

NORWICH & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

Founded 1933

Incorporated 1967

E-BULLETIN

DEC 2017

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS



Fun in the rain! More inside...



Cover story.

There were plenty of steam effects at the NDSMEs Santa specials at the park in December. This second manifestation followed the successful pilot operations in 2016. It is unfortunate that the weather was not the same though. In 2016 we had two cold but dry and sunny days. Not so this year – the first day was dry but dull and murky. The second was cold, dull and rainy, resulting in lots of mud and puddles. This resulted in the inevitable drop in on-the-day ticket sales but we still carried a respectable 600 odd visitors over the two days. For the first time we put heating in the grotto and both the Santas were pleased with this. Some thought is being given to maybe changing the format for next year, if it is repeated. Maybe over one weekend instead of two Sundays, or moving the two Sundays nearer to Christmas. December the 2nd might be regarded as a bit early next year. Overall though, it was agreed that a good time was had by all members and public alike. And, after all, what else could we be doing on a Sunday other than relaxing in a centrally heated home, watching movies and sipping beers. Now, there's a thought...







Members day, Saturday 6th January

The first Saturday of the month is a private members day on either track although, in practice, it is a 5" and 3½" day. There is some thought being given to making every Saturday a 5" member's day and they are set to continue through the winter. The next is Saturday 6th January.

For further details contact Allan Shirley via his email or via the membership secretary email address (on the website)

BOILER TESTING

A service for members – by arrangement.

Contact the Chairman.

SANTA SPECIALS 2017

Thanks to all who took part and made them
another NDSME success story!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that the NDSMEs insurance policy does NOT cover any members' locos or assets stored at Eaton Park. Members should ensure that their own insurances cover this eventuality, should they wish to store any locos, rolling stock or other items at the Society premises.

LETTERBOCKS



This month, a Facebook comment from Becky Bovell, who says of the Santa Specials,

Thank you so much for a wonderful train ride in the snow NDSME! The time, thought and hard work you all put in is very special and much appreciated!

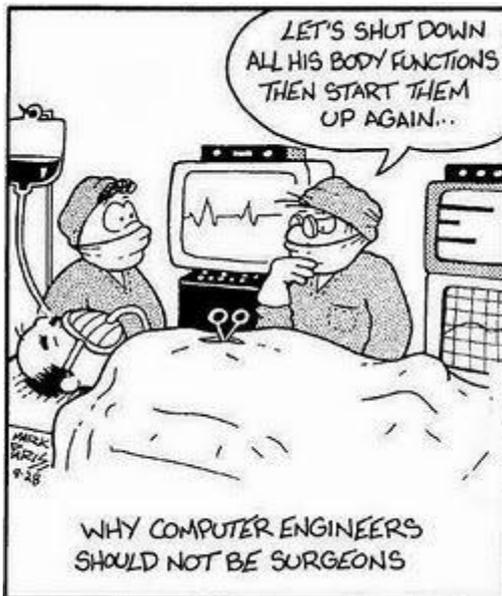
Is she right? Have you got a letter to send to the eBulletin? (Or an email, pigeon, microdot or whatever)

ON THE MOVE?

Be sure to let us know if any of your details change.

Always inform the membership secretary so our records can be updated.

COMEDY CORNER



Ill-Advised

A fire engineer, who could not speak Arabic, was finding it difficult to market his newly invented fire extinguisher in the Arabian continent. He consulted an expert who advised him to use photographic symbols.

Now he proceeded with a three stage demonstration photographs, namely (1) a car on fire, (2) a man fighting the fire with the device, then (3) a clean car.

Meanwhile, the Arabs read from right to the left, so they avoided the device completely.

Spotted on YouTube

[The Rise and Fall of the Geneva Mechanism](#)

Converting rotary motion to incremental motion. Once commonly used, now displaced by cheaper modern technology.

NDSME – affiliated to the Southern Federation and also the Northern Association – for the benefit of all our members.

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A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Here are 54 advertising slogans from the last 60 years. They may sound familiar but can you remember the brand? You must promise not to ask Mr Google!

1. Because life's complicated enough.
2. Takes the waiting out of wanting.
3. Plop Plop Fizz.
4. Vorsprung durch Technik.
5. We try harder.
6. Things happen after a XXXXXX bath.
7. Sweet as the moment when the pod went 'pop' .
8. Because mums are heroes.
9. If you like a lot of chocolate on your biscuit join our XXXX .
10. Born 1820 – still going strong.
11. We all adore a XXXXX.
12. Because I'm worth it.
13. The totally tropical taste.
14. Coffee at its best.
15. Auto emoción
16. The XXXX ring of confidence.
17. Softness is a thing called XXXX.
18. Cool as a mountain stream.

