

Chairman's Thoughts

We had a good turn out from the Gauge One, Gauge 0 Guild and MERG local Area Groups, as well as our own Members, on Wednesday 19th June and the weather once again was kind to us. Our track and the 16mm were well used with members from the Gauge 0 Guild running some of their own locos on the 16mm track with one even having its first outing on our track. I was busy keeping the flames burning under the BBQ and with the aid of Diane and Hillary the 48 burgers and 80 sausages went very quickly. Thanks to the other ladies who kept everyone happy with cups of tea and cakes and not forgetting the washing up

By the time you read this we will have celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Golden Fishplate and the formal opening of our track on the evening of 3rd July, so thanks to all that attended.

JP Morgan asked us to run on Saturday 6th July and I would like to thank the drivers and helpers who helped run the railway for them. As it was a private event we had to keep the numbers of our Members down to a minimum, so apologies if you did not get asked.

The track does need a certain amount of maintenance to keep it functioning - it would be nice to see other Members taking part in grass cutting, strimming, painting, garden railway covers, and just keeping the surrounding area tidy. Please do not leave it to the few who do this work as the facilities are for all to enjoy. One easy thing for Members to do is help with the setting up of the Track for public running on Sundays and offering yourself as a guard, but most important is to help with the packing up after the last train has run as there are a lot of items we get out that need to be packed away.

An update on Merlin's Mutterings in this Newsletter. The four trolleys have now been painted and look very good. Soon they will have the Society's logo and a yellow stripe on both sides. We are still testing the new infill gaiter and will be working on the Mark 2 version - watch future Merlin's Mutterings for the latest news.

The Society has a new Web Master and he will be looking to include some new photographs on our website. Please could you forward any suitable photographs for inclusion on the site to me.

Please do not forget that the AGM is on Wednesday 17th July followed by a Bits & Pieces evening, so bring along your latest projects to show.

The Society's Charity Day will be on Sunday 4th August in aid of the Youth Cancer Trust



David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

Doesn't time fly! I'm certain that it accelerates as one gets older. It seems like only yesterday that we were meeting the contractor at Littledown as he commenced work on our new track. However, that was just one week short of eleven years ago and only 51 weeks later we were able to run the first train round the completed track!

At the Celebration Party we were able to welcome back some of those who made the move from Kings Park to Littledown possible and enabled us to create the superb facility we now enjoy.

To remind us of how it started, I have dug out a photograph of me pretending to cut the first sod for what is now the Engine Shed. This project was an unusual one for Raymond Brown - very few contractors will have ever been asked if they could build a concrete bench in a public park, one third of a mile long, but that was the easiest way I could think to describe it!

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AGM Agenda

The Agenda for the AGM is not included with this issue of the *Newsletter* as Nominations will not be in time to prepare it and post it to Members. The Accounts have been included with this issue and the Agenda will be sent to all Members with e-mail addresses as soon as possible. Printed copies will be available at the AGM for those not on e-mail.

Committee Meeting

The July Committee Meeting will be held in the Gallery Room at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th July 2013. This has been moved to the second Wednesday to avoid clashing with our 10th Anniversary celebrations. The Minutes of the July Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the July 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 July will be anticlockwise and August 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 7th & 21st July and 4th & 18th August 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 July 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. <i>AGM, followed by Bits & Pieces, so bring you latest project along.</i>
1 st August 2013	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i>
21 st August 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Fish & Chips Evening. Details of how to order next month.</i>

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Gala Weekend	July 27 th & 28 th
Autumn Run	September 7 th & 8 th
Humbug 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

Firstly, the BBQ was a very good event, well supported by visitors and club members. Master Chef, David Martin warmed up the sausages and burgers on the BBQ machine and Diane and Hillary transferred them into the bread rolls; so many thanks for your efforts

Another thank you must go to Carol who, a few days earlier, had spent quite some time taking the BBQ to pieces to give it a good clean - the sort of job which happens behind the scenes and no one gets to hear about. Another of that type of job was the steam cleaning of the kitchen floor; which now looks quite smart, so thanks to Sheila for this.

Trolley News

Two new backs have been made and fitted together with an in-fill section. This prototype has now been tested and seems to be quite good. A photo of some of the Bromsgrove Society have fitted to their rolling stock was made available to us by Alan Hodgson, but we have modified them to suit our needs. Four trolleys have now been rubbed down ready for re-painting. On Tuesday, 25th June, David Martin cut up enough ply to make another six trolley backs and these are now in kit form, pre-drilled and ready to assemble in a jig made for this purpose. Enough parts have been cut to make another three in-fill sections.

