



Chairman's Thoughts

Our first event of 2015 will be 3½" Gauge Open Day on Saturday 25th April - please contact William Powell for details - followed by our St George's Day Cream Tea run on Sunday 26th April. Margery has asked if anyone would like to make some cakes but please only cakes this time. It would be good to see plenty of locos in steam on both days.

I would like to thank those Members who turned out on Sunday 22nd March to clear the surrounding area of the track of branches and debris, enabling strimming and the grass to be cut in the near future. It was a shame only a few turned up to help, we have well over a 100 members and a few more helpers are needed to run the Society efficiently.

You may not have noticed that we have a new gate attached to the 16mm steaming area and it should be used in conjunction with the other swing gate whenever we are running to keep the public out of the Steaming Bays. They also should be either put away in the case of the one by the turntable and the one by the 16mm closed at the end of the day. I would like to thank Gordon Miles and Mike Clay for building and installing it.

David Martin

3½" Gauge Rally At Littledown

The smaller gauges are seeing a revival; the locos are more manageable and the castings and materials cost less. What they may lack in pulling power, they more than make up for in the driving experience. A gathering last year at Southampton drew a large number of working and part built locos and I took my *Canterbury Lamb* to that event.

Our 3½" Gauge Open Day will be held at the Littledown Miniature Railway on Saturday 25th April 2015. All Members and visitors are invited, locos large or small as long as they are 3½" Gauge. So dust off your *Tichs* and *Juliets*, to name a few, and bring them along, even if they are not going to be steamed. No passengers will be hauled, Members and visitors are free to potter around the track. Let's put some wear on the 3½" Gauge rails!

William Powell

Editor's Ramblings

During the year I will probably get three or four requests for copies of Boiler Certificates to replace the originals that have been lost. Often the request comes from the family of a Member who has died and the family wants to dispose of the model.

The Society's archive of old test certificates is far from complete and finding a past certificate means searching through a bag of records often without any real idea of what one is looking for! Could I suggest that now is the time to ensure that **all** the paperwork for your locos is collated and either kept with the model to which it refers or filed with your will. Also make sure that someone in the family understand the importance of the Boiler Certificates. You have kept all the old certificates, haven't you! Even if you haven't been running the loco for several years and it is 'out of ticket', without the old certificates the boiler is only worth the scrap copper value and to get a new certificate could mean stripping the boiler of all its clothing and fittings and redoing the initial Shell Test!

Whilst on the the topic of Society archives, Peter Burton told me that the 1925 volume of *Model Engineer* still hasn't been returned. If you have it please at least let Peter know that you have it. If you have old copies of *Model Engineer* that you want to get rid of and have 1925 amongst them, please consider donating them to the Society.

I really do need some articles to make the *Newsletter* more than just a boring list of notices.

Dick Ganderton

Editor

Dick Ganderton
'Graskop'

76 Dewlands Road
Verwood, Dorset
BH31 6PN

editor@littledownrailway.
co.uk

Tel: (01202) 822701

Secretary

Littledown Railway
Tel: 07879355399

© 2015 B&DSME.

No part of this
Newsletter may
be reproduced
without the
permission of the
Editor.

B&DSME is a
Not For Profit
Company Limited
by Guarantee.
It has no
Employees and
the Directors
receive no
remuneration.
Registered in
England.
Number 03351832

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 needs 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 May 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th May 2015. The Minutes of the April 2015 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the April 2015 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 April 2015 will be anticlockwise. May 2015 will be 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 April 2015 and 3rd & 17th May 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

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.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 15 th April 2015 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Colin Stone, Poole to Poole via John O'Groats and Land's End.</i> |
| 25 th April 2015 | 3 ¹ / ₂ " Gauge Open Day; 11.00 am. Littledown Miniature Railway.
Note that this is a Saturday. 3 ¹ / ₂ " Gauge locomotives only, please. |
| 26 th April 2015 | St. George's Day Cream Teas; Littledown Miniature Railway.
Note that this is a Sunday. Cakes only, please. |
| 7 th May 2015 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>John Hoyle. Please let John know.</i> |
| 20 th May 2015 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Topic to be advised.</i> |

Luscombe Valley Happenings

Important Announcement for 2015

After nearly 25 years of running, the railway needs an extensive overhaul that will involve a complete rewire, new computer control system, rebuilding of the points and drive mechanisms to name but a few items. Therefore we are forced to close the railway for the duration of 2015. We will re-open around Easter 2016. The exact date will be posted on our website nearer the time: www.luscombevalleysteam.com

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 v10.10.2 Yosemite.