19. You'll never put a better bit of butter on your knife.
20. The World's favourite airline.
21. Go to work on an XXX. **Bonus question** – who was the famous author working on the campaign?
22. XXXX has the bra for the way you are.
23. Splash it all over.
24. Washing machines live longer with XXXX.
25. Ready Aye ready.
26. You're never alone with a XXXX.
27. Liquid engineering.
28. All because the lady loves.
29. Made in Scotland from girders.
30. XXXX is good for you.
31. Now hands that do dishes can feel soft as your face.
32. Full of eastern promise.
33. Be careful how you use it!
34. Don't be vague. Ask for XXXX.
35. You meet the nicest people on a XXXX.
36. Refreshes the parts other beers cannot reach.
37. You can be sure of XXXX.
38. Reassuringly expensive.
39. Too good to hurry mints.
40. Hello Boys!
41. Fortifies the over-forties.
42. Bread wi' nowt taken out.

- 43. The best a man can get.
- 44. The mark of a man.
- 45. Don't forget the fruit gums Mum!
- 46. Papa? Nicole?

- 47. Is she or isn't she?
- 48. When a man you've never met before suddenly gives you flowers.
- 49. Maybe she's born with it - maybe it's ...
- 50. Because Graded Grains make finer flour.
- 51. Cleans like a white tornado!
- 52. Beware the Judderman my dear, when the moon is fat.
- 53. They drink it in the Congo.
- 54. Create a buzz not a hum.

Tie breaker – What was the first product advertised on UK commercial television, and when?

No prizes, just the fun of the chase. Answers next edition.



Forthcoming Events

- 19 Dec 17 “End of term” buffet at EP

- 01 Jan 18 Traditional New Years Day members steam session

- 06 Jan 18 Members track session with Allan

- 10 Jan 18 Monthly meeting tbc

- 20 Jan 18 London MEX, coach times tbc

- 14 Feb 18 Monthly meeting tbc

For other events, see the ndsme website

Do you know somewhere we could visit on one of our monthly meetings ? Contact the chairman if you have any ideas and we will do our best to arrange it if possible...

HSG216 and the NDSME

The Society has adopted HSG216 as the guidance for all operations involving carrying non-members on the two railways at the park. If you are involved in any way with public operations, you should familiarise yourself with this document. It is currently available online at

<http://www.vulcan.works/media/hsg216.pdf>

and is also available on the Southern Federation website or in our members area. A copy is also kept at the clubhouse. Please take the time to read through this important document. Our railways have an excellent public safety record – let’s keep it that way.

SOUTHERN FEDERATION TROPHY and POLLY MODEL ENGINEERING PRIZE

The Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies and Polly Model Engineering Limited are very keen to promote the hobby to young members and there's still time to nominate one or more of our younger members for this year's award.

Does our Club / Society have one or more young members eligible for the Southern Federation Trophy and Polly Model Engineering Prize? This annual award includes a £50 voucher for items listed in the current Polly Model Engineering catalogue, a £50 cash prize from the Southern Federation and a handsome engraved glass memento commemorating the award.

If you know of one or more eligible young members, he or she must be no more than 24 years of age at the date of nomination and an active member of a Club / Society affiliated to the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies.

Nominees must be actively involved in Club / Society matters by their contribution to one or more aspects of Club / Society affairs.

Nominees must have demonstrated the acquisition of skills in the use of appropriate materials and metalworking hand tools and / or machinery / equipment normally found in the home, school, Club / Society workshop by producing a model or other mechanical item or piece of workshop tooling associated with the model engineering hobby which may be complete or part-built and constructed using metalworking hand tools or equipment.

Supervisory input and items built as apprentice pieces in a training environment are welcome.

The work must be the nominee's own but normally acceptable commercial fittings, fixings, fastenings or other components may be used.

Please visit the Southern Federation MES website www.sfmesc.co.uk for further information and an entry form.

Please note that completed nomination forms must be sent to the Federation's Secretary at [18, Wakefield Way, Nether Heyford, Northampton NN7 3LU](mailto:secretary@sfmes.co.uk) to arrive no later than 18 January 2018.



London ME Exhibition, January 19-21 2018



NDSME will be providing a coach for this exhibition. Date Saturday 20th, time to be confirmed.

Roger reports there are six seats left – don't leave it too late!

For further details contact Roger Montgomery on 01603

403395.



Roundup – a peek into other society journals and onlines



A year or so ago, we reported on Andover MES plan to extend their tracks

involving the construction of an overbridge for their 7¼” line. (left). This is completed now and taking traffic (right). Good job there Andover and a lovely feature for their layout!



From the other side of the world now, to Auckland, NZ and a superb model of a Clayton steam wagon.



Also at Auckland, a rather fine 3½” gauge model of a NZR G Class Garratt.

Don't leave it all to Mr Trellis!

Send us a letter or an email for inclusion in the next eBulletin! Anything...football, religion, politics... Actually, no, not those, just model engineering, railway etc matters, ideas and suggestions – eg should we have quilted toilet roll or "return to *Bronco*"?

What are you thinking about?



NDSME directors (committee) and officers as at Dec 2017

President	Neville Gower	Company Sec.	Jim McDonell
Chairman	Barry Fane	Membership Sec.	Allan Shirley
Treasurer	Jim McDonell	Publicity	Mark Rhodes

Other directors: Peter King, Dave Beeken, Roger Montgomery, Mike Riches and Philip Moore.

