



# MAIDSTONE MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY



*Don't worry, it's not vandalism this time... It is time for tea though...*



## WINTER 2014 / 2015

## NEWSLETTER

# M.M.E.S. Lunch at Grange Moor Hotel on Sunday

25<sup>th</sup> January 2015

*12.30 for 1.00 pm as usual // £20.00 pp (under 10's £11.00)*

***Menu choices & Payment to Pat Riddles by January Club Night (2nd)***

## Starters

Fresh Homemade Carrot & Cumin Soup

Classic Prawn & Crayfish Salad  
Served with Brown Bread & Butter  
& or

Cantaloupe Melon  
On a sea of Raspberry Coulis  
Caramelised Red Onion & Goats Cheese Tart

## Main Course

Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding

Roast Leg of Lamb in a Red Wine & Mint Gravy

Roast Leg of Pork with Crackling & Apple Sauce

**The above main courses are served with Roast Potato & 3 Vegetables**

Chicken & Asparagus Pie with New Potatoes & Vegetables

Cod & Chorizo Fish Cakes with Parsley Sauce, New Potatoes & Vegetables

Nut Roast with a Rich Tomato Coulis with Seasonal Vegetables

Cold Beef with Mixed Leaf Salad, Coleslaw & New Potatoes

## Desserts

Spiced Apple & Sultana Pie with Custard

Selection of Kentish Farmhouse Ice Cream, Vanilla Pod, Strawberry, Chocolate

Fresh Fruit Salad

Chocolate Salted Torte served with Clotted Cream

Eton Mess

A mix of broken meringue, cream, mixed berries, ice cream & strawberry coulis

Selection of British Cheese & Biscuits with Chutney

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Coffee or Tea

# Maidstone Model Engineering Society

## Winter 2014 / 2015 Newsletter

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### Editor's Spot

Well, it's that time of year again. Another year flown by, and I don't quite know where it's gone, but it certainly has been an eventful year. There was a little matter of a certain anniversary to celebrate for the society, and I think we did it justice with our open day as reported last time.

You should all have received a menu for the MMES lunch at the Grange Moor for 25th January thanks to Pat (menu on page 2 as a reminder). For those of you wishing to join us, please get your menu choice and payment to Pat by the 2nd January.

Quite often I get asked by a few people how Lochwood is coming on. Well I know it has taken me quite a while to get on with her, but I can now report that progress is being made, mainly thanks to the help of Richard Linkins. As I'm still quite an amateur at the whole engineering lark, his help has been gratefully received.

For many years a familiar sight at the park, the 64—65 year old Lochwood (if the records are right) was always going to be a challenge, what with all the rattling and clanking; and certainly whilst stripping her down, with the amount of wear that has been found I'm not surprised she made so much noise. I think it was definitely a case of take her apart before she fell apart!

So after a complete strip down, and now, with horn guides finally square, a start made on re-bushing the motion, there might be a chance of seeing a much quieter Lochwood at the park at some point next year. And once she's done, I have another project to complete—thanks to Spike. All good fun and practice.



*Just in case you'd forgotten what Lochwood looked like...*

As you may recall from my last newsletter, the club was planning to have a dinner on the Kent & East Sussex Railway as part of our anniversary celebrations, but due to the increased costs of this dinner, it has been decided to do something a little different.

Instead, I am arranging a little trip on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway. At 6.30 on the evening of Saturday 1st August, members are invited to join a specially chartered train at New Romney for a trip along the line to Dungeness, where, upon arrival we will be treated to a fish 'n' chip supper.

One of our newer members, Stewart Christensen who is a driver on the RH&DR has volunteered to drive the train for us, and then of course join us for the meal. The train will be carrying an exclusive commemorative anniversary headboard, which will be displayed in the clubhouse after the run.

We can have up to 64 people on board—the train would take more but this number is so that it is manageable for the catering at Dungeness. The price for this evening is £25 per person, and this includes travel, fish and chips and a drink.

For those of you interested in joining us for what should be a very enjoyable evening, please let me know as soon as you can. You can either email me; [andrewmmes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrewmmes@hotmail.co.uk), speak to me at the park, or telephone or text me; 07792229553.



In other news.... Jack Ruler has been going through our set of Engineering in Miniatures. We are missing some volumes between the set the club was given and when we took up a subscription. The missing volumes are Volume 23 (July 2001 onwards) to Volume 27 (ending June 2006). There is also an EIM missing from our set which is January 2013, Volume 34 Number 7. If anyone can help in sourcing these missing volumes we would be very grateful.

As the front cover of this issue suggests, there is quite a lot of work going on at the park this winter. It has been decided that the track is to be replaced, as it is almost life-expired.

