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**CANTERBURY
& DISTRICT
TRAINS AND
TRACTION DAY**

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Chris Davey reports on this regular event.



Canterbury & District MES Chairman Paul Kemp with his late father's 2in. Fowler ploughing engine.

Canterbury & District Model Engineering Society 'Trains and Traction' Day

Mick Coulson with his half-size Burrell showman's engine (built by Martin Young in Jarrow).



The **Canterbury & District MES 'Trains and Traction' Day** was held last August for the second year running and was a very pleasant day out. It is an event

that is gaining in reputation with owners and builders of miniature traction engines in Kent, and further afield, together with the local population of the Canterbury area.

Since it was formed in 1972 the society has been largely dominated by members with railway locomotives and has operated a 750ft. long 3½in. and 5in. gauge raised track on land owned by Brett's Quarries at Sturry just east of Canterbury for the last 27-years. Over the last few years the society has enjoyed an influx of new members with traction engines and other road locomotives and the committee felt that their inclusion in the society's annual open day was a must and so the 'Trains and Traction' event was conceived.

Event organiser Lyn Wildish explained "Throughout the season most of the traction engine members are off at rallies all over the country and infrequently get together at our track site so it was decided to organize an event clear of other dates so that all could attend.

It has grown into a 2-day affair with many of the road and traction engine owners arriving at our site on the Saturday, when in the afternoon, we have a members and guests only session which includes a run to nearby Fordwich, the smallest town in England including a visit to the local pub who make us most welcome! The run is enjoyed by all those involved and the local population who enjoy seeing the spectacle of miniature traction engines of all scales (and a



3 Mick Coulson's half-size Burrell.



4 Mervyn Claringbold's 4in. Garrett traction engine driving Ron Patey's 'Hay Bailer'.

full-size steam roller) trundling through their streets.

On the Sunday the event is open to the public and admission is free giving both the road locomotives and the railway locomotives a chance to go through their paces in the public gaze. This

year we had about 500-700 members of the public at our site throughout the day. This may seem a small number by comparison to some events but with our limited resources and parking space it is as about as much as we can safely accommodate".

One of the most popular attractions was Ron Patey from Horsham with his baling machine powered by Canterbury member Mervyn Claringbold's Garrett traction engine. Ron said, "The miniature bales of straw are popular with florists and for use at weddings and other events and of

course owners of guinea pigs and the like!"

Canterbury members with engines at the event included: Ray Darvell with his 4in. scale Foster crane engine; Mick Coulson and his impressive 6in. Burrell showman's engine that was built by Martin Young in Jarrow; Ken Vine and his full-size Aveling Porter steam roller; Steve Casey and his 6in. Burrell; John Wallace with his 4in. Tasker; Dave and Sharon Hill with their 6in. Foden steam wagon; Canterbury Chairman Paul Kemp with his late father's 2in. Fowler ploughing engine; Terry Wildish and his 4in. Foster and Mervyn Claringbold with his 4in. scale Garrett traction engine.

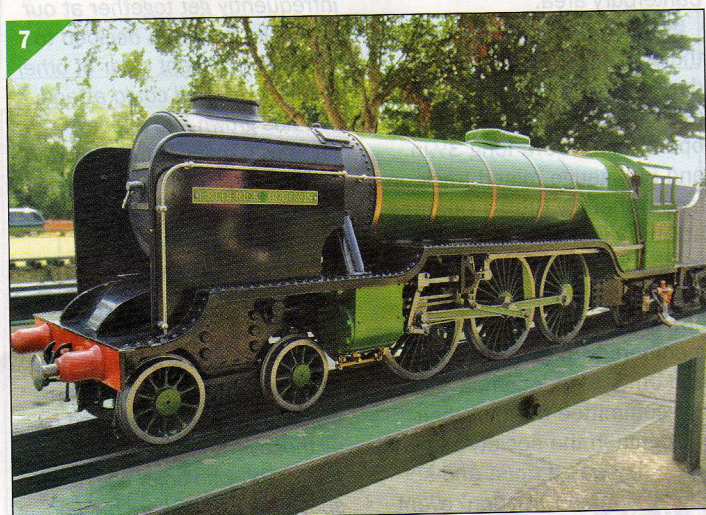
Visitors included: Alan Davis from Sussex with his 3in. Burrell; Mark Harris from Rochester with his impressive 9in. scale Mann steam lorry; Ron and Georgina Patey with their Hay baler and Marshall Portable; Bob Barwick brought his 4in. Ruston Proctor