Bulletin distribution, *digital* – Allan Shirley, *hard copy* – Philip Moore. There are a number of other roles, such as meetings organiser, that need filling. Contact Barry Fane if you can help. The email is chairman@ndsme.co.uk



Synopsis of directors (committee) December 2017 meeting

Santa Specials were discussed and the progress so far was felt satisfactory

The new Child Protection Policy was proposed and adopted unanimously. The Chairman was authorised to sign the policy on behalf of the Board and it would be communicated to the Members via the website.

Financial position: Again, the treasurer reported a healthy state of affairs. Final charitable contributions will be known after the final Santa Special day

Approval was given for the purchase of a leaf blower at a cost of up to £250. R. Crook would source with final approval to be given by a director.

It was confirmed that P. King was authorised to go ahead with the project for modifications to the loco. unloading/loading equipment.

R. Montgomery advised that 24 members had committed to the Alexandra Palace coach trip in January 2018 and that breakeven was 30 members. Approval was given to pay the coach company.

A message from the membership secretary...

The membership has burst through into 3 figures and there could be more joining in the New Year. Having said that, there is still the elephant in the room. The average age of membership is 69 and 75% are over 64. As retirement age recedes into the 70s we are still in need of younger people, so if everyone could speak to any that they know and promote the club, things might change.

Allan

Mystery Picture.



Where is this and how did they fit them all in?



Brian Baker advises he still has items for disposal

A set of 7¼ Lion, (Titfield Thunderbolt) Wheels and 2 off cylinder castings, with LBSC drawings. the old loco committee have 7¼ drawings £300



A working 5" gauge "Canterbury Lamb", a Canterbury & Whitstable Invicta class loco, with current hydraulic certificate, but needs a steam ticket. The loco needs tidying, and perhaps repainting (see photos) £1500



Rob Roy, with boiler certificate, which is more or less complete, except for the tanks & cab and has been dismantled for painting. Nicely built, by an old friend, the loco has run on air. With drawings. £900

LMS 0-6-0 7 1/4 gauge Dock tank (2F) chassis, running on air, and a full set of drawings for this useful loco, well made, price to club member £800, ono

Tailpiece

Standing on the steps of Thuxton signal box as the sun was low in the sky recently, a stubblefield nearby was brilliantly lit by the late rays, giving a golden glow. Just for a few seconds, I could have been there fifty, even one hundred years ago and the scene would have been the same. The countryside has a timeless quality about it. Consider this tract from a "Countryside Companion" edition of 1946 and you will see what I mean...

Although the year grows old and the December days shorter, one still finds little adventures along the woodcraft trail. Even before dawn the farmyard cocks sound reveille and the rooks leave their dormitory to seek breakfast in the meadowland. When the blackbird gets out of bed, he chatters like an old gentleman in a nasty temper.



In the field by the woods are a motley company of birds, which include buntings, bramblings, chaffinches, greenfinches and a detachment of sparrows. On the stubble titmice give an acrobatic display on some dried stalks and larks find something that suits their fancy on a piece of old ploughed land. Linnets wander from field to field in a restless nomadic manner. By the brook a pied wagtail says, "chizzit, chizzit" when disturbed. From the wood, an owl hoots before he goes to sleep and a jay is like a fleeting coloured shadow. Along Blackberry Lane the denseness of the bushes make a safe and warm harbourage for the birds, and the pine trees shelter a number of goldcrests. The rickyard also becomes a guest house in severe weather, and the grey church tower is a sanctuary for jackdaw and barn-owl.



Most of the thrush family are fond of berries, and the fruit of down the tawny acres with a plodding gait, which he occasionally breaks at the corner for a brief

The piece concludes with some weather wisdom:

"If sun shines through the apple trees upon a Christmas Day,

When autumn comes they will a load of fruit display"

the yew attracts the mistle thrush while fieldfares visit the holly. According to old country lore, a heavy crop of berries foretells a hard winter ahead.



The ploughman moves up and

Holly is cheerful with red berries, bramble shows a trace of green, dogwood is dyed red, wild clematis is pretty with grey-white plumes, and mistletoe is beautiful with pearl-white berries.

Trees are full of colour when caught in a loop of sunlight. Oak and beech buds shade brown, the ash is decorated with points of blackish-green, and limes glint red.

Already some shepherds have completed their pens, in readiness for the lambs that may arrive before the month is out. In the pastures sheep wait for fodder at the troughs, a seasonal picture of the month. Against a background of rural sounds the hum of the threshing machine comes over the fields and will continue until sundown.

At nightfall winter moths will flock about the shepherd's lantern as he goes to the fold. The continuous hoot of brown owls in the moonlight mingles with the dog fox's bark as he journeys through deep shadows in search of a mate, and the death of the Old Year closes the last page of our diary.

rest. On the broken soil, jackdaws, rooks, hooded crows, seagulls, plovers and robins find a variety of food.

"If New Year's Eve night-wind blows south

It betokeneth warmth and growth;

If west, much milk, and fish in the sea;

If north, cold and storms there will be;

If east, the trees will bear much fruit;

If north-east, flee it man and brute!"

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS