

# **MAIDSTONE MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY**

**Spring 2016**

**[www.maidstonemes.co.uk](http://www.maidstonemes.co.uk)**

# Maidstone Model Engineering Society

## Spring 2016 Newsletter

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Cover: The annual club lunch at the Grangemoor Hotel - M Parham

Below: Whose this giving rides on Boxing Day? - M Parham



# Luke's Spot

So, here it is, my first attempt at a newsletter as the club's latest Press Officer. Andrew has set the bar high over his time as Editor so I hope I can do just as good a job.

So for those of you that don't know me, I've been a member at the club for 6 years having joined when I was 18. Me and Dad have built a Polly 6 loco between us and is a semi-regular Sunday runner. I'm also close to finishing a second Polly engine, this time a Trojan which is based on Trojan at Didcot, although she won't be based on Trojan when finished, but instead on a near identical Port of London dock shunter.

Outside of the club, I'm also a Scout Leader for 1st Snodland Scouts, which between that and the club pretty much fill the weekends on my calendar pretty quickly. In the past and hopefully again in the future this has led to the club hosting a group of Snodland scouts on a Saturday allowing them to learn about our engines and then have a drive of them.

My day job is as an IT Technician at Oakwood Park Grammar School which as a lot of our teachers put it, is basically "professional googling, guessing and watching bars move slowly across the screen". Most of the time it's a bit of fun and quite a relaxed atmosphere, trying to work out what's broken or what's changed when something stops working.

I got into Model Engineering through Dads Mamod traction engine, which I got working again after many years tucked away, fascinated I started a small collection of small steam engines, which naturally evolved into bigger and more complex engines until we made the decision to make the



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And like our page at [facebook.com/maidstonemes](https://facebook.com/maidstonemes)

leap into the larger size engines.

Each year we take our Polly along to Polly Rallies organised by the Polly Owners Group (<http://www.pollymodelengineering.co.uk/pog/>) which can be at a varying clubs, generally one in the North and one in the South to cater for everybody, we as a club hosted them last September, with many positive comments received, as part of the group we also travel to and take part in the London Model Engineering show at Ally Pally, where we run her on the groups portable track for a few hours, giving rides to the young and young at heart for free.



So onto the club, as we have now started the running season, we are always looking for volunteers to take on the jobs necessary to be able to run, these are the Traffic controller, Money taker and Loader. Dave has a list up in the clubhouse that needs filling and it would be great to see the list getting filled in, if your unsure what a role entails, your can ask anyone of the Committee members or track down Dave and we will try answer your question. For traffic controllers there is a job list available which lists and



describes what needs to be done and your responsibilities for that day. All of the committee members have put themselves in for at least two days of Traffic controller spread throughout the year. It would be terrific to see new faces fulfilling these roles as well as the old ones.

# Chairman's Report to the AGM

My first year in office as the chairman began with a visit on 11<sup>th</sup> March from Eastborough Primary School with about sixty pupils and staff on a field visit to our club. Their interest was how the club was formed and the operation and construction of locomotives. Jack Ruler gave an introduction to the pupils about this and an overview of the clubs function.

The wiring for the new signaling system was installed, ready for John Hawkins to connect up the various components on the following Sunday. This was completed by John and all of the new signal lighting worked very well indeed, with drivers taking notice of them.

The club was again displaying at the Heritage Transport show in March at the Detling Showground, this was well attended and our new gantry was erected at the stand with signal lights operating. It was more extensive than last year with many of our member's locomotives on display. We hope that members will provide an excellent show this year.

The first day of the running season opened with rain all day and with no passengers wanting rides, not a good start but hopefully the rest of the year would be better. The weeks following were better, Boxing day run was good and well supported by members and I give thanks to all who helped as traffic controller, loading and fare taking duties for without the members providing these tasks we would not be able to run our passenger hauling service. I look forward to this year 2016, with the hope that volunteers will be equally keen to help once again. Please put your name on the list in the clubhouse in order to help out with these duties.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> April the club was host to the 1<sup>st</sup> Snodland Scout Group which consisted of sixteen boys and girls from that group. An introduction and presentation was given by Luke Bridges at the start of the morning.

