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## Chairman's Thoughts

Our BBQ evening on the 19th June was very successful with the local Gauge 0 Guild, G1MRA and MERG area groups as our guests and a good show of our own members. As usual, I was busy with the burgers and sausages aided by Diane and Hilary who served them as soon as they were ready. I heard only one complaint that there were no cakes. Please don't blame me, it was a Committee decision, but we did have plenty of sausages and burgers to go around at least twice. Thanks again to Carol for cleaning the BBQ beforehand.

Bob has now completed stage one of the rail replacement and thanks to all the members who helped him with the task. He is now planning to replace another 70 lengths of rail and that will see all the 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" Gauge curved sections replaced.

William has decided to step down from the Committee and I would like to thank him for all the work he has done in the past - hopefully he will come back to it in the future. He has organised some new steam oil for use at the track, it is in a 5 litre container, which should be easier to dispense from - with a little care, please.

Don't forget it is a Fish & Chips Supper at the track for our August meeting and not at Muscliff Community Centre. But before then it's our AGM on Wednesday July 15th with a speaker this year. Mike Webber will be giving us a talk on *The Big Four, Plus One*, featuring locomotives from all four of the pre-nationalisation companies (GWR, LMS, LNER and SR) pictured at several heritage railways and on the main-line, with a sprinkling of British Rail's Standard classes

The Society's Charity Day will be on Sunday 2nd August in aid of the Youth Cancer Trust. It is also the Littledown Family Fun Day and if the weather is good we should be busy, so we could do with plenty of locos in steam.

**David Martin**



## Editor's Ramblings

Don't forget that the July Meeting is the AGM. Please try to attend to ensure that we have the necessary quorum. To make the evening more enjoyable we have arranged a Speaker.

The School Summer Holidays are almost upon us together with John Hoyle's renowned Rota. You will find this on page 6 of this issue. If you didn't put your name down for the Rota you can still turn up and help - you will find it quite enjoyable.

Chris Bracey has been sending me notes on what has been happening at Littledown Miniature Railway and I am going to experiment with putting them into a Diary format. Chris has suggested that when he isn't at the railway someone else might like to submit suitable Diary notes.

Have you been following our Facebook page? Peter Burton is doing a great job with this, but can always do with pictures and notes to ensure that he always has something to keep the momentum going. The picture here of Phil Mortimer from Taunton MES on his annual visit to LMR with his unpainted 5" Gauge Britannia *Bodge of Oman* is one that I took and sent to Peter to use on Facebook.

**Dick Ganderton**



## Your Free Cloth Badge

You may remember that John Roberts offered a free badge to each member of the Society. I now have a small number of badges available. Please contact David White at the track or at Muscliff. I can place further orders with John. Extra badges are available at £1.50 each.

**David White**

## 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

There is no August 2015 Committee Meeting. The Minutes of the July 2015 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the July 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 July 2015 will be anticlockwise. August 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> August 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.

- 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.  
*AGM. Please make every effort to attend to ensure that we have a quorum!*  
*After the AGM Mike Webber will give a talk on Steam Locomotives of The Big Four Plus One.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015 Charity Day. Littledown Miniature Railway.  
*Please note that this is a Sunday. Our Charity this year is Youth Cancer Trust.*
- 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.  
*Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.*
- 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015 Monthly Meeting; 7.00 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway.  
*Fish & Chip Supper. More details on how to order next month*

## 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)

### 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.

## Roger S-H's J39 Cylinders

**Y**ou might remember that a couple of Newsletters ago I asked for help in machining the cylinder block and associated parts for my LNER J39 0-6-0 locomotive as the block is too large for my Myford. Well, I have now had these machined by a small engineering company near Weymouth and I thought that Members might be interested to see the progress that has been made.

