



**November 2018**

## **Chairman's Report**

Work on the extension to the 16mm Narrow Gauge Garden Railway is gathering momentum, with the boundary fence moved to be in line with the container. This extension will significantly improve the operation of the Garden Railway.

Our Santa Run is looming on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December, thank you to everyone who is putting in the hard work to make the event a success, especially Phil Drake, Irene Kent and David White.

As usual, we shall run three trains consisting of two carriages each, but this year there will be no morning or afternoon shift. The drivers have agreed to run for the whole day, the reason for this is nobody wants to run for just 2 hours in the afternoon. The drivers this year are Kevin Hunt, William Powell and Bob Devereux.

Bookings are going very well, let's just hope we get nice weather on the day.

Please help out on the day if you possibly can, we need guards, passenger loaders and general helpers to keep the locomotives topped up with coal and water, not to mention all the opening up and shutting down procedures at the beginning and end of the day. Please contact Phil Drake to put your name on the list.

An early reminder that Membership Subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Your subscription money helps to pay for the fantastic facilities that the Society has to offer.

Best wishes  
*Peter Burton*

## **Editor's Space**

It is a sad day when we announce the end of the monthly meetings at Muscliffe. The evening meetings have been a feature of our Society since its formation but dwindling attendance figures have caused the Committee to consider the viability of this part of the Society's calendar. Each year an interesting and varied programme has been offered but for some reason, which at the moment I cannot fathom, attendances have fallen dramatically. Other organisations of whatever interest or colour report a similar problem, members are surely not seduced by the television programmes currently on offer. Let us hope that sometime soon members will ask for evening meetings and our tradition will be restored.

**Mick Baker**

## **Visit of Santa Claus to Littledown**

Santa Claus has accepted our invitation to visit the track on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December** from 10 30 am **Your help and assistance is required** to make the day a success. If you can spare some time please sign up on the list in the Engine Shed or contact Phil Drake. More information to be found in the attached Committee Meeting minutes.

## 16mm up date

In spite of the rather inclement weather of late we have been able to make progress on the new extended steaming bays and marshalling yard. Most of the wood has been prepared but will require treatment with Cuprinol before fixing. One item which does require some consideration is the extent of under track storage we ought to provide. I was considering recycling the ply from the now redundant old marshalling yard but we could extend this facility, your views please.

**Gordon Miles**

## Evening Meetings at Muscliffe

The Society's charity in 2018 was the Forest Holme Hospice, Poole, and the sum of £250 was raised. A representative of the Hospice visited the October Meeting and was presented with the Society's cheque. He then gave an interesting talk of the work of the Hospice.

After the tea interval members enjoyed a quiz mainly on film and television themes presented by Graham Smith. Thank you, Graham it was great fun.

The next meeting will be held at the Muscliff Community Centre, Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth, at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November** when Mr Paul Sturgess will be presenting an illustrated talk entitled 'Dorset of Old'

We've not had Paul before but he comes recommended so, hopefully, we're in for a good show...

Our final meeting at Muscliffe will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. The Committee has decided that it is no longer viable to organise meetings when only about 10% of the membership attend

It would be nice to revive our tradition of making the December meeting something of a Christmas Party. If Members bring along a few cakes or sausage rolls or other snacks the tea and coffee will be free of charge so let's go out, not with a whimper (or a bang for that matter) but on a happy note, make it a festive evening, Graham Smith will show a feature film.

**Please make every effort to attend.**

## Workshop matters

Tidying of the Workshop continues, if any Member has left any of his own tools in the workshop he or she is asked to remove them as soon as possible as a matter of urgency. At the end of the month any redundant, worn out or otherwise unwanted tools and equipment will be removed and sold or dumped.

## Lathe Courses.

Whilst John Hoyle is indisposed, his group is taking a break.

The group building Ellies continues to make steady progress and will shortly have completed all four rolling chassis. Some of them have started turning up the components for their boilers.

## Visit to Fawley Hill

Fawley Hill, the home of the Late Sir William McAlpine and Lady McAlpine, is set in beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside near to Henley-on-Thames. The house was designed by Sir William and built in 1960, although many people are convinced that it is Georgian. As well as the museum, it boasts an animal sanctuary, "Ironhenge" and probably the largest ride-on garden railway you will ever encounter. It is the only one I have come across built to standard gauge. The museum, which is on two floors, covers a range of subjects, mainly transport related, including a display of the opulence of the grand dining trains in the golden era of train travel, and there is a small fairground - among other things. The small station, re-located from Somersham in Cambridgeshire, where you can board the "garden railway" has a tea room and a waiting room. The museum collection started when McAlpines were constructing new buildings during the "modernisation" period and Sir William, upon seeing items being lost in the rush to modernise kept saying "Send it home . . .", and so they were taken to Fawley Hill where they were carefully preserved and formed the foundation of both the railway and the indoor museum. As one who has previously visited, I can tell you that it makes an interesting and entertaining day out. Fawley Hill was once described by Country Life magazine as 'the most bonkers estate in Britain'! If you have been watching The Great Model Railway Challenge on Channel 5, you will have seen some views of the railway and museum as that is where the competition took place, although there is much more than appeared in the programmes.

I am hoping to arrange a visit to Fawley Hill and I have a booking for 40 places at the VIP Invitation Day on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Participants are asked to make a donation (£10 suggested) towards the costs of maintaining the museum and railway, and there will obviously be the cost of transport to Fawley Hill. Transport arrangements and costs will depend on numbers. It would be helpful if you could let me know if you would be interested in joining this trip. There will be a list in the

The URL for the Fawley Hill website to find out more is <http://fawleyhill.co.uk/>

**David Delaney**

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Pictures below:-

Our Chairman works on his Ellie, turning the ends of the axles to fit the cranks.

A picture taken about 12 years ago at Fawley Hill.





Certificate of Appreciation received from the Forest Holme Charity