



Chairman's Thoughts

Once again it seems the weather has turned very wet so please take care when parking on the grass area, please try not to churn up the grass.

In the Engine Shed we have an old Myford ML4 lathe that needs some guards so it can be used. Would anybody like to take on making these as a project? if interested please contact myself or any member of the Committee. Barry Linger has offered to give some tuition on the use of a lathe, screw cutting, etc. Should anybody be interested please contact Barry direct.

Our last monthly Meeting was once again poorly attended - would Members like to suggest what they would like to have at the Meetings? I did mention this last month but nobody came back to me. This month's meeting is Ladies Night and John Hawkins will be giving a talk on the history of Ringwood's two nineteenth century railways. At the last meeting Irene Kent and Mike Mortimer presented a cheque for £904 to Peter Guest of the Youth Cancer Trust. This amount, he told us during a very interesting talk, will enable them to give four young people suffering cancer a one week holiday in Bournemouth.

I have just carried out repairs to two of our trolley infills. One was a complete strip back to the plywood structure and the replacement of some of the plywood pieces and the other I have managed to repair. Please, when fitting make sure you are on a straight section of track, not on a bend and the aluminium locators are on the pins. If you find that the carriages are not running as they should, **stop and check them out properly before proceeding around the track.**

If you missed out giving your name at the last Meeting as a helper for the Santa Run on 13th December and still want to help on the day please contact me with your details.

Our annual Christmas Party will be on Wednesday 16th December, three days after our Santa Run so please come along and bring something to contribute. We will also have our usual raffle so prizes would be appreciated, also a quiz as last year.

David Martin



Editor's Ramblings

The Model Engineer Exhibition is moving both date and venue for 2016! The new venue is the Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey and the date is 16th, 17th and 18th September - well away from its traditional New Year slot. With the Harrogate show moving to Doncaster it will be interesting to see how the changes affect both of these exhibitions.

Dick Ganderton

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

The Committee would like to remind Members that it is a condition of our Lease that they must only park their cars or motorcycles in the designated parking area. **There is to be no parking in the area around or near the Engine Shed, on the driveway or turning circle. There are no exceptions to this rule.** As soon as you have unloaded your engine and/or equipment you **must** move your vehicle to the parking area by the entrance gate. As parking spaces are limited please use the main Littledown Centre Car Park if you are not bringing a locomotive to run.

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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 December 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd December 2015. The Minutes of the November 2015 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the November 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 November 2015 will be clockwise. December 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 15th November 2015 and 6th & 20th December 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

- 18th November 2015 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
*John Hawkins. Ringwood's Railways, a history of the two nineteenth century lines.
This meeting is our annual Ladies Night when the men make the tea and coffee and wash up.*
- 3rd December 2015 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.
- 13th December 2015 Santa Special; Littledown Miniature Railway.
Volunteers will be needed for this event.
- 16th December 2015 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
Christmas Party. Please bring seasonal food and cakes.
- 5th January 2016 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Venue to be decided.
- 21st January 2016 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
Subject to be advised.

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 v10.11 El Capitan.

16mm Update

We have experienced further deterioration to the 16mm track, this time it's to the ply baseboards. For the first time we have noticed some serious delamination to the base boards on the flower bed loop, it would appear the roofing felt has failed on the edges allowing water ingress to the ply boards.

This is the first time on any part of our track that this type of failure has occurred and we are not sure of the reason why. The damage at present is limited to a 6 foot section and will require renewal of both the $\frac{3}{4}$ " base board and the felt. Much thought has been given to the replacement and whether an alternative to ply could be adopted.

When visiting tracks we have noticed the trend away from ply to solid wood or recycled plastic. The latter has been rejected on grounds of cost and differential expansion. The wood chosen has been pre-treated decking boards or similar and screwed to the support timbers like large railway sleepers with gaps of 10 to 20 mm to allow for drainage. Our intention is to limit the replacement to just one or two sections of the worst affected ply on an experimental basis prior to replacing the whole loop later if required. The big problem will be getting the job done during short daylight and inclement weather, but we will do our best.

We look forward to seeing you all on the first & third Sundays of each month, weather permitting.

Gordon Miles & Dave White

B&DSME Model Engineer Magazine Library

Please use the library as it is a wonderful source of information and there are many fascinating articles within. Please remember when borrowing a magazine from the Society's library, to complete the sign out sheet, which is attached to the storage cupboard door.

