



# NEWSLETTER

May 2026

## *Editorial*

I guess it will be no great surprise that much of the content of this newsletter arises from the recent AGM held at the Midland Air Museum. There was good attendance possibly spurred on by interest in the workshop subject of safeguarding. A brief report follows but a more detailed summary is available on the website (links in the article). Examples and experiences of safeguarding issues were given by some of the clubs present, and I thank Ken Grubb of South Cheshire MES for submitting a description of procedures (included in this newsletter) that they have in place specifically aimed at safeguarding seniors. It will be good to share other clubs' approaches to safeguarding – they need to be written and submitted!

The AGM also saw the presentation of a monetary award to Bristol SMEE and their group of young engineers with achievements in their "Ellie" project. This took the place of the annual FMES/Polly Model Eng Award which has been paused due to lack of entrants. Potential changes to the Award are discussed in these pages with an invitation for comment.

Continuing with the theme of young engineers, an article about the Bristol "Ellie" project was published in the August 2025 edition of the newsletter and gives an overview of the project. In this newsletter we have published an article gratefully received from Patrick Hendra about his work with young people. Many of you will be aware of Patrick and "Eastleigh Young Engineers." Patrick's article explains his personal approach to turn young people into young engineers and some of the history of its development. The mantra to attract more young people into model engineering continues!

*Tony Lee*

## *Chairman's Chat*

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Scottish poet Robert (Rabby) Burns wrote “The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry” and the best laid plan definitely “went awry” earlier last month (April).

I'll start at the beginning. We are down to only one really national ME exhibition so to meet and greet and generally spread the word about our hobby of model engineering it was decided that the FMES should experiment with attending smaller localised events. Last year saw attendance at Stoke Row Steam Rally and LowMex with both being considered a success. This year the intention was that the FMES would make an appearance at five smaller local events (as well as MMEE), the first being at the Basingstoke Steam Gala.

Well, this is where the plan “went awry.” 170 miles into the journey with still 80 miles to go, the gearbox of my motorhome which was laden with the stand, models, etc. decided it no longer wished to do the duty expected of a gearbox and it was back to North Yorkshire courtesy of the RAC. So sorry, Basingstoke MES, it's going to have to be next year. The gearbox is repaired and so hopefully May will see the FMES stand at the Statfold Barn exhibition and the SouthWest Miniature Engineering Show and let's hope no more plans “go awry.”

No matter whether you are able of not to attend any exhibitions or shows, I hope you are still enjoying participating in the hobby of model engineering.

*Bob Polley*

# *AGM - Report on Proceedings*

The AGM was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Midlands Air Museum, Coventry

The meeting was attended by 41 delegates, representing 23 Member Clubs/Societies, and 4 Individual Members. 8 members had registered proxy votes to be held by the Chairman of the meeting.

An AGM is a boring affair at the best of times and getting the balance right on actively providing information when reports have been sent to delegates, is always tricky.

The formal business of course is primarily to allow shareholders to vote on company issues and the appointment of the company's board of directors. For this to happen the company must present the Company's annual financial statement, Directors' reports and the case of the Federation, the report of the Independent Examiner of the accounts.

Bob Polley was appointed as chairman for the meeting and in his report reflected on what the past year had meant for the Federation, with development and expansion of the website, attendance at Stoke Row, Lowestoft and Warwick exhibitions and the rally at Nottingham SMEE.

He thanked Peter Squire for looking after the finances for the past 12 months as well as his other commitments as secretary to the Federation but has now thankfully been relieved of this task by our newsletter editor Tony Lee

Directors and Committee meetings had continued in the format adopted during Covid, being on-line, saving time and expenditure on traveling.

In closing, he thanked his committee colleagues for their work over the past 12 months.

Next on the agenda were financial matters that were reported by the Acting Treasurer Peter Squire. He reported that Income and payments through 2025 were as usual, with commission payments from Walker Midgley/Everywhen covering our running costs and allowing the affiliation fee to remain low. Consultancy fees to support the work on Safeguarding were a significant outlay, the amounts paid out and the commission income were in the Financial Statement for the year.