**Roger Stewart-Hindley**

*Right: Inside cylinder block in the process of being machined.*

*Bottom right: Cylinder covers, slide bars, crossheads almost complete, only awaiting return of main cylinder block.*

*Below: End view of my LNER J39 0-6-0 locomotive.*



## 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

**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.

## For Sale

**M**artin Evans 5" Gauge *Boxhill* 0-6-0T. Chassis has been run on air. No certificates.  
Contact Ron Cunningham e-mail: [ronsquest@hotmail.com](mailto:ronsquest@hotmail.com) or mobile: 07891925590 for details.



## Littleddown Diary

Sunday 7th June was a warm and busy day at Littleddown with Bob using 1469 and John with *Annie B* opening the service with full two-carriage trains. They were joined briefly by Pete en-route from Work to Home doing a few runs with the Hymek *Royal Engineer*. Later two more steam locos ran Dave gave *Diane* a chance to have a good run whilst after a few bad days Mike finally got his *Simplex* 2345 to run for a good while. Passengers came in good numbers and with the steam coming off at 15.30, trains continued with *Sheddon Wheals* to after 16.00 to cater for the demand. One gentleman had driven down from North London to visit the Moors Valley Railway Gala and came on to Littleddown afterwards. He rode with all the three locos we had available at the time and was very impressed by the Society.

The 16mm members put up a good show of locomotives once again with a very impressive long rake of Slate wagons seen running at one point. I also love to see the little yellow tank running backwards with its coaches, a situation that sadly cannot be achieved for practical reasons on the main running track! Aboard one of the trains on which I was Guard, the passengers were discussing how much bigger John's *Annie B* was than Bob's 0-4-2T and were then amazed when I explained that, because of the scales the two locos were built to, the situation with the original 1:1 scale versions would be very much different!

I have on many occasions heard members explaining about *Sheddon Wheals* to passengers and referring to the two previous designs of body the loco has carried, do any of the members have any pictures of the loco in its former guise that could be put into a future *Newsletter* with perhaps someone to write a little bit about it? Whilst now it is *Littleddown Castle* that does most of the non steam workings, I understand this loco gave many, many years of regular service.



*Diane on the Steaming Bays. (Photo Pete Burton)*

On to Sunday 14th June with another early start for the steam with Bob and his ever trusty 14xx and Kevin with the magnificent *Anthony Manor* taking to the track to start the service. It was not long before the number of passengers meant that *Littleddown Castle* was needed to boost the power. With Kevin only running in the early morning as usual, *Castle* stayed out all day to cope with the demand. This was the first time for some months that we have used a non steam loco all day. However apart from a loco for a steam test no one else turned up!

The positive side of this was that new member Nick was able to have some instruction on *Littleddown Castle* and relatively new member Roger was able to drive the loco on some tree lopping specials in between the service trains. The use of the *Castle* and with two longer trains gave driving and guarding opportunities, with Pete, Charlie, Mike, Sheila and myself each doing the honours. Bob stayed in service until around 15.00 with the service continuing until after 15.30 with *Castle*.

The woodpecker made another appearance, but was only seen by one train. It was nice to hear a number of comments from new passengers during the day. Some were visitors to the area and had seen the signs at the Centre.

Many of the 16mm people were away on a site visit, but there was more than enough Members available with Irene as Station Master (or Mistress) keeping us all under control!



***New Member Nick's splendid 3 1/2" Gauge Britannia being prepared for a steam test. (Photo Pete Burton)***

I was not able to get to the track on BBQ Night until 19.45 and entering the park I found a very English game of cricket in progress barring my route across the grass. Taking a wide route around the game and keeping a good look out, for I had been hit by a cricket ball as a youngster and was not looking to that happening again!

When I eventually arrived at the Steaming Bays I was met with a scene suggesting France rather than England. A group of people dining in the open, watching miniature trains whilst being catered for by our Cordon Bleu chef David Martin. Fortunately the blue did not extend to his language, like other well known TV chefs! After grabbing a sausage in a roll I walked over to the station to find two trains in action. Bob, as ever, doing a sterling performance as he had started at around 10.00 that morning with just a break in the afternoon. The other train was *Annie B* with John Hoyle working the late shift. Both trains were busy taking our visitors for the evening for a trip around the park. Bob eventually came off at around 20.15 and I replaced him with *Littleddown Castle* operating with *Annie B* to the end around 21.00.

