

Newsletter February 2015

The Committee is disappointed though not surprised that, following the posting of the previous Newsletter to all members in September 2014, there has been no response to anything contained within it.

However, there have been very positive inputs from some members.

Firstly, two of our recent members have both assisted with society events over the winter activities. Secondly, a very welcome input has been received from Barry Harrison who has put together a programme for 2015. This is much appreciated by the committee.

As members will notice from the diary when they receive it there are still Club Nights that could be filled with interesting topics. Volunteers please come forward.

The Committee is still very aware of the issues regarding communication and membership input and, once again, this newsletter is a communication to all our members. Communication should be in both directions, responses from the membership are keenly sought. In the meantime please consult the society website. Alan Banks does a good job in updating the site but he also requires material to keep the site fresh and interesting.

Your views and input to any aspect of the society are very welcome.

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Santa Specials 2014

The event took place over the two weekends, 13th and 14th and 20th and 21st December. Having sold all available seats in just two weekends there was 'no pressure!' for the event. Thank you to the setter uppers of the Grotto, the job was completed with a little time to spare and over the four days the Grotto was much admired by all who visited.

Thank you to the ladies who worked in the grotto in both departments as Santa's Elves, no easy task! A huge 'thanks' to Santa – without you the event would have been rather dull.

A very welcome number of members turned up on all four days to provide the transport arrangements and supervise the crossing procedures. All very professionally done. We must also thank members who used their locomotives to help out; there were always four engines in 'steam' at all times.

A special thank you to the helpers who provided the hot refreshments over the four days. This was very much appreciated and the biscuits and cakes were yum!

Finally thanks to those members who supported the event and brought their families and friends along. It was good to see everyone enjoying themselves.

We are indebted to Geoff Moulding who is kindly storing the 'props' for the event during this year. It has provided the society with an option for a 2015 Santa Special.

Santa Special Meeting Thursday 12th February 2015

The committee is hosting a meeting regarding the possibility of a 2015 event. The meeting will be held at the Sidings commencing 10.00 am.

All members and interested parties are invited. The outline agenda for the meeting is:

1. Apologies for absence
2. A brief review of 2014 event.
3. Does the Society arrange a 2015 Santa Special?
4. If agreed, a plan of action. If not meeting closes.
5. Positive offers of help with the event
6. Purchase of presents
7. Any further relevant comments and input
8. Date(s) of next working meeting(s)

Your interest and input would be appreciated.

Track events at the Sidings.

Open Day Saturday 13th June.

The society looks forward to meeting up with friends from other societies who would like to visit Royden Park. Wirral members are very welcome but must indicate their attendance if they wish to share in the refreshments that will be provided for our visitors. The event will be from 10.00 am until around 4.00pm.

Members Day, Saturday 11th July

The society is hosting a member's day on the 11th July. This is an opportunity for society members to 'have a go' and perhaps drive locomotives for the first time.

Last year there was a good turnout of members but sadly, only the ground level track operated. Hopefully the raised track will be involved this year. Lunch will be provided and refreshments will be available all day. For catering purposes an indication of attendance would be appreciated.

NAME Rally 15th September

Whilst NAME confirmation of the event date is to be received, WMES have offered to host the Rally again. (Members will recall that WMES hosted this event in 2009.)

Hopefully there will be visitors to both tracks and WMES members are welcome to attend and participate. For catering purposes an indication of attendance would be appreciated.

Membership renewal 2015 – 2016

Members are respectfully reminded that subscriptions are due from the 1st February 2015. The subscription for 2015/16 will be £25.00.

Renewal forms are [downloadable from the society website](#) or available from the notice board in the Sidings.

Please:

- Complete the form and ensure your address and contact details are up to date.
- Include any family members as appropriate.
- Enclose your subscription. Forms without payment cannot be processed.
- The membership secretary, Bob Spencer, can be contacted on 0151 342 3570.

Diary 2015

Members will receive a diary for 2015 with their membership cards. The Society is always interested in obtaining speakers and topics of interest for meetings. If you know any contacts who would be willing to give a talk or presentation please inform any member of the committee or Barry Harrison. Barry has overseen the 2015 diary and we are very appreciative of the work put in to provide the diary.

Future events

Committee will continue to attempt different events to attract visitors and fellow model engineers. If these are not appreciated by the membership they have nobody other than themselves to blame.

February meetings at Thornton Hough

5th Discussion Evening.
19th Member's Short Talks.

Harrogate

VISIT TO NATIONAL MODEL ENGINEERING & MODELLING EXHIBITION

HARROGATE, SATURDAY 9th MAY 2015

Meeting Coach at 8.00am at Hooton Station Car Park. The coach will take us into the Great Yorkshire Showground site. For those who wish, at some point, to indulge in retail therapy in Harrogate there is a courtesy bus from the Exhibition to town. The timings of the courtesy bus are at approx. 30 min. intervals. People wishing to go to the town, and not the Exhibition, will disembark from the coach at Sainsbury's on the way into the Showground where a frequent bus service will take you into town.

This year, by popular request, we will go to Graveleys Restaurant for a meal before journeying home. We leave the exhibition at 4.00pm by our coach to go into Harrogate, arriving at Hooton approx. 8.30pm. Those who may visit Harrogate can meet us at Graveleys at 4.30pm.

Pre-booked Coach Party ticket prices: All Adults £8.00 Under 14's Free.

These ticket prices can only be obtained by booking as below. Coach fare (49 seat) is dependent on numbers travelling, but approx. £20 per head. Bookings will only be taken on receipt of deposit, which will be £20 plus the ticket cost.

