



# West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers Newsletter

Issue No. 19 June/July 2021



## Calendar

### May

**21<sup>st</sup>** – Friday weekly club track meetings resume (10.00 – 12:30). Club house remains closed.

### June

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Friday weekly meeting with club house re-open for use for regular use again.

### July

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

**17<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

### August

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Club Steam Up & BBQ. 10am-4pm.

**21<sup>st</sup>** – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

# News

## West Wilts Society of Model Engineers the Way Forward

*By Pete Brougham*

Hello members, I am writing this to let you all know what your committee has planned as the way forward coming out of lockdown and over the next few years.

To start, after May 17<sup>th</sup> when rules should allow groups of up to 30 to meet outdoors the club site will be open for use by the members 6 days a week. Wednesdays is the regular day every week for members to come and help with maintenance and projects. No booking will be necessary. Friday morning social gatherings will resume, but the Club House will remain CLOSED at all times. Please socially distance, and wear a face covering if you do wish to. If you are not happy with a situation you may find yourself in just walk away. If you can't walk away (because it is your model) then please politely ask someone to back away.

The main gate has a combination lock. There is a combination lock key box on the front toilet wall and the side gate has a combination lock. The current combinations are as below.

Please ensure that all gates and doors are locked before you vacate the site and the toilet keys are in the box and the box locked, and all combinations are scrambled.

After June 21<sup>st</sup> near normal service should be resumed. The club site will continue to be open for use by the members 6 days a week, with Wednesdays for members to come and help with maintenance and projects. No booking will be

necessary. Email notice of site closure for steaming will be given should a working party be needed to carry out engineering works on the site (No, we will not be laying on train replacement buses!!!!)

Friday morning social gatherings will continue but the club house will also now be open as usual. The first and third Saturdays will restart and the club house will also be open, subject to a roster of club house key holders in place.

Obviously, all of these arrangements are dependent on government rules and timescales.

Please note that the track will be closed on the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> July for a birthday party. We will need some volunteers to man the kitchen and help with rides. Please email The Secretary [secretary@wwsme.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wwsme.org.uk)

### Members Steam Up

Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup> is a date to put in your diary and keep free for a club steam up. A little later than I would like, but everyone wants to get way on a break as soon as they are able, and I can't blame you. Please bring along anything you have to steam up. 16mm, 7/8 scale, G scale, Gauge 1, 3 1/2" Gauge, 5" Gauge, Live steam or electric, Traction Engines or rollers of any size. There will be a BBQ with a selection of salads and cold meats for lunch, with tea and cake available in the afternoon. Please email the secretary, [secretary@wwsme.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wwsme.org.uk) if you wish to attend with numbers as we need to know how many we are catering for. The BBQ will be paid for by the club, and of course donations on the day will be very welcome.



## **Club maintenance and projects**

Since our virtual AGM in April your committee has been working very hard to collate all the projects and their costs that we as a club committed to before lock down took hold.

The oldest container was leaking badly with part of the end wall near the ground rusted away completely. We had spent money on it over the years without success. A new used container was purchased at a cost of £2436. This is now on site and being fitted out by volunteers in a similar fashion to the previous container.



The projects include refurbishment of the toilet block. The gents will be modified to have a WC stall and a urinal. The floor will be replaced in the gents, both doors replaced, and the veranda repaired and modified. This has been costed @ £1000 for materials. This will keep us on the right side of health and safety when we have public on site.

The ground level track will continue to be constructed and laid with the materials we have in hand. We may spend around £300 in this year on sundries which will give us ground level from the

lift out section of the raised track by the car park around to behind the workshop. The completed circuit will probably not be finished until next year due to time and budget constraints. It is estimated that there is approximately a further £750 required to complete the ground level circuit and if there are any members who would like to donate towards this the club would be very grateful.

A project to improve the unloading of 5" Locos by removing fence and replacing with a wide gate to give a one way system has been costed @ £700. This will be postponed until the ground level is taken through the steaming bays and the bays moved.



A portable Children's model railway is under construction, with donations of track and various items from members. Some materials have also been purchased by a member in 2019, but he has not yet claimed the money back. This was previously approved by the committee at the time for £300, and this will be reimbursed by the club.

A project to build a scenic 16mm railway was given the go ahead in 2019 with a budget of £6000 over 6 years, with not more than £2000 to be spent

in any one year. This is planned to go ahead this year, but no more than £1500 being spent this financial year. The budget will be reviewed from time to time but certainly on an annual basis.

Unfortunately the club Simplex boiler has failed its steam test and as it was steamed out of its frames another potential problem was spotted. The boiler is 44 years old. Cost of a new boiler would be £2350. Many problems regarding the Simplex were discussed at a committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May, not forgetting that two club members had give up a lot of time and effort to put it back together. Regrettably, it was decided that a new commercially made boiler could not be afforded at this time. The Simplex may be down, but not out. The plan is now to build a new boiler as a project.

The subjects of grants and their availability arose at our committee meeting. Grants always come with many provisos. The project has to be for a new item/project and not historical. I had a brilliant senior moment, and if this idea materialises it could be the best acquisition since we bought the Warco Turret Mill, and that is to apply for a grant for a new Polly Engineering locomotive. A possible grant source has been identified and the committee agreed to pursuing the grant funded purchase a new Polly 5" gauge Molly Anne. 0-6-0 saddle tank. Initially to educate in loco construction. Moving on to using it at events to give rides to raise funds and to teach driving live steam.

## **And finally....**

The secretary has informed us that he has received a renewal notice for our insurance. Half of everyone's annual membership fee goes towards paying our insurance, equating to approximately £25 each. The committee felt that we should make members aware of this as it is our largest single annual cost, but also a key benefit that is not often discussed.

As you can see everything is not doom and gloom. We need many things to help this club to move forward from the Covid pandemic which has put

things on hold for the past eighteen months. We need you to volunteer where you can, so please contact any committee member. If you can, financial help with the projects above would be more than welcome, however small. Please contact me for bank details or send me a cheque 156 Boreham Road, Warminster BA12 9HB. My email is: [chairman@wwsme.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wwsme.org.uk) .

I look forward to seeing you at the club soon or on 7<sup>th</sup> August. This is your club and the committee does its very best for you. The pandemic may be in a retreat but sadly it has not gone away, and probably will not for some time. Please respect other people's views and wishes, be safe,

Kind Regards,

***Pete Brougham***

Chairman