16mm Update

Over the winter various small maintenance jobs have been undertaken on the 16mm narrow gauge Garden Railway and whilst easing the holes for the locking bolts, we noticed some severe delamination of the newly replaced covers. We did use exterior grade 12mm ply and paint treated it on the first day.

Not all the covers are affected and it is difficult to find a reason for their failure. The affected section will have to be replaced within the next few months. We are planning to cut new covers and paint all the boards, both existing and new, in one go during a spell of fine weather.

So! 16mm 'Enthusiasts', we will require some help! We think it will be best to do all this work on a non-running day, although it will have to be at rather short notice due to weather conditions. If you can help please let Gordon or Dave know, with your preference for which non-running day will suit you best. Thank you.

Don't forget, the first and third Sundays of the month are Running Days - see you there.

Gordon Miles & Dave White

B&DSME Model Engineer Magazine Library

I have recently added more magazines to our library, which has filled some large gaps especially in the 1950s, and I have updated the Index accordingly.

I ask all members to please use the library as it is a wonderful source of information and there are many fascinating articles within, you would not believe the self discipline required when working on the library to stop yourself just reading and not working!

Please would you sign out and sign back in, any copies or complete volumes that you borrow. The sign out sheet is fixed to the cupboard door and has to be removed from its plastic wallet to record your details.

A lot of hard work has gone into organising this collection, especially by my Wife, Anne, so please keep it as tidy as possible and treat the magazines with care, as many are very fragile due to age.

The year 1925 has been borrowed but not signed for. If you have it, please could you return it or sign it out.

Peter Burton

Southern Railway Locomotive Rally

It is some while since the last Southern Railway Locomotive Rally took place. Guildford Model Engineering Society have kindly offered to host such an event on 30th May 2015.

The Rally is open to both operational and static models of steam, diesel and electric locomotives built and operated by the Southern Railway and its predecessors - SECR, LSWR, LBSCR, S&DJR and L&B amongst others. Items of 16mm, 3½", 5" and 7¼" gauge can be run; valid boiler certificates will be required if appropriate.

It would greatly assist in planning the event if you could please register your interest with brief details of the items you would exhibit or run via the dedicated web address, southernloco@gmes.org.uk

For further, general, information, please contact Les Pritchard on 07792 629674 or Ivan Hurst on 01252 510340.

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.

Machining Assistance Needed

Can anyone please assist a new member with machining a bronze inside cylinder block for a 5" Gauge locomotive, as my workshop equipment is too small?

It requires machining to fit the frames and bored out to 1.5 inches diameter. Alternatively, any suggestions regarding local engineering firms that may be prepared to accept this one-off job would be appreciated.

Roger Stewart-Hindley

The Rowland Emett Society

A month or two ago I became aware of The Rowland Emett Society. From humble beginnings this has grown into quite a sizeable group, whose objective is to publicise his work, by a regular Newsletter, website, etc. They held a stunning exhibition for four months last year in Birmingham, drawing together a number of his remaining machines and a lot of his cartoons, etc.

Anybody interested can read more on their web site www.rowlandemett.com

Paul Martin

Are You Missing Out?

Did you miss the March Meeting at Muscliff? If you did then you really did lose out. Mike Weber talked about four preserved railways in the west of England.

His knowledge of the locomotives and the operation of the lines was encyclopaedic and his talk was put over in a most interesting and engaging manner. The crowning glories of the evening were the photographs that he used to illustrate the talk, the quality of them was superb.

I believe Mr Weber has a range of other talks on railway subjects and he should certainly be invited to return.

This month the speaker is Mr Colin Stone, the well-known writer on railway topics. His title for this meeting is *Poole to Poole via John O'Groats and Lands End*. No clues as to what it will be about, so come and find out.

Mick Baker

Kitchen Worktop

If anyone is interested in an off-cut of kitchen worktop please contact **Merlin**. The size is: 1½" x 2ft x 4ft 6ins. The colour is off white with a coloured fleck.

Basingstoke Open Day

Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society will be holding a Visitors' Open Day on Sunday 17th May 2015 at their track at the Viabes Craft Centre, The Harrow Way, Basingstoke, RG22 4BJ and cordially invite any members of Bournemouth & District Society of Model Engineers who might like to attend.

Their raised track can accommodate 5" and 3½" Gauge locos, and their Garden Railway is open for running on 32mm and 45mm gauge. Visitors will be requested to register and, if running, produce a current boiler certificate on arrival. Refreshments will be available during the day.