New track had been sourced and was stored in the trolley store on some of the trolley bogies, awaiting the moment when it could be unwrapped and put to its new use. In fact, there were comments that the track was banging on the trolley store doors eager to be let out.

As soon as public running finished (well the following week anyway), a few of our members began ripping up track. A good start has been made, and as of Sunday 7th December the track gangs had laid the new track almost to the second bend after the bridge—this is about the point where the track had to be replaced during the year after some thieving urchins decided they could make better use it.

For those of you worried that we will not have a complete circuit to run on Boxing Day, don't worry, the new track will be connected temporarily to the old in order for us to run. After that, then it is back to ripping up and replacing, weather permitting.

If you can spare any time on a Wednesday or Sunday to help out and join one of the track gangs, your help will be gratefully received. We would very much like to have the track completely renewed before the start of the new running season.

Some smaller lengths of the old track will be available for members to take away with a donation to club funds.

It's not just your help required for track laying, there is always something that you can help with at the park, especially on running days. A new passenger duty rota will be placed on the notice board in the clubhouse over the next few weeks, so if you have a Sunday afternoon spare, please add your name to the list where you can. Thanks.

So, it just remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope to see some of you at the park on Boxing Day, and even more of you with or without locos throughout 2015, and fingers crossed I might have one too...

*Andrew*



## The Humphrey Pump

### Or: What Dumps 1.25 Million Gallons per Hour

In the River Lands of the Murray of South Australia on the lonely road to Loxton from Swan Reach we saw a car on the side of the road with the bonnet up, with a back end of someone in trouble, or so we thought. We pulled over to see if help was in need, but were told that he had just changed the battery as it had gone dead again as usual. It apparently had been happening since he had had the car 12 years ago. Guess what - it was a Volvo! He then told us he only lived just up the road in a town which only has half of its total population since the railway had pulled out. Before the railway pulled out it had a population of two hundred people (a big town for Down Under).

I asked if anything was left of the railway, but he told me all trace was gone; if I should be going to Cobdogla there was a Humphrey Pump that I should have a look at. We wished him well and carried on to Loxton to see how high the river was since the rains. We were here two years ago after an 8 year drought and the mighty River Murray was no more than a trickle. The river, which had now come over the banks, had now closed some roads due to flooding. What a sight to see, but the Yabbies are doing well - what's a Yabbie? It's a small fresh water crayfish (good for eating).

A visit to the Info Centre told us there was a thing called a Humphrey Pump at Cobdogla but it was only open on odd days such as 4 days in January, none in Feb, 1 in March, April and July and 2 - yes 2, in June. It was very fluid and may or may not be open. As usual we weren't likely to be there on an "Open Day". We were at the mercy of the lady at the Info Centre who kindly made a phone call to someone in the know (and we all know how in the know is better than knowing) who gave her a number for us to call to speak to a person who really knows - John Reed.



We called John and a distinct English accent answered the phone. That was a surprise to begin with as we reckoned we were at the back of beyond to nowhere.

After introducing myself, and showing an interest in the Humphrey Pump, John asked if we would like to visit said pump after lunch. So at 13.30 (agreed time) we stood at the closed gates only to see a train pulling rolling stock arrive at the other side of the

gates. John opened the gate saying, “come on in and have a train ride” on their 2 foot gauge line round the works and into the vine growing wine fields, so, with being introduced to Merv Dunk (President), John Reed being their Treasurer ( just like being back home), Merv is also the engine driver for the afternoon and John the Guard. They had opened up the Cobdogla Irrigation & Steam Museum just for us to enjoy and see what team work has done since they took over the running of the water works site from the S.A. Water Corporation as a major project of their Sesquicentenary in South Australia in 1986.

They are all volunteers and have a fine collection of goodies, such as 1920 Fowler class B6 Stump Pulling Traction Crane Engine works No. 14852, 1920 Fowler class Z7 Ploughing Engine works No 16660, also a 1923 Crossley 23 h.p. gas engine driving overhead line shafting and no forgetting the Blackstone mill engine and many others.

But the Loco for the 2 foot gauge is a Bagnall Saddle Tank loco made in Stafford, England (sadly oil fired due to fire hazards, being in the driest state of Aus.). John is thrilled that they now have this engine, as its working life was in and around the area and it’s now back doing what it does best - working for a living.

