



NEWSLETTER

July 2024

Editorial

Before “summer” ends, the opportunity to sample the facilities of Nottingham SMEE is available on 31st August by attending the FMES Rally. However, time is running out to send in your booking forms. Tony Knowles from Nottingham has emailed three documents to all clubs – the invitation, visitor information and a booking form. If you haven’t seen the email, please check your spam/junk folder. I have included the invitation and visitor information in the newsletter, the booking form can be downloaded from Nottingham’s website in a form that can be emailed back to Tony Knowles. Links also available on the FMES website. NB. the closing date for submitting the booking form is **17th August**. Don’t miss this opportunity.

In the last newsletter, we reported the presentation to the two commended entries of the Federation & Polly Model Engineering Award. This time we are pleased to report the presentation to the overall winner of the trophy – James Knight from Hereford SME.

There are developments of the FMES website to include a search function and also development of a Facebook page. More details are in this newsletter and we will welcome feedback and constructive ideas on how we can develop these methods of communication.

I report on a pleasant afternoon spent at Pimlico Light Railway in Northamptonshire playing with trains - but in a rather different way.

Finally, there is notice of a Boiler Seminar to be held in September – booking essential.

Tony Lee

Chairman's Chat

In this century, the 21st century, how do we define engineering and how do we define who is an engineer? In Victorian times the definitions were apparent but now the term engineer is applied by the general public to what were once known as fitters, mechanics, etc. If we apply what is now the popular definition of an engineer then about 15% of the working population are employed in some connection with engineering and apparently about 25% of job postings are for engineers. The average age of an engineer is 54 and nearly 20% are to reach retirement age in the next 2/3 years. Where are the replacements to come from, most schools no longer have engineering workshops and engineering is not seen as a "trendy and glamorous" job. I appreciate that there are many fine university courses and that apprenticeships seem to be increasing but do the "powers that be" care. We have ministers of sport, of rural affairs, of culture, of health, etc and while I must admit there is a minister of science & technology there is no specific minister for engineering, why not?

OK, so what is this to do with model engineering? Most clubs seek to increase or at least maintain their membership levels and part of this is achieved by interesting youngsters in our hobby. Clubs have many and varied ways of doing this, perhaps giving talks to schools and youth groups, having stands and/or portable tracks at local shows and fetes, etc. At the club youngsters can perhaps have use of meccano type construction kits, be taught simple construction techniques, etc. If this sparks a good interest in engineering then not only could it mean that the hobby has gained a member but the youngster could take up engineering as a job.

Something to remember is that if a club has a promising young engineer then why not enter them in the Federation Trophy and Polly Model Engineering Prize competition. Between us all perhaps we can help further engineering in this country and who knows help produce another I K Brunel.

Bob Polley

FMES Autumn Rally, 31st August 2024 at Nottingham SMEE



We hope that you will now be aware of the date and venue for this year's rally, kindly hosted by Nottingham SMEE at their large and interesting facility in Ruddington. The club has the ability to host different types of model engineering and so we hope that our visitors will respond by showing and/or running many examples from traction engines, locomotives, stationary engines and other examples of our hobby. This gives us the opportunity too to open the FMES Rally competition accordingly and all types of model engineering will be eligible for this award. As usual, the event is also the venue for the Australian Association of Live Steamers trophy which is restricted to locomotives of course (see the website for [more details](#)).

Nottingham SMEE recently sent out information for visitors, invitation to the event and a booking form to club primary contacts. If you did not receive this, please search the spam folders, or you can get these from the club. We have uploaded the [visitor information](#) and [invitation](#) onto the website for you to download if you want. The booking form is available for download on the [club website page](#). Please do try to book, as this makes the task of organisation and catering much easier for the club!

We look forward to seeing you on the day: rallies are always more enjoyable the more people there are and the opportunity to see many models and meet fellow enthusiasts of all ages is not to be missed.