They would be appreciate letting their Hon. Secretary, Brian Hogg brianjhogg@btinternet.com know if you intend attending and they look forward to seeing our members there and hope that they have an enjoyable day.

Isle of Wight MES Annual Rally

The Annual Isle of Wight Model Engineering Society Rally will take place on Saturday 25th April 2015. All are welcome to come and bring a loco to run, or boat to float.

Food and refreshments will be provided. All boiler certificates will need to be presented on the day.

Please let Andy Cole, Hon. Secretary, IWMS sunnycabbarbo@msn.com know if you intend to attend. Their website is www.iwmes.org.uk for more info.

HEREFORD SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS Ltd.



Broomy Hill Railway

Saturday & Sunday 20th / 21st June 2015

**The Summer Weekend Rally is an open
Invitation to other Clubs to join in.**

So bring along your models and use the Clubs many facilities.

The ground level track : 7 1/4 & 5".

the elevated track for 5" & 3 1/2".

Gauge 1 Garden Railway.

Model Boating pond. And bring your model Tanks and Traction Engines

Teas and light Refreshments will be available.

Contact : Wally V/C 01989 562988. or Derek M/S 01432 509120

g0rij@aol.com

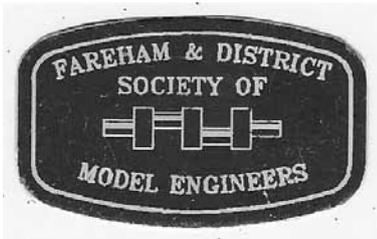
delsshed@talktalk.net

Catering—
See below

Fareham & District Society
of Model Engineers (F&DSME)

Spring Electric Day

Saturday 18th April 2015



Venue Address:

F&DSME
'The Railway Field'
Sedgensworth Road
Titchfield
Fareham
Hampshire
P015 5DY

F&DSME wish to extend a warm invitation to attend our Spring Diesel-Electric event ('Electric Day')

Start time: The Railway Field will be open from 09:00 with running from 10:00.

Track gauges: 3.5" + 5" raised and 7 1/4" ground level

Refreshments: Hot and cold drinks + cheese ploughmans. [Please advise in advance \(01489 893997 or jandccunningham@yahoo.co.uk\) of numbers attending \(for catering purposes\).](mailto:jandccunningham@yahoo.co.uk)

Location/Directions: Please see map on Page 5.

Any queries then please don't hesitate to contact me.

See you on the day,

Jim Cunningham

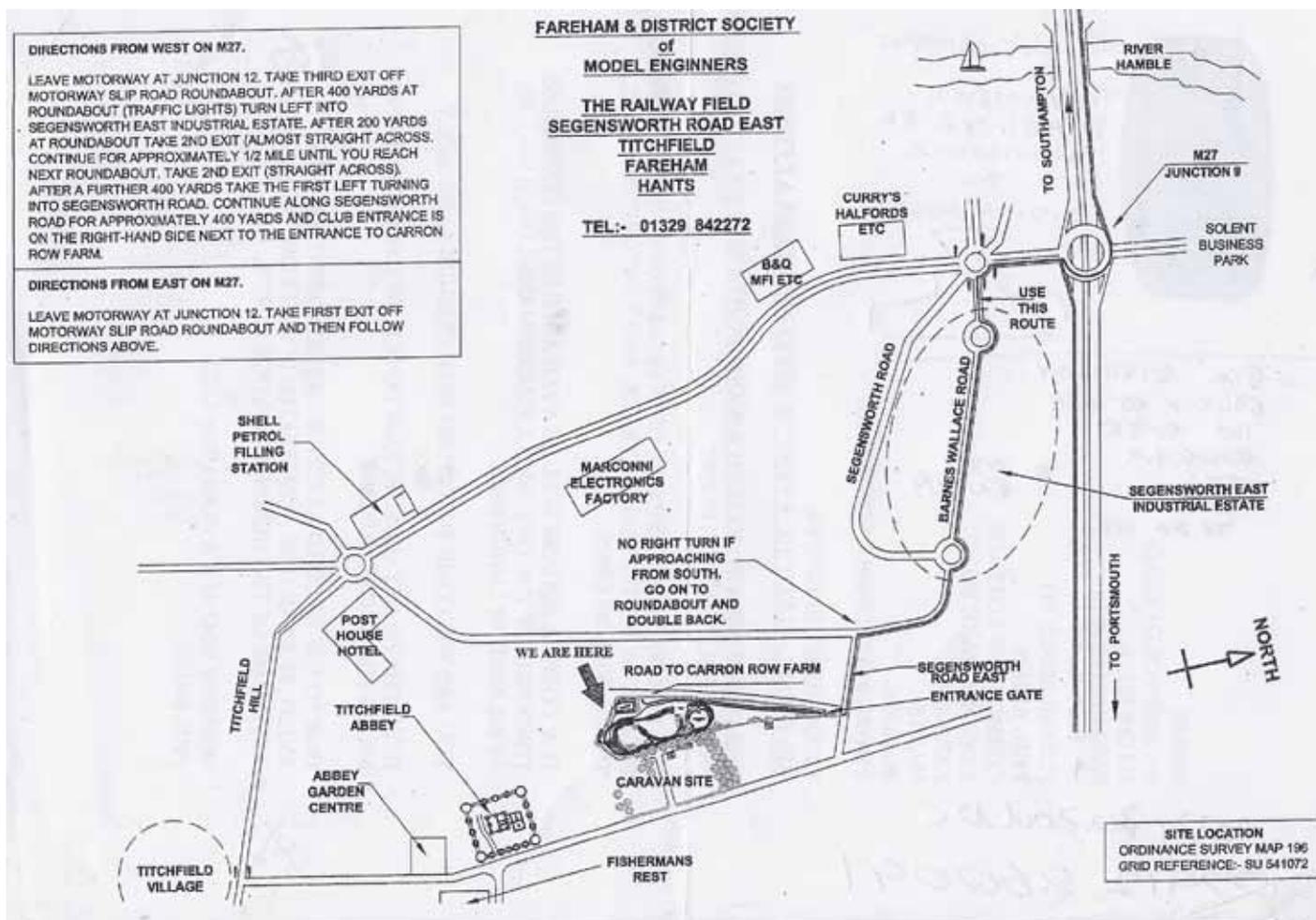
RSVP Contact:

