

Chairman's Thoughts

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

We were very fortunate on the morning of the Santa Special as the day started dry and mild compared to the wet we had had the previous few days. Everybody mucked in with the scenery and decorations and it 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 then served up and we were ready for our 10.30 am start.

We did not seem to have such a rush of passengers like previous years and this enabled Santa to have a bit more time with the children allowing parents to take photos if they wanted to. We did not stop for a lunch break this year but kept going with other members standing in allowing members to have sausage casserole and a choice of desert, which was most welcome from Peggy slaving away in the kitchen with her helpers. When Santa had given out his last presents the external scenery and decorations were quickly packed away and everybody finished the day with tea and cakes. Well done to everyone that helped once again to make this a successful day.

I believe our annual Christmas Party went off well with plenty of nibbles to be had. Diane told me that you all had fun with the quiz whilst I was at home with the flu and the raffle went off well with plenty of prizes.

Thanks, ladies for looking after us so well over the past year.

David Martin

Even Big Ted entered into our Santa Day and a happy little girl meets Santa in his Grotto. Jean Hodgson took these two photos.



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Editor's Ramblings

Our Annual Dinner at The Crooked Beam restaurant is now fully booked. Thanks to all of you who responded so quickly. This really does make it easy to organise.

Not all those who rode the trains on our Santa Day were visiting Father Christmas. A large number of adults enjoyed the ride and a mince pie afterwards. I often get the feeling that on Wednesday and Sundays throughout the year the mums take their children for a train ride so that they can enjoy themselves, often reliving their childhood. John Hoyle caught one of Mick Baker's trains taking an excited family towards Santa's Grotto.

Dick Ganderton



Committee Meeting

The January Committee Meeting will be held in the Gallery Room at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th December 2012.
The November Committee Meeting was cancelled.

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 January will be anticlockwise and February 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 20th January and 3rd & 17th February 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**

Membership Renewal Forms

The Committee has been mindful for some time of the need to rationalise how Subscriptions are paid and recorded and how we collect and maintain Membership Records. For 2013 all members will be asked to complete and return a Membership Renewal Form together with their Subscriptions.

You will find this Form with this *Newsletter*. Please complete and return it to Phil Drake, the Treasurer, with your Subscription. You will either have to post it or give it to Phil in person. If you've already done so you can ignore this. Thank you.

If any member has constructive ideas on improvements or alterations to the layout or contents, please contact me.

George Wheatley, Secretary

B&DSME Diary Dates.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 16 th January 2013 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
<i>6,500 Miles by Train for £400! Dick Ganderton.</i> |
| 23 rd January 2013 | Annual Dinner; 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Crooked Beam Restaurant, Christchurch.
<i>Fully booked. Dick Ganderton.</i> |
| 7 th February 2013 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Gordon Miles. <i>Please let Gordon know if you are attending.</i> |
| 20 th February 2013 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
<i>Topic to be decided.</i> |

More Dates For Your Diary

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| 18 th - 20 th January 2013 | London Model Engineering Exhibition. Doors open 10.00 am.
Alexandra Palace.
Sat-Nav N22 7AY. |
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Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

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| 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 v10.8.2 Mountain Lion.

16mm Update

Welcome to 2013, and hopefully a good steaming year for 16mm. We started the 16mm year on the First Sunday the 6th January with a further run planned for Sunday 20th January, weather permitting, of course.

We do have one constraint which we have no control over and that is air temperature. Below 5C it is difficult to get Butane to light and provide a stable flame. The alternative is to use a Propane/Butane gas mixture, which, depending on the ratio, can go down to -20C. Or we just rely on battery powered locos. See you at Littledown.

Gordon Miles & Dave White

For Sale

Myford ML7 Lathe – complete with Myford tray, Raising blocks and non Myford cabinet. Fitted clutch. Includes Pratt Burnerd 3-jaw self-centring chuck and 4-jaw independent chuck, Jacobs Tailstock chuck on No.2 Morse Taper. Some tooling and manual. Motor (single phase) has been reconditioned and the machine repainted

Reason for sale is due to change to a different lathe. It has been used, but well looked after.

All in very good condition £1000

Apply Stephen Loader



Merlin's Mutterings

Let me just say that the Santa Sunday was a very good event and thanks must go to all concerned, also to Peggy and the ladies for the food and liquid refreshments and of course anyone who made available any of the food. No more from me on this event as I know that quite a few photos were taken and hope that they will appear in this Newsletter.

Now, on a different note. David Finn and I request that members who have Tank engines and use free standing water tanks placed on the front of the trolley please put a square of red carpet between the tank and seat to protect the upholstery. The carpet will be in the Station building to the left of the seats. Another request - will any member steaming a tender engine and being the only person on the trolley means that to drive you have to sit well forward, can cause the back end to lift, resulting in the rear bogie derailing. To stop this happening please put one of the weighted saddle bags on the rear of the seat. Saddle bags are kept in the Station building underneath the trolley seats. The trollies are now being put away with the back rests still assembled and until the Spring the seats are being kept in the Station building. Thanks from David and Merlin.

Another event which I could not attend was the Christmas Party. Now, as you all know, there is always a Christmas Draw and guess what - even though I was not there I won a prize! This was a Sherriff's office building, complete with Sherriff on a Donkey by Lego. So thank you *SOMEONE*.

Happy New Year to all. Keep steaming.



Merlin

Top: This is what it takes to put on a successful Santa Day. The Team line up for John Hoyle's camera at the end of another hard day's work.

Centre: One of Santa's happy little Helper's hands out mince pies.

Bottom: Merlin is hoping that Santa will bring him a Wild West Lego Sheriff and Donkey to help him keep those danged balloons under control!



Cricket's Railway Floods

The wettest year on record brought disaster to Gordon De la Mere's Cricket's Railway. The river at the bottom of his garden burst its banks and washed away some ninety yards of his 5" Gauge ground level track.

Gordon sent some pictures of what would appear to be twisted and broken track. However, in his own words - "Sheila and I got the track back on to the bed a few days ago. Seems the actual damage is limited to eight sets of fish-plates. Some of the ballast got washed away, but not more than a wheelbarrow load or two. Nobody died. We are unlikely to be running trains for a while, regardless."



