

## Chairman's Thoughts

**A**t the Society's January Meeting we had a very interesting talk and film given by Stephen Robson on his experiences as an RAF Engineer finishing with a short film on The Hon. Charles Stewart Rolls and his association with Hengistbury Head. Having grown up in the Southbourne area I did not realise that Rolls was killed in an air crash at Hengistbury Airfield, Southbourne - as Stephen mentioned, very little is made of the tragedy in the area.

We now have the rail so we can carry out the repairs to the track when the weather improves in the spring. Thank you, William, for collecting the rail from the supplier. We now have fifty new fish plates that will require milling down to remove the redundant flange. Have we a Member who would like to take on the task?

William will be organising a 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" Rally on Saturday 25th April 2015 and we will be hosting the Polly Rally on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - this being the earliest available date in the Polly Owners' Club calendar.

When coupling up your loco to the trolleys please use the correct couplings. It is the loco owner's responsibility to have the correct coupling bar and details of this can be found in the Blue Book and on the website. Please do not couple the two small trolleys behind one another as they have not been built for that purpose.

It seems that once again we have had members of the public entering the Steaming Bays with unsupervised children. We are **all** responsible for the safe operation of our railway, so please do not be afraid to ask people to view the Steaming Bays from the Viewing Area. For a closer look they should be escorted by a Society Member **at all times** and their children must be under strict supervision **at all times**. The swing gate **must** be in place **at all times** when locos are running and we will be putting further signage on the gate.

You may have seen in the Engine Shed a large cardboard box; this contains another coal bin which we intend to use for the storage of paint and flammable liquids. This will be installed at the back of the Engine Shed next to the other (coal) one and be locked for safety with our standard locks.

*David Martin*

## Editor's Ramblings

**T**he advantages of joining a Model Engineering Society such as ours have been amply demonstrated by Brian Williams. Brian decided that he wanted to build a steam loco rather than just run the one he bought some time ago, so he decided to build a 5" gauge version of Kozo Hiroko's Shay.

Everything on this model is fabricated - no castings are used - so Brian needed to learn to silver solder. This he achieved with a lot of tutoring from fellow member

William Powell and further encouragement by attending the monthly TechChat Meetings with his progress reports.

He is presently engaged in fabricating the eight wheels needed and progress can be judged from John Hoyle's photographs of one of the wheels after silver soldering the eight individual spokes to the boss and rim. The temporary backing plate has been removed and the wheel now awaits final machining.

*Dick Ganderton*



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 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 March 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The Minutes of the February 2015 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the February 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 February 2015 will be clockwise. March 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March 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.

18 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre. <i>Richard Knott's Video Show.</i>
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre. <i>West Country Railways, Mike Weber.</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2015	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Venue to be decided.

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

Apologies to anyone this may disappoint, but to continue our belief in giving you the best experience possible, it has now become urgent. We wish you a happy, healthy and safe 2015 and hope to see you again in 2016.

### 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 v10.10.1 Yosemite.

## Subscriptions - 2015

**M**embers are reminded that Subscriptions for last year ran out on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. So far approximately 80% of Members have renewed.

The Membership Secretary carries spare Renewal Forms if required. Please don't leave your payment until the last minute. If you want your Membership Card by post a SASE would help.

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

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## 16mm Update

### Note from Gordon Miles your Boiler Tester

**N**ow that the snow has come and gone we can now welcome in the running season, which leads me to the subject of Annual Boiler Test Certificates, I would like to remind the following members that they have at least one or more locos requiring retest before operating on the Littledown Garden Railway.

Chris Cooper, Ron Cooper, Graham Carpenter, Mike Clay, Brian Gibson, Alan Hodgson, Les Lilly, Gordon Miles, Dave Oliver, and Dave White.

Please! please!, bring your current test certificate with you when you present your loco or locos for retest as this makes my part of the exercise that much easier. I just check the gas tank and pipework for leaks and that the safety valve lifts at the correct pressure when steaming. Then if all is well, I just disappear into a quiet corner to make out your new certificate. I am usually present at Littledown on our running days, the First and Third Sundays of each month. I don't have to see the loco running, so I can do the testing on non running days but I must know in advance.

Happy steaming.

**Gordon Miles & David White**

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## Car Parking

**T**he 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, 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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## 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.

Enjoy.

**Peter Burton**

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## For Sale

Dave Teasdale is disposing of his entire workshop equipment.

Myford Super7 Lathe (grey) on Myford stand.

3-jaw Griptru, 4-jaw Independent and 4-jaw SC chucks. Vertical Slide with Machine Vice, Keats Angle Plate plus other Angle Plates. 2MT Boring Head, Die Holders, Live Centres, various Lathe Tools, Machine Vices.

Warco Mill Drill with Collets, etc. Fobco 1/2" Bench Drill. 6" Rotary Table. Wolf Grinder.

