

NORWICH & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

Founded 1933

Incorporated 1967

eBULLETIN

MAY 2017



What's this?

See inside for more...

DIRECTORS MEETINGS – RELOCATED TO LAST PAGE

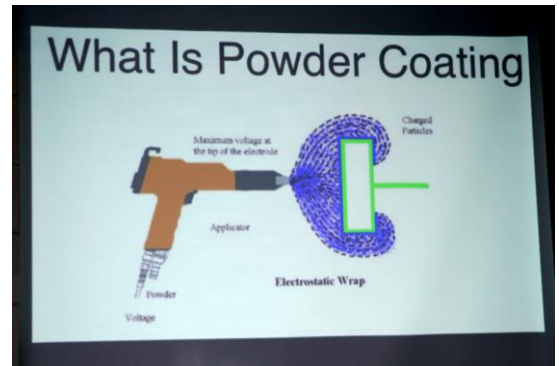


Cover story

Powder Coating for Model Engineers - Brian Parker

Brian had travelled over from Peterborough complete with his demonstration powder coating kit to give us a very interesting evening in the Club House. Once set up the kit included spray booth, oven, projector and slides he was able to show us the full story of powder coating.

He explained how powder coating was now a major industrial paint finishing system. The coating can be applied to metals and non-metallic materials such as plastic. It's a tough finish and hard to chip or scratch.

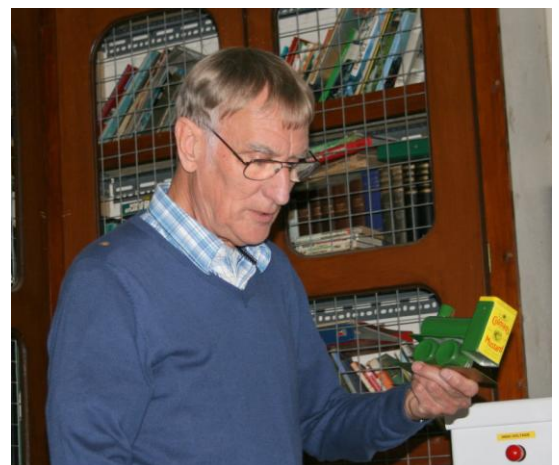


The powder coating is based on a polymer resin combined with pigments and other additives. This is sprayed by a gun which also applies an electrostatic charge to the powder at high voltage. The powder is then attracted to the object being painted as this is grounded to earth. The object receives a very even coating of powder and is then placed in the oven where the coating melts, is cured and hardens (20 minutes for the tin used).



For a high quality durable finish the object must be very clean and dry to prevent the finish peeling.

Various items were passed round including the tin just painted green.



We were also shown a steam engine model which had been constructed from steel-tin-brass-copper-plastic and glass bottles wheels glued together with silicone this had been masked so only half was painted.

When masking metal foil was used as tape, this would melt and burn in the oven, also soft solder would melt if used. We also viewed a video of the whole operation and photos of the large spray booth and oven he had built in his own workshop, so big his wife could get into the oven. So when Brian is next running in the park do admire the paint work on his engine Maid Marion. *As recounted by Mike Fordham.*



BOILER TESTING

A service for members – by arrangement.

Contact the Chairman.

A visit to Halesworth for their anniversary open day

We travelled to their track and club house on a lovely sunny Sunday on the 9th April. On arrival we were soon made very welcome by the Chairman Philip Hall. We then joined up with other NDSME members and other familiar faces.

I'm sorry that I didn't take a notebook with me to record details of the models in steam, but after a splendid buffet lunch provided by the society ladies I counted at least ten locomotives in steam including a 5" gauge LMS Jubilee, a 7 ¼" Romulus, a Victorian type engine complete with wooden lagging around the boiler, similar to the Titfield Thunderbolt. On the roadway there were numerous traction engines and road locomotives of larger scales busily running around in the sunshine.

After a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate forty years of Halesworth MES, it was time to leave with a big thank you to HDMES for making us all very welcome. *As recalled by Roger Montgomery*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that the NDSMEs insurance policy does NOT cover any members' locos or assets stored at Eaton Park. Members should ensure that their own insurances cover this eventuality, should they wish to store any locos, rolling stock or other items at the Society premises.

Food for thought...

75% of NDSME members are now aged 64 or above.

10% are aged 40 or below

Median age is now 68.5

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE MEMBERS AREA?

