

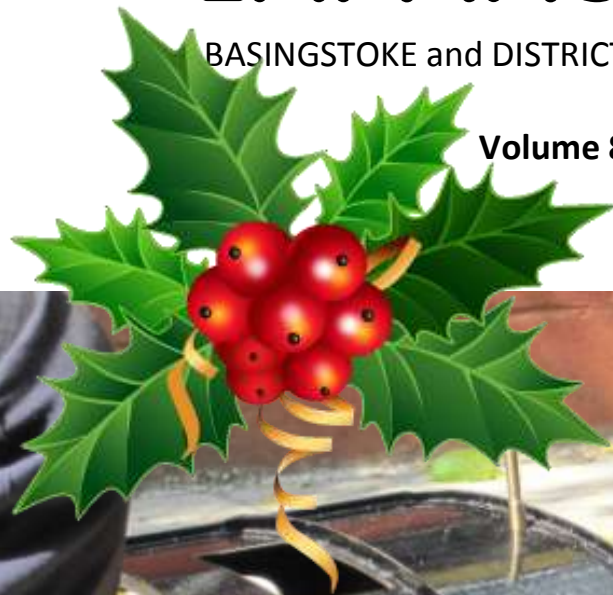
# EXPANSION LINK

BASINGSTOKE and DISTRICT MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Volume 8 - Issue 4 – December 2014



Editor Austin Lewis



## Great Cockcrow Railway – ‘S14’ 0-0-4-0T rail motor locomotive No 101

The original loco was built at the time of the move from Nine Elms to Eastleigh and completed in September 1910. It was intended to build more of these 0-4-0Ts but the order was cancelled after the boilers for five locos had been built. Only two locos were completed with the other three boilers being sold to the War Department for use in military hospitals. Later in 1917, both S14s were sold to the War Department.

## Chairman's Report

The past 12 months have been very eventful with the usual number of 'ups and downs'.

Firstly, following the decision made by the members at last year's AGM, Paul Klinger (our friendly Solicitor) together with members of the Committee, put into motion our formal application for the Society to become a Company limited by Guarantee. As we now know, this application was successful, with our acceptance being completed by March. This, therefore, is our first Annual General Meeting as a limited company.

2014 began pleasantly enough with an enjoyable social evening and meal for members and their wives at the Towers at Viables.

It was only when the engineering work started on straightening the kink in the track between the tunnel and the back straight that our problems began when gale force winds and heavy rain hampered our progress. This weather, you will recall, continued until the Spring, turning the track base in the realignment area into a quagmire. Congratulations must go to all concerned for completing the track, as well as the signal wiring, in time for the Miniature Steam Rally.

The Steam Rally was a great success, as have been all subsequent public running days, due to good weather, culminating with the Halloween Run which must have been our most successful one-day event ever.

Despite the apparent success of our Public Running days, the ongoing changes being made to our social media web site and advertising, it is still frustrating to hear of people not knowing of our existence and only finding out about us by accident, despite having lived in the area for a number of years.

The increase in fares, agreed at last year's AGM, together with the successful season, has resulted in a significant improvement in our financial standing. However, it should be remembered that the income received is soon absorbed by the rent/service charges, coal, site maintenance, etc. We must not sit on our laurels, as most of the track and running gear is over 35 years old which means expenses will increase when these are replaced.

Sadly, during the early part of the season our Chairman experienced unexpected additional demands on his time and was forced to resign. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for his efforts to drive the Society forward and to wish him well in his retirement and impending move 'oop north'.

Turning to the pleasurable side of our hobby, comments have been made in the past on the value of visitors' open days, as so few visitors appear to attend. For the record, this year we have entertained visitors from Andover, Beech Hurst, Bournemouth, Fareham, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Reading. It is not all one-way traffic as our members have enjoyed the hospitality of Beech Hurst, Bournemouth, Oxford and Southampton with invitations to attend several other clubs' Open Days. The season tends to get very busy for all steam enthusiasts, but, if a run on a 'foreign' track is offered, it is always a



worthwhile and pleasant experience.

On the 13th September, a number of members spent a very enjoyable day at the Great Cockrow Railway, thanks to Mick Lowe and his valuable contacts. Suddenly, we were all 7-1/4" fans, until the thought struck us about how these locos would be transported or even how to get them on the bench! It was noted that during our trip, our Secretary jumped ship at the thought of going 'up the hill' for the 4th time. I must agree that those seats proved to be somewhat uncomfortable after an hour or so!.

