

## Chairman's Thoughts

**B**y the time you read this it will be only a few days until our Santa Special on Sunday 14th December. Please come along and help. It is usually very enjoyable and a worthwhile day for all. Hopefully I will have e-mailed a copy of the Roster for the day to all those who have offered to help.

Margery has asked that cakes would be very much appreciated for our tea at the end of the Santa Run. Tea and coffee will be available all day for all members who are in the Grotto, general helpers, drivers, guards and members on the platform, to help to keep the cold out, but not for public consumption.

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

We are now looking for a Member to take over the task of looking after the coal supply for the Society. The present person is now struggling to lift the bags and it would be an ideal job for a younger member of the Society.

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

*David Martin*

## Editor's Ramblings

**U**nfortunately The Crooked Beam restaurant closed its doors in November. This means that there won't be an Annual Dinner in January. We have held our Annual Society Dinner at The Crooked Beam for many years and each year we have had a great time with over forty Members sitting down to an excellent meal.

I have decided not to try to find a replacement, having organised the event for many years. If any Member wants to try to organise a Dinner for January 2016 and can find a suitably situated restaurant that can cope with up to 45 diners at one sitting they are welcome to the job.

It's that time of year when your Annual Subscriptions become due. Please help George and Phil by completing the Renewal Form that accompanies this issue of the *Newsletter* and returning it, promptly, with your cheque, to George.

Our Santas have been practising ready for their big part next weekend. Let's hope for good weather. *Littledown Castle* is now performing well and can be used when *Sheddon Wheals* is feeling under the weather. It is proving to be a lot quieter than expected and easy to drive. We still have some odd details to sort out, but these can wait until the New Year as they don't affect the ability of the engine to pull passengers.

Have a very merry Christmas and a good 2015.

*Dick Ganderton*

## New Barrier

**I**n order to make the crossing where our loading spur crosses the path used by employees of J.P. Morgan more apparent, the bridge will be painted yellow all over and a removable barrier fitted to the end of our gate. The photographs show the barrier stowed and deployed.

Whenever the bridge is in place the barrier **must** be swung across the path. On weekdays, when the pedestrian traffic is greatest, the bridge should only be in place for the minimum possible amount of time.



Editor  
Dick Ganderton  
'Graskop'

76 Dewlands Road  
Verwood, Dorset  
BH31 6PN

[editor@littledownrailway.co.uk](mailto:editor@littledownrailway.co.uk)  
Tel: (01202) 822701

Secretary

Littledown Railway  
Tel: 07879355399

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## Insurance & Membership Lists

A copy of the Society's Insurance 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 wanting to run their locomotives at locations requiring evidence of Public Liability cover there are copies of the Certificate at the back of the same folder as the copy of the policy. This need to be signed by a Committee Member on an individual basis before becoming valid.

The new Application and Renewal Forms means we can keep our Membership List up-to-date. 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*

## Committee Matters

The January 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The Minutes of the December Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the December 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 2014 will be clockwise. January 2015 will be clockwise. Santa Run trains will run anticlockwise and strictly to the timetable.

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 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## 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](http://www.littledownrailway.co.uk)

## Boiler Testing

If you require a Boiler Test, please remember that you need to book it with one of the Boiler Testers. Also you should have all the paperwork with you - that's all the past Test Certificates and the *Written Scheme of Examination!* You have kept them, haven't you?

## B&DSME Diary Dates.

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 | Santa Special; Littledown Miniature Railway.<br><i>Volunteers will be needed for this event.</i>  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.<br><i>Christmas Party. Please bring seasonal food and cakes.</i>                                   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2015   | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <b>Note change of date.</b><br><i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i> |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2015  | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.<br><i>Cold War and a Hot Place. Experiences of an RAF Engineer. Stephen Robson.</i>                |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2015  | Annual Dinner; Cancelled.   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2015  | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.<br><i>Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.</i>  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.<br><i>Topic to be advised.</i>   |

## Luscombe Valley Happenings

[www.luscombevalleysteam.com](http://www.luscombevalleysteam.com)

Humbug Day

December 20<sup>th</sup>

## 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 Helvetica using Adobe InDesign CS5 v7.0 on an Apple Mac mini 2.3GHz Intel Core i5 running Mac OS X v10.10 Yosemite.

## Subscriptions - 2015

Subscriptions for next year are due on 1st January 2015. Please complete the attached Renewal Form and get it, together with cash or cheque, to GEORGE WHEATLEY, address below, by any suitable means. Cheques should be made out to 'B&DSME'. Membership Cards will be issued on receipt of the subscription. SASE please if you wish the card to be posted. If you joined after 1st October 2014 please complete the form and note your joining date on the head of the Form.

The Membership Secretary and Treasurer would appreciate prompt payment. The Membership Secretary will be available at the Muscliff Christmas 'do' and at each Track Opening from approximately 11.30 am until 2.00 pm until the closing date.

G. Wheatley, Membership Secretary, 67 Moorlands Road, VERWOOD, Dorset, BH31 7PD.

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## 16mm Update

Whilst our normal garden meets have now finished for the year we will still be operating at Littledown as usual on the first and third Sundays.

We have yet to run the trains in the snow and have no intention of doing so, but we could be persuaded to do so if any foolhardy person made a request. 2014 has been a good operating year for 16mm with few rained-off days during the latter quarter.

Many new locos have made an appearance during the past year, together with assorted rolling stock. There is now a trend to match locos and rolling stock to specific preserved or original railways instead of a hotchpotch of narrow gauge styles and this, in turn, has led to a greater use of long bogie stock.

Unfortunately, we have had fewer visitors to the Garden Railway this year. Whether people are not wanting to travel or have their boilers tested, we don't know. We will have to wait and see how 2015 pans out.