Last year at Frimley Lodge Park:





**Federation of Model Engineering Societies
Rally 2024**

Hosted by the

Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers

Saturday 31st August 2024



The Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers is pleased to invite you and your members to attend the FMES rally hosted by the NSMEE on Saturday 31st August 2024. Anyone visiting the rally is invited to take part in Public Running on Sunday 1st September, subject to the approval of the Operation Superintendent or his appointed Deputy.

NSMEE is located on the grounds of the Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre: and has a 3½ & 5-inch dual gauge raised track approximately 2312 feet with gradients of up to 1 in 115. The ground-level railway is a 7¼ inch gauge track of 3168 feet or 0.6 of a mile.

(A current boiler certificate will be required for any model running on steam together with an insurance certificate for any running model).

The following types of models are welcome

- a locomotive of any gauge up to 7¼" gauge,
(a limited number of driving trolleys are available)
- road vehicles of any type up to 4" scale,
- clocks which will be displayed indoors,
- static marine (no pool or pond to run on)
- static aircraft (no airfield to launch from)
- any type of stationary engine running or static
- dioramas which will be displayed indoors

Also

- Refreshments on the day and to include a sandwich lunch.
- Car parking is available on-site. A car park donation of £2 may be requested.
- The Australian Association award will be made at the rally.
- A prize will be awarded to the visitors who have travelled the furthest to the rally.

Our address is:

**Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers
Mere Way,
Ruddington,
Nottingham,
NG11 6JS**

Site Entrance can be found using the following What 3 Words

Bath.fuzzy.doctor

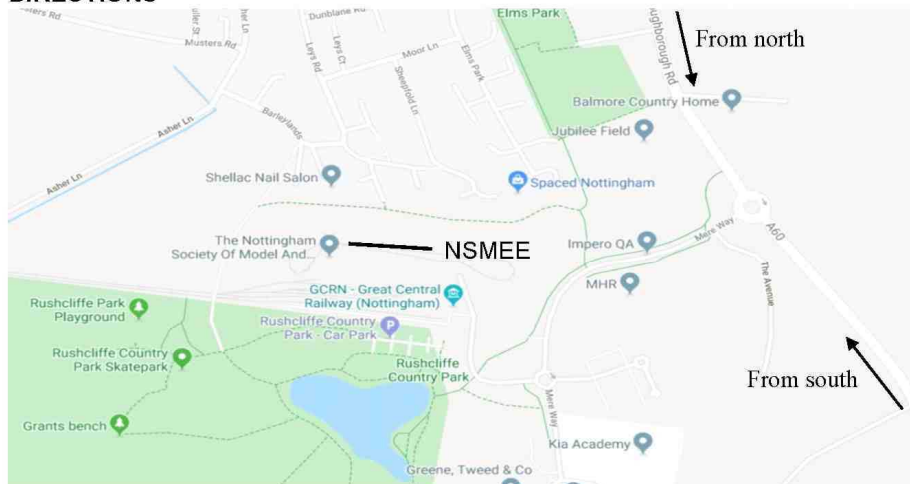
Finally, if you could let us know the approximate number of members that would like to visit us so that catering can be organised it would be appreciated.

Please complete the Booking Form

If you require more information contact Tony Knowles by email

tony.knowles12@btinternet.com

DIRECTIONS



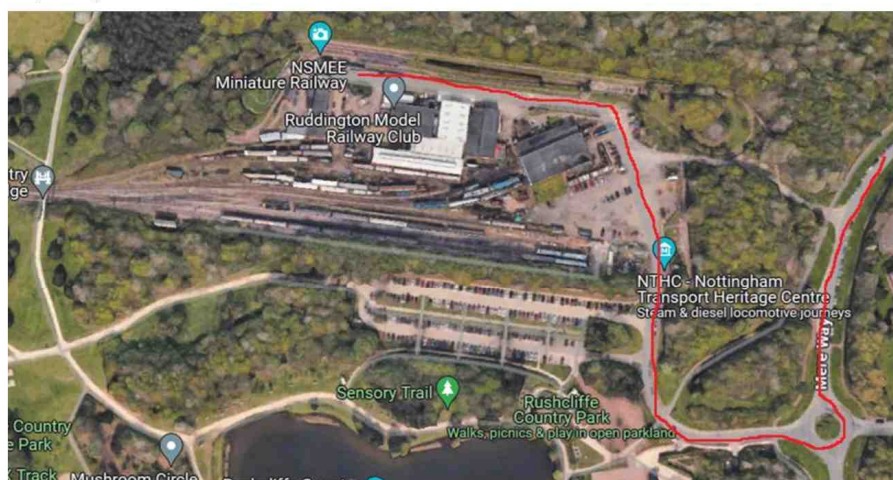
Please note the SATNAV postcode is **NG11 6JS** but its centre is about 200yds further along Mere Way than our entrance shown above.