Enough mutterings, I hear you say; well for this time anyway. Keep the locos rolling.

Merlin



16mm Update

We are now very much into the summer running season for 16mm devotees at both the Littledown and home garden rail tracks. Do not forget it is our intention to open the 16mm track on the First and Third Sunday of every month, weather permitting.

Some outsiders have commented on why we are so concerned with the weather. Well, firstly, we do not like getting wet, secondly, it takes time and effort to remove or replace the cover boards and thirdly, which is more important to us, is the fact that our rolling stock is mostly home made using multi-layered, laser cut, veneered ply to get the 3D effect we require. Although we do use waterproof glues and paints, the ply does not like wet or damp conditions.

Remaining on the weather theme, those visiting the Littledown site cannot have failed to notice the poor state of the surface paint on the anti-vandal track covers. We have been waiting for an extended period of fine dry weather prior to a Wednesday maintenance day, we are still waiting. We would appreciate some assistance to prepare and paint the boards when the conditions are right. If you think you could help, please let Dave or Gordon know.

Gordon Miles & Dave White



Littledown Castle

As you can see from the photograph, we decided that the time had come to try a heavy load test. Four trolleys were coupled up to Littledown Castle and fourteen passengers climbed on board. Two laps were completed without difficulty, but it did make the Kawasaki bark!

We have always had a strange, intermittent, 'clinking rattle' around the petrol engine and this culminated with a most unusual crankshaft lock up, fortunately with no damage as the engine wasn't running at the time. However, the engine is being looked at under warranty to see what the problem is.

The body outline has now been revised to make it nearer to *Harlech Castle* and it has been decided to turn the chassis round so that the two electric motors are now at the back. The gearing is being lowered to reduce the top speed from 'exciting' to 'respectable', which should also improve the drawbar pull and allow the Kawasaki to be operated at lower RPM.

John Hoyle



Photograph John Hoyle

A Day Out

Steve Joy and I went to Coate Water Miniature Railway on the 15th June for their Open Day. My photograph shows the Society's Speedy and Steve's loco on the steaming bay.

The track at Coate Water is ground level, 5" & 7/4" gauge, with some challenging gradients. We were the only 5" gauge locos running, all the other locos were 7/4". The photo shows both the locos and the driving trolleys on the steaming bay. When the loco in the background turned up, a three foot extension had to be added to the steaming bay to accommodate both the loco and tender! The tender alone was longer than Bournemouth's driving trolleys. The loco was massive, being based on an American prototype, but unfortunately it did not venture on to the track.

The local model engineers were concerned that Steve's loco would not make it around the challenging track - far from it, the little loco was quite happy running around, much to the amazement of local club members. Speedy steamed well until lunchtime, when problems with the water feeds for the injectors led to a retirement back to the steaming bays. A small slug was found to be wedged in the water pipe feeding the injectors! With the offender removed, the injectors were back in business. The break for lunch was well timed as the heavens opened up and a retreat to the Clubhouse was made. An afternoon steaming took advantage of the sun coming out again and more laps were completed, I lost count in the end. Mid afternoon saw us call it day, and start to pack up for the journey back to Bournemouth.

A final stop was made in the Clubhouse, after the locos had been loaded in the car, where the Members showed us the plans for the extension that will almost double the length of the track. Work was well under way, with 6 tonnes of Wiltshire clay having been dug out to form a cutting! Use of mini diggers and a dumper truck has ensured a brisk pace of work. Due to the site being on a slope the extension will have a long gradient of 1 in 100 to climb back to the Station area, maybe a climb too far for the 5" gauge locos! All in all a very enjoyable day with a very friendly club.

Will



Tenth Anniversary Celebrations

Wednesday, 3rd July 2003 saw the final fishplate installed on our new track at Littledown. Now, ten years later we had a celebration party attended by some special guests who had made the whole project possible.



Left: Steve Godden with his wife. Steve was the man from our contractors, Raymond Brown, who did all the infrastructure for the railway. His mate has since gone to live in Portugal, so couldn't be with us. Top right: Guests and Members who attended the celebrations. Bottom right: Just a part of the buffet laid on by Peggy and her ladies. Bottom left: Steve Godden, his wife, Roger Brown and his wife tuck in. Roger is the Man from the Council who made the move to Littledown happen. Other Guests included Phil Cutler, the demon welder who's fabrication skills are still very evident all around the railway.

Photographs by Phil Drake, Mick Baker and John Hoyle.

