

# TIVVY BUMPER

The newsletter of the Tiverton & District  
Model Engineering Society

Spring 2014



## Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of 'Tivvy Bumper' - the re-vamped newsletter of our society.

It is intended that we will publish this newsletter twice a year, in the spring and autumn, and the front cover will feature the last six 'Photos of the Month' from our web site.

You should be aware that the club web site is the 'go-to' place for information about the society, dates of meetings and presentations, steam-up days, as well as a bulletin board where members can share experiences, share information about events, etc. So if you have access to the Internet (or someone in your family does), have a look.

The web site address is:

<http://www.tivertonmodelengineering.org.uk/>

On the front cover of this edition, you will see Simon discussing his LE Velocette with Tim, Vic driving his 'Polly' on the track, me driving my 'Rob Roy', Bob and Richard with the latter's 4" McLaren traction engine, Nigel with a 'Heilan Lassie' at the summer barbecue, and finally, the backhead of Mike's excellent 14xx.

We are always on the look out for photographs to feature on our web site, as well as articles for the newsletter - so please contact any of the committee if you have anything suitable.

By the time you read this, the Open Day will have taken place, and we hope to have an article about it, complete with plenty of pictures, for the next edition.

Steve

## **Chairman's Chatter**

This is the first of what I hope will be many “Chairman’s Chatter” for the club newsletter. Let’s get the boring bit out of the way first. What I write are my views and comments and do not necessarily represent those of the club’s committee.

I am writing this towards the end of April enjoying the spring blossom and weather. Looking back, we had a very nice running day at Worthy Moor on April 5th with a very good turnout. It was also the first time I was able to test the signalling system this year. I have now added connectors to the control panel to enable it to be removed in the event of any problems. I have also added a labelled cable termination board below the panel, which provides an interface between the external cables and control panel. The labelling will assist with finding any problems. At one time we had 4 locos (electric and steam) running and apart from a couple of teething problems the system ran well. The problems were a dry solder joint (my fault) on signal 3, and a sticky track switch on signal 7. Fortunately I had my battery powered soldering iron to sort out the dry joint and a squirt of silicon lubricant for the sticky switch. Discussing the running with those members present, we agreed that a total of 4 locos is the maximum that should be on the track at any one time. Anymore and we get an M25 traffic jam!

A couple more things on the signalling system. I have now secured all the connector posts and produced a guide on setting up and using the system when running. I will laminate a copy of the guide to leave at Worthy Moor. Hopefully the system is now complete. I have some concerns regarding some of the track switches, but will address these should problems arise.

I still have to pinch myself when I arrive at Worthy Moor. It is a wonderful facility in a stunning location. I was a member of a couple of engineering clubs in London before I moved to beautiful Devon. Only one club had a track and this did not compare to Worthy Moor. Of

course this is not down to luck, but due to the vision and dedicated work of Tiverton members past and present. There is always a great atmosphere on Wednesdays and I would love to see more members there, even if not able to work.

All the best Adrian

## **Secretary's Scribblings**

Annual General Meeting March 2014

It was a steady-as-she-goes AGM this year. Your committee was returned unopposed, and I for one hope that my communications let everyone know what we are doing and why. A couple of long running tasks have now been completed: the signalling system at Worthy Moor is now totally up and running in its electronic form, the original system using relays having been superseded. The creature comforts up at the track have not been neglected either. The expanded shed is up and running with its posh loo, using grey water for a flush.

Also we have finally put our heads above the parapet with North Devon Council – they know we exist! So far this has not cost us any money, but this might not last for ever.

Looking over the year, it seems as if we went out and about a fair bit. We have a talks organiser, Graham Bristow, who does a grand job, but every now and again, I pick up on ideas for a visit. When this happens, it's up to me to do the organising. I hope nobody minds being chivvied to answer!

I would like to think the year ahead is a bit more than steady-as-she-goes.

John.

## **Treasurer's Musings**

Balancing the books is always a tough thing as I don't want to recommend a huge increase in subs each year, but also need to keep income up to cover the overheads such as they are, which rarely stay the same price! All the Officers do a lot of work for the Club with little thought to claiming recompense from the Club and we always try and but things we need as economically as possible. We choose to insure the fabric at Worthy Moor as a prudent measure in case a fire wiped out some of the sheds, but as they are wooden, the premium is more than if they were of standard brick construction. Electricity costs never stay the same but we are not profligate with it.

I had to recommend an increase of £3 this year as we have had the same level of subs for the preceding 5 years, and 5 years before that. I have listened to some comments from members and will (if you elect me your Treasurer again next year) be suggesting a small increase most years rather than a £2, £3 or £5 jump once every 5 years.

Thank you to everyone who has renewed already and if you have yet to do so, please send me your subs as soon as you can. Another way to keep costs down is to get new members, and we as a club are all getting older - so it would be a good idea to consider asking younger people along who can help with jobs up at Worthy Moor.

Chris