a) From the M1 and the West

It is recommended travelling via the M1, whether from the North or South or from any other roads from the west, leave at Junction 24 and follow the A453 signposted Nottingham. Follow this road to the A52 signposted Grantham. Continue along the A52 towards Grantham to the 'Nottingham Knight' roundabout and turn right onto the A60 signposted Loughborough. Follow the A60 until you reach the first roundabout and turn right onto Mere Way. Turn right at the next roundabout into Rushcliffe Country Park and follow the road into Nottingham Heritage Centre – GCRN. Then follow the road with buildings on your left and the Society's running tracks on your right. Our clubroom is at the end.

b) From the A1 and the East

Join the A52 and follow it until it reaches the 'Nottingham Knight roundabout' and turn left onto the A60 signposted Loughborough. Follow the A60 until you reach the first roundabout and turn right onto Mere Way. Turn right at the next roundabout into Rushcliffe Country Park and follow the road into Nottingham Heritage Centre – GCRN. Then follow the road with buildings on your left and the Society's running tracks on your right. Our clubroom is at the end.



We look forward to seeing you on 31st August



Federation of Model Engineering Societies Rally 2024



Hosted by the Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Saturday 31st August 2024

Visitor Information

General

Welcome to the Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers at the Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre.

Please take care when driving around the Heritage Centre especially when manoeuvring and driving along the access road, there may be small children wondering about.

There is no Caravan parking allowed or tent space allowed on site for NSMEE visitors

A First Aid kit including eyewash is available in the Clubhouse.

Tea and coffee will be provided in the Clubhouse. A free sandwich lunch will be provided.

Weather permitting, a BBQ will be arranged for late afternoon and an evening run.

Please place all rubbish, ash etc in the receptacles provided.

To show your appreciation, please feel free to make a donation.

Booking In

All visitors must sign in at the 'Booking In Point' at the clubhouse on arrival.

[Proof of insurance, boiler certificate and club membership will need to be inspected].

When booking in you will be provided with a name badge [and wrist band] which should always be worn.

The Society's Operations Superintendent Pete Towle, and his appointed Deputies will be in overall charge of the event. Please introduce yourself to them and familiarise yourself with them.

Preparation of your model to run

Locomotive, Traction Engine, Road Vehicle and Stock Preparation

All locomotives will be given a designated place on either the Gauge1 track, the raised track steaming bays or the 7¼" steaming bays to prepare their locomotives for running and cleaning down after running.

All running traction engines will also be given a designated place for preparation for steaming and cleaning down after running

Coal of a suitable grade will be provided by the Society for locomotives, traction engines and coal fired stationary models. Owners of gauge1 methyated spirit fired locomotives **will not** be allowed to take more than 0.25ltr of purple methyated spirit onto the track. Clear methyated spirit is completely banned. Methyated spirit will be provided, if required

The water supply is fed from the mains.

Safety valves, a working whistle or horn, and two independent means of putting water into the boiler will be checked before any steam locomotive is allowed on the track or traction engine is allowed to run.

A working whistle or horn will be checked before any battery or i/c powered locomotive or road vehicle is allowed to run.

Fuelling of petrol or gas-fuelled locomotives and road vehicles must only be done in a designated safe place and under the directions of the Operations Superintendent or appointed Deputy.