The scouts were split into groups of four and had instructions on how a steam locomotive was started and operated by members of the MMES. After that the groups were allowed to drive the steam locomotives around the track with the guidance of our members.

Charity run this year for the Stroke Association raised £500, and we provided rides for the children of the Mencap Group on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

August. Thanks to all the members who drove their locomotives and provided support for these and other charity events during the year.

This year's trip to Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway on 1<sup>st</sup> August with fish and chips served in the café at the end of the line at Dungeness was well attended by members of our club. Stewart Christensen, a member of our club at the controls of the locomotive "Typhoon" provided the transport along this well used railway

The Polly Owners Group run on the 26<sup>th</sup> August started at about 09:00 hrs with about 11 locos from this group running during the day around our track. Catering was provided by our lady members and a thanks you to all who supplied food and help for this event. We were presented, at the end of the day with a glass plaque from the group in thanks for MMES providing the facilities and use of our track.

Elsie May Gurr, an associate member passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Elsie had just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and had a party in the clubhouse in November 2015.

The annual lunch was held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016 at the Grangemoor Hotel this year with over thirty members, family and friends attending. After lunch we all gathered together for the group photograph which was taken by Martin, a copy of which should be in our next news letter.

As we are now entering winter, we have some remedial repairs to the track concrete beams and an amount of painting and decorating of the clubhouse. This work will be performed, hopefully by the Wednesday gang, if enough coffee and tea are available. Most of the work over the winter period is taken on by this group of ex-employed men who seem to not find any more rewarding work than to help the club out. With this band of eager helpers I give thanks to those men for all of their hard work during the year and on these future maintenance tasks.

I hope that this forthcoming year will be an excellent season for the club. So from me now it is time to end with the thanks to all of you that have supported the club during 2015 and anticipation that further help will be provided by you for YOUR club in 2016.



Maurice Knott (Your Chairman)



Above: Simon driving a club loco giving rides on Boxing Day - M Parham  
Below-Left: Richard chatting to Andy with his Class 2 - M Parham  
Below-right: Bernie waiting with his Merchant Navy - M Parham



## Subs Reminder

Just a quick reminder and gentle nudge that subs for 2016 are now overdue, if you are outstanding, please make every effort to pay these to the treasurer as soon as possible

Below: Edgar with Tornado at Beechurst - A Bridges





# Accident and Suggestions Box - Tom Parham



Although we are a club, which is run by our members, rather than by paid employees, we are still legally considered as a company, and therefore are required to follow company policies. As such we do require the help and cooperation of our membership in order to remain safe and to maintain the safety of those around us. It has been noted that the club risk assessment is in need of being updated, and this will be done in the coming weeks, however in addition to this your input is also required, and I am in the process of putting together a near

miss reporting form, and a suggestion form. If you see anything happening around the site which you think is not correct, in that it is unsafe or has potential environmental issues then please do fill in a form for the committee to be made aware of the problem so that we can discuss the issue and determine an appropriate risk reducing solution. In addition to this, we would ask that if any accidents happen on the club site, then an accident report should be filled in, no matter how small the injury sustained, if any, so that we can identify any dangers or accident trends and attempt to minimise them. Remember, an injury is not necessary for an accident to have happened... for example an accidental shunt on the track where nobody is hurt is still an accident.

The accident forms must be filled in full, providing as much information as possible, including an impartial eye witness if possible. Near miss reports and suggestion forms will be far less detailed, and it will be optional as to whether a name is put on the form.

The suggestion forms are designed to be able to put ideas about the club forward directly to the committee, with the certainty that it will be discussed, and the opportunity will be given for additional input if the committee require and you are happy to be approached.

We have now installed a locked box in the clubhouse, which will be unlocked at each committee meeting, and everything inside it can then be discussed within the meeting.

A physicist, an engineer, and a statistician were out game hunting.

The engineer spied a bear in the distance, so they got a little closer.

"Let me take the first shot!" said the engineer, who missed the bear by three metres to the left.

"You're incompetent! Let me try" insisted the physicist, who then proceeded to miss by three metres to the right.