ALL MEMBERS OF THE NDSME MAY GAIN ACCESS TO THE PRIVATE MEMBERS AREA OF THE NDSME WEBSITE. TO OBTAIN YOUR LOGIN DETAILS, CONTACT webteam@ndsme.co.uk WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Found on the Internet...

From Friends of Norwich City Station Facebook page

"Please come down to the former Norwich City station site on **Saturday 27th May 2017** where the Friends of Norwich City Station will be holding an open day to raise support for an exciting railway heritage project on the site, this will include a stand of old photographs and books, plus guided railway talks by John Batley on

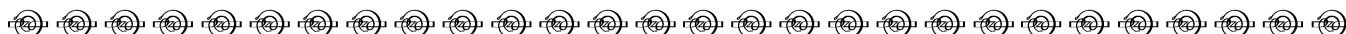


the site, ghost image photographs by Stuart McPherson and we will be



unveiling future plans on the uncovering and future of the still buried railway infrastructure... please support this event as we need to ensure our lost industrial heritage is brought back to the City of Norwich"

This looks to be an exciting project and one we should all support if possible. (Photos, courtesy of Friends of Norwich City Station, show recent excavations of the engine shed base)



COMEDY CORNER



Five surgeons were taking a coffee break and were discussing their work.

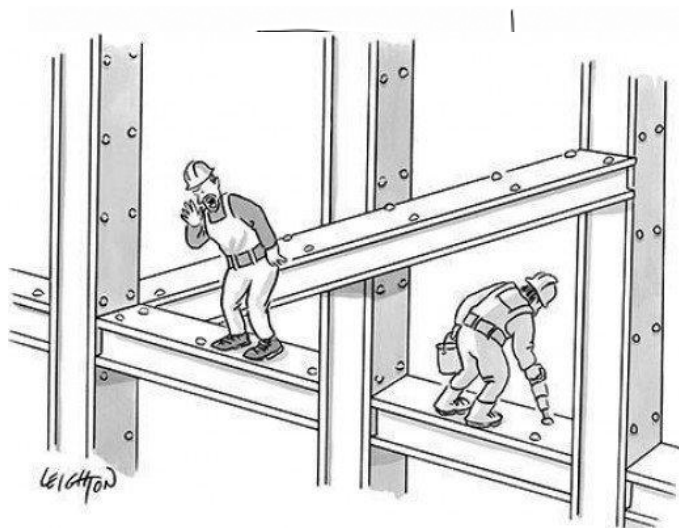
The first said, "I think accountants are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is numbered."

The second said, "I think librarians are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is in alphabetical order."

The third said, "I like to operate on electricians. You open them up and everything inside is colour-coded."

The fourth one said, "I like to operate on lawyers. They're heartless, spineless, gutless, and their heads and their ass are interchangeable."

The fifth surgeon says "I like engineers. They always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end."



"Escher! Get your ass up here."

Spotted on Youtube

[Miniature Railways of Great Britain The Frimley Lodge Miniature Railway April 2016](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UeHqMvaTNQ)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UeHqMvaTNQ>

Roundup – a peek into other society journals and onlines

Some good news from Canterbury MES.

You will recall from a previous ebulletin that their raised track was raided by metal thieves earlier this year. What track wasn't stolen was damaged in the removal and so they had to relay the whole circuit with new. As this pic shows, they have been able to complete the restoration in very good time and are due to hold an



“official” reopening on the 27th May. I think we will all wish them well there!

HSG216 and the NDSME

At the recent EGM, the Society adopted HSG216 as the guidance for all operations involving carrying non-members on the two railways at the park. If you are involved in any way with public operations, you should familiarise yourself with this document. It is currently available online at

<http://www.vulcan.works/media/hsg216.pdf>

and is also available on the Southern Federation website or in our members area. A copy is also kept at the clubhouse.

THIS PAGE IS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

You can fill it with your news, pics, projects, comments, visit reports etc.

From the Archive

Barry Fane writes in,

Last month's picture showed a chap called Ken Mancini driving a "Maisie" around the new circle of track that had been completed by the end of 1959 (before I joined the club)



I found this old photo taken in the 1970s, not long after I had joined the club. It's nice to reminisce!

Can anybody identify who is in this pic?



Forthcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 10 June 17 | Maxitrak visit to EP. From 10am |
| 14 June 17 | Visit to Bure Valley Rly. Meet at BVR at 6pm. Contact Chairman for details. |
| 12 July 17 | BBQ @ EP. Evening |
| 01 August 17 | Invitation to Parklands, Hemsby |

If you have any suggestions for future meetings, let us know. Remember there is still a vacancy for Meetings Organiser too! Email the chairman if you'd like to help.

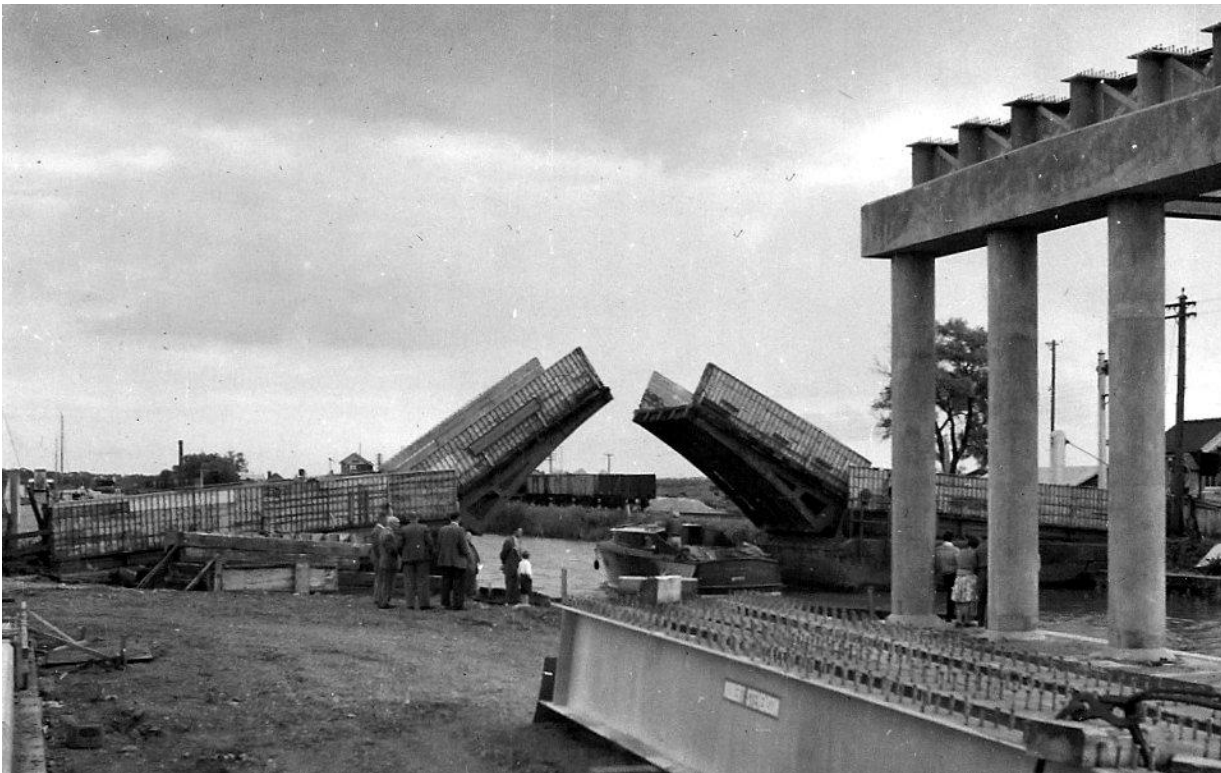


NDSME and Good Causes

Our charitable commitments for 2016-17 have now been met. Beneficiaries include EACH Nook Appeal, Children in Need, Clare School, Parkside School, Colman School, Harford Manor School, East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Lord Mayor's Charity Fund. A total of £3960 was raised and shared out. Well done to all those NDSME volunteers who gave their time for these good causes. We shall shortly be considering beneficiaries for 2017-18 funds.

A mystery picture

Two pics taken by Arnold Hoskins "somewhere in Britain". But where?





Coming soon! *Maxitrak* Day at EP – Saturday June 10th 2017



NDSME directors (committee) and officers as at May 2017

President	Neville Gower	Company Sec.	Jim McDonell
Chairman	Barry Fane	Membership Sec.	Allan Shirley
Treasurer	Jim McDonell	Publicity	Mark Rhodes

Other directors: Peter King, Dave Beeken, Roger Montgomery, Mike Riches and Philip Moore.