Looking to the immediate future, our main projects this winter will be to renew the track on the curve leading to the tunnel and to refurbish the passenger trolleys as well as the normal maintenance of the site. As you will appreciate, it will need a number of volunteers to complete these projects in time for next year's Miniature Steam Rally.

Having called for volunteers, I must thank those who have worked tirelessly over the past year, especially Eric for the supply of refreshments, Mick for the Tuesday evening fund raising cabaret, Tom for organizing the workshop and also for the improvements he has made to the Class 66; also everyone who has maintained rolling stock, the track, signalling equipment and manned the station on Public Running Days.

During the October Public Run, we experienced an unfortunate incident involving a young child. Although, on this occasion, there were no repercussions as far as we were concerned, this incident did highlight some serious failings in our Record keeping and Safety Procedures. At the moment the Society's Public Running and General Safety Guide is being re-written and this will include the Southern Federation and Health and Safety recommendations.

I know the initial reaction to this will be that ours is a hobby which is supposed to be enjoyed and that we do not need bureaucracy and 'big-brother', etc. However, we must not become complacent - it could be that we have been very lucky over the last 35 years! I do hope that once you have read the new Guidelines, you come to the conclusion that it is only common sense really.

Finally, I must thank the former Committee and now Board Members for their efforts over the last 12 months and for putting up with me for the past 4 and I now wish the incoming Board Members every success for the future.

John Croker (Acting Chairman)  
November 2014

(The above document was scanned from John's notes)

## Editorial

This is the last quarterly Expansion Link for 2014 and the year has been very successful. New members have joined, the Spring Minature Steam Rally was a great success and attendance at the public running days has continued to increase. I think this is due both to the momentum set up by the rally and word of mouth especially via Facebook.

During the year the track by the old tunnel was relaid removing the 'kink' and providing a very smooth run along the back straight. Further work, as mentioned in the Chairman's report, will start following the last public running on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, to replace the curved track leading into the tunnel.

The AGM, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> was attended by a majority of members. The Chairman's report is printed above and other details will follow shortly. The key points from the meeting are:

- During the 13/14 year we had 53 members but 14/15 the membership dropped to 48.
- A new banner is now in regular use on the verge at the entrance to Viabes, on public running days.
- The 2014 Minature Steam Rally made a profit of £1900 and is to be run again in 2015.
- Ticket sales have continued to increase with 1662 being sold bringing in £2672. An excellent result due in part to the increased price of a ticket, £1.50 and £2.00 on special occasions e.g. Halloween. This year the income from Halloween was £700.
- Four sets of passenger truck bogies have been bought and will be installed during the Winter months.
- A ton of coal has been purchased and is available at £10 per bag if you want to use it off site.
- Plans are also in hand to renew the covers for the Garden Railway. A decision has still to be made as to whether these will be wood again or plastic.
- There were two proposals:
  - *To meet every Tuesday* – Defeated
  - *To have more boiler testers* – the existing testers agreed to discuss how to ensure that all qualified testers are known and available to all members and to report back
- John Croker was re-elected as Chairman, Jon Evans as Treasurer and Brian Hogg as Secretary all other Members of the Board were also re-elected unopposed, a list appears on the last page of Expansion Link.

