

Bournemouth and District Society of Model Engineers

A company registered in England, Number 003351832

September 2018 Newsletter

Chairman's Thoughts

The Friday running sessions in the school summer holidays was a great success for the society, thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

On Wednesday 29th August, we welcomed two visitors from Australia to our track. Keith and Nigel were in the UK for the Great Dorset Steam Fair, and took the opportunity to view our track and facilities. Keith is a member of the Northern Districts Model Engineering Society, which is near Perth, Western Australia, and Nigel is President of the Bluescope Steel Western Port Railway Society, which is near Hastings, Victoria.

Both thoroughly enjoyed their day with us, and have offered any member a reciprocal visit to their societies if visiting Australia.

Thank you to David, John, Carol and Irene for making our visitors so welcome.

We have had to cancel September's committee meeting due to so many members being on holiday (me included). At least there will be a packed agenda in October! Southampton SME are holding an electric day [on Saturday 22nd September, from 10.00 to 16.00](#) with a barbecue lunch, all of course weather permitting.

If you plan to attend, please contact Dave Smith on [07711 613807](tel:07711613807) or email davesmith50@yahoo.com.

Can the member who ordered some castings from Coles Castings, please get in contact with Steve Coles as they are ready for delivery. www.colescastings.com.

Best wishes

Peter Burton

The Editor's space

Our worthy editor, Dick, is in hospital recovering from heart surgery. He is making good progress and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to George Wheatley on reaching his ninetieth birthday

Margaret and I have spent some time recently at the track and it is obvious how much time and effort many members put in to bring joy to the children who ride on the trains and to the parents who accompany them (not forgetting the revenue brought to the Society). One child getting off the train said, "That was an adventure, it was great". We also have many keen and willing members doing the mundane but necessary tasks that keep the Society going. This is what makes our's a happy and successful Society, long may it continue

Mick Baker

Tony Cuff

Tony Cuff, a keen and active member of the Society for over sixty years, died peacefully in Bournemouth Hospital on Thursday 9th August 2018 at the age of 95 years. Our thoughts are with Martin, Fatima and Andrew at this sad time. A number of members attended the funeral at Poole Crematorium.

Martin has prepared a piece about Tony's life and interests with some photographs which can be seen on the attachment.

September Meeting

The next Meeting will be held at the Muscliff Community Centre, Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 19th September.

Bob Devereux will give an illustrated talk

16mm Update

Referring to the comment last month, the time for action on our part is upon us. The relocation of the end section of fencing is due, but before this work can commence we will have to detach the return bend and marshalling yard from the fence. As a temporary measure we propose to use a table to store the rolling stock and steam up on the existing track. Construction of the new steaming areas and marshalling yard will follow once the fence has been relocated. We do hope members will accept this short term inconvenience for the long term gain.

Gordon Miles

"Ellie" Meeting 6 Sept 2018

Eleven enthusiastic members of the Ellie builders group met at John Hoyle's house to share progress on their builds.

Each described progress to date on his own model and lively discussion ensued. Several members brought their part-constructed models along.

Those who had advanced the most, especially those who are prototyping enhancements such as gas firing and alternative motion construction, gave very useful hints and tips to those of us at an earlier stage of build.

Derek Sawyer brought along a video of the successful initial steaming and running of his Ellie - the first model in the Society to reach this stage. And very well it was running too!

Discussion took place about common sourcing of parts such as gas burners, pressure gauges, silver solder etc. Also the availability of useful tools and jigs.

In order to ensure that communication amongst the group is maintained (especially while Dick Ganderton is recuperating from his recent surgery), all those present agreed to their emails being included in an "Ellie Group List". Dave Wallis would create and maintain this list.

Will any Ellie builders who were unable to attend on September 6th please email Dave Wallis on altabayacas@yahoo.com requesting inclusion in the Ellie Group List.

Sincere thanks were expressed to John for his hospitality and to David Delaney for chairing the session.

We all wish Dick a speedy recovery and return to action!

Dave Wallis

A Potted History of Tony Cuff

Born 6/11/1922 at Gush's restaurant and Bakery, to Ethel and John Wheeler Cuff.

Lived at Moorfields, Glenmoor Road, Ferndown from 1953; later moved to 5 Leslie Road, Whitecliff in 1985; again moved to Ivy Close, St Leonard's after around a year in a nursing home.

Education

Went to Woodleaze School, Wimborne, then Shaftesbury Grammar until 1938.