Part finished 5" Gauge 3-cylinder Royal Scot chassis. Tender & front bogie finished. Cylinders machined with end covers. (Pistons not machined). Axles, axle boxes and Driving Wheels machined. No axles. Inside Valve Gear finished, Inside Con Rod part finished. Material for pistons and outside valve gear.

Set of drawings by Don Young for 5" Gauge L&Y 2-4-2 Tank.

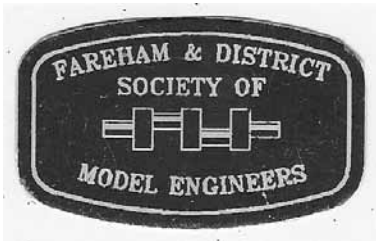
To view and discuss ring Dave on 01202 875754.

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:

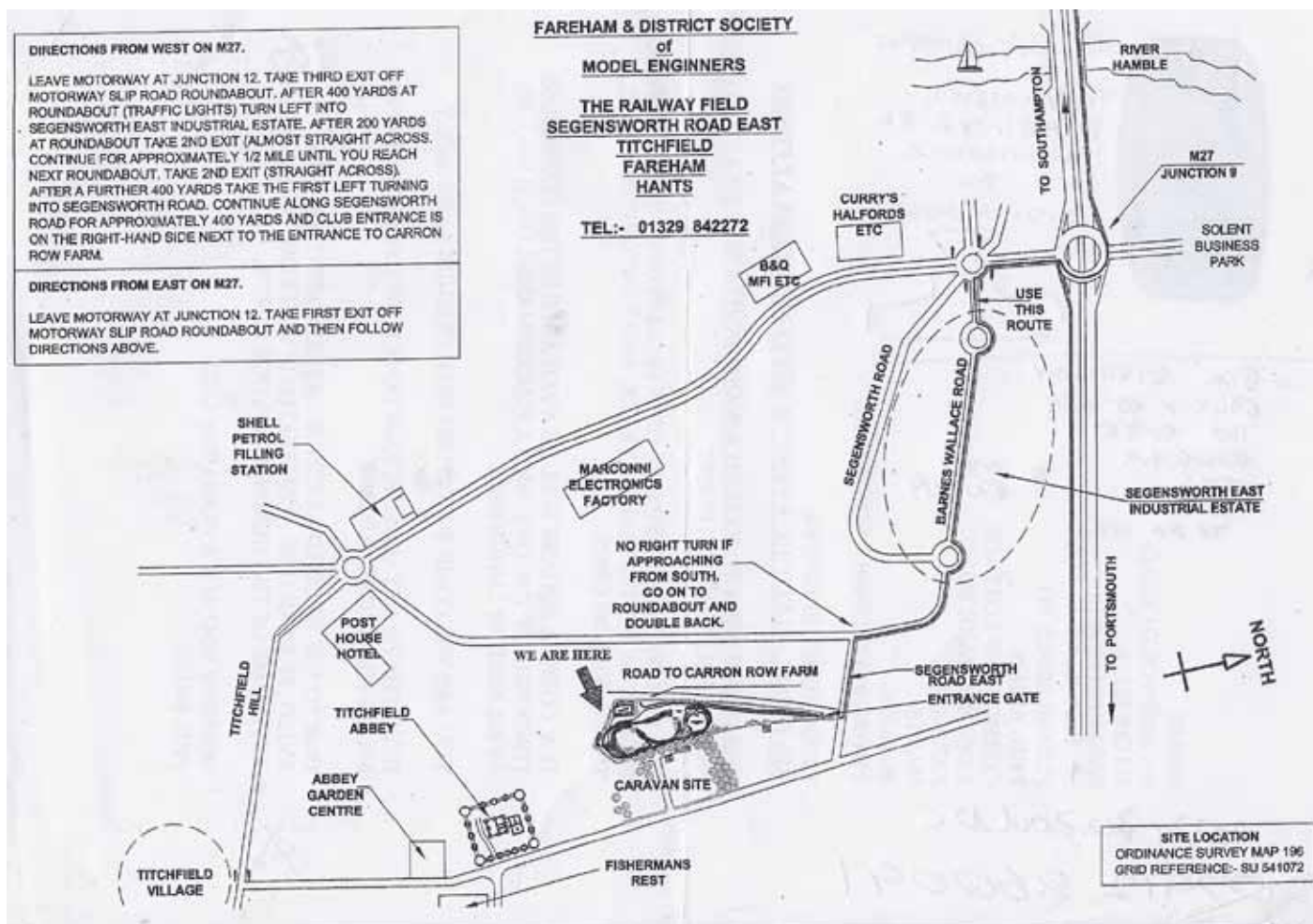
Jim Cunningham

01489 893997

OR

[jandccunningham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.