



## Chairman's Thoughts

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM, which was very successful in its new venue at The Bridge Community Centre. All the current officials of the Society and the Committee were elected for another year and shortly after the meeting two Members kindly offered to join the Committee for the coming year, so thank you to Bruce Baker and Derek Sawyer.

We were blessed with fine weather for the visit of the Malden Society on 27<sup>th</sup> July and a good time was had by all. Highlight for me was getting to drive their superb 5" GWR King class locomotive, seen here in Chris Bracey's photograph. This is the first time I have driven a four cylinder loco. Thank you to Liz Tandy for a lovely spread of food. The next visit from another Society is the Old Locomotive Committee's *Lionsmeet 2019* on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August. This is an informal annual gathering of those with an interest in *Lion* in all its manifestations and gauges and other early 19<sup>th</sup> century locomotives.



The ranks of our Boiler Testers have recently been expanded with William Powell offering his services. Thank you to him. Please note, if you require a boiler test please make an appointment with the relevant boiler tester. It isn't fair to turn up at the track and expect him or her to stop what they are doing to carry out your test.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July was an extremely busy day at Littledown with the Family Fun Day. We carried over 600 passengers. Thank you to everyone who ran their engines or helped out on the day. It was very enjoyable and the platform was full of happy people, our Society at its very best.

The Wimborne & District Society of Model Engineers have invited us to their club running evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August, please try and attend if you possibly can, all are welcome. Start time is 18.00 and boiler certificates are required for steam locomotives.

**Peter Burton**

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## Bits & Pieces

The next Bits & Pieces Evening will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and, if the weather is OK, we hope to have some outdoor activities as well as indoor. Bring along something to run on the Raised Track or on the Garden Railway! Alternatively, just come along for a chat or for some time in the workshop, etc. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

**David Delaney**

## B&DSME Diary Dates

21 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	Fish & Chip Evening; 7.30 pm. <i>First Class Members' Lounge, Littledown Miniature Railway.</i> <i>Order Form and details were with the July Newsletter. Return your orders to Dick, please.</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019 (This is a Thursday)	IC & Stationary Engine Group Meeting; 11.00 am. <i>First Class Members' Lounge, Littledown Miniature Railway.</i>
11 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.30 pm. <i>Gordon Miles, 53, The Glade, Ashley Heath, Ringwood, BH24 2HR. Please let Gordon know. 01425 472010.</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Bits & Pieces Evening; 7.30 pm. <i>First Class Members' Lounge, Littledown Miniature Railway.</i>

## Editor's Ramblings

Our Annual Charity Day was, as always, successful and we were able to present our chosen charity, **Hope For Isabel**, with a cheque for £250. The photograph shows Peggy presenting the cheque to Isabel's mother, Shelley while Louise from Dorset Children's Foundation looks on.

On a more sombre note, John Hoyle made a batch of coupling pins for our trolley fleet. Having painted the tops yellow, he left them at Littledown in a plastic tub so that they could be used. Annoyingly, by the next week they had all vanished! If you thought that they were there for anyone to take for their own use, they were not! Please return them!

Even worse, our charity ran a raffle from their stall at our Charity Day, swelling their funds by an appreciable amount. Two prizes were left for the lucky purchasers of the winning tickets for them to collect from the Engine Shed at a later date. When they turned up the following Sunday to collect their prizes they were nowhere to be found. This was very embarrassing for the ladies who were trying to find the prizes and gives the Society a very bad name! If you were the person who took the prizes, please return them!

It also serves to give us all a reminder not to leave anything of value unattended in the Engine Shed.

**Dick Ganderton**



## Congratulations Mike!

Committee Member, Mike White is the first of our Lathe Course students to complete his assessment. Well Done, Mike! He is seen receiving his certificate from John Hoyle and David Delaney. Mike has now been added to the List of Authorised Users. We look forward to all our other lathe-course students completing their assessments and receiving their certificates.

**David Delaney**



## Workshop Courses

As reported elsewhere in this issue, the first of our lathe students has now completed his assessment and been added to the List of Authorised Users. We are now looking to starting new courses to start in September. The tutors have been approached to offer some help with use of the milling machine and so we propose to offer.

- an Elementary Lathe Course (to be followed by an Intermediate Course);
- an Elementary Milling Course.

We will try to arrange dates and times to suit, as far as possible, those who wish to take up the courses.

If you want to take this opportunity to build your workshop skills, contact David Delaney [bdsme.delaney@talktalk.net](mailto:bdsme.delaney@talktalk.net) as soon as possible, indicating which course(s) you would like to do and your preferred times - or times which would not be possible for you. We will then plan the sessions. Although previous sessions have generally been in the evening, we could consider other times if that suits the tutors and students. Sessions may take place at Littledown or in the tutors' own workshops.

If you have never learned how to use a lathe or milling machine, or if you want to develop your skills, here is your opportunity!

**David Delaney**

Typeset by Dick Ganderton in Helvetica using Adobe InDesign CS5 v7.0 on an Apple Mac mini 2.6GHz Intel Core i5 running MacOS High Sierra v10.13.6.