Here's to successful steaming in 2015.

*Gordon Miles & David White*

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## Car Parking

The Committee would like to remind Members that they should only park their cars or motorcycles in the designated parking areas. There is no parking in the area around or near the Engine Shed, on the driveway or turning circle. Exceptions may be made for a very limited number of 'Blue Badge' holders and the 'Blue Badge' should be displayed. As parking spaces are limited please use the main Littledown Centre Car Park if you are not bringing a locomotive to run.

If we have periods of heavy rain heavy rain, then parking on the grass just inside the entrance will become impossible and it will be necessary to impose the same sort of restrictions as last year.

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## Littledown Castle

Those of you who visit the track will know that *Littledown Castle*, our second locomotive built expressly for passenger hauling, is up and running. There are still things to do, like making a proper metal body instead of the present temporary MDF one, but mechanically it is running well and is available for use by Society Members. 'The Team' are always pleased to receive **constructive** comments and ask to be told directly about any mechanical problems.

Unlike *Sheddon Wheals*, it has a 4-stroke petrol engine driving an alternator to provide the power to two electric traction motors and it requires more than just flicking a switch before you can use it. In that respect, it is half way between a battery electric and a steam locomotive. A Check List, pinned up beside it in the Engine Shed and also shown here, will remind you of the few daily checks you should do before running and of the important actions afterwards. Later, the details in this list will change as the final work on the locomotive is completed. Please do these checks religiously, the reliability of the locomotive will depend on everyone playing their part.

When filling *Littledown Castle* with petrol, be particularly careful not to spill any into the engine compartment. Use a funnel and underfill rather than risk spillage please! When refilling, should this be necessary, **DO NOT EVER** do this on any part of the main running track to avoid a fire risk. If steam locomotives are running this is obvious, but remember that one may come on shortly after *Littledown Castle* is taken off!

*Littledown Castle* is not difficult to drive, many Society Members have already found this to be true, but it is necessary to be 'shown around' the locomotive first so as to understand the way it works and how to operate the controls. Please ask anyone at the track and you will be directed to someone who knows! It would be sensible for everyone to become familiar with driving *Littledown Castle* as it has been built specifically to share the passenger carrying duties with *Sheddon Wheals*.

Overall, *Sheddon Wheals* has done a splendid job for many years, but is now in need of a thorough overhaul, so may be taken off the track in the New Year for this to be done, leaving *Littledown Castle* to take over for a while.

*John Hoyle*

## Cherry's Model Engines

**R**obert Hale Publishing has recently published the following title and I am writing as it may be of interest to your Society.

Published this autumn, *Cherry's Model Engines: The Story of the Remarkable Cherry Hill* charts the career of arguably the world's greatest model engineer. For the past several decades Cherry has created scaled-down versions of traction engines – and not just run-of-the-mill types, but elaborate Victorian flights of fancy.

Each model typically occupies 7,000 hours work, and Cherry's efforts have been rewarded with the highest honours, including nine Gold Medals and an MBE from the Queen for Services to Model Engineering. In this book, for the first time, the fruits of her illustrious career are displayed in all their intricate glory for your inspiration and enjoyment.

If any of your members are interested in ordering the book, we are currently offering a discount of £10 off the RRP when the book is purchased from our website [www.halebooks.com](http://www.halebooks.com). When ordering the book, enter the discount code **wcherry14** for the saving to be applied. This voucher is valid until the 28th February 2015 and includes free postage.

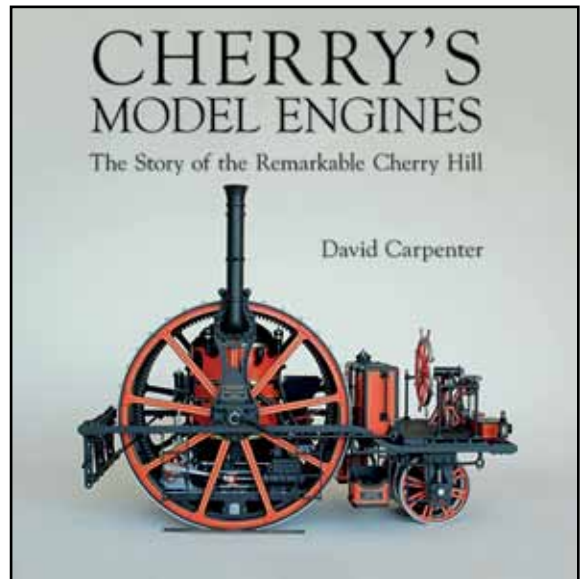
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Isobel Cairns, Marketing and Publicity Assistant, Robert Hale Ltd, Buried River Press, Clerkenwell House, 45 - 47, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R.

Cherry's Model Engines

David Carpenter £30.00 Format: Hardback ISBN: 9780719814211.

Categories: Art, Design and Practical Reference, Christmas Gifts, Robert Hale Publishing.



## LITLEDOWN CASTLE

### INTERIM DAILY CHECK LIST

#### **LITLEDOWN CASTLE REQUIRES A LITTLE MORE ATTENTION BEFORE RUNNING THAN SHEDDON WHEELS.**

- OILING:** a few drops of bearing oil in each cup.
- PETROL:** check and fill as necessary, avoiding spillage at all costs. Better to underfill than to overdo it!
- SIGN OFF THE RUNNING REGISTER:** this implies that you have done these checks!

#### **DURING THE DAY**

- REFUELLING:** NOT on any part of the running track due to fire risk. USE spur from traverser into LC storage shed or spur from steaming bay beside station or station siding

#### **DISPOSAL**

- BATTERY:** Put on CHARGE – check both lights on charger are ON!

**QUERIES or MECHANICAL PROBLEMS?** Contact John Hoyle or Dick Ganderton.