



Chairman's Thoughts

Mystery of the Missing Spanners. We are missing one large spanner and one adjustable wrench from the Engine Shed. Please have a look in your tool boxes to see if you borrowed it by mistake and then return it. Club Facilities - these are available to Members all year round, but if you use something please put it away as you found it. The other day the Kitchen was left with the tea pot out, coffee jar lid off and cups out; please make sure they get washed up and put away. When you bring an engine and run, on whatever day of the week, please fill in the Log Sheet. It is important that we have a record of when the track is used. If you are coming on a Sunday and not bringing a loco to run, could you please park in the main Littledown car park; there are no restrictions on time on Saturdays and Sundays, but it's three hours maximum on weekdays.

Hello
I just wanted to send a quick email to say thank you to the lovely folks that were out today. My son is 2 and loves trains so we popped down to look at the railway today and everyone was so kind to him even though he wasn't sure about the big ride on train. He really enjoyed watching the smaller trains on the tracks.
Kind regards
Keele

I received the above e-mail on Sunday 17th November. It's nice to have feedback from people, so well done all those who put up with the cold on Sundays to run our railway.

By the time you read this it will be only a few days until our Santa Special on Sunday 15th December. Would all Members who put their names on David Finn's list come along and help; he will tell you what you are doing on the day. It is a very enjoyable and worthwhile day for all. Tea and coffee will be available all day for Members who are in the Grotto, general helpers, drivers, guards and on the platform to help to keep the cold out, but not the public.

The December Meeting is our annual Christmas Party. Please bring cakes, crisps, sandwiches and snacks, etc. as per normal for the party; also prizes for the Christmas Raffle would be gratefully appreciated.

I wish everybody a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

The bookings for the Annual Dinner at the Crooked Beam Restaurant on Wednesday 22nd January 2014 are going well, so if you want to come, get your form back to me, as places are going quickly. The price is still £18.50 per head, but places are limited to 40, so it's first-come-first-served.

Dick Ganderton

Merlin's Mutterings

The eight standard trollies are now finished, so the seats and removable ends, as mentioned previously, are fully interchangeable with no numbers required. However, the chassis of each trolley still requires a number so that a log of any work carried out can be recorded.

The new trolley is finished and can be used as an intermediate trolley for the Santa Run. After that it can be modified to become a Dynamometer Car. One new seat has been made to replace the one put onto the new trolley and one seat has been shortened by 1" to make all eight seats identical.

It was mentioned that the Turntable had become quite stiff to turn so on Tuesday 26th November it was lifted off its central bearing, taken apart, cleaned and a PTFE washer made and fitted to the centre bearing, which it now pivots on. Originally it was set up with shims, but at some point these were taken apart, which put all the weight onto the outrigger wheels. These wheels have only plain bearings, which may have added to the stiffness. It now runs **very freely** so great care must be taken when turning locos or trollies.

Merlin

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

Secretary

Littledown Railway
Tel: 07879355399

© 2013 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 Matters

The December Committee Meeting will be held at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th January 2014. The Minutes of the December Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the January 2014 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 December will be clockwise and January 2014 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 5th January and 19th January 2014. The railway will not be running on 15th December as that is the day of our Santa Special.

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.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 15 th December 2013 | Santa Special. Littledown Miniature Railway.
<i>Volunteers required. This is a Sunday event.</i> |
| 18 th December 2013 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Christmas Party. Please bring seasonal food and cakes.</i> |
| January 2014 | No TechChat Meeting in January. |
| 15 th January 2014 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Bob Devereux, South African Steam.</i> |
| 22 nd January 2014 | Annual Dinner; 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Crooked Beam Restaurant, Christchurch.
<i>Menu was with the November Newsletter. Dick Ganderton.</i> |

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Humbug Day

December 21st

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 v10.9 Mavericks.

Annual Subscriptions

Anual Subscriptions for 2014 are due for payment on 1st January 2014. Payments due are as shown in the table on the attached form. Once again this year all Members of any class of membership are requested to fill in their full details in the tables so that the Master Membership List can be checked and updated.

Payment may be made in cash or by cheque, either handed personally to the Membership Secretary, George Wheatley, or if a cheque, sent by post to his address below. Payments must not be sent to the Treasurer. When payments are made personally, a new Membership Card will be issued immediately. If payment is made by post and a card is needed urgently, a stamped, self-addressed envelope should be provided. All other cards will be sent to their owner by the most suitable method available.

The Membership Secretary will be at all scheduled Society Meetings, events, and running days starting with the Christmas Party at Muscliff, but excluding the Society Dinner, until the cut-off date, 31st March 2014. A timely payment would be very much appreciated.

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COMPLETED FORM.



Santa Run 2013

Please don't forget that next Sunday, 15th December is our Santa Run. If you have already put your name down then I will look forward to seeing you on Sunday. If you haven't already volunteered then you won't be turned away!

Dave Finn

For Sale

Two 3½" Gauge steam locos, built by the late Ron Bateson. Ron was a Member of the Society for many years and spent his working life as Chief Engineer on several Cunard ships, including QE2. Both locomotives were run regularly at Kings Park and are well made.

3½" Gauge LBSC *Bantam Cock* 2-6-2. £2,000.

3½" Gauge Don Young *Derby* 0-6-0. £1,500.

Viewing by prior appointment only.

Contact Dick for further information. Tel: 01202 822701 e-mail: dick.ganderton@me.com

Annual Dinner 2014

The Annual Society Dinner will be held at The Crooked Beam Restaurant, Jumpers, Cristchurch at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2014.

The cost is the same as last year at £18.50 per head and the Menu and Order Slip was attached to the November 2013 *Newsletter*. If you've lost it you can get another one by e-mail from Dick. The number of places is strictly limited, so, as in previous years, it will be first-come-first-served.

Complete the Order Slip and return it, to Dick Ganderton, 'Graskop' 76, Dewlands Road, Verwood, Dorset BH31 6PN, together with a cheque, made out to **B&DSME**, please.

Do it now, before you forget!

ONLY 6 PLACES LEFT!