May I wish everyone a

**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year**



# Views from August to November

by Richard Holt

3<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014











7<sup>th</sup> September 2014





5<sup>th</sup> October 2014



25<sup>th</sup> October 2014











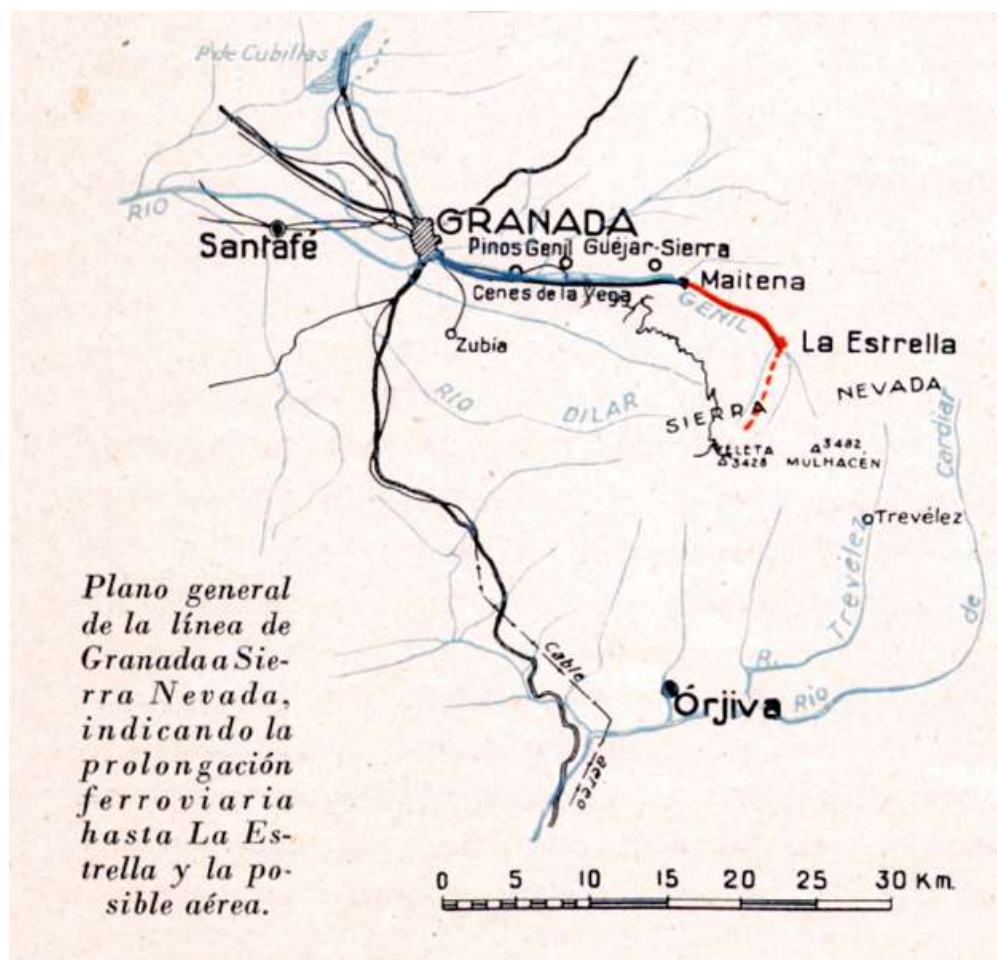


# An Electric Tram from Granada into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Spain

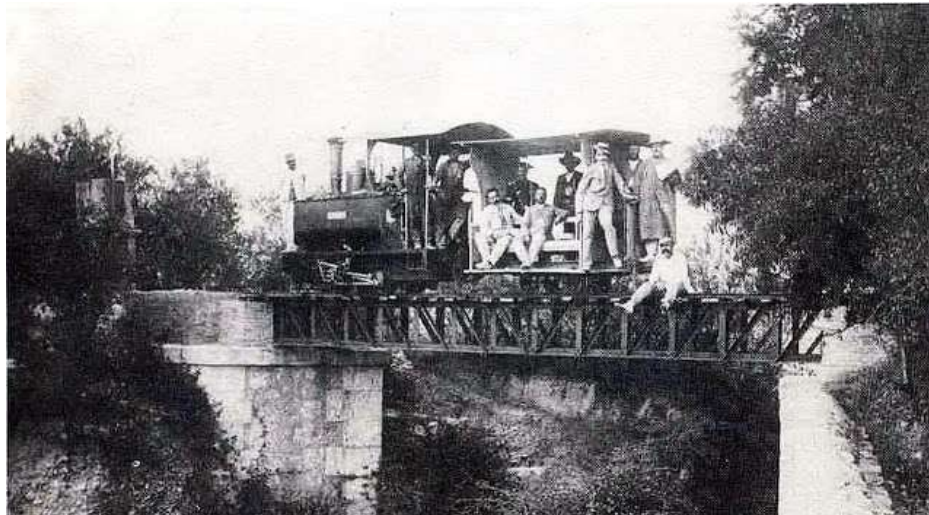
by Austin Lewis

In late August this year my wife and I stayed with my brother-in-law in Andalucia which is in mid eastern Spain going down to the Mediterranean Sea. Whilst travelling around the Granada area we decided to walk along the disused tram track up into the mountains.

