

Chairman's Thoughts

I had the pleasure of handing over the proceeds from our recent Charity Day at our September meeting to Susan Jones, Dorset Chief Instructor from Green Cottage Riding for the Disabled who collected the cheque from us. Susan gave us a very interesting talk on how the volunteers help with the riding for the disabled and how children benefit from it.

Littledown Castle will be soon come into full time passenger hauling service at the track and should help take the load off *Sheddon Wheals*. I had the opportunity last Friday to drive the loco and be instructed on how to start it up and drive it. (*John Hoyle's photograph shows it with it's first load of fare paying passengers last Sunday*).

Members will need to have instruction on the operation of the loco as it is not a 'switch on and go' as is the *Sheddon Wheals*. There will be a starting procedure instruction sheet with it in the storage shed soon, but you must have had the basic controls and starting procedure demonstrated by one of the team building the loco.

All of our club locos have a person who looks after them on behalf of the Society and it would be nice if a Member would take on the task of overseeing the *Sheddon Wheals* and be responsible for the everyday servicing, running and maybe sorting out the problems with the batteries. The only proviso being that the 'Shed' has to remain at the track at all times. It could suit a Member who does not have the facilities at home to look after a loco.

Our Santa Special will soon be on us and the date is Sunday 14th December. If you are interested in helping on the day please put your name on the list that will be circulated at the next club night or let me know by email. It is very difficult to give people a job on the day if they just turn up. We will need guards, station marshals, drivers and general helpers.

We still have a vacancy for a person to take over organising our speakers for the monthly meetings at Muscliff Community Centre. You do not need to be a Committee Member to undertake this job.

David Martin



Photograph John Hoyle

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Editor's Ramblings

I recently came across some old photographs taken at Kings Park and thought that the one reproduced here would be of interest on two counts.

Just compare the photograph of *Littledown Castle* at Littledown with this photograph taken at Kings Park and think how fortunate we are now. The locomotive is the late Jack Horder's petrol engined *Nondy* and is being driven by Neil Horder's younger brother, Brent. Neil still has *Nondy*, but it hasn't run for many years. It was probably the last petrol engined loco to run on a Society track until *Littledown Castle* this year.

I have once more attached an Order Form for the range of Society clothing offered by Member John Roberts. The special prices on this Order Form will hold until the end of the year.

Dick Ganderton



EGM

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15th October 2014 at the Muscliffe Community Centre. Any Member who wishes to be appointed to the Committee should inform the Secretary. Nominations will be accepted at the Meeting.

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 November 2014 Committee Meeting will be held at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th November 2014. The Minutes of the October Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the October 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 October 2014 will be clockwise. November 2014 will be 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 19th October and 2nd & 16th November 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

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.

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| 15 th October 2014 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
<i>EGM.</i> |
| 6 th November 2014 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i> |
| 19 th November 2014 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
<i>Subject to be advised.</i> |
| 4 th December 2014 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>Venue to be decided.</i> |
| 14 th December 2014 | Santa Special; Littledown Miniature Railway.
<i>Volunteers will be needed for this event.</i> |

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Humbug Day

December 20th

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 v10.9.5 Mavericks.

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.

Stolen Traction Engine

This 4" scale Ruston Proctor steam tractor, named *Dottie*, was stolen from the Barleylands Steam Rally on the night of Sunday 14th September 2014.

If anyone has any information please contact Essex Police on 01245 491491.



16mm Update

Visitors to our 16mm track will now notice that the fencing at the end of the Steaming Bays has been repositioned and an additional gate added. This is to prevent public access to both the large scale and 16mm Steaming Bays and is in response to the disregarding of the existing warning notices by the general public.

Genuine visitors will still be allowed in to these areas providing they have been invited in by a current B&DSME Member, who now takes on the responsibility for the safety of those visitors. An additional gate is planned for the pathway by the 16mm Steaming Bay alongside the Engine Shed. Suitable warning signs will be positioned alongside these gates when available.

I (Gordon Miles) would appreciate some prior warning when you require your 16mm boilers pressure tested in order to get the paper work sorted. I can do it on the day but it does take time and I like to steam up as well.

Thank You!

Gordon Miles & David White

Bacon Sarnies Off The Shovel

John Hoyle obviously felt a bit peckish so he decided to cook himself a bacon sarnie in the engine driver's traditional manner - on the shovel. It looks like he chickened out of frying a couple of eggs to complete his breakfast feast!





RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

Green Cottage Group

Registered Charity No. 1073563

22nd September 2014

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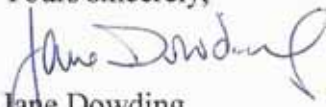
Dear George,

I am writing on behalf of members of Green Cottage RDA to thank you and your colleagues at Bournemouth & District Society of Model Engineers for the very generous cheque for £250. 00 given to Susan Jones at your recent meeting. Your kindness is really appreciated and I assure you that the money will be put to good use to benefit the young riders or ponies!

You have a lovely site at Littledown - it was a pleasant time at your Charity Day and we certainly enjoyed the rides on the trains!

With best wishes and thanks.

Yours sincerely,


Jane Dowding
Group secretary



Our 2014 Charity

We like to choose a local charity to benefit from our annual Charity Day and for 2014 it was the Green Cottage Riding for the Disabled Group. Susan Jones attended our September Meeting and after giving a very interesting presentation on how the Group operates received a cheque from Chairman David Martin for £250.