The library is updated regularly as new magazines are donated, so keep an eye on the index for the latest additions.

Please treat the magazines with care as many are fragile due to their age.

Peter Burton

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 Muscliffe.

I can place further orders with John. Extra badges are available at £1.50 each.

David White

Merlin's Mutterings

My muttering concerns the infill sections. These fit between the trolleys when two or more trolleys are coupled together. These sections were made and fitted almost two years ago by the Tuesday Gang and have given no trouble until about two weeks ago when three of them were broken, one almost beyond repair.

This, in my opinion, was not caused by anything other than sheer carelessness by whoever who fitted them between the trolleys incorrectly, care **must** be taken by fitting these sections correctly, as with any other task. If any Member is not sure how to operate or assemble equipment please ask someone. Someone did glue a doubler piece of wood over the break but it is too thick, the result is that the infill section is now wider than the gap between two trolleys - **not a good idea**.

One other point - there are six infill sections, which are quite dirty and need to be cleaned. A nail brush to clean the trolley seats and infill upholstery is hung up on the brackets above the trolley seats. Some warm water and Fairy Liquid works wonders. Thank You!

On a brighter note I have just received information that the 2016 Harrogate M E exhibition will not be held at the Royal Great North Yorkshire Show Ground. It will instead be held at the Doncaster Racecourse, this is because the buildings are either being re built or refurbished and may not be finished in time. As far as I am aware Doncaster Airport, The Railway Station and Doncaster Town are all about 20 minutes away from the Race Course, but do not take my word for this. At the moment I am not sure if the exhibition will still be called the Harrogate Exhibition but will find out in due course.

Merlin



www.littledownrailway.co.uk

Luscombe Valley Railway Update

We thought it about time that we sent out an update, mainly in pictures, on what has been happening at the Luscombe Valley Railway over the last few months. The main work completed so far is, of course, the removal of all the old wiring and electrified points, replacement of all underground wiring/ducting, the fitting of new junction boxes, rebuilding of all signals, points and the remodelling of Horder Halt to accommodate two trains.

As I write this at the beginning of November we are busily pulling through all the new cables that have to be inserted in the new ducting to the junction boxes. There are numerous items of electronic wizardry that have yet to be designed, manufactured and installed. Then there is the testing period when we have to iron out any bugs that may be found in the software.

Remember you cannot go and buy the type of software that we use off-the-shelf in a shop, it all has to be produced in-house to do the tasks that the computers will undertake on the new system. It will be based around three Raspberry Pi mini computers. I am not going to waste time in this report describing them in any more detail but those of you who know about these things will know what I'm talking about and those who don't needn't worry!

So here follows a collection of photographs showing just a fraction of the amount of the work that has so far been carried out and continues to be progressed.



Clockwise:

The junction box is fixed and the various ducting attached to begin the pulling through of the cables.

The reels of cable lined up at the signal box end ready for pulling.

The signal gantry is now completely refurbished and ready for reinstatement.

Neil Horder wiring a box whilst burning the midnight oil by floodlight.

Chris Apps guiding through the cables from the signal box.





Clockwise:

Neville Quick and Andy Sheppard concentrating on the wiring diagram during one of our working weekends.

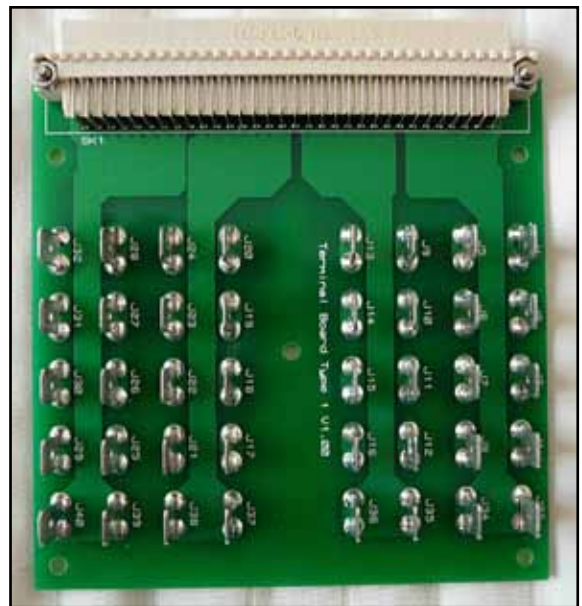
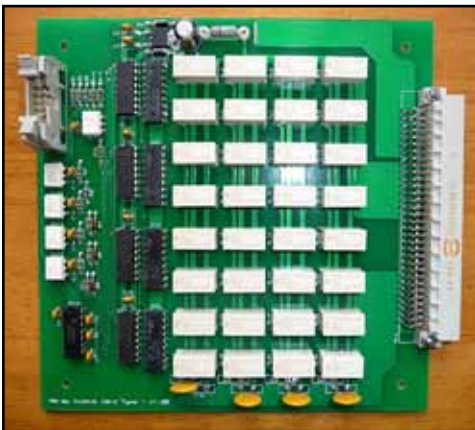
Brian Merrifield working closely with Ron Challenger installing replacements for the worn out point blades. Some points will be completely lifted to have the new mechanisms installed.