An electric tramway was built to carry miners up into the mines in the high Sierra Nevada mountains at about 6,000 feet. It opened in the 1920s and was closed in 1974 - only the track bed and a few stations still remain but the scenery is breathtaking and it makes a great walk. The original track stopped short of the mine leaving a three hour mountain walk to the mine entrance. As a result miners built a small village so they spent weeks on end up in the mountains. Below I have included some old photos of the tramway and my photos of how it looks today.



The railway climbs from Granada at 800m (2400 ft) to La Estrella a distance of about 24 kilometers (15 miles) and to a height of about 3000m (9000 ft).



Early attempts using steam but it was found that greater power could be found from electricity

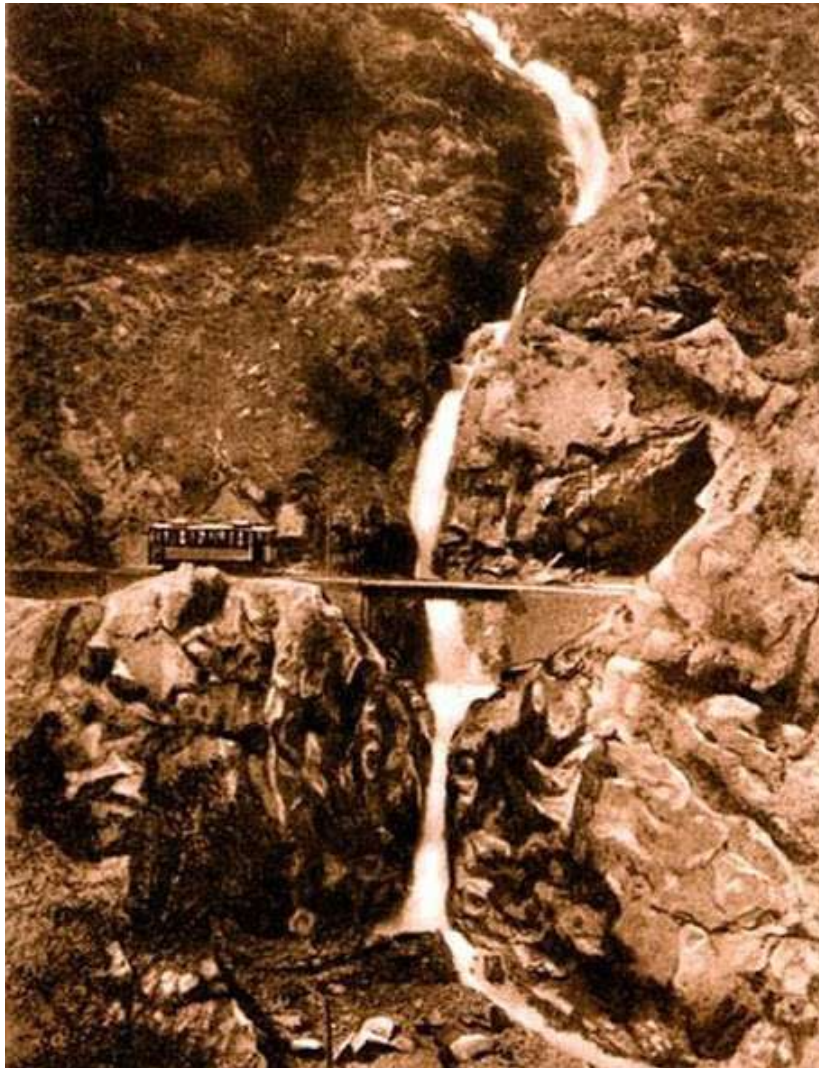


Tram and aquaduct in the late 1920s



Maitena Station mid 1950s





**'elf & safety?**



**Railway in the rocks**



Station halfway along the ascent in the 1950s



Final days of the line in 1972



## The line today



All that remains



Along the old track bed



Through one of the many tunnels



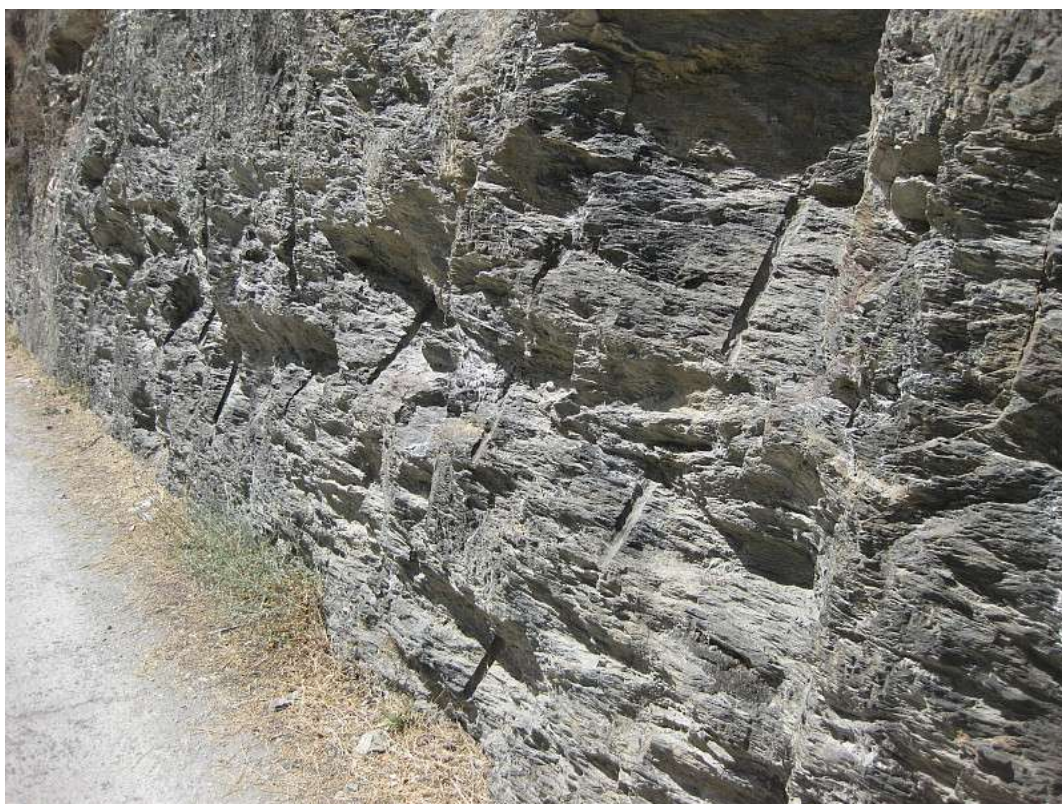
A renovated station – insert picture, the station as it was in the 1950s







Rugged terrain approaching the top of the line



Drill marks from cutting the stone