He thanked Ian Keleher from Harlington Loco Society for his work and support as examiner of the accounts. 2025 being his fourth year of supporting the Federation with his skills and knowledge.

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The 2025 Statement of Accounts were proposed and seconded for acceptance by delegates, and a show of hands endorsed the proposal.

Reports followed from Paul Naylor on the progress made with implementing the Future Strategy for the Federation and Bob Walker on the role of the Safety Officer.

A brief update from the boiler registrar followed and then some statistics on membership were presented:

- Membership at the end of 2025 stood at 214 affiliated organisations, a decrease on the figure of 231 at the same time in the previous year.
- In 2025, 17 clubs closed. Since 2014, 44 clubs have closed.
- During 2025 we have welcomed new members
  - Gipping Valley Model Boat Club
  - Phoenix Marine Model Club
  - West Lancs Modelers Society

The meeting Chairman, Bob Polley asked the meeting to consider the proposal for the appointment of Directors to serve for the following year as set out in the Directors report distributed with the AGM documentation.

Delegates supported the resolution to appoint 'en-bloc' with a single vote, and appointments were confirmed:

- Bob Polley (Chairman)
- Paul Naylor (Vice Chairman)
- Peter Squire (Secretary and Membership Secretary)
- Bob Walker (Safety Officer)

The formal reports referred to in this report are all available in the Administration Library on the FMES website. Please use this link to access [Administration Library | Federation Of Model Engineering Societies](#)

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the AGM,

# AGM Event Day Workshop Report: Safeguarding, from Small to Senior

*Safeguarding is a topic that might appear to be a 'management activity' and something that model engineers in clubs need not get involved in. Unfortunately, safeguarding not only affects everyone, it places demands on everyone. This is similar to Health and Safety: it is a legal requirement that requires management action, but is also the responsibility of everyone to be aware of and follow the requirements. Whilst it is for each club to decide exactly how they comply with this legislation, we recommend that all club members are made aware of safeguarding and how it might affect club life. This report is the latest step that FMES have taken to make this legislation more understandable, familiar and relevant to all club members*

We held a 'workshop' at the AGM day at The Midlands Aircraft Museum on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2026, a fixture within the day that is becoming fairly standard now as long as we have topics, so if you have particular suggestions for these workshops, please let us know.

Late in 2025, we published our articles on safeguarding as information for clubs on this complex topic courtesy of a lot of excellent work by our volunteer, Dr Peter Kenington. These have now been available for a few months and we know that a good number of clubs have sat down to read them. We started with these weighty tomes because this is a subject that does not lend itself to succinct 'do this, do that' brief instructions and it is important to start with the detail of what is intended by the legislation. We agreed that the next step was to connect these more to the day to day happenings in clubs with support information to illustrate some of the subtleties of the legislative requirements, and this workshop was the first such step on this path.

Owing to the layout of the venue, we could not adopt a more discussive approach but we managed to get across the message and have some 'audience participation'. Hopefully attendees felt that the workshop was useful, and we promised to make the content (and some comments made by others) readily available via the newsletter and the website.

The workshop was essentially presented in two parts: a brief introduction to safeguarding and some of the basic requirements and intentions of the legislation; and then three scenarios based on real (but anonymised) incidents known to the author which were set out to invite comment from the audience as the 'plot unfolded'. The author was Peter Kenington, and in his absence at least in person (he joined by online vision/audio) the workshop was presented by Paul Naylor.



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The Introduction included an explanation of what safeguarding actually is all about and the intentions and responsibilities as a result.

In case there was any doubt, it asked the question 'is it essential?' and tried to lay the ghost that it is all about DBS checking. This is often a mistaken idea that DBS checks are the sole and intrusive mechanism that makes the legislation work, but they are an important part of the processes that clubs need to consider depending on their specific activities. It is this last aspect that prevents FMES from issuing 'templates' and other instructions to satisfy specific society requirements.