"Ooh, we \*got\* him!!" said the statistician

### **PROGRAMMER'S DRINKING SONG**

100 little bugs in the code,  
100 bugs in the code,  
fix one bug, compile it again,  
101 little bugs in the code.  
101 little bugs in the code.....  
Repeat until BUGS = 0

**What is the difference between Mechanical Engineers and Civil Engineers?**

Mechanical Engineers build weapons,  
Civil Engineers build targets



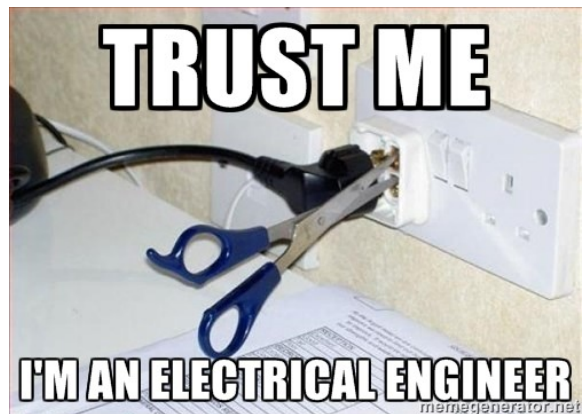
A young engineer was leaving the office at 6pm when he found his boss standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," said his boss, "this is important, and my secretary has left. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly," said the young engineer. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Well done, Well done!" said his boss as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."

Two engineers  
walk into a bar, the  
third one ducks



Found at [engineering-humour.com](http://engineering-humour.com),  
[www.gdargaud.net/Humor/Engineer.html](http://www.gdargaud.net/Humor/Engineer.html)

# BOILER CERTIFICATES EXPIRED OR EXPIRING BEFORE AUGUST 2016

MR P. BAXTER	5" GAUGE SIMPLEX	08/07/2015
MR A. BRIDGES	5" GAUGE POLLY VI 2-6-0	21/03/2016
MR L. BRIDGES	3 1/2" GAUGE 2-6-2 BANTAM COCK	05/05/2014
MR D. CHALK	4" SCALE BURRELL COMPOUND	14/04/2013
MR N.F.CLARK	4 1/2" SCALE BURRELL	25/03/2016
MR N.F.CLARK	5" GAUGE 0-6-0 "BUTCH"	21/06/2015
MR N.F.CLARK	5" GAUGE 2-8-0 NIGEL GRESLEY	27/05/2015
MR N.F.CLARK	5" GAUGE 2-8-4T "DHOLPUR"	16/06/2016
MR N.F.CLARK	5" GAUGE 2-8-0 FREELANCE TANK	18/07/2016
MR P. CLARK	4 1/2" ADVANCE ROLLER	11/04/2016
MR P. CLARK	5" GAUGE STANIER 8F 2-8-0	17/03/2016
DR R.J. COOK	5" GAUGE SPEEDY 0-6-0	20/06/2010
DR R.J. COOK	5" GAUGE SWEET PEA 0-4-2ST	11/04/2013
MR C. DARLEY	5" GAUGE SWEET PEA	08/04/2015
MR D. DELLER	3 1/2" GAUGE BRITANNIA	03/06/2016
MR D. DELLER	5" GAUGE LNER BI	24/05/2016
MR D. DELLER	5" GAUGE U-CLASS 2-6-0	13/06/2016
MR B. DOUGLAS	5" GAUGE AQUILA 2-6-0	20/06/2016
MR P. EVANS	4" SCALE RUSTON & PROCTOR	03/05/2015
MR A. HARDY	5" GAUGE BUTCH	04/05/2014
MR J. HAWKINS	5" CR SINGLE 4-2-2 No.123	20/08/2012
MR J. HAWKINS	5" GAUGE FREELANCE 0-6-0T	13/06/2016
MR C. HAYMAN	5" GAUGE HOLDEN S69	21/05/2014
MR A. HULSE	5" GAUGE 2-6-0 "LOCKWOOD"	29/05/2012
MR J. HUTT	3 1/2" GAUGE 2-6-2 BETTY	02/08/2009
MR J. HUTT	5" GAUGE 0-6-2 "MONA"	27/04/2014
MR M. JOHNSTON	3 1/2" GAUGE LMS 0-6-0 4F	12/10/2014
MR M. JOHNSTON	3 1/2" GAUGE LMS DOCK TANK 0-6-0	13/07/2014
MR P.B.KINGSFORD	5" GAUGE 4-4-0 MAID OF KENT	23/04/2014
MR P.B.KINGSFORD	5" GAUGE RIVER CLASS 2-6-4	12/05/2016
MR P.B.KINGSFORD	5" GAUGE SF PACIFIC	24/06/2014
MR P.B.KINGSFORD	5" GAUGE SOUTHERN QI 0-6-0	28/04/2016
MR M.A.LISTER	3" SCALE ATKINSON WAGON	20/04/2011
MR A. MILLS	3" SCALE SAVAGE TRACTOR	25/04/2016
MISS J. OLD	4" SCALE BURRELL TE	06/03/2014
MR M.N.PARHAM	5" GAUGE 4-2-2 STIRLING SINGLE	11/07/2016
MR M.N.PARHAM	5" GAUGE LNER P2	11/04/2016
MR T.W.PARHAM	5" GAUGE LNER 2-6-2T	21/01/2016
MRS S. PARHAM	3 1/2" GAUGE JULIET "JACK"	03/05/2016
MR C. PHILLIPS	5" GAUGE FIREFLY 2-6-2	09/07/2014
MR E. PLAYFOOT	5" GAUGE 0-8-0 NETTA	07/04/2016
MR E. PLAYFOOT	5" GAUGE D CLASS 4-4-0	23/06/2016
MR E. PLAYFOOT	5" GAUGE MIDLAND SINGLE 4-2-2	02/06/2016
MR E. PLAYFOOT	5" GAUGE PEPPERCORN AI	26/05/2016
MR E. PLAYFOOT	5" GAUGE ROYAL SCOT	10/03/2016
MR E. PLAYFOOT	5" GAUGE SIMPLEX	16/03/2016
MR E. PLAYFOOT	5" GAUGE LNER BI 4-6-0	30/06/2016