5 Bob Barwick on his 4in. Ruston Proctor chats with Terry Wildish with his 4in. Foster traction engine.



6 Ray Darvell checks out the lifting capability of his 4in. Foster crane engine.



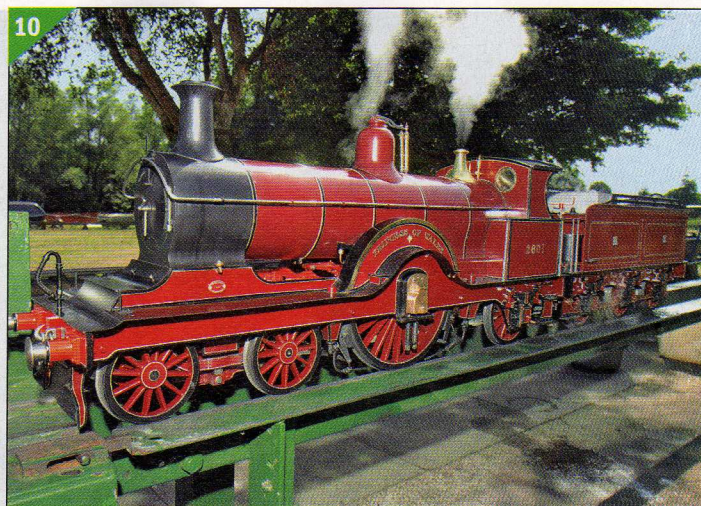
7 Terry Gilkerson's LNER 4-6-2 to the Heilan Lassie design.



8 A 9in. scale Mann steam lorry owned by Mark Harris.



9 Robin Jewiss driving his Netta built by Stuart Robinson of Rugby MES.



10 Granville Askham's Princess of Wales on the Canterbury & District MES track.



11 Alex Belcher driving Chris Davey's '8750' class pannier tank.



12 Enjoying a ride on the Canterbury & District MES track.

traction engine and Steve and Gaynor Moore from Surrey attended with their 3in. Fowler ploughing engine.

On the society raised track: Granville Askham's Midland single-wheeler; Ernie Millard's B1; Chris Davey's 8750 Pannier Tank; Terry Gilkerson's 3½in. gauge Heilan Lassie and Robin Jewiss with his North Eastern 0-8-0 freight locomotive to the Netta design (built by Stuart Robinson of the **Rugby MES** and a 'Curly Bowl' winner in 2004) were kept busy dealing with the queue of eager passengers.

Canterbury & District MES Chairman Paul Kemp said "The whole weekend was a most enjoyable event. The

influx of members with traction engines and road locomotives has enabled us to expand our activities and whilst our track holds public running days once a month through the summer, the presence of the traction engines at our open day has enabled us to put on what we think is quite a good display which is enjoyed by both members, guests and public alike. Our thanks go to all who attended and a special thank you goes to the Brett Group whose co-operation makes the event possible".

The Canterbury & District MES meets on the last Monday of each month during the winter at the village hall in Kingston (The Barn) at which

there is often a speaker on subjects of engineering or historical interest.

In the summer the society meets at its tracksite at Sturry on land owned by the Brett Group. The 750ft. long continuous track caters for both 3½in. and 5in. gauge locomotives and there is sufficient space to run traction engines or model steam road vehicles. Public running takes place on selected Sundays from April through to October and groups of members often gather by arrangement at other times.

The society also owns a portable track which is, subject to members availability, used to support local events and charities.



13 Ken Vine's full-size Aveling & Porter steam roller and Mick Coulson's half-size Burrell showman's engine sandwich smaller traction engines.

Anyone interested in the society can visit our website www.cdmes.org or contact the Secretary, Mrs Gina Pearson on 01227 830081.