



Editor's Ramblings

The first Friday of the Summer Holiday Running Rota had to be cancelled as the weather was atrocious with driving rain and high winds. Peggy had made the sandwiches so we decided not to waste them and went to Lepe Country Park instead to eat them sitting in the car looking out at the Isle of Wight across a murky Solent.

Some time ago, I had a request from the Secretary of Welling & District Model Engineering Society to visit Littledown on a Sunday running day to find out how we had coped with our move from Kings Park, as they are in a similar situation. The rain didn't put them off and they duly turned up last Sunday morning with two very nice 5" Gauge GWR express locomotives.

My two photographs show Martin Thompson firing his 4-6-0 *Grange Hayden Grange* and Bob Underwood coming into Bankside Station after a good run with his 4-6-0 *Saint, 2982 Lalla Rookh*. At least the wet weather gave us some nice steam effects. My thanks to Mike Mortimer who turned up and helped me entertain the visitors and run the railway.



Don't forget that the August meeting is at Littledown Miniature Railway - not at the Muscliff Community Centre! Order your Fish & Chips - or Sausage & Chips if that's your preference - using the Order Form on the last page of this issue. Don't forget to enclose your payment!



Val Mantle, wife of our President, Dick Mantle, has unearthed a couple of interesting photographs. This one was taken at Funlec 1994, held at Kings Park and won by Dick. This was a light hearted efficiency competition, organised by Diane Styles, with a Cup presented to the winner and a Wooden Spoon for the least efficient.

Starting on the left - Mike & Diane Styles, Margaret & Mike Baker, Jean Brookes, ?, ?, Lena Adams, Wilf Welch, Dick Mantle, Ray Warren, ?, Alvin Evans, Bob Devereux, Derek Adams, Norman Kitcher, Jim Robertson, ? and Ron Brookes. In front are Val Mantle and Alan Pickering. If anyone can identify the four unknown people please let me know. Sadly, quite a few of the older Members in this photograph are no longer with us.



The second photograph I will leave to next month.

Dick Ganderton

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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 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 September 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd September 2015. There will be no Committee Meeting in August.

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 August 2015 will be clockwise. September 2015 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 2nd & 16th August 2015 and 6th & 20th September 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.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 2 nd August 2015 | Charity Day. Littledown Miniature Railway.
<i>Please note that this is a Sunday. Our Charity this year is Youth Cancer Trust.</i> |
| 6 th August 2015 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.</i> |
| 19 th August 2015 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway.
<i>Fish & Chip Supper. Order Form on last page. Strictly payment with order - no money, no food!</i> |
| 15 th September 2015 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Dr. Mike Walshaw, D-Day Railways.</i> |
| 6 th September 2015 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>Phil Drake. Please let Phil know.</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 v10.10.3 Yosemite.

16mm Update

By the time you read this, weather permitting, the replacement anti vandal 16mm track covers will be in-service. We are trying a rather radical approach to weather protection in that the boards were pre-treated with a clear water repellent before fitting, to which no further coloured paint is required.

We have had some very cheap and tatty packing case plywood similarly treated on trial at Littledown over the past month without any apparent deterioration. We accept this is not a long trial, but we have to get the work completed before the autumn sets in. The plan is to monitor the new boards and take appropriate action if required. If you feel the new look is visually unacceptable then please let your concerns be known to Dave or Gordon. Only a small workforce was required as most of the work on cutting and preparing the boards was done off site with final fitting planned for Wednesday 29th July.

We thank those members who have helped so far. If however we are obliged to do some extra work then we may require additional support.

Please come and see the new boards in action at Littledown, and we would remind all Members that the 16mm Narrow Gauge Garden Railway will be running on the First & Third Sundays of each month, weather permitting, of course.

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

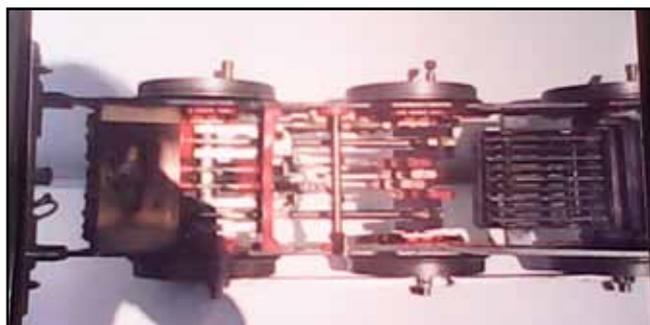
Car Parking

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.

For Sale

Martin Evans 5" Gauge *Boxhill* 0-6-0T.
Chassis has been run on air.
No certificates.

Contact Ron Cunningham:
e-mail: ronsquest@hotmail.com
or mobile: 07891925590 for details.



Littledown Diary

In the last edition of the *Newsletter* I asked for details of the origins of the name *Sheddon Wheals*, Dick very kindly sent me the details and as I think other Members would be interested on hearing the story I am asking him to print it in the *Newsletter*. Thank you Dick.

Why *Sheddon Wheals*? When the track was being built the 'works' train was hauled by my 5" Gauge battery electric Y6 Wisbech & Upwell tram loco. When it was decided to build a passenger hauler Dave Finn, then Secretary, made the comment "we don't want another shed on wheels". The name stuck and Dave Martin even made a plywood body in the form of a garden shed! You can see the shed in the photograph on the right. Unfortunately, it no longer fits as the loco has been modified to take different batteries.

Neil Horder came up with the final version of the name suggesting that, as the loco without a body bore more than a passing resemblance to a Cornish mining loco we could call it *Sheddon Wheals* - 'wheal' being Cornish for a mine. Brass nameplates were cast and that's the name it carries.

Her present body was originally made by the late Ted Rouse with the boiler made from blue plastic gas pipe. Mike and Carol Clay rebuilt it to fit the larger batteries.



Schools class 4-4-0 906 *Sherborne* was a visitor to our recent 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Day at Littledown and 925 *Cheltenham* made an appearance at the Swanage Gala this year. The Littledown photograph was taken by Pete Burton and the Swanage picture by Andrew P. M. Wright (Official Swanage Railway Photographer). This gives a comparison between the miniature loco and the real thing.

These two pictures should have accompanied Chris Bracey's Littledown Diary last month.



www.littledownrailway.co.uk

Littledown Diary

The two photos of young Josh Jones were taken by his father Paul on Sunday 21st June and show him out with their newly acquired Club Custodianship loco *Archie*. Josh, aged 11, is allowed to drive the loco without passengers when accompanied by an Adult Society Member. Our pictures show Josh at the controls - the train was posed for the camera - and shows off the greenery of Littledown Park.

The 16mm Railway was in action and Josh, in between his driving, was able to take some shots on his phone, which are reproduced here. Sorry, I do not know the loco owners' names but I think the yellow saddle tank belongs to Charlie. Josh has his own 16mm loco, which he built with help from his father.

Chris Bracey



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Work On The Garden Railway

Mike Clay and Gordon Miles spent Wednesday fitting some of the new anti vandal covers to the 16mm Narrow Gauge Garden Railway. Gordon describes them in the 16mm Update on page 3.

Photograph by Dick Ganderton