MR J. PUTTIFER	5" GAUGE AJAX	21/08/2013
MR J. PUTTIFER	5" GAUGE SIMPLEX 0-6-0	23/03/2014
MR J. RULER	3 1/2" GAUGE 2-4-4 LUCKY 7	13/06/2016
MR J. RULER	3 1/2" GAUGE PORTER 2-6-0	12/08/2015
MR P. SHEPPARD	5" GAUGE LBSC PANSY 0-6-0T	12/07/2012
MR P. SHEPPARD	5" GAUGE LNER BI 4-6-0	28/08/2013
MR P. SHEPPARD	5" GAUGE PUG 0-4-0	11/04/2010
MR G. SPENCELEY	3" SCALE BURRELL TE	12/08/2015
MR G. SPENCELEY	5" GAUGE 0-4-2 LION	12/05/2016
MR G. SPENCELEY	5" GAUGE 0-6-2 ACHILLES	28/07/2015
MR G. SPENCELEY	5" GAUGE BRITANNIA	27/06/2016
MR G. SPENCELEY	5" GAUGE JONES GOODS 4-6-0	09/05/2016
MR K. SPENCELEY	KRAUSS NARROW GAUGE 0-4-0	10/09/2014
MR M. STARNES	5" GAUGE LMS 4-6-0 BLACK FIVE	04/04/2016
MR M. STARNES	5" GAUGE SIMPLEX	16/05/2016
MR P. STEPHENS	5" GAUGE 0-4-0 AJAX	04/05/2015
MR R. VANE	5" GAUGE FIREFLY	08/07/2015
MR J. WALKER	5" GAUGE POLLY 0-4-0	26/06/2016
MR B.L.WHITE	3 1/2" GAUGE JULIET 0-4-0T	24/09/2014
MR B.L.WHITE	5" GAUGE MERCHANT NAVY 4-6-2	21/07/2016

If you have a boiler on the above list that is no longer in use, please advise Martin Parham

To arrange a boiler test please contact two of the club boiler testers:

