

Chairman's Thoughts

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

The morning of the Santa special started with light rain, but mild compared to previous years, everyone 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 rolls followed by cups of tea were served up and we were ready for our 10.30 am start. Unfortunately the rain became heavier from the first train onwards, but passengers arrived and all enjoyed their rides in the rain to visit Santa in his Grotto. We were treated to shepherd's pie and crumble for lunch, thanks Peggy for the work you must have done at home preparing the meal then serving the helpers for lunch; it was much appreciated.

The double heading of some of the trains went well and with our 3-trolley trains our passengers travelled in comfort, other than getting a little wet. Our drivers on the day coped with the weather, but those who wore glasses could have done with wipers! Well done everybody that drove on the day. I would especially like to thank Irene and Phil for sorting out the bookings.

With the last train out we were able to pack everything away, although a bit soggy, but all the children who saw Santa went away happy, which is our main aim. The day ended with a wonderful selection of cakes, tea and coffee. On the way home we had a very heavy downpour, so lucky we packed up when we did. Thanks to Irene for getting all the presents and wrapping them and sorting it all out (not forgetting David White who did all the fetching and carrying).

Our annual Christmas Party went off well with plenty of nibbles to be had. Irene and David White took charge of the party with the singing of carols and the quizzes followed by the raffle. We were able to give the proceeds to Green Cottage Riding for the Disabled, our charity for 2014. Thanks to all the members who attended the party on a very wet night.

With a busy year coming up we will need help in getting the site ready for IMLEC in July. Please volunteer to take on some of the work, a list of jobs will be posted in the Engine Shed soon.

One last point - the missing spanner and wrench have still not reappeared; so please have a look in your tool boxes and if you find them please return them.

David Martin



Photograph Nick Feast



Photograph John Hoyle

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Editor's Ramblings

There are still a couple of places available for the Society's Annual Dinner at the Crooked Beam Restaurant on Wednesday 22nd January 2014. Get in touch with me before the next meeting if you are interested.

I have been having a much needed clear out at home. More than 50 years of various magazines just have to be got rid of, but how to dispose of them is posing a major headache for me. I am testing the water on e-Bay with some classic motorcycle magazines, but so far potential bidders have just looked, with nobody watching. I am looking for anyone who would like several years of *Radio Control Models & Electronics*, free, of course. Collection only.

Donkey pumps are fascinating to watch pumping water into a locomotive's boiler. Unlike an injector, the pump has an almost mesmerising action with accompanying sounds. However, small ones seem to be tricky to get working under steam. Barry Linger has one fitted to his Simplex and that works really well. John Hoyle managed to take a photograph of it as Bary was steaming up at Littledown for the Santa Run.

Dick Ganderton



Subscriptions

Many thanks to the 40 per cent of members who have already paid their subscriptions. Please remember that they were due on 1st January and late payment causes more work.

The Committee is actively trying to find an easier way to bring the subscription payment into the modern age. Also please remember to send the form and payment to the Membership Secretary, George Wheatley. If you need your Membership Card urgently please send a SASE.

George Wheatley, Membership Secretary

Committee Matters

The February 2014 Committee Meeting will be held at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th February 2014. The Minutes of the January 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 January 2014 will be anticlockwise and February 2014 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 19th January, 2nd & 16th February 2014.

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.

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 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> |
| 6 th February 2014 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i> |

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

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|---------------|---|
| Extra Weekend | April 12 th & 13 th |
| Cobweb Run | April 19 th & 20 th |
| Grand Gala | July 26 th & 27 th |
| Autumn Run | September 20 th & 21 st |
| Humbug Day | December 20 th |
| Extra Weekend | October 4 th & 5 th |

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.

Address for postal payments: G. Wheatley, 67 Moorlands Road, VERWOOD, Dorset BH31 7PD.



IMLEC 2014

Plans are well advanced for IMLEC 2014 to be run at Littledown Miniature Railway on 12th & 13th July 2014. Please keep these dates free in your diaries as we will need all the help we can muster to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

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 2 PLACES LEFT!

Stolen Dutch Locomotives

The notice below was received recently from the Southern Federation and concerns model engineering items stolen from a workshop in Hilversum, the Netherlands.

More Loco Thefts

We have received the following from friends in Holland

My name is Raymond La Crois and on behalf of friend of mine I email you this message. Read this message please carefully and spread the word on as many forums as possible

In the night of 6-7 January 2014 there was a break in is a Dutch workshop at Hilversum in the Netherlands

All 3 are self build, one of a kind, steam engines are stolen. With great detail and high standard

1. 3.5 inch Janny 2 feet long aprox 50 lbs
2. 3.5 inch NCS 78 5 feet long 90 lbs
3. 5 inch S 160 2438 7 feet and 260 lbs
4. 2 railcars
5. All cutting equipment
6. And a mobile track 5 inch and 7.25 inch

All models are coal fired working and have been built over 35 years of passion sweat and tears They are not easy to sell because of one of a kind

If you hear anything please contact the Dutch authorities or email the address info@radingspoor.nl

Or call the Dutch police directly on land line +31 343578844 - they speak English