I always like to hear comment from passengers and on this occasion the passengers were of course our guests from the local Gauge 0 Guild, Gauge One and MERG Area Groups. I was told by two of the ladies "I had no idea you had all this here and how welcoming and friendly you have all been". Is there any better reason to do this sort of thing! Again my thanks go to the chef and the serving ladies for the the catering that night.

*Continued on page 5*

## Littletdown Diary

Continued from page 4

There were clearly other locos in use during the day but I cannot report exactly what had happened. One of the visitors reported seeing *Maid of Kent* and *Royal Engineer* going into the back of a car as they arrived and I saw the Society's *Speedy*, 1501, being disposed of as I arrived at 19.45 and *Sugar and Spice* was also in the steaming bays so I guess all of those had been in use. A lost opportunity that day was a photo of all the Society's locos at the track at the same time. *Shed* and *Castle* were available as usual, but with William bringing 1501 and Pete with *Maid* and *Royal Engineer* the final member of the collection, *Archie*, was actually in Paul's car, as he has now become custodian of this loco. Perhaps another day we will manage to get a picture of all of them together!

**N**ext, Sunday 27th June. I am calling this Welcome Back Sunday. After a break of about six months, Bob brought his Indian XT loco *Rudyard Kipling* along and was first on the track. This was followed close behind by Phil with his wonderful unpainted brass 5" Gauge Britannia *Bodge of Oman*. Phil, brother of our own Mike Mortimer, lives in Somerset but tries each year to bring the loco for an 80 mile car journey to run at Littletdown. In the same way as Nigel Way's Hunslet *Maid Marion* is also unpainted, it attracts the children as the gold coloured loco acts like a magnet to them.

Another welcome back is to popular Station Master, John Trew, who, for various reasons, we have not seen for a while.

The weather was variable, which reduced the number of people in the park, but did allow a number of Photographic Runs Past to done for some visitors, I am not sure if that is a first for the society. With the brass Britannia 70055 *Bodge of Oman* available, it gave a good contrast to the colourful *Rudyard Kipling*. Both locos made a number of trips for fun as well as passenger runs which also allowed Phil and Ian, who had come with Phil, a chance to try the Littletdown yrack now with its new rail in place.



Bob Devereux's Rudyard Kipling. (photo by RSH)

With the Britannia running right through to the end no non steam trains were run at all that day.

**F**inally we get to Sunday 5th July. First out this week was Kevin with *Anthony Manor*, Bob was busy with a Boiler Certificate for another Member's loco, but was not long behind bringing *Rudyard Kipling* or *Kippers* as he calls it, out on to the track. A busy day with a continuous stream of passengers followed and when Kevin came off during the morning, John Hoyle was ready to take over with the ever efficient *Annie B*. John tells me it is a contraction of Annabelle and is named after a family member, as is his 5" Gauge Sweet Pea 0-4-0ST *Alice*.

A steam fair was held at Kings Park over this weekend and it was nice to see some of the members visiting and exhibiting at the show. I think it might have been part of why we saw more passengers at Littletdown.

Steam stayed running until the end with *Annie B* doing the honours so another Steam Only day. It was nice to see Carole driving *Annie B* for the last part of the day as I know she enjoys driving this loco.

For the first time at Littletdown I saw food being cooked on the shovel in the traditional manner. John using the heat from *Annie B*'s fire to cook bacon for his sandwich! Does this constitute 'Smokey Bacon'?

Again we saw a number of new passengers to the line, one family telling me they had seen the signs further down the park.

**Chris Bracey**

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### Tony Diggins

Tony Diggins passed away on June 4th. The Society offers his family its sincere condolences.

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### Fish & Chip Supper

**F**ish and Chip Supper, Littletdown Miniature Railway, Wednesday August 19th at 7.30pm. Two options this year! Order Forms will be in the next issue.

Fish & Chips @ £3.60

Large Sausage & Chips @ £2.50