The working life included Bagnall 1801, introduced to Long Tunnel mining co. Walhalla, Victoria 1906 running as a 2ft.6 gauge engine, before moving to Geelong for a sewage pipe system. Thence to the Glenelg breakwater project (ill fated) in South Australia, regauged to 2ft for use on the Loveday –Cobdogla Railway, to assist Kerr Stuart works 740 Skylark now running at Redcliffs Victoria. Hume Pipe Co. did not own the engine; it was under the control of the Irrigation Commission. It was parked and left to rust at the Cobdogla Pumping station, after which it was then taken to a Public Park on the Lake foreshore at Barmera for children to play out their dreams of being an Engine Driver.

The Loco was then restored at Ottoway Workshops of the E. & W. S. Being completely restored by engineering apprentices steam was raised on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1988 preparatory for the official commissioning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1988. Genesee and Wyoming donated the complete Loxton Rail yard (2kms) to the Society, including 5 sets of points all standard gauge, 60 lbs rail.

But for me the gem of the whole afternoon was being handed over to Merv Dunk for the talk on the Humphrey Pump, the only working one left in the world (I’m told we have 3 in Britain which no long work). This pumped water from the river up to a working height for irrigation without the aid of pistons/ vanes or screws but just by using water valves gas/air valves to move some **6 tons** of water into the out flow channel (2 strokes per cycle) which works out at around **1.25 million gallons per hour**. What vast sums these are. Quite mind blowing. Now is that a lot of water?



The name plate stated:

BEARDMORE HUMPHREY PUMP  
DESIGNED & CONSTRUCTED By  
WILLIAM BEARDMORE Co. Ltd.  
LONDON AND GLASGOW

But John tells me this should not read like this, as Beardmore only made the Castings and Mr Humphrey had done all the hard work of finishing/putting together and getting the whole thing working, so the main credit should be, and go, to Humphreys' name.



*This is the gas bag which feeds the cylinder from the gas making (from coke) plant outside the main building*



*The gas exhauster shield above the main valve work*



*This is the top of the valve set with outside spring. These are so soft that they can be pushed down with one finger*

Now the tech bit:

You have a J shaped tube and block/seal off the lower bit of the J with a lid. Put in a couple of gas valves and a couple for air just for good measure and plug any other holes up you have left with a spark plug you have laying around from some tractor or lorry. Next, fill with water from the bottom and you have an air/gas chamber at the sealed end. Now all you do is fire the plug with a bolt of electricity and the gas goes bang. Next thing your water goes right up the long high end of the J pipe to reach new heights and as quick as a flash you let water out of the side and into to your fields or get a very heavy shower, all 6 tons of it. You now have about 7 seconds before it recharges and the next water delivery is on its way. This is due to the water now having a see saw effect within the tube and recharges ever other stroke. How about that for an easy pump?

For the real techs out there:

1. There are 448 butterfly valves in the lower part of the pump to admit the water; the reason for this many valves and not just a couple of real big ones are to reduce the hammer effect that would happen with the amount of water that is on the move.
2. The inlet pipe to the chamber is 5' 6" in diameter.
3. This is 16 feet below ground level along with the butterfly valves.

Capacity: rated at 1.393 million gallons per hour.

Fuel is produced in a gas producer from charcoal = 16% hydrogen, 33% carbon monoxide and 51% nitrogen, which is made on site.

The top of the lower part of the J is the head where the working end is made up of the following:

Head: 6 x main air inlet valves, 6 x gas inlet valves, 6 x auxiliary air inlet valves (which work in conjunction with gas inlets for a gas /air mixture).

12 x exhaust valves, and 8 x spark plugs (provision for 12 but only 8 are used when under irrigation supply).

I should add Merv was in charge of water supply at one stage, equally they still have two operators who used to regularly operate the pump and still do. The Humphrey Pump operates 4 times a year and on special occasions for interested groups.

In conclusion, anyone visiting South Australia should make a point of looking at this wonderful pump and my heartfelt thanks go to John and Merv for their dedication and devotion to maintaining an historic work of art for others to enjoy. Should any wish to find out more go to [vic@barmeratourism.com.au](mailto:vic@barmeratourism.com.au)

That's all for now.

Dave 'n' Bev Fenner, written when Down Under. *(Dave is a former MMES member.)*

For those of you interested in more than just the Engineering Club, there is a Mote Park Fellowship, which allows people to become involved in different aspects of the park. The following is a recent communication from the Fellowship...

Hi All

Mote Park Fellowship Task days

Would you like to join the Mote Park Fellowship and help protect and improve Mote Park

You are welcome to attend any of our practical conservation task days in the Park.

**We meet every Wednesday starting at 9:30am and we work till 1:00pm. Additionally we meet one Saturday each month starting at 9:30am and work till 1:00pm.** The dates for Saturday mornings will be advertised one month in advance.



**The Upcoming Saturday volunteer task days are**

**January 3rd 2015**

Please meet at the volunteer office next to the café.