Employment History

Gush's restaurant and Bakery, and sister's Bakehouse in Dorchester.

Bright's of Bournemouth, Radio Service Department.

Sergeant in RAF Signals 9/7/41 – 4/11/46. During his time he was in Egypt, Jordan and Alexandria. In their spare time his squad staged a few plays and improved the morale of other men in the locale at the time.

Aircraft Technician at B.O.A.C, Hurn.

TV and Radio Service Engineer at Radio Rentals in Wimborne

Tv and rental Service Manager at Telefusion in Branksome until 1966, leaving after being promised the earth to relocate the family to Brighton but following a cautious

Visit to the proposed site he discovered it was all “pie in the Sky” and promptly left the company .

Aviation Electronics including control systems for in-flight refuelling and test equipment for aircraft control systems at Flight Refuelling (Cobham) until retirement 4/11/87. During the construction of Dad's “Speedy” locomotive he took it into work one Saturday morning to test the “motion” or mechanical part using freely available compressed air . The chassis took off at great speed on air and burnt two sets of grooves in the Marley tiled floor. For a long time afterwards there was an air of mystery as to the cause of the markings on the floorI do not know if the cause was ever revealed.

Hobbies

Amateur Radio (call sign G3CPB). Dad Built all his radio gear and in those days the transmitter occupied most of a moderate sized bedroom of the bakehouse in Wimborne. On one occasion he found that the range and power of the radio seemed far better than usual. He later found the aerial had fallen down and on re-fixing it the range sadly diminished. The mysteries of radio!

Tropical Fish running up to 20 different aquarium at the same time (see Below)

Electronics played a large role in Dad's leisure time and over the years a number of “projects” appeared around the house from an early TV tennis game (before they were commercially available) digital clocks, car alarm systems, intercoms stereo equipment .telephone exchanges a Railway signalling (built on the dining room table on rainy days) and many others, too many to list.

Model Engineering was a great passion and filled a great deal of his spare time and so he joined the Bournemouth and District of Model Engineers. As a member of the Society for over 60 years he was involved with tracks in Southbourne, Kinson and the construction of a 1/3rd of a mile long track at Kings Park running the five passenger hauling locomotives he built during that time. A Beam Engine and various other stationary engines and special tools materialised from the workshop from time to time. It was a sad day For Tony when he realised he was not safe to be operating his lathe and other machine tools unsupervised due to the ill effects of a couple of “strokes”. He was still living alone in Parkstone at this time and had given up driving a while earlier so filling his time was hard for

him.....

In the early years of television Dad built our first tv with a 14 inch screen to receive the BBC's transmissions of the day. Not long after its construction some bright persons at the ITV launched a second channel using an alternative channel and frequency and sadly Dads tv could not be adapted to view it

A keen gardener right up to the ripe old age of 90 maintaining a fair sized garden he had created from scratch. Finally it became too much and a gardener and the family tried to maintain his high standards with varying degrees of success and levels of approval from "the Boss"

At Glenmoor Road when Martin 10 -11, sat in the garden together, Tony tried to move his deckchair closer to a table and caused the chair to collapse and trap his fingers in the mechanism, his wife tried to help but locked his fingers in tighter by levering the frame the wrong way and forcing it to tighten even further. Remarkably I do not recollect any "choice" language at the time despite a modest amount of tense instruction to release his poor fingers in the opposite direction.

The tropical Fish were abandoned after Martin (at the tender age of 4 or 5) activated the mysterious and innocent looking override switch on the tank heaters and cooked all the fish.

Dad always seemed to be the master of time compressing more into each day than I (Martin) ever thought possible. Oh how I wish Dad had let me in on the secret of time, it would be so useful these days! During the time Dad was living with us he was most concerned that "the routine and timetable" were maintained for meals etc. We were never quite sure why but suspected "a favourite" tv program was about to start.

At home from time to time we still glance into Dad's bedroom on passing, looking to make sure he is O.K. And watching his beloved tv or Steam or Fred Dibnah dvds and that he does not need anything...I suspect that will take some time to diminish

It has been nice to hear from people dad knew saying what a *gentleman* he was.

Dad, we really do miss seeing you and being with you..... Hi Richard , I hope this will "fit the bill" as I am not good at this sort of thing!

It has been nice to hear from people dad knew saying what a gentleman he was.

Dad had a wicked sense of humour but sadly sometimes it was misinterpreted by the recipients

Dad, we really do miss seeing you and being with you.....

Martin Cuff

