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Chairman's Thoughts

It seems a while ago but our Charity Day went off well and we were able to donate a substantial sum to the Youth Cancer Trust, who will be collecting a cheque and giving us a talk at our October meeting. When we chose the date for the Charity Day we had no idea it would be the Littledown Family Fun Day. Thanks to all who helped and special thanks to Irene who worked hard collecting the takings on the day.

How many Members can you get in our Station building eating fish and chips? I believe the answer is 15. Unfortunately, the evening was very wet and the 48 who attended were either under a gazebo or sheltering in the Engine Shed and Station building.

After a fair bit of discussion at the Committee Meeting it was decided that a good project for 2016 would be improvements to the station platform area in the form a structure to give cover to our Members and the public and to keep off the rain and wind. How that is to be achieved is open to suggestions from our Members.

Our Santa Run will be on Sunday 13th December and hopefully we can count on Members to help run the event. We intend publishing it this year on our Website and Facebook.

Thank you to all the Members who ran through the summer holidays. It was much appreciated, although the weather was not kind to us as we had a few days that were complete washouts.

A date for your diary - we are holding the Polly Owners Club Rally on Saturday 20th May 2017.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

Last month I printed an old photograph that Val Mantle had unearthed. I promised that I would print the second photograph that Val had let me have, so here it is. It shows our President, Dick Mantle, driving his 5" Gauge *Butch* on his portable track at Parley Sports Club some time *circa* 1960.

As we have several new Members it's probably timely to remind everyone that you **must never, ever**, remove the padlock from the lifting bollard at the entrance to the track at Littledown. When I left on Sunday the Member who had left before me had removed the padlock to unlock and then replaced it incorrectly. It took me several minutes to manoeuvre the padlock to release the locking bar. There is no need to remove the padlock to unlock the bollard - in fact it is much easier to unlock it with the padlock left in the bollard but very difficult if it has been put in backwards!

The gardens at the Littledown Miniature Railway draw lots of very favourable comments from members of the public. The latest project of the gardening brigade is a station flower bed. Pippa and Sheila, the two main gardeners, had decided that they want to plant this new bed with roses. However, they visited the experts at the Parks Department nurseries and came away with enough colourful bedding plants to make the new bed look good until the spring, when they can plant the rose bushes. Pippa's photograph shows the new bed before it was planted out.

It is proposed that a proper railway station nameboard will be made and placed at the back of the new bed, but I haven't heard any rumours of a heap of coal painted white!

Dick Ganderton



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 October 2015 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th October 2015.

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 September 2015 will be anticlockwise. October 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 20th September 2015 and 4th & 18th October 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

16th September 2015 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.

Dr. Mike Walshaw, D-Day Railways.

1st October 2015 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.

21st October 2015 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.

Youth Cancer Trust. Presentation of cheque for the proceeds from our Charity Day followed by a talk on the work of the Charity.

5th November 2015 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

Venue to be advised.

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

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 v10.10.4 Yosemite.

Gardening Notes

The gardens at our track in Littledown Park are, without a doubt, a credit to the hardworking team that tend them, along with the grasscutting team. Pippa Wheatley has taken some photographs of the flower beds and these are reproduced here.



16mm NG Garden Railway. (Photo Pippa Wheatley)



Station 'Forecourt'. (Photo Pippa Wheatley)

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

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.

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



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