## 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.

## Dick Mantle Reminiscences

**D**ick Mantle has been a Member of B&DSME for 60 years and would like to share some of his reminiscences with you.

After finishing my apprenticeship as an electrical engineer at Aish's, I did my National Service in the Royal Engineers from 1950 - 1952, serving most of my time in Gibraltar. Then I joined MEXE in Christchurch as an electrician before moving to Ferndown in 1954, where I worked as a maintenance engineer at FMC

Having suffered a knee injury, preventing me from playing football after several years, I said to myself "What can I do now?"

In 1959 I was told about an evening class being held at Winton Boys' School. It was here that I met Lyn Wright who taught metalwork and suggested I might try model engineering. Lyn, together with Fred Barker, Laurie Lawrence and the Reverend Long took me under their wings and encouraged me to tackle the making of my first engine, which was a 5" gauge Butch.

I set up a workshop at my home in Ferndown where I continued with the building of Butch, which I completed after a couple of years.

We owned a track at Kinson in the Civil Service grounds, which we used every Saturday afternoon - the Reverend couldn't make Sundays!! The Society then rented a site at King's Park and my task was to make all the rails after the concrete beams had been laid and the sleepers put in place by the other Members. The track was circular and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a mile long - or perhaps that should be round! A station building was erected to house the coal needed for the engines and Members brought their own locos to run each weekend. I have memories of Members, John and Audrey Clothier from Corfe Castle, who would bring a couple of Audrey's home made cakes for us all to enjoy each weekend.

Money was later raised to buy a Marley building to use as an Engine Shed. Most of this still exists today as part of our Engine Shed .

I retired from my position as Service Engineer at Edward Webster in 1993 at the age of 64 and was looking forward to spending many years enjoying my hobby. In December 1994 I suffered a severe stroke, which left my right side very weak and obviously I was unable to continue with my model engineering. By then I had made four 5" gauge steam locos and a steam lorry plus two electric engines. Val insisted I kept the workshop as it was, to give me time to recover, but after about three years it became apparent that I wouldn't regain the full use of my right arm, so it was decided to let the locos go.

In 2002, Bournemouth Football Club, who were adjacent to our track, wanted to enlarge their stadium. This would have encroached upon our track, so the Council offered us the site at Littledown, which is where we are now. Subsequently a new track was built, a new station building erected and over the years more has been added to the site, together with a Narrow Gauge Garden Railway for the ever popular 16mm gauge engines.

One of my electric engines, *Royal Engineer* is kept at Littledown and *Archie* is now being looked after by Peter Sandon. Most of the steam locos went to auction - one ending up in Norway - and *Butch* is lovingly cared for by David Biss in Devon.

In the past, I was Chairman for a while and Val was Treasurer and *Newsletter* Editor.

The Society has held many IMLECs over the years - in 1981, 1986 at King's Park and 2010 and 2014 at Littledown - all attracting participants from far and wide.

There have been many successful charity events too, several memorable ones being for groups of children from Chernobyl.

I was honoured to be made President and hope the Society will continue to go from strength to strength.

**Dick Mantle**

### Robert Hammond's Open Day

**M**any thanks for my inclusion in the *Newsletter*. I wondered if you would like to mention my open day in the next *Newsletter*. It was advertised in the Engine Shed and took place on 6<sup>th</sup> July. My wife, with a helper, provided a constant supply of hot and cold drinks, and we were very pleased with more visitors than we expected throughout the day. There were some club members, and David White brought his Billy which enjoyed its run with mine. The event raised £330 for church funds. I have attached pics taken by a visitor which you may include if you like..

**Robert Hammond**



## Malden & DSME Visit Littledown

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 saw the visit to the Littledown track of members of the Malden & District Society of Model Engineers. They have their track right next to the South Western Mainline at Hampton Court Junction, just a short distance from Surbiton station. They only have limited public days, just one a month in the summer, plus all the summer holidays. There is a ground level 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" gauge line a complicated layout fully signalled, with a simpler raised 5" gauge line. As most of the passengers buy day tickets at around £7 for travel all afternoon there are always queues for the trains.

Our guests brought three locomotives with them, one for display and two to run on our track. The running locos were a GWR King 6024 *King Richard I* and a Southern U class 163. Both the full size locos exist today! The display loco was a Southern Schools loco in 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" gauge, still a work in progress project.

A number of our Members' locos were on display and as usual, thanks to our Members, they received refreshments in the Piggie Lounge. As these trains used to and are once again running past their track they would be familiar with the 442s

They told me we have an invitation to their track later in the year, so I have provided some pictures of their line.



These days are important to show we are a friendly Model Engineering Society, and not just a passenger hauling miniature railway.

**Chris Bracey**

Thank you so much for a lovely day. The incredibly helpful members at the platform helped us so that my sister, who has mobility problems, could be included and actually ride the train. If it hadn't been for the really thoughtful lady we would have just watched - which was still fun and what we had planned to do... so the ride was a real bonus treat. **Kerry Berry xxx**

## Our Chairman's Day Job

Pete Burton in the cab of 158884 at Corfe Castle on a South Western Railway shuttle to Wareham.





## SOUTHAMPTON SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

We would like to invite members of your society to join us for our Electric Day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Running time 10 – 4 at our Riverside Park track. (SO18 1PQ)



If you need any other information please contact Dave Smith (event organiser) Email: [davesmith50@yahoo.com](mailto:davesmith50@yahoo.com)