



Chairman's Thoughts

The Annual Dinner this year had a new venue at The Manor, Salisbury Road, Burton and was well attended, I believe all went off well. Thanks to Ron Barson for organising it.

Thanks to Brian Williams for his talk on building a 5" Gauge Shay and his recent visit to the Cass Scenic Railroad in West Virginia to see the real thing. We have a speaker for this coming month and Stephen Robson will be giving us a talk on Charles Rolls and Britain's First International Aviation Meeting. Would any member be interested in taking on the task of organising speakers for our monthly meetings? If you are interested please contact any Committee Member. Thanks to Peter Lejeune for filling in over the past year with speakers for us.

Our Parking Area is still very wet and muddy, so if you are not bringing an engine on a Sunday or a Wednesday could you please think about parking in the main Littledown car park and walking up to the track. However, if you park on a Wednesday in Littledown car park please note that they only allow a maximum of **3 Hours**. You **will get a ticket** if you go over that time period. You can get a 5-hour permit from the Reception Desk in the Littledown Leisure Centre.

It was nice to see that Pippa's hard work with the planting of Snow Drops has paid off! They looked very nice and hopefully they will spread over the coming years.

We have a lot of fallen branches at present around the track. George will be organising a day to clear them in the near future when the weather has improved so he can then cut the grass in the centre of the track. Keep an eye out in next Newsletter for a date

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

The twenty or so Members who bothered to turn up at Muscliffe for the January Meeting were treated to an excellent talk by Brian Williams on the 5" Gauge Shay that he is building as well as his recent visit to the Cass Scenic Railroad in West Virginia to see the real things in action. Brian agreed to give the talk at short notice and has never given such a presentation before, so well done Brian.

The Annual Dinner was very good. Ron had put in a lot of effort to find a suitable venue and he has succeeded. The food was good - apart from the potatoes which had iron hard casings round them. I understand that Ron has provisionally booked the restaurant for next January - the fourth Wednesday in January - so make a note in your 2017 Diaries.

Stephen Robson's talk for February is titled "Charles Rolls and Britain's first international Aviation Meeting". This covers a short background to the seaside town of Bournemouth and the build up to the 1910 International Aviation Meeting including a piece of newsreel from 1910 which shows CR taking off along with other competitors' flights and mishaps. The talk then moves on to the life of Charles Rolls, his interest in cycling, cars and car racing, ballooning and then aeroplanes. His relationship with the Wright Brothers as cyclists is mentioned along with their visit to England and the creation of the world's first purpose built aircraft manufacturing facility by the Short Brothers. Rolls completed a non-stop flight return flight across the English Channel in June 1910 yet had perished at Bournemouth just over a month later - such were the hazards for the pioneers. There is a memorial plaque in the playing fields of St Peters School in Southbourne, but as it is on private ground and behind bungalows it is out of sight. A small group has run an annual commemoration on the 12th July at the memorial and is now progressing to create a worthy memorial in public view to commemorate CR's life, Rolls-Royce and the International Aviation Meeting. Please try to attend.

Peter Burton sent me this photo he found of him, aged 14, driving the Society's *Speedy* at Kings Park.

The year is 1974, and he believes that he grew his life's supply of hair all in one batch, never to be replenished.

The lady is his Mum, who died in 2011.

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.

George Wheatley, Secretary

Committee Matters

The March 2016 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd March 2016. The Minutes of the February 2016 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the February 2016 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 February 2016 will be clockwise. March 2016 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 21st February 2016 and 6th & 20th March 2016.

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

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 17 th February 2016 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Stephen Robson. Charles Rolls and Britain's First International Aviation meeting.</i> |
| 3 rd March 2016 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.</i> |
| 16 th March 2016 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
<i>Richard Knott's Annual Video Show.</i> |
| 7 th April 2016 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>John Hoyle. Please let John know.</i> |

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 v10.11.2 El Capitan.



www.littledownrailway.co.uk

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.

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

Lathe Wanted

The Society is looking for a lathe suitable for training Members in the finer points of lathe work. It needs to be similar to a Myford Super 7, but not necessarily a Myford. If any Member has a suitable machine that they would be willing to dispose of please contact George Wheatley at Littledown or by e-mail or telephone secretary@littledownrailway.co.uk Tel: (01202) 825307.

16mm Update

I have been looking at the editorials of past *16mm Garden Rail*, *16mm Today*, etc. and have come up with a common theme for this time of year. They all mention looking forward to the running season following our winter break catching up on our reading and general maintenance, but no mention of regular running meets.

This could also really apply to us this year, due to the cold and rain, or the threat of it and has got me wondering whether we should abandon the 16mm running at Littledown for, say, January and February. Your views - to Gordon Miles - would be welcomed.

On another subject the wire tray containing 16mm related magazines, etc. seems to be working well, the only other comment is that, while we are delighted for you to take them home to read at your leisure or even copy an article or drawing, **please return them to the tray when you have finished with them.**

The refurbishment of the Garden Loop section of the 16mm track base is still on hold as we have to wait for a sustained period of dryer weather. We have tested the running abilities of the track as it stands and it remains OK as long as you do not expect to operate at *Flying Scotsman* speeds.

Please remember we still run on the First and Third Sunday of each month, weather or other commitments permitting.

Gordon Miles & David White

Twig Clearing Work Party

The time has come to clear the twigs and dead tree branches that the recent storms have brought down. If you can, please give your name to George for this essential task. George will then arrange a suitable Sunday morning - running will not commence on that day until the detwiggling has been completed. *David White*

Society Baseball Hats

John Roberts now has some club baseball hats in stock, 2-tone navy and royal blue, embroidered with the Society logo. He also has a stock of thermally lined woolly hats, also embroidered. All hats, £10 each. He would also like to remind all members that Society shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and jackets can be supplied and can include your name under the logo. See John at the track or contact him by e-mail sales@bearbiz.co.uk or telephone 023 8086 6002 or 07831 442250. There is a price list on the noticeboard in the Engine Shed.

Isle of Wight Model Engineering Society

Rally!

Sunday 24th April



The Society is holding its Annual Rally Rally which will be held at Broadfields, Cowes, IOW.

The event is only open to members of other societies, and is NOT open to members of the public.

We have 3½" & 5" gauge facilities on our raised level track which will be available for use.

(Our 5" & 7¼" ground level track is currently out of service)

The two garden rail layouts, and the pond will also be available for use.

The site will be open from 10:00, A light buffet will be provided.

Should you wish to attend then please contact the Secretary, Roger Scott-Roberts via email on honsec@iwmes.org.uk

Location information can be found on www.iwmes.org.uk