

Chairman's Thoughts

The past few months have been cold and damp, but now that we are in March hopefully the weather is on the change and Members will be getting their locos out and running them at the track.

We propose having a working day clearing the branches that have accumulated around the track during the winter months on Sunday 22nd March starting at 10.00am. This will mean running will commence once we have cleared the track.

St. George's Day this year falls on Thursday the 23rd April, so we are going to have our St. George's Day Cream Tea on Sunday 26th April with normal passenger hauling; Margery has asked for cakes, but she will supply all the scones, cream and jam.

Don't forget on the day before - Saturday 25th April - will be our 3½" Gauge Open Day, please contact William Powell for details.

Our Charity for this year will be the Dorset Youth Cancer Trust, a local charity, possibly the first Sunday in August, date to be confirmed.

The Society still needs a Social Secretary to take over the role of organising our monthly speakers, so if anybody is interested please contact any Committee Member. I believe only about seven or eight speakers have to be arranged each year.

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 the photograph shows me driving my *Canterbury Lamb* at 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



It Could Have Been Travellers A Cautionary Tale

A Society Member recently arrived at the Entry Barrier. He unlocked it and returned to his car to drive in. At this moment another, unknown, 'member' pulled up behind him. Our Member proceeded to the unloading point, leaving the second 'member' to enter and lock up.

Having unloaded his loco and had a quick chat, the Member returned his vehicle to the parking area. The Barrier was seen to be still down and the second 'member' was sat in his car, but not in the usual position.

An enquiry found that the second 'member' was an innocent member of the public who had followed him through into the park. Suitable advice was given and following his departure the Barrier was raised and locked.

How lucky we were that the 'member' was not a scout for Travellers, or they would have been in!!

Please be aware that if you let someone follow you in be sure that you know who they are and check that the Barrier is secure.

David White

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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 April 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st April 2015. The Minutes of the March 2015 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the March 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 March 2015 will be anticlockwise. April 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 15th March 2015 and 5th & 19th April 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.

5 th 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 th March 2015	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre. <i>West Country Railways, Mike Weber.</i>
2 nd April 2015	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.</i>
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>

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 - Final Reminder

Members are reminded that Subscriptions for last year ran out on 31st December 2014. If you haven't renewed by the end of March this will be your last *Newsletter*.

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.

Littledown Castle Update

Some of you will know that *Littledown Castle*, though not yet finished, is now in regular use and doing the lion's share of the passenger hauling. So far it is performing well. The details yet to be completed include an on-board battery charging system, speedometer, total mileage indicator and most importantly, a proper metal body.

Two of our newer members, Bruce Baker and Derek Sawyer have very kindly volunteered to build the body from aluminium alloy; they have already started on the project and I owe them a huge thank you! It was a job that the rest of the team were rather dreading having already spent 3½ years on the build, every detail having had to be designed from scratch and there have been quite a few headaches along the way. Time flies when you are occupied!

There are one or two non-functioning minor embellishments that need to be built to adorn the loco like the horn and air filter. Please may I have volunteers to tackle one or more of these? It's always nice to have contributed to a club project like this.

Barring unforeseen problems the team hope to have the locomotive finished by the Autumn and it will remain in service from now onwards.

Please take the opportunity to come down to the track now that the weather is turning warmer and take it for a run yourself; it only takes a few minutes to explain how to drive it and I think you would enjoy the experience.

John Hoyle

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.

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.

Opportunity

I have recently moved to Ferndown, Dorset and am looking for paid help with occasional workshop repairs on an *ad hoc* basis. I buy and sell vintage steam toys and steam driven locomotives and models. The items concerned include the famous German and English makers, such as Bing, Marklin, Bassett Lowke and also some small scale engineering models such as Stuart Turner, Stevens Model Dockyard and small scale locomotives. You can see examples of the items concerned on my web page www.toysteam.com.

Many require repairs, usually involving making some small missing items, mostly in brass or mild steel and some tinsplate work. The work would be mostly suitable to small lathe, hand bench work, soft soldering, etc. Someone in your Society may find this work quite interesting. Anyone in the area who would consider taking this work, could contact me, Mike Cooke, on 01202 895577 or email mike@toysteam.com

For Sale

I am a retired clockmaker and clock wheel and pinion cutter and ill health means I have to sell several machines which model engineers might like.

I took *Model Engineer* magazine from August 1966 until December 2013, and only a few are missing. No reasonable offers on either the magazines or the machines will be refused, and anyone is welcome to view them in Bere Regis. (Tel: 01929 471586).

The machines are as follows:

Engraving machine with capital numbers and letters. The letters are all upper case. A second plate contains two alphabets and numbers. There are two sizes of the numbers, which make it more easily possible to have a smaller or larger size of engraved letters and figures.

Three WAHLI gear cutting machines.

One Churchill gear cutting machine.

One Myford standard size lathe, with chucks and gears, etc.

One large drill on stand.