Jim Cunningham

01489 893997

OR

jandccunningham@yahoo.co.uk



Sweet Pea Rally 2015

On behalf of the members of Northampton SME, it is a great pleasure for me to invite you to the 23rd Sweet Pea Rally to be held over the weekend of 13th & 14th June 2015, at our club site in Delapre Park, Northampton. The site is 3 miles from Junction 15 on the M1 and easily accessed with main roads from all directions.

Situated in a relaxed woodland setting, about a mile south of the town centre, the Society's facilities are something we are proud of. A spacious club room, clean modern toilets (including those for the disabled), plus workshops and other buildings, complement the recently extended tracks. The track reconstructions and extensions were completed in 2011, and now provide a continuous raised track of 535m (1755ft) of dual 5in. and 3½in. gauge, and a ground level railway with a terminus station and an out and back run of 925m (3034ft) of dual 7¼in. and 5in. gauge. Ruling gradients are 1 in 200 and 1 in 100 respectively.

We shall open the site from midday on the Friday (12th June), for those wishing to arrive early and the tracks will be available for anyone wishing to use them between 2.00pm and 7.00 pm. On Saturday the tracks and amenities will be open from 9.00am until 9.00pm and on the Sunday from 9.00am until 7.00pm.

We hope that many of you will stay for the whole weekend so we have agreement for caravans and camper vans to use the field adjacent to our site, but please note that we cannot provide electrical hook-ups. Our Safety Policy and Risk Assessment submission to Northampton Borough Council for overnight use of this area require that we know beforehand how many vehicles will be staying, so please use the entry form to reserve your space.

We intend to serve bacon rolls on the Saturday and Sunday mornings, a buffet luncheon will also be available for you to purchase on both days, and a meal will be on sale on the Saturday evening for which a modest charge will apply. Drinks and confectionery will be available for visitors to purchase from the clubhouse throughout each day.

For further information such as places to stay and up to date information on the event, please visit our website www.nsme.co.uk. If you have any questions about the arrangements please phone me on 01327-342167 or by e-mail at sweetpea2015@nsme.co.uk

The Northampton Carnival traditionally takes place on the second Saturday of June, and this year may use Delapre Park as its base. If so, vehicular access to our site will be restricted by temporary road closures for up to 3 hours from around midday on the Saturday. Pedestrian access will remain open via our gate on the London Road. Please check for up to date information on our website nearer the event.

I do hope that you will come along to run or display your engine and enjoy the facilities we have built up at our site over many years. I look forward to meeting you.

Peter Squire Chairman, Northampton SME Ltd

Entry Forms for the event, which should be returned to the address at the bottom of the form by no later than 30th April 2015, are available in the Engine Shed, or from Dick Ganderton - e-mail only, please.