Dave Deller	01732 841194
Peter Kingsford	01233 712086
Martin Parham	01622 630298
Tom Parham	01634 254202
Edgar Playfoot	01892 722019
Bernard White	01634 841899

Below-left: Jack and the club loco on bank holiday Monday - S Parham

Below-right: Richard and his Class 2 with some very happy passengers also on bank holiday Monday - S Parham



# Public Running - Dave Deller

Public Running is every Sunday and bank holiday between March 27th and October 30th, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. I have been re-elected on to the committee this year and one of my responsibilities is the roster for public running. The last few years the response for duties has been poor, most of the work has been done by a few, some being asked on the day of running. It should be remembered that the revenue raised from public running is a large part of the clubs income, and also helps keep the very good relationship we enjoy with the public. To run the railway when giving public rides we need a traffic controller, a fare collector and someone to help with the loading of passengers, these jobs are not difficult and plenty of help and advice is available, you only have to ask. To date volunteers for traffic controller has been very good, we only need a few more, but we do need fare collectors and loaders. The roster is in the clubhouse or you can telephone most evenings on 01732 841194. I have always found that it is a most enjoyable afternoon, plenty of tea and cake, and a chance to meet and work with your fellow club members, therefore I am looking forward to seeing you all this summer.

## Do you e-mail?

Do you currently receive club e-mails? If not and you would like to, just send an e-mail to [secretary@maidstonemes.co.uk](mailto:secretary@maidstonemes.co.uk) and you will be added to the mailing list



Above: Drivers eye view on Easter Weekend, the start of public running for 2016 - S Parham

## Trollies

All numbered trollies are available for use with the exception of 14 and 15 as the brake needs attention before they can be used

## Newsletter Submissions

If anyone has any articles that they would like included in a future newsletter they can be sent to [luke.bridges@gmail.com](mailto:luke.bridges@gmail.com). An article can be anything of interest, not necessarily of an engineering topic, or trains or steam. As long as you find it an interesting topic, then I can be pretty sure that others will too. They can be of any length and picture or photos can be added as well. I will take care of any formatting so all that's down to you is the actual text and any photos.

Any submissions are gratefully received, even single photos or collections of photos that could be used can be sent in. Snippets of information you find useful, the odd joke (I've got some right odd jokes) are all hugely helpful when it comes to putting these newsletters together.

On that note, a huge thanks to those who have let me use their photos and or written bits to go in here, they really do save my fingers.

## Heritage Transport Show, Detling



Carrying on from my plea for submissions, next newsletter I will be looking for some photos from this years show at Detling in particular. This shot is from Martin of last years stand. Once again all gratefully received, and of course will be credited.



nd pieces....

## Suggestions?

If anyone has any suggestions for this newsletter, features you'd like to see, or general comments they can either be e-mailed to me, again at [luke.bridges@gmail.com](mailto:luke.bridges@gmail.com), you can catch me at the club on any Sunday I have free, or use the new suggestions box on the wall in the clubhouse.

## What's this?

I found this while googling around (don't ask for what!!) and came across this, its called a "Stanley #1 Odd Jobs" and was made between 1888 and the mid 1930's. Can anyone list all of its jobs?



Previous newsletters dating back to 1974 can be viewed online at [maidstonemes.co.uk](http://maidstonemes.co.uk)

# All change? Or not?

I was having a scan through some of the old newsletters for ideas and inspiration and came across this, the Chairmans report for 1995, printed 20 years ago in the Spring 1996 newsletter, written by Adrian. Has much changed since then?

Once again 1995 has been a successful year for Maidstone Model Engineering Society.

We have had a few new members join over the last year, some who have had projects on the go for years and some who are new to the hobby and are producing some outstanding work. It is very encouraging to see that our hobby is still on the increase but unfortunately not in the junior section!

Public running has also gone very well but as usual it is down to a small band of members who attend most weekends to do most of the work. The club does rely on public running to keep the subscriptions low and to provide for the facilities that are available to ALL members. I would therefore make a plea to everyone to try and make an effort to help out some weekends. Even if you do not have a loco capable of passenger hauling, there are still jobs that can be done in helping with trucks and passenger loading for example.

