birthday on the 20th February, a landmark event allowing him to carry passengers behind an electric locomotive.

The photographs on the right shows James departing from the station with his first fare paying passengers and later cutting his birthday cake on the platform. James would like to thank Irene and all those present for their good wishes.

Richard Knott has asked me to publicise the Extra Weekends at Luscombe Valley. The railway is not open to the public so you can 'play trains' to your heart's content. A look at www.luscombevalleysteam.com will give you an idea of what Luscombe Valley is about.

I couldn't resist this picture of a young visitor enjoying his birthday present from Grandad on the Garden Railway at Littledown.

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Committee Meeting

The April Committee Meeting will be held in the Gallery Room at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th April 2013

The Minutes of the April Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the April 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 April will be clockwise and May 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 21st April, 5th & 19th May 2013.

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**

Insurance & Membership Lists

The Policy for the Society has been renewed. A copy of the policy has been placed in the desk in the Engine Shed. The original documents are held by the Secretary and can be viewed by arrangement.

For Members who wish to run their locomotives at locations which require evidence of Public Liability cover there are a number of copies of the Certificate at the back of the same folder as the copy of the policy. This will need to be signed by a Committee Member on an individual basis before it becomes valid.

The success of the redesigned Application and Renewal Forms has made it possible to keep our Membership Lists up-to-date and as all the Forms were signed, details can be distributed to other members. An abbreviated list, which omits addresses, can be obtained on application to the Secretary. A copy is kept in the desk in the Engine Shed

George Wheatley, Secretary

B&DSME Diary Dates.

17 th April 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Makeup for Special FX and Film. Pete Tindel.</i>
28 th April 2013	St. George's Day Cream Tea; 2.30 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Cakes, please, but not scones. Note this is a Sunday.</i>
2 nd May 2013	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Gordon Miles. <i>Please let Gordon know if you are attending.</i>
15 th May 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>Subject to be decided.</i>
2 nd June 2013	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Gordon Miles. <i>Please let Gordon know if you are attending.</i>
12 th June 2013	Visit to GOG; 7.30 pm. Quarterjack Suite, Allendale Community Centre, Wimborne.

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Cobweb Run	April 20 th & 21 st
Gala Weekend	July 27 th & 28 th
Autumn Run	September 7 th & 8 th
Humburg Day	December 21 st

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 v10.8.3 Mountain Lion.

Merlin's Mutterings

In my view this is about the best local exhibition you will come across organised by Peter Parish and held in the Michael Herbert Hall, Wilton on the 16th & 17th March. There were 42 Traction Engines from 1" scale to 4.5 including a 2" Fowler Showman's and a 2" Burrell Showman's, which were super. Also in steam outside were several more, including a very nice 4" Burrell Roller.

On the stage was a complete fairground built to 1" scale with everything working and lit up. At one end of the hall was a 2" scale steam driven swing boat, with twin boats, working but not in steam, of course; very impressive. A gallopers centre truck and twin engine working by electric motor. I have watched these gallopers being built over the years and when finished they will be about 7 feet in diameter. Quite a few 5" Gauge locos and another superb exhibit was six State Coaches, the finish and detail of which was fantastic; I would think they were about 1.5" scale. There were all sorts of other models, but of course, I did not take any notes on.

One thing which is good at this Exhibition is that there are no barriers between the public and the exhibits, you are able to get right up close to the models to see any detail, also you can talk to the people who have built the models, especially on the Sunday when they are there to take their models home. I should mention that all profits go to the local Hospital, a very worthy cause. If you didn't visit this Exhibition you missed a treat

Merlin

Littledown Castle Progress

Another day's session at Littledown and the frames are now finally assembled. The weight is rapidly growing and we are aiming to get the loco on its wheels so that we can avoid having to keep manhandling it.

The Coupling Rods have been assembled from the various laser cut pieces and are with Ron Challener to be accurately bored and finished off. Norman Kitcher has machined the three Axles and six Crank Pins and Nigel Way kindly arranged for his friend to weld the 'decorative' pieces to the front of the wheels. These are now with Barry to have to holes for the Crank Pins bored after which they will be fitted to the axles.

Dick has obtained a cycle brake caliper and has machined the disc to fit on the rear axle for the parking brake.

Phil Drake took away the laser cut bits of steel and has assembled them into a pair of very nice buffing and coupling blocks ready to be fitted to buffer beams.

Nick Fiest did likewise with the bits for the Motor Mounts and you can see the results of his work in the picture on the right.

So far it's looking good. John Hoyle took the photographs.



Lathe For Sale

Hobbymat MD65 Lathe with BFE65 Milling Head. The lathe is fitted with the slow-speed kit, giving six speeds between 85 and 2100rpm.

Centre height is 65mm with 300mm between centres. The mill spindle speeds are 315, 560, 900 and 1600rpm.

The lathe/mill is complete with manuals, 80mm 3-jaw self-centering and 80mm 4-jaw independent chucks, angle plate, milling table, faceplate, chip tray, change gears, some tools, etc.

Price £425 or near offer.

More information and pictures from Alan Hodgson.

