

NORWICH & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

Founded 1933

Incorporated 1967

EATON PARK MINIATURE RAILWAY

eBULLETIN

May 2018



All together now...

More inside.



Cover story. An Uplifting experience

In April the society took delivery of a new, hydraulically operated, lift to replace the existing manually operated lift. The old lift, which dates back to the construction of the ground level track in 2005, has long been regarded as past its prime. It was also becoming increasingly harder for members to operate, particularly as weights of locos



have tended to increase. It was also somewhat erratic at times and very temperamental – the merest fraction of a turn on the valve could bring it crashing down faster than a guillotine!

At the beginning of this year, your committee, after suggestions from members, began looking

for a replacement. The main criterion was that it was not to rely on muscle power to raise the platform, this being in rather less supply for many of us compared with our younger days.

Pete King, had the idea to look at hydraulic lifts as used in motorcycle dealers and takes up the story,

After many months of frustration the sole agents for the lift we wanted finally took delivery and on 29 March David Beeken, Barry Fane and myself drove down to Hertford to see it. We liked what we saw and purchased it there and then, loaded into my trailer and then on to Eaton Park.

Over the next few weeks Mike Riches did some work on the hydraulics to fit high spec. quick release couplings and I did some work to get the lift ready to put into the original lift pit. On 8th May a team was assembled and the old lift was removed and the new one fitted. It fitted well and





worked fine but still needs some fine tuning. The hydraulic operating unit will, for the time being, be stored in the container and wheeled out whenever needed to unload an engine. It is simple to use but I would ask anyone that does to be very careful about not getting any dirt on the Q/R coupling. We have fitted

an aluminium tube on the side of the pump housing for the hose when not in use. The lift end is wrapped in a plastic bag which, if used properly, should keep it clean until the permanent solution is complete. New guides have been fitted to guide locos easily onto the track but, at time of writing, have yet to be tried.

On Tuesday 14th May, a team of diggers laid a new armoured cable from the container to the lift pit. This was terminated in a waterproof socket in the lift pit and has since been terminated at the container by a professional electrician.

The lift pit now needs to be extended by about 34" so that the side movement rails can be installed and I'm hoping that Richard S will take on this job with help, if and when needed, by the Tuesday gang.

I can now start final design & manufacture of the rails and we can, hopefully, fit them when public running ends.



A big thank you to all of you who have helped with the lift project, no matter how small your contribution.

Ground level track maintenance progress report 17/05/18 by Pete King

This is an update report following on from 28/01/2018 on the various aspects of permanent way maintenance and upgrading.

Sleeper replacement

The target was to have replaced all the sleepers in the field with plastic by the end of the winter maintenance period. This was almost achieved but there are still 320 left to fit which is about 3 days work for a team of Action Men. The sleepers are all cut and ready to go so all we need to do is find some action men!! This task will almost certainly now be continued after public running has ended for the year.

Subsidence inside tunnel

The subsidence has now been halted but without re-concreting. It was found that the track base was cracked due to a large tree root forcing it up from beneath and rather than put in a new solid base the concrete was broken up and removed for a length of about a metre either side of the crack and the track bed ballasted and levelled. If the tree root moves in the future it will, hopefully, not now damage the line of the track but simply move the ballast.

Problem with level crossing when exiting field

The answer to this problem was to lift the track at the crossing and slide in some sheets of 3mm+ plastic sheet. This lifted the track above the steel side angles and then the broken concrete was chiselled away and relaid. Good job done and thanks to Richard S, Ronnie and David B.

Pete, [here are](#) some Action Mans like you wanted! A rather good stop-motion animation ad by Mother (ed)



EACH Day at the Park

Monday 7th May saw the society raising funds, as part of its commitment in lieu of rent, for the *EACH Nook Appeal*. This is the project by EACH (AKA "Quidenham") to build a new purpose built unit at Poringland, near Norwich. Work has already started on the site and the *Nook Appeal* has reached 80% of its target of £120 million.

We were able to offer a full range of motive power as David Neale kindly supplied his Black Five for the day. And over 600 park visitors came along to ride, in a temperature of 25C! In fact this bank holiday weekend was one of the few where the weather was warm, sunny and dry on all three days. That doesn't happen very often!