Visitors bringing driving trolleys and any rolling stock must be in a serviceable condition with a braking system capable of stopping the train when laden. The Operations Superintendent or appointed Deputy will make a visual inspection before being allowed on track.

Stationary Models and other Models

Running of stationary models will only be allowed outside in the open and the necessary paperwork has been checked. If the weather on the day is inclement these models will be allowed under cover but not be able to run except under compressed air provided by NSMEE.

Depending on the weather conditions on the day other models will be exhibited in the open air or inside as necessary.

Train, and Road Vehicle Running

Train running

On arrival all owners and drivers of locomotives will be issued with 'Running Rules for 7¼" Gauge Trains' or 'Running Rules for 5" & 3½" Gauge Trains' or 'Running Rules for Smaller Gauge Trains'.

Owners and drivers will be required to read these Running Rules and sign and date them before being allowed to run.

The maximum permitted speed on the raised track is 8 mph on the straight sections and 5 mph on all curved sections. On the ground level the maximum speed limit on the straight sections is 10 mph and 8 mph on all curved sections. Special care must be taken when approaching or passing through station areas.

The Operations Superintendent has absolute authority and may terminate running if necessary for safety reasons. Locomotives and stock may only be taken on and off the running lines with the permission of the Operations Superintendent or appointed Deputy.

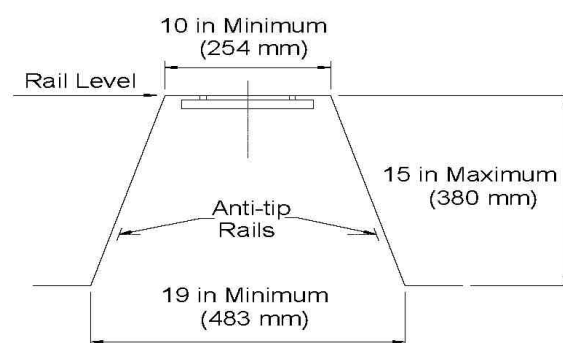
Visitors may not operate the points, ground-level turntable, traverser, bridge or hydraulic lift without permission of the Operations Superintendent or appointed Deputy.

Visiting juniors below the age of 14 may drive only when no members of the public are passengers and then only when closely supervised by an experienced adult driver. Juniors of age 14 or above may drive public trains but only when accompanied by an adult Guard.

Visitors under the age of 18 years wishing to drive must be signed in the visitor's book by an adult Society member, who will supervise the visitor(s) at all times.

Raised Track Riding Trolley

Visitors wishing to bring their own raised track driving trolley please see the necessary dimensions of the NSMEE's raised track rolling stock below:-



Road Vehicle Running

On arrival all owners and drivers of traction engines and road vehicles will be issued with 'Running Rules for Road Vehicles'. Owners and drivers will be required to read these Running Rules and sign and date them before being allowed to run.

The Operations Superintendent has absolute authority and may terminate running of traction engines and other road vehicles if necessary for safety reasons. Running of traction engines and road vehicles will only be allowed with the permission of the Operations Superintendent or appointed Deputy.

Visiting juniors below the age of 14 may drive only when no members of the public are passengers and then only when closely supervised by an experienced adult driver. Juniors of age 14 or above may drive traction engines and other road vehicles but only with the owner's permission.

Conclusion

In conclusion we hope you enjoy your visit to NSMEE

Boiler Seminar

A seminar for Boiler Inspectors will be held on Saturday 21st September 2024.

The seminar is jointly sponsored by FMES and NAME and will be kindly hosted by Echills Wood Railway. A light lunch will be provided.

The seminar will cover the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR) design calculations for boilers, steel boiler design and construction, certification, and a demonstration of a hydraulic and a steam test.

Parking in the Kingsbury Water Park car park currently costs £4.95 for the day with payment BY CARD ONLY – the machines do not accept cash

The seminar is open to boiler inspectors who wish to broaden their experience, trainee boiler inspectors who wish to understand more such as the legal aspects of boiler examination and testing and those who regularly act as witness for the tests to enhance their knowledge.

