



The Chairman's Ramblings

Spring has sprung! At least, the sun's come out to play as I write this sitting in my garden, blue skies all around and suitable liquid refreshment by my side!

The new workshop area in the Engine Shed is coming along nicely with the workbench relocated inside and as soon as the ceiling is lined and some new electrics installed the new lathe can be put in place. Many thanks to all those that have been involved so far and let's hope we can push on and get the job finished as soon as we can.

Unfortunately our esteemed Secretary, Ron Barson, slipped on the stairs at home which resulted in a broken ankle. I'm sure I speak for everyone in wishing Ron a speedy recovery. Now would be a good time to wish all our Members that are struggling with health issues at the moment our very best wishes and hope that we see them all recovering soon.

St. George's Day - Sunday April 23rd - sees our annual cream tea. Join us at the Engine Shed for a pleasant afternoon (in the sun?). Margery will be providing the cream tea on behalf of the Society, but asks for donations of cakes! Food up from 2.30pm.

Now I need to try and kill a couple of rumours that seem to be spreading around the Society. Namely the apparent desire that I have to turn the Society into a commercial operation and also to have passenger running only on a Sunday afternoon. Both of these allegations are untrue and I would ask those Members that have been spreading them to stop.

Put simply, our relatively low cost membership fees do not cover our expenses. To plug the gap between income and expenditure we can either raise our membership fees dramatically or take paying passengers for rides on our railway. Those Members that enjoy giving rides can continue to do so but if Members are unhappy about taking passengers for a lap of our track then they don't have to take passengers. I can see a case for Sunday passenger only running, but hope that if everyone co-operates and understands that we do need the income we can continue to operate as we do at the moment. Only if Members can't co-operate and understand that the income is needed will we need to consider passenger only running on a Sunday.

On the question of co-operation mentioned above, if a driver is having problems with his (or her) engine and is blocking the track preventing other trains with passengers running, it seems to me to be courteous to take the troublesome engine off until the issue is sorted out. If we all use some courtesy and common sense everyone can continue to have fun on a Sunday afternoon.

On a question of testing and playing trains without passengers, we are looking to have regular running every Saturday (unless there is an event on at the track), certainly throughout the Summer. Probably to start after Easter - so keep an eye out for an e-mail.

Enjoy the warmer weather and I'll hopefully see many of you at our events throughout the Summer.

John Roberts

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B&DSME Diary Dates

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| 19 th April 2017 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm Muscliff Community Centre, Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth BH9 3LR.
<i>John England will give an illustrated talk entitled Acorns Urgently Needed - the industrial history of the Royal Navy cordite factory at Holton Heath.</i> |
| 23 rd April 2017 | St. George's Day Cream Tea; 2.30 pm Littledown Miniature Railway. (Members only)
<i>Margery will wave her magic wand and produce a wonderful cream tea.
Would some Members like to produce some cakes, please.</i> |
| 4 th May 2017 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>Gordon Miles.
Please let Gordon know.</i> |

16mm Update

March has been quite a hectic month for us and April looks to be the same. With all the upheaval in the Engine Shed our 16mm track sections and other bits and pieces have turned into an early Easter Egg Hunt, but by the time you read this we may have achieved some resemblance of order.

In addition we have been involved in the idea for a site and construction of a separate 16mm track for our Junior Members - more on this subject next month.

Other jobs planned for attention, but not completed to date, include painting the new anti vandal covers and improving the layout of the Steaming Bays and Marshalling Yard.

We intend to operate the 16mm Narrow Gauge Garden Railway on the first and third Sunday of each month, weather permitting. If it happens that a Bank Holiday Monday also occurs during the month we may well run then.

We would also remind Members that we still require help with maintenance.

Gordon Miles and Glyn Tandy

Riding Trolley Seats

We have a continuing problem with the Riding Trolley Seats being stored incorrectly, resulting in damage to the covering. John Hoyle took these photos showing the damage to one seat and the correct way to stack them. Presumably this was done when several people ran steamers on Friday.

The seats were professionally made for us by a master upholsterer who is no longer a member, so to have them rebuilt would be very expensive!

Please take care when using them and stacking them after you have finished with them.

Remember, it's bottom seat in the stack cushion up, next one cushion down onto the cushion of the bottom seat. Next seat is cushion up and so on. Never stack them with the wooden bases on top of a cushion or a cushion on top of a trestle!

Thank you for your co-operation.



Editor's Ramblings

John England will give an illustrated talk entitled *Acorns Urgently Needed* at the April Meeting. This is about the industrial history of the Royal Navy Cordite Factory at Holton Heath and should be well worth getting along to the Meeting for.

Malcolm Smith, who looks after organising the 'entertainment' at our Muscliff meetings is asking for volunteers to give talks or presentations at future Meetings. If you feel that you could do this please contact him.

Dick Ganderton

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Lathe Courses Update

John Hoyle took these photographs at a recent Lathe Course to show us what they get up to. The 'students' are Joel Keen and Glyn Tandy and the instructor is Barry Linger.



Glyn Tandy shows Joel Keen and Barry Linger his progress.



Glyn Tandy concentrating on the job in hand.



Joel Keen gets some time in on John's Myford Super7.



For Sale

Roger Stewart-Hindley has a couple of pieces of workshop equipment that he wishes to sell as he no longer has room for them in his workshop. Contact Roger on 07752700854 for further details and to negotiate a price.





THANK YOU

Dear Members

Thank you so much for helping to make my birthday so special.

I had a wonderful day at the railway and was so happy that you were there to celebrate with me, especially on such a cold day!

I really appreciate you opening and setting up the 16mm for me and all the help you gave Mummy and Daddy with the food, teas and coffees.

Thank you too for my lovely cards and all the magazines, which I am really enjoying.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon and giving my new carriages another run round the track!

Love

Harrison xxx



www.littledownrailway.co.uk