The Poringland branch of EACH, coordinated by Mike Fordham, organised fundraising stalls outside Parkside Station and, when combined with the fare revenue, almost £1k was raised by the end of the day – a fine effort from all concerned.

Some pics from a busy day...

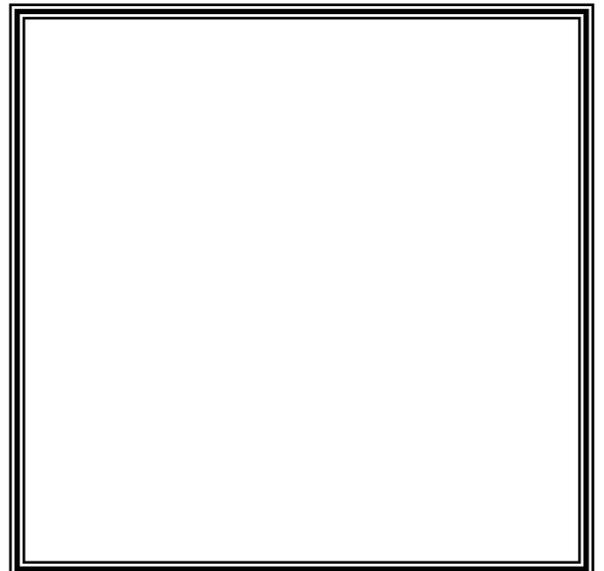












All involved agreed that it had been a grand day. The locos performed faultlessly and the public just kept on coming. We experimented with a "First Class" carriage that was reserved for EACH prizewinners. It was well received and fitted into the day well and may be repeated for future specials.

Annual General Meeting – Advance Notice

Nominations for Directors (“committee”), Treasurer and Company Secretary must be received by the Company Secretary no later than 30th June 2018

Motions for discussion at the AGM must also be received by the same date.

Fun spot!

Here’s a recent pic of goings-on at the park...



But what is being said?

Answers on a postcard please...

LETTERBOOKS



This month we have been deluged by another letter from Mr Trellis of North Walsham, who writes,

*Dear Basil,
I notice that nuts are still either hexagonal or square in shape. Many years ago I proposed that we should standardise on my design of pentagonal nuts. I am still awaiting invitations to go into production! I believe that if pentagonal nuts were standard, engineering would be a lot more interesting and, furthermore, that children would be much better behaved...
(contd p78).*

Is he right? What do you think?

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.

SANTA SPECIALS 2018

These were discussed at the members meeting on Wednesday 11th April. A choice has since been made by a majority of members involved to proceed with two Sundays, the 9th and 16th of December.

COMEDY CORNER



A few years ago, I decided to visit my sister who was living in France. I assumed that most French would speak English. I found that many people spoke only their own language and this included the ticket inspector on the train. He inspected my ticket, then chatted cordially for a bit, making several expansive gestures. I simply nodded from time to time to show him that I was interested.

When he had gone, an American tourist, also on the train, leaned forward and asked if I spoke French.

'No', I admitted.

'Then that explains', she said, 'why you didn't bat an eyelid when he told you that you were on the wrong train.'

One hot summers day, towards the end of the nineteenth century, an elegantly dressed lady passenger got off the train at the newly built standard gauge railway station at Jamestown, with a child in her lap and several cases.

On inquiry she found that Jamestown, the town, was some three miles away from the station and that there were no buses and no carriages available..

"Why did you not build the station nearer to the town?" she screamed at the station master.

"Well at first, we thought the same", said the station master, "but then, we decided it would be better to build the station near the railway line!"

MAXITRAK DAY

Saturday 9th June 2018 @ EP

Other 5"ers are also welcome to attend.

Spotted on YouTube

Mecklenburgische Bäderbahn Molli - Mecklenburg Railway Steam Train

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMonLkerBSA>

From Bad Doberan in Germany, the 900mm narrow gauge steam train "Molli" runs to Kühlungsborn, a seaside resort along the Baltic sea coast. After departing Bad Doberan, the train runs on the street, where, to many passers-by, it is just a normal occurrence and nothing to get excited about. Can you imagine the "elf 'n' safety" outcry if this happened in the UK!

