



Chairman's Thoughts

The rockery in the middle of the garden railway has been tidied up by a party of Ladies who have spent a lot of time making it look nice for the coming season, so many thanks to all involved. That brings me on to the wider picture - it would be nice if we could organise a working party to tidy up all the dead wood around the track and use the leaf blower to get rid of some of the leaves. It has also come to that time when the grass starts to grow and it will have to be cut. Maybe Members could check over the mower and strimmer before the cutting season and have a go at using them.

We have once again been invited by the Southampton Society to join them on a private visit to Exbury Gardens on the evening of 11th May at 6.30pm for 7pm, for a train ride, tea and biscuits and a short guided walk around part of the Gardens. Cost is £5 per head. It is a very pleasant evening out for all.

Our first event of the 2011 will be Cream Tea Sunday on 1st May and Peggy has asked for cakes, but please only cakes this time. Thank you.

Just to remind all Members that, with the summer passenger season drawing nearer, you must have a spark arrester fitted in order to pull passengers. Also every loco should be equipped with an enclosed ash pan as we have a lot of leaves still around and the grass does dry out during the summer - we do not want to be blamed for starting any fires around the track.

Interest has been shown in the Society for FunLec to be held on the 15th & 16th July, but if you do not get your name on the Entry List by the 24th April you will be too late. Please contact David Finn or Barry Linger by that date. I suppose I'd better find the Cup and give it a polish.

We are still looking for a new Social Secretary and a Treasurer, so if you have some time to spare and would like to take on one of these tasks please contact one of the Committee Members.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at The Littledown Centre at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 27th April 2011.

David Martin

Junior Club

To assist in encouraging enjoyment of the engineering hobby and to widen the facilities and fun that the Society can offer, the Committee would like to ask if any members have children or young adults aged 9 - 13 who would enjoy two activity events that we would like to organise during the school summer holidays? We have suggested this age range so that the children can relate well with each other and form friendships. Promotions for older children, teenagers, etc. will follow later.

All are welcome; Grandchildren, Children, Nieces or Nephews - in fact any who have a friendship or association with a member. The activity will be a three-day event, held twice during the summer holidays. The group will be shown the operation of a live steam loco, with some supervised workshop activities, followed by an assisted engineering/craft project. The intention is for all to have fun. We intend to have special badges made, as well as a prize for the best completed project. The project itself will be fun, creating a functional project that will be designed to suit their age range and capabilities.

Initially we would like understand the potential interest in this event. If any members have a suggestion for a child or young adult that they feel would enjoy this event, please e-mail Gary Worsfold by 1st May 2011. Initially we just need to know age and whether a boy or girl. If we get enough attendance we can then organise the event fully prior to the school holidays and post more exact details regarding times, activities and supervision, etc.

FunLec 2011

We have received a good response to running our own Locomotive Efficiency Competition and your Committee has decided to run the event on Saturday 16th July and Friday 15th July if enough Members wish to take part.

If you have not already registered your wish to enter please do so by 24th April when the entry list will close. Contact Dave Finn or Barry Linger.

We will also need members to help run the event. If you can come on either or both days please let us know.

This event will be fun, so why not come and help.

Barry Linger

Editor

Dick Ganderton

'Graskop'

76 Dewlands Road

Verwood, Dorset

BH31 6PN

dick@graskop.demon.co.uk

Tel: (01202) 822701

Hon. Secretary

Dave Finn

Tel: (01202) 474599

© 2011 B&DSME. No part of this Newsletter may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

B&DSME is a Not For Profit Company Limited by Guarantee.

It has no Employees and the Directors receive no remuneration.

Registered in England. Number 3351832

Editor's Ramblings

Ah, well, it was too good to be true. After a series of bumper Newsletters it's back down to just three pages again. I've been experimenting with ways of reducing my printing costs. I have three printers on my Mac, a Cannon iP1600 inkjet, a Brother HL-2030 laser printer and an old Apple LaserWriter 4/600 PS. The Cannon cost the earth to run, but a tank unit has slashed the running costs. The Brother, used to print the Society's Newsletter, is also quite expensive to run so I am now refilling the toner cartridges with bulk toner. So far it looks good, cutting the cost per page by two thirds.

Dick Ganderton

16mm Update

Whilst we do our best to fulfill our commitment to run 16mm on both First and Third Sundays of each month, there are a few occasions when another event takes priority over Littledown running. One such occasion occurs on the 5th June when both of us will be running at the Alan Walker 16mm Memorial Meet at Templecoombe on that date.

For those not familiar with the name Alan Walker, he was quite a character. One of the very early 16mm modellers, he had built up quite a collection of locos and rolling stock. At the last count he had over sixty locos alone. He also set up and operated the Triassic Model Works, manufacturing laser cut rolling stock kits.

The idea of the Memorial Meet is to have as many of his locos in steam as possible on that day in his memory.

Please note this does not prevent any B&DSME member from operating the 16mm track at any time they wish, but please remember to put all the portable equipment away and lock the track covers down

Gordon Miles & David White

Andover's New Track

Andover have issued an open invitation to our Members to visit their new track, on the first Sunday of May, June, July and August, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

The Andover and District Model Engineering Society was formed in 1945. After many years at its previous site at Redrice the Society has a new site near the village of Wherwell. A club room has been erected, a ground level 5" & 7¹/₄" Gauge track, a raised 5" & 3¹/₂" Gauge track, and a raised garden railway track for Gauge 1/G45 and Coarse Scale 0/SM32 have been installed.

The Society's Head Quarters is situated just off the B3420 Winchester Road near Wherwell village. Further details on their Web Site <http://home.freeuk.net/admes.andover/index.html> or by contacting the Secretary, Stephen Tucker on 01264 400041 or e-mail: stephentuucker8@gmail.com

Merlin's Snippets

Have you noticed how nice the rockery inside the loop of the 16mm Narrow Gauge Garden Railway and the flower beds alongside the station platform fence are looking? Our thanks for this must go to Pippa, Carol and Sheila, who have really worked hard to achieve this.

Now for a request. Would members who take chairs outside into the Steaming Bay area to enjoy their lunchtime snacks and natter whilst basking in the sunshine please return them after they have finished with them. It seems that most are being left outside for others to put away at the end of the day. If you take them out please put them back. End of request.

Merlin

Social Secretary Needed

We are still looking for a Social Secretary to organise the speakers at our monthly meetings.

My experience has been that at least one has been recommended by a member, another has already been to us before and is willing to speak on another subject. The others are found by talking to people in the normal way and asking if they would come and speak to us, in most cases they have agreed and enjoy the experience. The other way of finding people is to contact organisations such as Swanage Railway, who will almost certainly produce a willing volunteer.

What is required? As you go about your normal activities, speaking to fellow members or someone at a show. If you think they are interesting, then so will the rest of us. You would probably be surprised at how easy it can be to get people to agree to come and speak once they have had a few minutes to impress you with their knowledge. It is only later the truth dawns on just how much work is required to put together a reasonable presentation, but that is not your problem. I have found that most speakers thoroughly enjoy the challenge and freely admit it – at the end of the evening.

Speakers have been booked until the end of 2011. All that will be required is to make contact a couple of weeks before the evening to check they are still coming and make sure they know where we meet. Therefore, you have plenty of time to find people to fill the seven spaces in 2012.

Dave Martin made a valid point when he pointed out that our Meetings are interesting and vibrant because so many members regularly attend them. It would be a shame if attendance fell because the Meetings were no longer interesting. I look forward to hearing from you.

Brian Merrifield