Bulletin distribution, *digital* – Allan Shirley, *hard copy* – Philip Moore. There are a number of other roles, such as meetings organiser, that need filling. Contact Barry Fane if you can help. The email is chairman@ndsme.co.uk



A message from the membership secretary...

The latest membership tally stands at 86. A list of member's details has been created with least half of you choosing anonymity. I have now issued everyone's membership card, not everyone supplied a 'sae' for dispatching them. We are trying to encourage new, younger people, to become members, in order to guarantee the club's future existence, but we must be careful how we go about this. The committee is currently investigating the best way to proceed. If any of you know, through relatives, neighbours or workplace colleagues, young persons who could be suitable candidates for membership, please give them an application form.

Allan

The sad story of a railway in a park.

In 1989 a 15" gauge railway opened in Markeaton Park, Derby. The park, on the outskirts of Derby, was transformed from a former army base and rapidly became a popular leisure destination for local residents, in much the same way Eaton Park has. The railway ran for just over three quarters of a mile, linking a car park with a play area. The engine shed was converted from the former NAAFI building. Over time the railway has run steam locos and latterly a replica

of a Baby Deltic. Ownership changed over time and it became essentially a family run business with a little volunteer help. All seemed well until, on 20th Sept last year, this appeared on the railway Facebook page,

I regret to announce that the railway is closed forthwith. Further details to follow - thank you all.

Followed shortly by this,

It is with sad regret that we wish to inform everyone who follows our page that MPLR is now officially closed permanently. We would like to thank family, friends, staff and volunteers for all their hard work in keeping the railway going for the last 21 years. We would also like to thank Derby City Council for allowing us to run in their beautiful park. It has been a privilege to make new friends, greet passengers and have so much enjoyment running up and down the track for so long. I'm sure we will miss it as much as you will, but times move on.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the years we hope you will continue to support all the other narrow gauge railways throughout the country.

John & John (owners)

The very next day, tracklifting began and the track and stock were removed. Now the railway is just a memory. So what went wrong? It seems that a perfect storm of events conspired to end his miniature railways existence. The lease was due to expire in 2017, the owners wished to retire, there was no supporting society involved and there were buyers waiting to snap up the track and stock. The crucial factor seems to have been the state of the former NAAFI building being used as an engine shed. It was claimed that it was no longer safe to use the former NAAFI building as an engine shed and that this was the responsibility of Derby City Council to maintain. The council was unable to repair the building so the railway shut. Now the park, and the citizens of Derby have lost a superb park feature.

The *Derby Telegraph* reported on 23 Sept 2016,

Parents angry at closure of Markeaton Park Light Railway - but it could be saved

Parents have reacted angrily to the [closure of Derby's Markeaton Park Light Railway](#) - but now the city council is urging rail enthusiasts to come forward to save the much-loved site.

Martin Rawson, deputy leader of Derby City Council, says there is a possibility the light railway could be retained. However, those involved in providing the family attraction blame the council for the problems which have led to its closure.

[Mathew Stanton, who is the head engineer at the railway](#), said the authority had been warned the railway's engine shed needed replacing. However, he said the authority said recent cuts meant that could not happen. The engine shed is where important parts are kept and any repairs are made and, without one, the railway cannot operate. Mr Stanton, of Spondon, said bosses at the railway had made the council aware of the problem. He also said the man that ran the railway was retiring and he felt the shed would not be repaired.

But Mr Rawson is now appealing for new people to take on the site. He said: "The light railway is a much-loved feature of Markeaton Park. The current owner has chosen to retire now that his lease is coming to an end. I would like to thank John Bull who has operated the light railway for over 20 years.

"If the rail enthusiast community can put a long-term, viable proposal forward to install and operate a light railway at Markeaton, then we may be open to a capital investment to retain this much-loved feature of the park."

Lukewarm support perhaps from the local authority, and too late now as all the track has gone, the loco and stock is sold and there would be huge costs to reinstate this railway.

So, could this scenario happen in Eaton Park? Basically, no. NDSME owns its own building and we are not financially dependent on the local council. Indeed, there is recognition from the council of the enhanced amenity value that we bring to the park that was perhaps absent at Derby. There is also widespread support from the society for the railway and it generates sufficient income to both renew itself and contribute to wider society expenditure. This, for example, has enabled us to keep subscriptions to a reasonable level and also to contribute to the cost of coaches to exhibitions when necessary. Although our local council parks budget is being financially emasculated, just as in Derby, it has little effect on us as we own our own facilities and are lucky enough to generate our own income..