Geoffrey Booth

For Sale

5" Gauge Battery Electric Loco.
Complete with 4 QD controls
FIAMM heavy duty 12V Battery
Sinclair C5 motor
spare motor
lights
two-tone horns
dust cover.
£600
Gordon Miles Tel: 01425 472010.
e-mail: milescofcoast@hotmail.com



For Sale

Dave Teasdale has the following items he wishes to sell:

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 flanged Boiler Plates.

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

Boxed sets of BA and ME Taps & Dies.

2MT Boring Head.

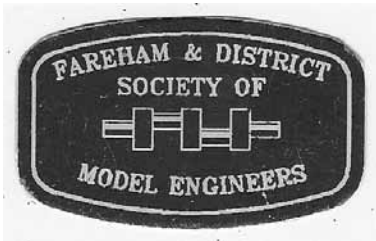
To view and discuss ring Dave on 01202 875754.

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 \(for catering purposes\).](tel:01489893997)

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

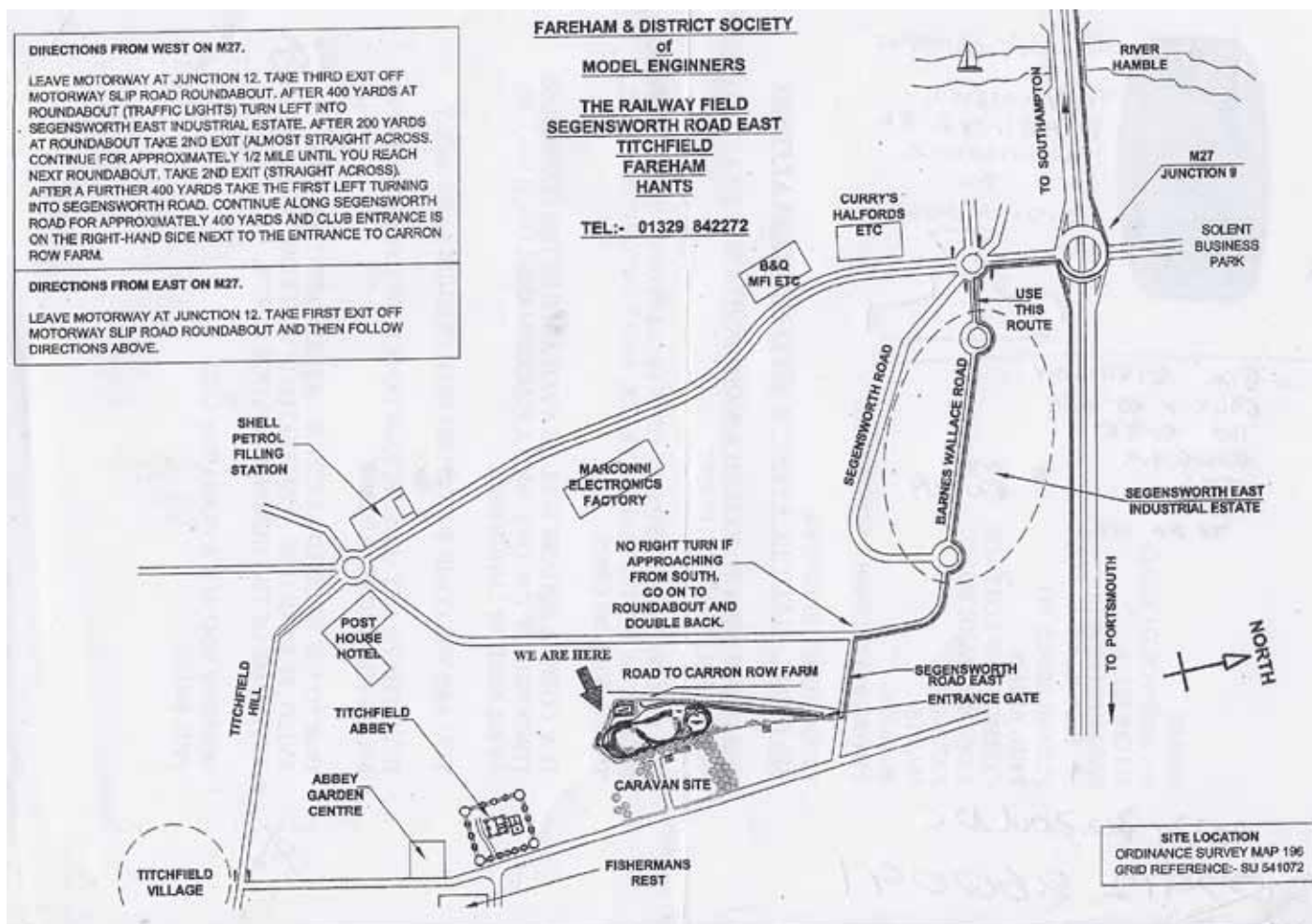
RSVP Contact:

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.