In the next few Months we will be opening a gift shop and this will be managed and staffed by volunteers so we will be needing plenty of help with this.

We have a number of other volunteering opportunities available including, Administration. Stewarding events. Assisting in the organisation and delivery of fun events and activities including play days and arts and crafts activities.



If you would like to have a greater involvement in the team than the above conservation task days please come along and we will be happy to discuss this further. Or you are welcome to contact me direct to discuss your interests in our volunteering opportunities.

Mote Park Fellowship working to conserve, improve and create a better environment.

Regards

**Alan Frith**

Audience Development officer

Parks and Leisure

Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ

t 01622 602119 m 07710 608730 w [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

**Like us on Facebook to get the latest information on Mote Park activities, events and volunteering - [www.facebook.com/motepark](https://www.facebook.com/motepark)**

***Proof-reading is a dying art, wouldn't you say?***

**Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter**

*This one I caught in the SGV Tribune the other day and rang the Editorial Room to ask who wrote this. It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible!!! They put in a correction the next day.*

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**Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says**

*Really? Ya think?*

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**Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jay-walkers**

*Now that's taking things a bit far!*

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**Panda Mating Fails; Veterinary surgeon Takes Over**

*What a guy!*

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**Miners Refuse to Work after Death**

*Good-for-nothing, lazy so-and-so's! They must be in a union!*

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**Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant**

*See if that works any better than a fair trial!*

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**War Dims Hope for Peace**

*I can see where it might have that effect!*

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**If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile**

*Ya think?!*

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**Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures**

*Who would have thought!*

## **Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide**

*They may be on to something!*

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## **Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges**

*You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?*

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## **Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge**

*He probably IS the battery charge!*

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## **New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group**

*Weren't they fat enough?!*

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## **Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft**

*That's what he gets for eating those beans!*

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## **Children Make Nutritious Snacks**

*Do they taste like chicken?*

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## **Local High School Drop-outs Cut in Half**

*Chainsaw Massacre all over again!*

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## **Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors**

*Boy, are they tall!*

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## **And the winner is...**

## **Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead**

*Did I read that right?*

## **A few funnies...** (thanks to Sue)

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"

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### **DID NOAH FISH?**

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

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### **MOSES AND THE RED SEA**

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

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### **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

## Special Birthdays



Although belatedly, I'm sure many of you would like to wish Elsie Gurr a very happy 99th birthday. She turned 99 years young on 17th November. Elsie still regularly visits the club on a Sunday, thanks to Sue and her carer.

Congratulations to Reg Holdstock on his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday which he celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Sue went to visit him at his nursing home, and he sends his love to everyone at the park.



## MMES DIARY DATES 2014/2015

Friday 26 December:	Boxing Day Run
Friday 02 January:	Club Night: Natter night (just in case of any sore heads from the New Year's celebrations, thought best to keep it quiet)
Sunday 25 January:	MMES lunch at the Granger Moor Hotel
Friday 06 February:	Club Night: Quiz night with Roger Vane
Friday 06 March:	Club Night: MMES AGM
Sunday 29 March:	First public running day
Friday 03 April:	Video night
Wednesday 15 April:	Members playtime run
Friday 01 May:	Guest speaker (tba)
Saturday 02 May:	MMES visit to the Sutton club (via the pub)
Wednesday 20 May:	Members playtime run
Friday 05 June:	Evening run and Fish n' Chips
Wednesday 17 June:	Members playtime run
Friday 03 July:	Evening run and BBQ
Wednesday 15 July:	Members playtime run
Friday 07 August:	Evening run and pizza night
Saturday 01 August:	Fish and chip Anniversary run on RH&DR
Wednesday 19 August:	Members playtime run
Friday 04 September:	Evening run and BBQ
Friday 02 October:	Bring and buy evening with toasted tea cakes
Sunday 25 October:	Last public running day

Friday Nights start around 7-30pm at the Clubhouse, evening runs a bit earlier.  
Donation minimum £1 per person for Friday evening meetings, feel free to be more generous.  
Friday evening meetings are for members and associate members (their families), occasionally for members' friends, and for those who intend to join the society.  
Wednesday Playtime Runs now start around 10-30am and generally finish early afternoons.  
Events will only alter if an unforeseen situation means change is essential.  
The Club's website is at [www.maidstonemes.co.uk](http://www.maidstonemes.co.uk)

*Some other dates that may interest you for your diaries in 2015.*

*16—18 January: London Model Engineering Exhibition, Alexandra Palace, London.  
8—10 May: Harrogate Model Engineering Exhibition  
15—18 October: Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition*

Keep an eye out in the clubhouse for diary updates.