Approaching another beautifully restored station



One more before the walk back



# Basingstoke & District Model Engineering 2014 Calendar (Issue 2)

## Jan-14

1 Members Day (Wednesday)  
7 Meeting Night  
18/19 Maintenance Weekend  
21 Bits & Pieces Evening

## Feb

4 Meeting Night  
9 Driver/Public Running Training (Sun)  
15/16 Maintenance Weekend  
18 Meeting Night

## Mar

1/2 Maintenance Weekend  
4 Meeting Night  
16 Driver/Public Running Training (Sun)  
18 Meeting Night

## April

1 Meeting Night  
12/13 Miniature Steam Rally  
15 Bits & Pieces Evening  
21 Public Running (Easter Monday)  
29 Bring & Buy Evening

## May

4 Public Running  
13 Stationary Engines  
18 Visitors' Open Day (Sun)  
27 Meeting Night

## June

1 Public Running  
10 Bits and Pieces Evening  
21 Members Running & Barbecue(Sat)  
24 Meeting Night

## July

6 Public Running  
8 Meeting Night  
13 Members Running Day (Sun)  
22 Meeting Night

## Aug

3 Public Running  
5 Bring & Buy Evening  
19 Meeting Night  
30 Birthday Party Run then Members' Run and Fish & Chips

## Sept

2 Meeting Night  
7 Public Running  
14 Visitors' Open Day (Sun)  
16 Meeting Night  
27 Members Running Day (Sat),  
30 Meeting Night

## Oct

5 Public Running  
12 Members Running Day (Sun)  
14 Bits & Pieces Evening  
25 Halloween Public Running (Sat Evening)  
28 Meeting Night