As I have said before , even if you can only make tea, please still attend whenever possible!!

The committee are fully aware of the problems caused by restricted access to the park but feel that the current arrangements are the only viable solution due to the VERY limited number of keys that have been made available to the society.

Whilst on the subject of public running, I would also like to stress the need for safety where the public are concerned. We have had a couple of instances last year where hot cinders have burned clothes and skin.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that people are becoming more litigious, so we must all take extra care in the forthcoming months.

The Friday night meetings have also been very well attended over the last year, with the Fish & Chip and Bits & Pieces nights being particularly popular events.

It can be a bit of a problem trying to provide a variety of entertainment for the Friday nights , so if anyone has any ideas for any future evenings please have a word with Sue or any other committee member.

Various club visits and other activities are arranged throughout the year but like public running days they are not normally well supported. Again I would urge members to make an effort and raise the profile of our society amongst other clubs as it can be very rewarding making new acquaintances at other venues.

Finally I would like to thank all members who have helped in maintaining the success of Maidstone Model Engineering Society over the last year and hope that 1996 will be as prosperous.



Above: Raising steam at Beechurst - A Bridges

Below: End of the day - T Parham



# MMES DIARY DATES 2016

Friday 1 April:	Club Night – Guest Speaker Alan Frith from Maidstone Borough Council
<b>Saturday 2 April:</b>	<b>MMES Stand at the Heritage Transport Show, Detling</b>
Wednesday 20 April:	Members Playtime Run
Sunday 1 May:	Charity Run in aid of a Cancer Charity
Friday 6 May:	The Annual Quiz, this year the Quizmaster is Andrew Hulse
Wednesday 18 May:	Members Playtime Run
Friday 3 June:	Evening Run & Fish & Chips £6
Wednesday 15 June:	Members Playtime Run
Friday 1 July:	Evening Run & Barbecue (bring own food; & barbecue if you have one)
Saturday 2 July:	The Peter Roots Family & Friends Day
Wednesday 20 July:	Members Playtime Run
Friday 5 August:	Evening Run, Pizza and Salad £3
Saturday 13 August:	M.M.E.S. Fish 'n' Chips Trip on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway
Wednesday 17 August:	Members Playtime Run
Thursday 18 August:	MENCAP Run 10-12
Thursday 25 August:	MENCAP Run 10-12
Friday 2 September:	Evening Run & Sausages, Spuds & Beans £3
Wednesday 21 September:	Members Playtime Run
Friday 7 October:	Bits & Pieces & Bring & Buy Evening with Crumpets & Tea

Friday Nights start around 7-30pm at the Clubhouse, evening runs a bit earlier.

Friday Evening Meetings are for members and associate members (their families), occasionally for members' friends, and for those who intend to join the society.

Donation minimum £1 per person for Friday evening meetings, unless otherwise stated for food if you are eating what is advertised for the Club Night.

Wednesday Playtime Runs generally start around 10-30am and finish early afternoons.

Events listed will only alter if an unforeseen situation means change is essential.

Some other dates that may interest you for your diaries in 2016:

Saturday May 7: Welling & D.S.M.E. Open Day

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 May: Model Engineering and Model Exhibition at Doncaster Race-course (in previous years held at Harrogate earlier in the month)

Saturday June 25: Gravesend M.M. & E.S. Invitation Day from 10am

Saturday June 25 – Sunday 26 June: Reading S.M.E. Open Weekend

Saturday 25 – Sunday 26 June: LittleLEC at South Cheshire MES

Saturday 2 July-Sunday 3 July: Guildford M.E.S. Ltd. 49<sup>th</sup> Model Steam Rally & Exhibition

Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 July: I.M.L.E.C. at Urmston & District M.E.S., Flixton, Manchester

Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 July: City of Oxford S.M.E. Dreaming Spires Rally

Saturday 6 August: North London Invitation Day (ex Pontins attendees)

Friday 19 August – Sunday 21 August: Bristol Model Engineering Exhibition, Thornbury Leisure Centre

Saturday 20 August – Sunday 21 August: Cambridge M.E.S. 2 Day Rally