Numbers of delegates is restricted to 40, so booking in advance is essential.

To reserve a place at the event, please send details of home club/society and delegate(s) name to:

boilerseminarbooking@gmail.com

If you find the venue or date inconvenient but feel a need for seminar in your area of the country, please consider hosting a seminar and ask for information on what is required to host a seminar.

Contact using the above email address.

Federation Trophy and Polly Model Engineering Limited competition 2023

In the last issue we presented the award winners and two of the three receiving their trophies at the AGM event at Boscombe Down Aviation Museum on 2 March 2024. It was unfortunate that our winner, James Knight from Hereford Society of Model Engineers, was not able to be present at this event and so we were delighted to attend a club event on 4th May, when Peter Squire presented James with his trophy and prizes:



Details of James's winning entry, with those of the two commended entries from Kieran O'Sullivan and Spencer Priddy, can be found in the report on the website at <https://fmes.org.uk/young-engineers-2/>

What about the 2024 competition?!

We will be publishing the details for this year's competition soon. This will be a similar format as previously albeit with a different, online, entry form that we are developing at the time of publication of this newsletter. It will however be opened up to include any Young Engineers whether a club member or not. This is to encourage those who have yet to join a club, either with parents or alone, and to give them a chance to show their interest in the hobby. We would

love to see entries from young engineers at all stages of their development in the hobby, due allowance will be made for age, experience and support.

We have recently circulated a notice for the competition to member clubs (if you would like a copy, ask your club FMES primary contact or email us at young.engineers@fmes.org.uk). This is what it looks like, and you may see this as a poster or brochure at various events:



Federation of Model Engineering Societies

POLLY MODEL ENGINEERING

Calling All Young Engineers...

Interested in making things? Things that work - machines, engines, boats, planes, robots, indeed anything mechanical or electromechanical?

There is a competition just for you, with cash prizes, vouchers to spend on tools and materials and a very swish trophy! Winning (or even entering) will look good on your future CV or Uni application ... and it's fun building your entry anyway, win or lose.

The winners and runners-up are invited to a fascinating venue for the awards ceremony - it might be a science/engineering museum or a working miniature railway, where you might get to try your hand at driving a locomotive. What are you waiting for?

Your entry could be any type of miniature engineering or tooling that you have made, including boats, planes, cars, railway locomotives, a 3D printer, robot arm, remote-controlled dinosaur... anything which demonstrates skills in mechanical or mechatronic engineering (whether 'finished' or well-underway).

For more information and a look at some past winners, see our website at fmes.org.uk and search for the 'young engineers' page or scan the QR code.



Details of the competition and the entry form will be available on the website well before the closing date of 31st December 2024. Keep an eye for announcements in the newsletters, the news on the website, the Young Engineer page in the link above or through club circulars. If you know of a young engineer that might be interested in entering, please let them know!

Playing with trains – seriously!