## Nov

11 Bring & Buy Evening  
16 Members Running Day (Sun)  
17-21 AGM (Date to be decided)  
25 Meeting Night

## Dec

7 Public Running  
9 Meeting Night  
23 Meeting Night

Public Running 11am to 4pm (setup from 9:30am) Sunday, unless stated otherwise

Member's Running days 10am to 5pm

Tuesday Evening Meeting 7pm to 9pm, with optional members running afternoon

Maintenance Weekends - Working parties to keep track & site shipshape. Check notice board for details

# Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society 2015 Calendar (Draft 1)

## January

|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| 1     | Members Day (Thursday) |
| 6     | Meeting Night          |
| 17/18 | Maintenance Weekend    |
| 20    | Bits & Pieces Evening  |

## February

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 3     | Meeting Night                        |
| 8     | Driver/Public Running Training (Sun) |
| 14/15 | Maintenance Weekend                  |
| 17    | Meeting Night                        |

## March

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 1     | Driver/Public Running Training (Sun) |
| 3     | Meeting Night                        |
| 14/15 | Maintenance Weekend                  |
| 17    | Meeting Night                        |
| 31    | Meeting Night                        |

## April

|       |                                |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 6     | Public Running (Easter Monday) |
| 11/12 | Miniature Steam Rally          |
| 14    | Bits & Pieces Evening          |
| 28    | Bring & Buy Evening            |

## May

|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 3  | Public Running           |
| 12 | Stationary Engines       |
| 17 | Visitors' Open Day (Sun) |
| 26 | Meeting Night            |

## June

|    |                                 |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 7  | Public Running                  |
| 9  | Bits and Pieces Evening         |
| 20 | Members Running & Barbecue(Sat) |
| 23 | Meeting Night                   |

## July

|    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 5  | Public Running            |
| 7  | Meeting Night             |
| 12 | Members Running Day (Sun) |
| 21 | Meeting Night             |

## August

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 2  | Public Running      |
| 4  | Bring & Buy Evening |
| 18 | Meeting Night       |

## September

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Meeting Night  |
| 6  | Public Running   |
| 13 | Visitors' Open Day (Sun)                               |
| 15 | Meeting Night  |
| 26 | Members Running Day (Sat),<br>incl. Fish & Chip Supper |
| 29 | Meeting Night  |

## October

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 4  | Public Running                         |
| 11 | Members Running Day (Sun)              |
| 13 | Bits & Pieces Evening                  |
| 27 | Meeting Night                          |
| 31 | Halloween Public Running (Sat Evening) |

## November

|       |                           |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 10    | Bring & Buy Evening       |
| 15    | Members Running Day (Sun) |
| 16-20 | AGM (Date to be decided)  |
| 24    | Meeting Night             |

## December

|    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 6  | Public Running |
| 8  | Meeting Night  |
| 22 | Meeting Night  |

Public Running 11am to 4pm (setup from 9:30am) Sunday, unless stated otherwise

Member's Running days 10am to 5pm

Tuesday Evening Meeting 7pm to 9pm, with optional members running afternoon

Maintenance Weekends - Working parties to keep track & site shipshape. Check notice board for details



# Who's Who

## Treasurer

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## Email Addresses

If you have received a copy of the newsletter by post, it is because we don't have your Email address. Each newsletter costs over £1 to print and post, where as Email is effectively free. If you do have an Email address, which we can use, could you please Email me with your details.

*Jon Evans*  
*Treasurer*

*Chairman*  
*Vice Chairman*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*

**John Croker**  
**Colin Stubbs**  
**Brian Hogg**  
**Jon Evans**

## Committee Members

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Dave Andrews | Member |
| Darren Davis | Member |
| Steve Newell | Member |

## Project Leaders

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Catering manager</i>                 | <b>Eric Widdowson</b>                 |
| <i>Electrical Work</i>                  | <b>Jon Evans</b>                      |
| <i>Library</i>                          | <b>Ken Jones</b>                      |
| <i>Station Buildings &amp; contents</i> | <b>Dave Andrews</b>                   |
| <i>Publicity</i>                        | <b>Dave Mitchell</b>                  |
| <i>Track maintenance</i>                | <b>John Hutson</b>                    |
| <i>Site maintenance</i>                 | <b>Eric Widdowson &amp; John Neal</b> |
| <i>Traction Engine Track</i>            | <b>Austin Lewis</b>                   |
| <i>Webmaster</i>                        | <b>Mike Bowman</b>                    |
| <i>Newsletter</i>                       | <b>Austin Lewis</b>                   |