



West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers Newsletter

Issue No.29 February/March 2023



Calendar

February

4th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

15th – Wednesday Evening Talk.

Crofton Beam Engine Renovation. 7:30pm.

18th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

March

4th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

18th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

April

1st – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

15th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

16th – Public open day at WWSME club site with the Wessex Stationary Engine Club.



News

Presentation of Crofton Beam Engine Restoration

On Wednesday 15th February at the WWSME club house we are very privileged to have Dr Mike Rodd of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust presenting our Wednesday evening talk. The presentation will be on the Crofton Beam Engine Restoration.



As many of you will know Crofton houses the oldest working beam engine in the world, an 1812 Boulton & Watt and an 1846 Harveys of Hayle pumping water to the summit level of the Kennet & Avon Canal.



If you can, we really would encourage you to attend the WWSME clubhouse for this event as it would be great to see you for what promises to be a fascinating Wednesday Evening Talk. Arrive 7pm for the talk to begin at 7:30pm.

“Mind The Gap”

The 5” ground level track is now tantalisingly close to being completed with just a short ‘gap’ in the double track passing loop remaining.



After so much work from so many of our dedicated members over many years, 2023 will be the year when we can officially open the new 5” ground level track. We will then finally realise the results of this large project and the huge new potential it brings to our club site along with the existing 3½” & 5” elevated track, existing 16mm (SM32 & SM45) track and new 16mm track under construction.



Looking After Our Machines and Tools

By Jon Clarke

Following the festive period members returned to the workshop on Wednesday 4th January to find our machines in the workshop had gone rusty.



This has happened in quite a short period of time, and thankfully wasn't too severe. Chris Wiggins has kindly volunteered his time to rectify this and has now removed the rust and cleaned up the machines, and our thanks go to Chris for doing this.



We do request that when our machines are used by members that they are cleaned down and then lightly oiled where appropriate to prevent this from occurring. The workshop is not heated and therefore condensation is going to occur, and this is worse during the winter months.



Please can members be mindful of this and ensure that a suitable coating of oil is present on the machines once they finish using them.

Many thanks. Jon Clarke, Vice-Chair