Getting ready in the steaming bay

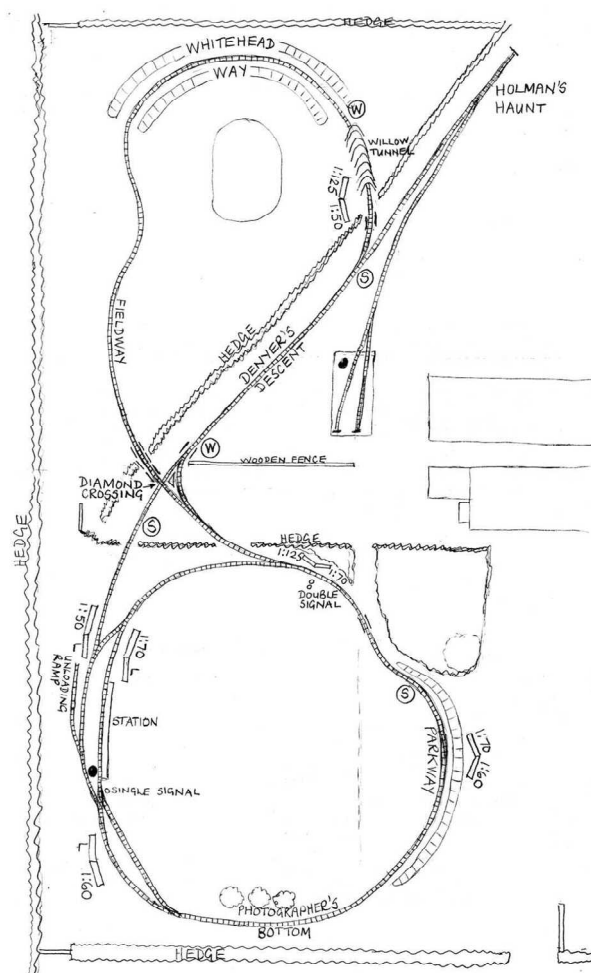
On a Saturday afternoon at the end of June, I joined with other members of the Pimlico Light Railway club in Northamptonshire to take part in a “Railway at Work” session. The general idea of the session was to choreograph a series of movements of locomotives and rolling stock to a set timetable. The plan was to use five locomotives – four steam and one battery powered – moving three sets of rolling stock to and from various locations on the track.

The track is a 5” gauge ground level track and is fundamentally a figure of eight circuit but with a number of links and avoidance tracks to give routing flexibility. The mastermind of the event and owner of the track is John Roberts who together with Matthew Karaivanov devised a plan for two and a half hours of running with timetabled events. These events were basically scheduled every five minutes involving one locomotive or sometimes more – in total more than 30 timed events.

A number of track marshals were located around the track to set the points correctly for each movement and all watches were synchronised with the station clock so that loco drivers, track marshals and the station master should be able to manage proceedings and avoid chaos.

The locos used were club regulars a 15xx, a 57xx, and two Sweat Peas, and a battery powered 0-6-0 built by a club member.

Whether or not due to the hot weather, one of the Sweat Peas refused to steam properly and didn’t get to start, and half way through the session the other Sweat Pea also gave up. Battery powered replacements, initially an 0800 diesel and then an 0-4-0 Phoenix filled the



gaps. A major challenge was to keep these 5" gauge locos reliably in steam throughout the two and a half hours. Two young members of PLR were included in the loco drivers which along the other three who had a few more years experience demonstrated the age range of PLR membership.

The time passed quickly, there were no disasters, the plan was executed to time and the weather for once contributed to a pleasant afternoon. There were comments afterwards that perhaps the plan was a bit too easy and the planned movements could be a little more intensive. John already has the next one in the planning stage!

