

Chairman's Thoughts

The Polly Owners' Group Rally was well attended once again with approximately 30 of their members and 15 Pollys of which three were from our own club. POG started the day with their AGM. I had the pleasure of welcoming them back to the track once again and was presented with a glass trophy and a thank you letter by their Chairman; they then decided their own running order and steamed up in turn. The weather was reasonable, but not as good as on previous occasions. However, they all enjoyed running on our track and I have invited them to come back again in the future. Thanks to all the Members who helped with the rally and Peggy and her helpers for a superb lunch and tea and cakes in the afternoon

On Tuesday 21st May the last replacement stainless steel screw and washer was driven in by Bob. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank Bob for all the work he has done on the track maintenance helped by John Hancock, Peter & James Burton, Carole & Mike Clay, Gordon Miles, Alan Hodgson, David Finn, Brian Williams, and many other members who helped with the task of replacing just under 30,000 screws and washers. The work started on the 2nd November 2012 until 21st May approximately equating to 261 person hours using two new battery drills that the Society purchased for the job.



Would Members please be aware that the coal supplied at the track is for their sole use at our track; if you want coal to run at other tracks please buy your own or, hopefully, the track you are attending will supply it!

Now that the better weather is here, and hopefully it will stay reasonable, we advertise that



we run the track until 3.30 pm and offer rides until that time, so please do not pack up until then as we do not want people complaining to Littledown that the railway is not running.

The next Society Meeting will be at the track, also on the 19th June for a BBQ as we will be entertaining our friends from GOG, GIMRA & MERG. The track will be opening for running that evening and I will be lighting up the BBQ once again from 7 pm.

We will be celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Golden Fishplate Ceremony on the evening of 3rd July 2013 - 7.00 for 7.30 pm in the form of an American Supper; in other words everybody brings something to eat. So that we do not get hundreds of sausage rolls, Peggy will be posting a list of food required in the Engine Shed nearer the time - please put a line through the item you would like to bring. We will be inviting a number of guests who assisted in the building of the track.

Our Annual Charity Day will be on Sunday 4th August in aid of the local Youth Cancer Trust, so please come along to support this event.

David Martin

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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 June Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the June 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 June will be clockwise and July 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 16th June, 7th & 21st 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.

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.
19 th June 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Entertaining our friends from GOG, GIMRA & MERG. Barbecue and evening running.</i>
3 rd July 2013	Tenth Anniversary Celebrations; 7.30 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway.
4 th July 2013	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Gordon Miles. <i>Please let Gordon know if you are attending.</i>
17 th July 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. AGM.

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.

IMLEC 2014 at Littledown

At the last meeting I mentioned that no society had yet volunteered to stage IMLEC in 2014 and I suggested that we might undertake to organise it. The response from the members present seemed favourable and contact was made with the Editor of *Model Engineer*. Suitable terms were agreed and the Committee decided that we go ahead and organise IMLEC 2014 on 12th & 13th July 2014.

Such an event is good for the standing of the Society, not only nationally through exposure in the modelling press, but also locally, we are exploiting the park and bringing visitors in.

We will not, of course, be able to give rides on the track during the event, but we can have model traction engines and road vehicles in the park giving rides as we did in 2010. Would traction engine owners please make a note in their diaries of this weekend, a chance to run in the park and pull some passengers.

Inevitably we will need manpower over the weekend, all volunteers (and pressed men) will be most welcome, no job will be too onerous. It's a long way off, but please try to keep the weekend of 12th & 13th July next year free and I am sure that, together, we can make it a successful event and an enjoyable experience.

Mick Baker & Dick Ganderton

Summer Holiday Rota

I am organising the Summer Holiday Rota again this year. I would like to assume, unless I hear to the contrary, that all those, including the ladies, who kindly helped last year will be prepared to do so again. Also I hope that some of our new Members who have joined since last year would come on board, please let me know ASAP. This Summer the Rota will run from Friday 26th July to Friday 30th August each Wednesday and Friday.

Thank you.

John Hoyle

Littledown Castle Progress

We have now manage to run a couple of very successful trials with the petrol engine/alternator driving the two DC electric motors. On Sunday we actually had it mingling on the track with the steamers. Although we didn't pull any members of the public, several Members got to drive the engine, giving us valuable feedback - "it's different!"

Alan Hodgson took the photographs.



More Dates For Your Diary

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| 15 th June 2013 | Southampton Electric Day. Bitterne Park, Southampton. Contact Ralph on 01380 493940. |
| 15 th & 16 th June 2013 | Gauge One Expo 2013. The Fosse CV31 IXN. 10 am - 5 pm. www.glmra.com |
| 29 th June 2013 | Cornwall Model Engineering Exhibition, Bodmin Community Centre. 10.30 am - 4.30 pm. Boats, Aircraft, Stationary Engines, Locomotives and more. Miniature Railway & Traction Engines. |
| 7 th July 2013 | Open Steam Days, Andover & Dist. MES. Upping Copse. http://79.170.44.83/asmes.org.uk/ |

Polly Owners Group Rally

This selection of photographs were taken by Steve Beith and show the wide variety of *Pollys* and the one Orenstein & Koppel *Caroline*, that attended the POG Rally at Littledown recently.



The young lady was obviously enjoying herself driving her dad's Orenstein & Koppel Caroline round the track. She wasn't the only youngster driving, either. One dad put his Polly on the steaming bay and then left his two young sons, aged eight and fourteen, to get on and light it up, which they did very successfully! That bodes well for the future of the hobby.