A close up example of one of the tag boards that sit in the junction box. All items have been made in house.

Paul Green measuring out cable for the next run.

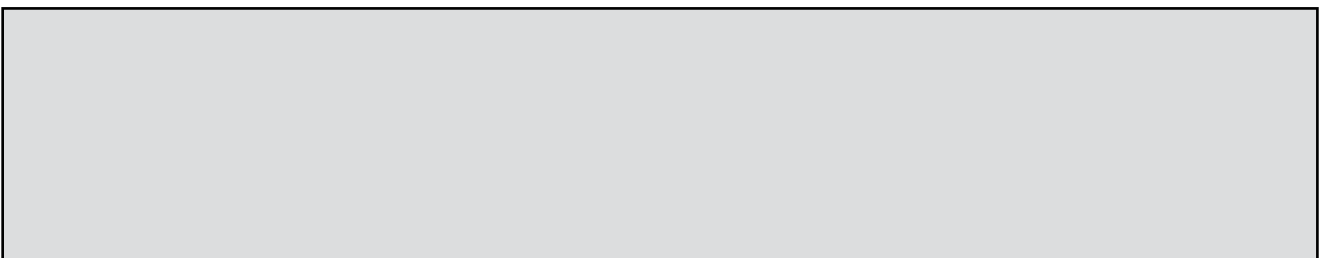
Another in house design, input / output card by Neil Horder.

A junction box part completed.



Hope you enjoyed this little insight into the work being carried out on the Luscombe Valley Railway.

Richard Knott



Come and meet Santa
On Sunday 13th December at
Littledown Miniature Railway
The Littledown Centre



10.30am – 2.30pm £5.00 per child

Children will receive a gift. Mince Pies for Mum & Dad

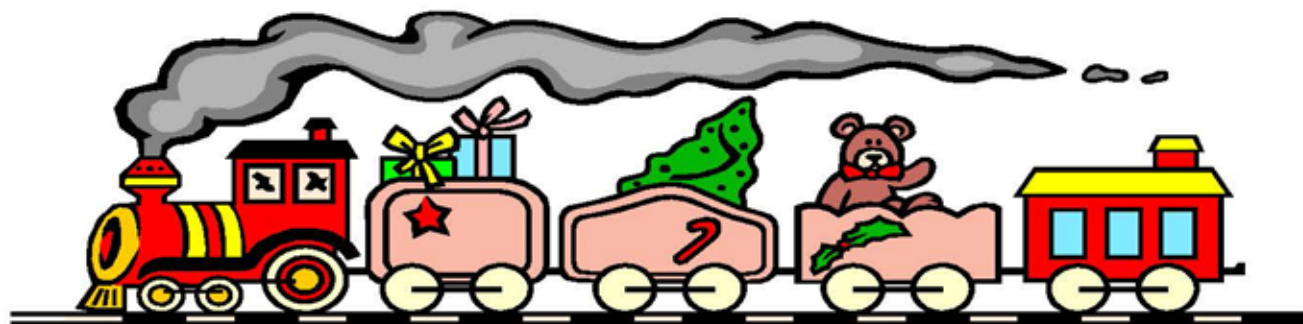
Advanced bookings recommended

Payment in advance

No Credit Cards

For details call 01425 620749

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Bournemouth & District Society of Model Engineers