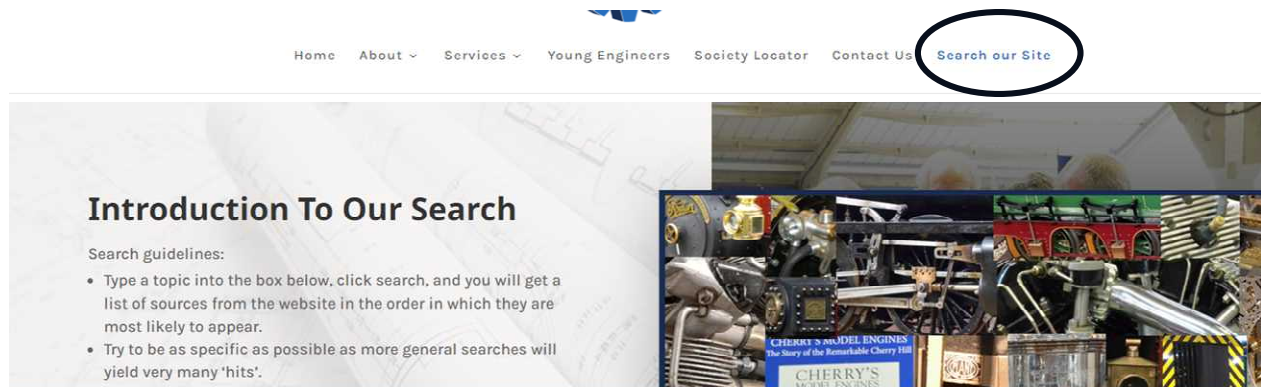


Clockwise from top left:
Jack on 15xx,
Oakley on 0800,
Mike on "Lady Godiva"
,Nathan on Phoenix,
the station and clock,
a brief lull at the siding,
at the station waiting for the signal
Matthew on 57xx



Website news

When we set up the project to create a new website following our strategy review, we are continuing to find ways to add value to the website for the benefit of model engineers. Recently, some of you may have noticed the addition of a 'search function':



Introduction To Our Search

Search guidelines:

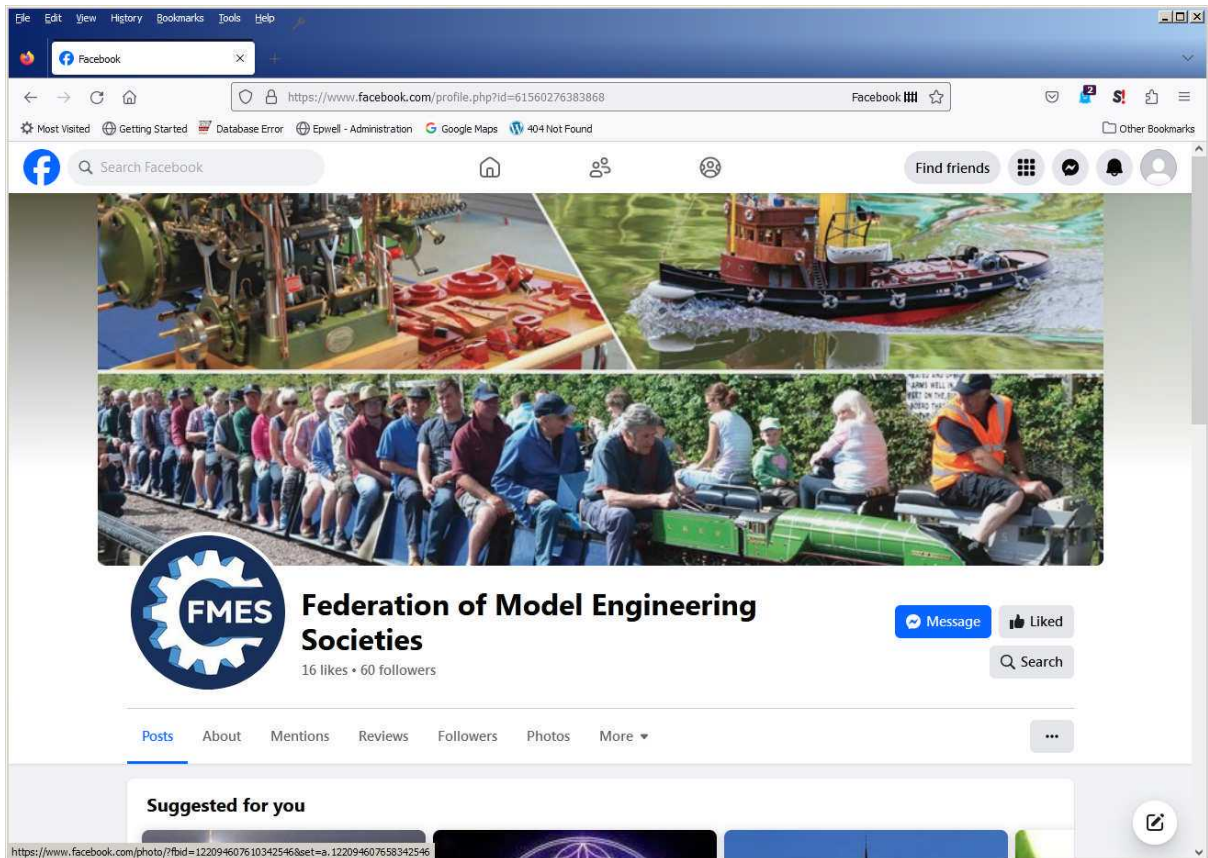
- Type a topic into the box below, click search, and you will get a list of sources from the website in the order in which they are most likely to appear.
- Try to be as specific as possible as more general searches will yield very many 'hits'.