And here is the Wiki https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molli_railway

Und für Leser von Deutsch

<http://www.molli-bahn.de/abenteuer-molli/der-100-jaehrige-zug/>

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

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.

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?



Forthcoming Events

- 09 June Maxitrak day at the park
- 13 June Monthly meeting - *All about social media*, by Dave Podd
- 21 June Visit to Norfolk Tank Museum
- 11 July BBQ @ EP
- 07 August Parklands Railway (Hemsby) Invitation Day
- 08 August AGM
- 12 September Visit to Ashmanhaugh Light Rly.

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...



NDSME directors (committee) and officers as at May 2018

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

Other directors: Peter King (PW), Dave Beeken, Roger Montgomery (Rolling stock), Mike Riches and Philip Moore (Estates).

Bulletin distribution, *digital* – Allan Shirley, *hard copy* – Philip Moore.

There is a number of other roles, such as meetings organiser, that need filling. Contact Barry Fane if you can help. The email is chairman@ndsme.org



An event in June

21st June 2018 @ 1pm. A visit has been arranged to the Norfolk Tank Museum at Fornsett St Mary, NR161HZ. See Guy Martins WW1 tank and much more. The cost is around £7 for the visit and refreshments are available. This is an open visit so just turn up with your friends. For more details contact Mike Fordham 01508 493437

Committee news - May 2018 – extract

Financial papers for 2017-18 have been lodged at Companies House. Detailed financial papers will be available at the AGM.

Articles of Association discussed and work to update these is ongoing.

A new safe would be sourced as the existing safe was felt to be unsatisfactory.

Fire extinguishers – advice would be sought from a qualified contractor.

Two members would publicise the society at the Strumpshaw rally this year.

The A3 was discussed and it was noted that there are no plans as yet for this locomotive.

A message from the Membership Secretary

We've had the 'Beast From The East', now we have to live with the 'Beast From The E.U.'

We've been living with this for around two years, but the deadline for compliance has finally passed and every organisation that holds personal information (data) about who it has dealings with, has to have a plan concerning where the info is stored and who has access to it.

With regard to our club, this data is provided by you when you join or when you renew your membership. The paper copy is held in a lockable plastic box and the data is stored as a spreadsheet on a laptop that is password protected. Both items are in the care of the membership secretary. Both items are the private property of the membership secretary. The data is NOT shared with anyone outside of the club. The purpose of holding this data is to keep an up-to-date record of who is a member and whether or not the due subscription is paid. Everyone who has provided an email address receives the latest bulletin by this method and the BCC option is used. Nine members have chosen to have their copy professionally printed and posted to them. This means they cannot be kept informed as quickly as the majority.

We currently have 97 members across all categories, of which 11 are new in 2018. This means that compared with last year, we've lost a few and gained a few. I would like to thank all of you for your support of the club as we continue to survive in a changing world and we are getting ever closer to celebrating a centenary of continued existence.

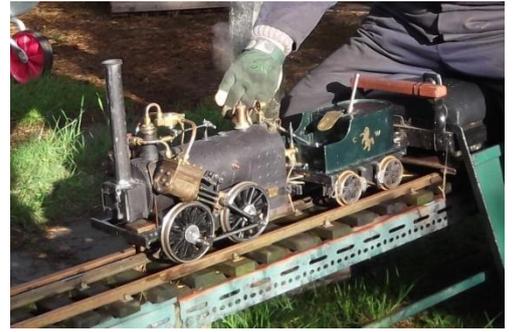
I am trying to organise our presence at the 'Science Week' being held at The Forum in Norwich during half term week in October. Watch this space!



Brian Baker has items for sale



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) £1350 to ndsme members.

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 £550.

Pete Franklin has for sale,

Hornby live steam *Rocket* 3½ " gauge loco and tender. Comes complete with track, both in original boxes. Spare *Ronson* valve and socket spanner for fuel tank. Model runs on lighter fuel. Personal demo if required, video of loco running available. £250 ovno.

Contact Pete via pef@talktalk.net 01603 749417

Peter Lewis has for sale,

Clarke Cutter/grinder + manual + accessories. £100

Tel 01508 548273