



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 a bit wet, but not enough to put a damper on the day. Although we had one slight hitch when we lost all our electrical supply for a few minutes, which could have been a disaster as Margery was preparing the bacon rolls.

Thanks to Irene and David White for taking on the task buying the presents and helping Phil Drake with all the bookings. Margery was kept busy in the kitchen keeping us fed with soup and a roll, with tea and cakes going down well in the afternoon to finish off. Thanks to Carole for keeping everybody supplied with tea and coffee all day.

The steam hauled locos and their drivers performed well, but *Littledown Castle* had one small hiccup but it was quickly resolved. Thanks to those who drove and their guards, allowing our train service to run to time.

As soon as the last passengers had had their ride and seen Santa, the scenery and decorations were quickly taken down and stored away for yet another year. Well done to everyone that helped on the day. Hopefully you all got home before the rain came in.

We will however need to look at the format for this forthcoming year's Santa Special with Members needing to come forward to take on the task of the organising and booking, etc.

For those who attended our Christmas Party it went off well with plenty of food to be had. We had two quizzes followed by the raffle. We were able to give the proceeds to Green Cottage Riding for the Disabled. Thanks to all the Members who attended the party.

Among the Projects for the New Year is the replacement of some of the rail on the curved sections of the track.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

Having bought quite a few electronic items from China via eBay I have had a lot of laughs over the strange English translations of the specifications and instructions. I often wonder why the Chinese don't employ translators with appropriate technical skills.

George Wheatley showed me this leaflet from Maplin describing their A200 Etch-set - a 'Complete corrosive set, printed wirings to the own production'. The leaflet looks as if it was originally written in German before being translated. I wonder if the Russians read their version and try to make sense of it?

If you haven't already paid your Subscription for 2015 please make George's life a bit easier and do so now - and do please remember to send your completed Renewal Form with your payment.

Dick Ganderton

A200 | Ätzenset
Komplettes Ätzenset, zur eigenen Herstellung gedruckter Schaltungen. Ideal für den Einstieg in diese faszinierende Technik! Nach einiger Übung ist man in der Lage, Platinen herzustellen, die den professionellen kaum nachstehen. Mit ausführlicher, bebildeter Anleitung.

Enthält:
je 1 Arbeitsschale, Pinzette, Ätzmittel, Entwickler, Fotopositive Platine, Arbeitsanleitung, 3 kupferbeschichtete Platinen.

A200 | Etch - set
Complete corrosive set, printed wirings to the own production. Ideal for the getting in this fascinating technique! According to some exercise it is possible to produce boards which hardly takes place to the professional ones. With detailed, illustrated instructions.

Contains:
1 working bowl, forceps, corrosive, developer, photopositive board, working instruction, 3 copper-clad boards.

E Juego cáustico | **F** Jeu corrosif | **NL** Ets - set | **RUS**
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www.kemo-electronic.de

CE 4 024028 070315
N648X

Editor
Dick Ganderton
'Graskop'
76 Dewlands Road
Verwood, Dorset
BH31 6PN
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 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 February 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th February 2015. The Minutes of the January 2015 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the January 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 January 2015 will be anticlockwise. February 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 18th January 2015 and 1st & 15th February 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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|--------------------------------|---|
| 15 th January 2015 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Note change of date.
<i>John Hoyle. Please let John know if you are attending.</i> |
| 21 st January 2015 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Cold War and a Hot Place. Experiences of an RAF Engineer. Stephen Robson.</i> |
| 5 th February 2015 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.</i> |
| 18 th February 2015 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Richard Knott's Video Show.</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

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

Members are reminded that Subscriptions for last year ran out on 31st December 2014. So far approximately 40% of Members have renewed.

A hiccup have come to light in the system. No account was taken of the fact that some Members who receive their copy of the *Newsletter* by e-mail have no means of printing out a form. Sorry about that. This will be taken into account next year. A Form is with this issue in case you have mislaid the one that came with the November issue.

The Committee will re-examine payment by electronic means, which is becoming popular in organisations such as ours. The Membership would be consulted before any major change is made.

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.

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.

If we have periods of heavy rain 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.

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

For Sale

Dave Teasdale has a virgin sheet of copper that he would like to sell. It's 10 swg and 24" x 30". He's open to sensible offers. Blackgates price is about £210.

Contact him on 01202 875754.

Frank Robinson wants to dispose of his library of railway books to a good home. They are mainly Great Western Railway orientated.

Contact Frank directly: ferobinson@btinternet.com or 01202 892711

Copper sheet 3mm thick 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 29". £40.

Myford ML7-R Lathe on Stand with Drip Tray and Raising Blocks;

4" & 3" 3-Jaw Chucks; 6" & 3" 4-Jaw Chucks;

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