



# West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers Newsletter

Issue No.33 November / December 2023

## Calendar

### November

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Auction night. 6pm. (Bidding starts at 8pm)

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

16mm Indoor Running.

**15<sup>th</sup>** – Building "Russell", a 16mm scratch built coal fired locomotive By Jon Guilbert 7:30pm.

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

\*16mm Indoor Running subject to sufficient registered interest.

### December

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

16mm Indoor Running.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Santa Specials - Public Open Day (volunteers required) 2pm-5pm.

**6<sup>th</sup>** – Signalling and some of the train crashes that changed it by Jon Clarke 7:30pm.

**9<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Dinner at the Horse & Groom, Alfred Street, Westbury BA13 3DY 12 for 12:30.

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

\*16mm Indoor Running subject to sufficient registered interest.

### January

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

16mm Indoor Running.

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

\*16mm Indoor Running subject to sufficient registered interest.





# News

## Club Auction Night - Wednesday 1st November

*By Jon Lawes*

On Wednesday the 1st of November we are holding a members auction. Sell your surplus tools, castings, books or even models. Buy those elusive tools or potential new projects! Bring along your model engineering items from 6pm; the club will be open after 6pm to enable potential buyers to view. Entries close at 7.45pm, the bidding starts at 8.00pm.

If you are selling smaller items or lots of very similar items, please be aware that we may combine them into one lot to save time. The club will be requesting a donation of 10% of final sale value from the seller per item or 5% if the individual item sale price exceeds £50. Maximum donation request will not exceed £20.

Donation will be requested on the night via contactless card payment. The transaction of sold goods and money are the sole responsibility of the buyer and seller.

Any unsold items remain the responsibility of the seller and must be removed from the Clubhouse after the auction.

## Garden Railway Working Party

*By Barry Statham & David Allan*

This is to thank all WWSME members who attended the working party on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October. This was extremely successful with all the remaining timber decking applied to the garden railway (apart from steam up area), using

a total of about 150 metres of decking board and 1500 screws!



It was extremely gratifying to see so many members there, and the effort being put in despite some miserable weather at times.



Thank you again, and regards Barry Statham and David Allan.





# Holt Live Steam Models and Train Show

The annual Holt Live Steam Models & Train Show was held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. It was a fantastic day seeing the happy faces of visitors of all ages young and old.





# 16mm Indoor Running

*By Jon Clarke*

This winter we will be holding indoor running sessions with our dual gauge 16mm portable track set up in the clubhouse on the first Saturday of the month, starting in November.

During the last couple of winters seasons interest in this has dropped sadly, which is why we've decided to reduce regular running to once a month. However, if members would like to also run on the third Saturday of the month, as per previous years, please email [membership@wwsme.org.uk](mailto:membership@wwsme.org.uk) to let Barry know. If we have sufficient interest we will then organise an additional running day. We would love to have members enjoying the facilities and social aspects of our club as much as possible, so please come along.



# Christmas Meal

*By Mike Pepler*

Now is the time of the year that we look forward to the Club's Annual Festive Meal.

The Venue this year is the Horse & Groom in Alfred Street, Westbury BA13 3DY and the date is Saturday 9th December 2023. The Meal will be served at 12.30, with arrivals to commence at midday. There is good parking available and you and your partner are invited to attend.

If you would like to attend, please reply to [secretary@wwsme.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wwsme.org.uk)

We request that you respond promptly as we need to confirm numbers etc. by the 23rd November together with a deposit of £5 per person to the Club. Balance payable on the day.

We look forward to hearing back from you.





# My Eye Hurts

*By Peter Pearson*

PPE when grinding - why bother?

The other day I was using a slitting disc in the 4½" angle grinder to open up the expansion gap between railway track sections. I was working outside and only needed to use the grinder for 30 seconds, so it was hardly worth putting on goggles over my glasses, or was it? A small spark blew around the corner of my glasses and landed in my eye. No big deal, just a bit of grit in my eye. Later that afternoon it was annoying me so I tried to rub it out, pulled the eyelids up and down, flushed it out with an eyebath etc. but it wouldn't budge. No worries I thought – it'll probably work itself out.

That evening I was talking to an optician friend of mine and just mentioned in passing that I had a bit stuck in my eye. She said "YOU MUST GO TO A&E OR BRISTOL EYE HOSPITAL FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING". Okay, okay I thought, keep your hair on! But being a good boy I phoned the eye hospital next morning and they told me to expect up to a 4 hour wait! So I went to South Bristol walk-in centre instead. They put some anaesthetic drops in my eye and then told me it would sting a bit. When I came back down off the ceiling he put some more drops in then wiped the steel fragment off my eyeball with a cotton bud. "Ah" he said ominously, "there's a rust ring left on the surface of the eyeball. We need to get that off or there is a risk of ulceration and bigger problems developing. I'll just scrape it off the eyeball with the end of a needle". Which he did. And then he wiped the eyeball swarf away with another cotton bud. Which was OK at the time, but not a lot of laughs once the anaesthetic wore off.

I now have to put Chloramphenicol antibiotic ointment in my eye every 4 hours, and I'll just share a couple of extracts from the side-effects leaflet with you:

- Burning or stinging in or around the eye
- Difficulty in breathing
- Unconsciousness
- Very occasionally, these effects cannot be reversed and have been fatal

Oh, nothing much to worry about there then!

So the moral of this story is always wear proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) – it saves time in the long run and hurts less.

