



Editor's Ramblings

Christmas is cancelled! Well, our annual Christmas Party has had to be cancelled as the Muscliff Community Centre obviously has internal communications problems and, as one half didn't know what the other half was doing, forgot our booking and arranged to close the Centre to redecorate it. So don't turn up!

To try to compensate we will start the January Meeting promptly at 7.30 pm. The interval will be 45 minutes long and Margery intends to serve seasonal nibbles, so there is no need to bring anything. Irene is running the usual raffle and would appreciate any donations for it.

I have arranged a selection of photographs showing progress on various projects. The first one shows Neil Horder and Bruce Baker examining Bruce's cardboard mock-up of *Sheddon Wheals's* new body before Bruce commits it to aluminium.

Next is Derek Sawyer with the cradle he has designed and made to enable *Littledown Castle* to be more easily maintained.

Finally, the crew of *Littledown Castle* will now be able to get in and out of the cab thanks to a neat pair of door handles made by Phil Drake.

Also with this issue are the Minutes of the November 2016 Committee Meeting, a Form to enable you to renew your subscription for 2017 and the details, menu and Return Form for the Annual Dinner. Please try to get these back to Ron as soon as you can.

It just remains to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dick Ganderton



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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.

Ron Barson, Secretary

Committee Matters

The next Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th January 2017. The Minutes of the December 2016 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the January Meeting and in the Engine Shed.

Ron Barson, 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 December 2016 will be clockwise and December 2017 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 18th December 2016 and 1st & 15th January 2017.

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?

If you are presenting your loco for its 4-yearly Hydraulic Test please note that you cannot expect the Boiler Tester to provide the necessary blanking plugs. You should have a complete set of blanking plugs for each of your locos, one of which must have a **male** 1/4" x 40TPI fitting to allow the connection of the test pump and gauge. The threaded portion of this should be at least 3/8" (10mm) long with a 60 degree countersink to take a standard nipple.

Please pump the boiler up at home to check that there are no leaks.

Boiler Testers

Dick Ganderton dick.ganderton@me.com

Bob Devereux

Mike Mortimer

Barry Linger

Gordon Miles (16mm locos only)

B&DSME Diary Dates

21st December 2016 Monthly Meeting; Cancelled due to Muscliff Community Centre being redecorated.

18th January 2017 Monthly Meeting; 7.00 for a prompt 7.30 start! Muscliff Community Centre, Shillingstone Drive, B'm'th BH9 3LR. *Graham Smith starts the new year with some more 8mm and 16mm films. During the interval we will be offering seasonal nibbles to make up for the loss of the Christmas Party. Irene would appreciate items for the raffle.*

25th January 2017 Annual Society Dinner.
Ron Barson.

2nd February 2017 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.

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 v10.11.6 El Capitan.

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.

16mm Update

Looking back over the past year, in spite of a very wet spring and early summer, we appear to have lost only two 16mm steaming days, which we think is a good record. Quite a few new or refurbished locos and pieces of rolling stock have been seen in operation, which is a very good sign.

We have also had some interest from the public regarding owning 16mm locos, whether for themselves or their children. This is an encouraging sign for the possibility of future members!

The new lightweight, anti-vandal, covers are proving a great asset to those of us with advancing years and reduced lifting capabilities. The covers do still require some decorative painting and numbering when the weather permits. Plans for 2017 include the construction of an off the main-line siding for coal fired steam loco running maintenance, also possible extension of the marshalling yards.

Regrettably, two of our Members have left the Society due to their relocation to East Sussex. We wish both Alan and Jean Hodgson good luck and good health in their new surroundings and many more 'steaming years'.

We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a successful Steaming New Year.

Gordon Miles & David White

Subscriptions

Subscriptions become due on 1st January 2017. Amounts due have been increased in accordance with the vote at the AGM and are as follows:

Ordinary Member: £26.00
Family Member: £27.00
Associate: £7.00
Country Member: £13.00 (includes Partner)

Payment may be made by cheque (payable to B&DSME), by hand, or by post to the Membership Secretary
Payment in Cash direct to the Membership Secretary (George Wheatley)
Payment Direct to the bank:

Every payment must be accompanied by a completed Renewal Form. In the case of direct payments to the bank the completed form must be sent to the Membership Secretary (George Wheatley).

Subscriptions will be accepted at the Track starting on 4th January 2017 and at all subsequent running days until the end of March. Although grace is allowed until 31st March it would be very, very much appreciated by the Membership Secretary and Treasurer if timely payment could be made.

G.Wheatley. Membership Secretary
B&DSME



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Lathe Course Update

Good progress has been made with the Starter Courses and these are now all but complete. The first Intermediate Level Group have completed four sessions with enthusiasm and two more Groups, led by John Hoyle and Gordon Miles, will start in January.

The Society's new lathe is expected to be delivered in the New Year. This will give us an excellent facility and enable the lathe training to progress in leaps and bounds.

A small oscillating steam engine, based on an old design by K.N. Harris, has been chosen to compliment the course. Brian Williams made the patterns to enable the various parts to be cast by a small local foundry.

The photographs show the Head Instructor, Barry Linger, checking a part machined main casting and a set of castings together with an engine built by John Hoyle to prove it works.

Some other Members have started to build their own engine using the castings available from the Society. Gordon Miles is looking after this and Members can buy sets of castings, flywheel material and drawings from him for £28, plus any postal charges if you don't collect it.

Strictly B&DSME Members only.

You don't have to be on the Lathe Course to build one. It's super value, so why not buy yourself a set for Christmas?

Barry Linger



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 *Model Engineer* library is fully up to date.

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

Peter Burton



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