The thought behind this is to make it easier to find documents about any subject covered somewhere in the site. It is part of a push by us to enhance the search success when people seek 'our' words in their browsers maybe without knowing about our site. Apart from helping model engineers to find information, it also helps to publicise what we do and - of importance - the existence and location of our member clubs!

This new function is now launched thanks to the efforts of our volunteers led by Jim Hollom (and if you have any comments, please do let us know at info@fmes.org.uk) and we can start devising ways to make much more use of it by expanding the data available to be searched....watch this space for more as we make progress!

You may also have noticed that we use a 'pop up' function when you first go to the website each day. We appreciate that sometimes pop ups are a nuisance, but we thought that this is offset by the use we put it to, in conjunction with our news items on the home page. We would be delighted to use the pop up or the news pages if any clubs have important announcements that they want to make, so please let us know at info@fmes.org.uk.

FMES Facebook Page



FMES have created a Facebook page. The page is very much in the early stages of development and has been created with the aim of increasing the visibility of our model engineering clubs, the role played by FMES and model engineering activities in general.

The FMES Facebook page will principally be used to disseminate news and information to clubs and club members more expediently as well as seeking to promote model engineering more widely. It is not intended to be a discussion forum. The page is “bare bones” at the moment and we have much to learn about how best to develop it as an effective tool but please have a look at it and “like” it. Type “Federation of Model Engineering Societies” in the Facebook search bar and it should come up in the results. An email will be circulated shortly to clubs to give more information.

FMES Committee

President	Brent Hudson
Vice President	Mike Chrisp
Vice President	Ivan Hurst
Chairman	Bob Polley
Secretary	Peter Squire
Treasurer	David Goyder
Vice Chairman	Paul Naylor
Boiler Registrar	David Mayall
Safety Officer	Robert Walker

Support Team: Peter Harrison, Jim Hollom, Peter Kenington, Tony Lee, Melvyn O'Connell

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND INCIDENTS

All claims and reports of incidents should be notified in the first instance to Walker Midgley
FEDERATION INSURANCE BUSINESS Managed by Walker Midgley Insurance Ltd

Committee members' contact details can be found on the Federation MES web site

www.fmes.org.uk

Publications Available from FMES

The FMES publications listed below are available from our stand at rallies and exhibitions or by post from David Mayall. Please make contact first by phone or email to get combined postage costs when ordering more than one item. (See note below). The figures shown here are for single items only. Please make cheques payable to 'Federation MES' or use BACS to Sort Code 20-71-82 Acct 43755967.

From Our Stand

Examination & Testing of Miniature Steam Boilers BTC 2018 - Orange Book	Free
Vol 1: 3 bar litres to 1100 bar litres; Vol 2: under 3 bar litres; Vol 3: LPG tanks under 250 ml.	
Boiler Test Certificates - Pad of 50	FREE*
Written Scheme of Examination - Pad of 50	FREE*
Small Boiler Test Certificate - Pad of 50	FREE*
Boiler History Record Card - Pack of 10	£3.50
Plastic wallets to hold certificates size A5	£0.75
HS 2020 Passenger-carrying min railways 'Guidance' post included	£4.00

David Mayall

Tel: +44 1252 684 688

[Email: david.mayall@fmes.org.uk](mailto:david.mayall@fmes.org.uk)

* These publications are issued free of charge to fully paid up member Clubs and Societies ONLY, and are NOT available for general sale. For delivery by mail, the cost of postage and packing is £5.00, and must be borne by the Club/Society placing the order.

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