News from the Railway in Eaton Park

5" news – Davis Beeken has been out and about with a creosote sprayer treating the sleepers on the raised track. Partially obscured by a cloud of mist at one point, he eventually emerged unscathed. After much experimentation he appears to have a viable spraying system. Other members are queuing up to have their fences done when he's finished here!

Now, the Q is, should he have been wearing a mask to avoid breathing in spray? What do you think?



Summary of Minutes of the Directors Meeting of 3rd May, 2017 at Eaton Park.

Directors Present, RM, MRh, DB, AS. BF (chair) PM

Company Secretary/ Treasurer, JMc

Apologies, MRi, PK,

A letter has been sent to the City Council to inform them of the amount given to charity in accordance with the Licence to Occupy the site.

An auditing query has arisen regarding the sale of rail chairs. JMc to clarify.

It was agreed to purchase 110 volt gardening and outdoor tools to work with the new generator when the present 240 volt tools need replacing

Club rules regarding young people was discussed. Agreed to seek advice from the Southern and Northern Federations. JMc to action. .

Old Fred loco issue has now been totally resolved. Loco has been returned

It was stated that there are many main gate and door keys in existence and that former members could gain access if they so wished. It was agreed to purchase combination locks for the main gate and the club house roller shutter door. This has now been done and members will be informed of the combination as required.

Evergreen Railway have been invited to run at Eaton Park. A date in September has been suggested but we are waiting to hear confirmation.

It was noted that we have a problem with cars being parked in the entrance to the clubs premises. It was decided in the first instance to fit a removable sign in the entrance to deter drivers. DB to action.

Due to the fact that all Wednesday meetings will now be held at the Eaton Park club house it was decided to investigate installing radiant wall heaters. Quotes are being sought.

For Sale For Sale For Sale

Pete Otley has lots of model railway stuff for sale as he runs down his shop. These include, Model Railways - OO Gauge & N.Gauge All Construction materials including Scatter materials, Flock, Static Grass, Grass Mats, Hedge Foliage, Tree Foliage, Back scenes, Super quick Buildings, Figures in all Gauges, Dapol Plastic Kits, Knightwing, N Gauge Plastic kits, Model Plants, Various Vinyl Decals, Trackside Decals, Sankey Signs, Plasticard in White & Black, Brick Paper, Grain of wheat Bulbs, Grain of rice Bulbs, Various colour Led's, Brick embossed plastic sheets, PD Marsh Figures & Station Accessories, OO Gauge Canal boat Kits, Glues & Adhesives etc.

Building Materials – Piano Wire, Brass Wire, K&S Metal Extrusions (Brass Copper & Aluminium Rod, Tube, Sheet etc., Plastruct Plastic Extrusions, Balsa wood sheet Strips & Blocks, Mahogany Strip wood, Spruce Strip wood, Obechi Strip wood, Craft Tools, Foam Board

Plus a large range of model Boat & Model Aircraft accessories including Brass propellers, Propshafts etc., and a large range of vinyl Lettering & Decals for all types of models.

Contact Pete on 01692 652960



Brian Baker has a 7 1/4 Bridget 0-4-2 chassis for disposal. Although there is still some way to go, a lot of work has been completed to a reasonable standard, and it could shortly run on air. This is a manageable loco, castings for which are still available from Reeves. Included are a few drawings & a write up. Current cost of the castings included is over £1000 but he is looking for £375 from club members. Contact him for a viewing at [leighsteamer\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:leighsteamer(at)btinternet.com) .



ERRATA

Due to a cock-up on the administrative front, the last eBulletin was sent out in an early draft form rather than as the finished article. Consequently some text was not present, some small ads were missing and the piece on the nationalisation of Eaton park railway was in fact a spoof. But, no doubt most of you spotted that anyway!

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Parklands Railway (Hemsby) – open day for NDSME members. Tuesday 1st August, 1430 onwards.

Please note change of venue for formal meetings, from Angel Road to Eaton Park

Brandon & District SME invite NDSME members to a talk on making castings, on Sat June 24th starting at 1000hrs. See member's area for fuller details..