Deposit is non-refundable if you are unable to re-sell the seat and ticket.

Bookings through Alan Pennell (0151 648 6588) as soon as possible, but no later than Monday 6th April 2015, to enable confirmation of the coach booking.

It is not too soon to put this item in your Diary. Please let Alan Pennell know ASAP if you would like to come so that the coach reservation can be confirmed.

Monies payable to: A.V.Pennell 4 Arundel Close, Pensby, Wirral, CH61 8TB.

Please Note. This Trip is open to non-members – so bring your friends/neighbours to fill up the coach and keep the seat price down. An early indication of intention to come would be helpful.

For Exhibition details see: -www.theharrogateshow.com

An Invitation.

WMES have been invited to

SALE AREA M.E.S. Open Events in 2015:-

Diesel Day Saturday 16th May.

3.5" Gauge Day Saturday 13th June.

Annual Open Weekend 12th & 13th September.

S.A.M.E.S. incorporate Walton Park Trains and are located at: Walton Park, Raglan Road, Sale, Manchester, M33 4FG.
www.waltonparktrains.co.uk.

Trains will operate between 10.00 – 16.30. Refreshments will be provided free of charge, although donations welcome. Remember to bring your club insurance and steam loco boiler certificate.

Society website and access for members to the secure area.

Many thanks to Alan Banks for his work in maintaining and updating the Society website. All members are aware that the production of the Wirral Steam ceased in December 2013. In that publication an indication was given that the website was being re-arranged to provide sections of society business, with access restricted to members only. This has been completed and a new access code is required. Despite notification in the previous Newsletter some members are still asking for the code!!

The code is:

UserXXXXXXXX

PasswordXXXXXXXXXXXXX Maintain case in both instances.

As with all access codes please keep the login confidential to yourself. This minimises unauthorized access and the risk of hacking. If you wish to be reminded of the access code at any time please contact the secretary.

8.Notification of the Society AGM on May 21st 2015,nominations to committee and motions to be considered at the AGM.

The notification is attached as Appendix 2, which is a single page. The nomination form can be cut from the page and forwarded to the Secretary.

Our secretary's address is: *43 Colmere Drive, Thingwall, Wirral CH61 7XT*

Members News

The Society congratulates the following members:

Danny O'Hagan on completing his driver competency training for the Roanoke locomotives.

Lance Jones on the award of his Silver Medal under the 71/4" Gauge proficiency scheme. Lance very ably answered the questions set to achieve top marks.

Ben Williams has been passed as competent to drive both battery and steam locos on the raised track.

Mike Foster on his forthcoming marriage to Flo. We wish them a very happy day and every success.

Locomotive news on the ground level track

For some months a new locomotive 'Coolum' has been seen on the ground level track. A sister locomotive has now joined it. These do not fit into the usual British locomotive profile for the good reason that the prototypes were built as narrow gauge locomotives and supplied to the sugar cane industry in Queensland, Australia.

The original locomotives were a British design – built by John Fowler & Co of Leeds. 'Coolum' and sister 'Eudlo' were built in 1924 and 1925, builder's numbers 16036 and 16207 respectively. They were shipped out to Australia for use on the 2ft. gauge railway at Moreton Sugar Mill, Nambour, Queensland, Australia.

The locomotives were named after local villages. One locomotive was named 'Coolum' - after a town in Queensland, 119km from Brisbane. The name Coolum is derived from Aborigine and refers to the shape of the adjacent Mount Coolum, which has no peak.

The sister loco was named 'Eudlo' – after a Queensland rural village on the North Coast Railway, 10km south of Nambour. Eudlo is thought to be named after an Aboriginal expression for 'eels'.

Originally the locomotives did not have tenders but after a period in use they were provided to carry bagasse (crushed residues of the cane) as fuel for the boiler.

Both locomotives are preserved, 'Coolum' in Eudlo, Queensland. Parts from 'Coolum' were used to keep 'Eudlo' running in the

last days of steam at the Mill in Nambour. 'Coolum' is currently the recipient of a private restoration programme. 'Eudlo' is housed in the Nambour & District Historical Museum in Nambour. It has been cosmetically restored but is not in working order.

The Royden Park model locomotives were designed and built by their owners using photographs of 'Eudlo' and 'Coolum' in static preservation. No drawings were available but model engineers in Australia provided additional information and photographs to assist with the design. Part way into the project a small drawing of the locomotives was unearthed. However, the drawing contains some inaccuracies with regard to the connecting rods but did help to confirm the main outline dimensions and general arrangements.

The tender was built first and provides driver comfort as a priority. The locomotives were then started and a past construction series in the Australian Model Engineer Magazine describing a sugar cane locomotive type known as 'Bunyip' was located and borrowed. However, the 'Bunyip' design is a later development of the Fowler locomotives and the series, whilst interesting, was not that useful.

The steel boiler is commercially made, the frames are laser-cut and some of the motion parts were water-jet cut. The cylinders and steam chests are based on the well-known 'Romulus' model and the valve gear is Walschaerts.

Some of the parts of the 1920's locomotive construction can trace their origins to traction engines also being built by Fowlers at the same time. For example the cab roof is a typical traction engine type with heavily curved sides and the combination lever is a double link.

The sugar cane type of locomotive model is frequently seen at Australian model engineering gatherings but not so frequently sighted in the UK, where 'traditional' models are frequently based on famous prototypes. The sugar cane locomotives provided a welcome challenge and 'look different'! A Pennell.

Records

Please – if any of your membership details have changed have you let the secretary or the membership secretary know? This really helps when communication is required!

If you think that the information the Society holds about you is not correct, please contact the membership secretary in the first instance.