The next question was how to start the process of compliance, and to do this it is essential to recognise what the legislation is aimed at preventing. The answer to this is to recognise who might be 'vulnerable' and susceptible to be exploited. Whilst this may appear to be obvious, there are some aspects to this that may be missed. In general, someone who has less 'power' in a relationship *may* be vulnerable and also some people who may not naturally consider themselves vulnerable may actually fall into this category. In addition, 'exploitation' may occur without real intent to actually exploit, as well as those who set out to take deliberate advantage.

The final part of the introduction was to outline the basic steps that a club needs to take to have a sufficient approach to safeguarding and meet legislative requirements. This is NOT a prescribed 'rule' but is a summary of a workable process to allow a club to develop its own approach. In the same way as the Health and Safety Act has a set of steps to follow to demonstrate compliance, it does not define *how* the club 'is safe': that is dependent on the specific club activities. In the H&S analogy, part of this is a 'risk assessment', and whilst examples could be provided of topics to think about (eg safety in the workshop, or in running trains etc), it does not tell a club what it must do in detail.

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- **Definition:** Safeguarding is the proactive process of protecting an individual's health, wellbeing, and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect.
- **Responsibility:** "Safeguarding is everybody's business," meaning organizations, staff, and volunteers have a duty to recognize risks and report concerns.
- **Be Proactive:** This includes creating safe environments, conducting staff checks where needed, providing training, and having clear reporting procedures.

- Yes! Same as H&S – legal requirement to get it right
  - Ignorance is no excuse
- 'Disclosure and Barring Service' (DBS) checks are often not needed
- Even when a club determines some such checks are needed, most members will be exempt
- Level of any DBS check needed is important to gauge:
  - Too low = risks exposure to litigation
  - Too high = potentially a criminal offence under GDPR legislation

- Read the FMES articles on Safeguarding
  - "From Guarding to Safeguarding" Pts. 1 – 4 (available at: <https://fmes.org.uk/safeguarding>)
- Decide what procedures are appropriate to your club and implement them
- Pay special attention to younger members and vulnerable older members (anyone over 70 is likely to be classified as vulnerable to some extent)
- Consider also neurodivergent and transgender members and those in straitened circumstances
- In short: create a 'safe' environment

- Appoint a Safeguarding Officer
- Get them some training
- Develop a (written and publicised) club Safeguarding Policy
- Train your members based on this policy
- Check your operating procedures/scenarios and decide if DBS checks are needed and for whom?
- Have a reporting procedure and reporting form
- Refresh member training annually

It would make for a long newsletter article if this included the scenarios considered and comments made, so for these we suggest that you look at the full report on the workshop available at:

<https://fmes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026-AGM-Workshop-Report-Safeguarding-from-Small-to-Senior-V1.pdf>

The final bit of the workshop was a summary of comments that tried to highlight the essence of what is intended, something it is to be hoped that all clubs might perceive as essential to their well-being and future!

- DBS checks have barely been mentioned...
  - They do not absolve a club of its responsibilities
  - In most scenarios, they are unnecessary
- Irrespective of the law, people will only come to somewhere where they *feel* safe
  - Any outdated or, worse, 'creepy' practices will lead to a lack of customers/members (and/or a legal case)!
- As with H&S, paperwork, procedures, forms and training are *essential*
- *However: Safeguarding is a culture and a state-of-mind not just a set of rules*

The full suite of articles can be found in our library at <https://fmes.org.uk/safeguarding>

FMES wish to continue to develop support for clubs on the topic of safeguarding, both to support those trying to cope with the requirements, and those seeking to develop their activities in attracting new members, especially younger people. To do this, we need to know YOUR wishes and will appreciate comments on the following topics to help us:

- We need feedback on our articles and other published material on this topic, so we can decide how well these are received and where they might be strengthened and made more useful.
- How should we support clubs more to develop their membership, especially for young people setting out on their hobby and professional careers?
- What assistance could we give to clubs to help them develop compliance with the legislation in the fullest way (ie including developing a 'safe' culture in the club)?
- Is there a role for good practice workshops to exchange ideas between clubs?
- Is there a need to provide online training specific to the hobby that all clubs could use to train (or reinforce training of) safeguarding officers?
- Others?

Send us your comments by email to [info@fmes.org.uk](mailto:info@fmes.org.uk) (please reference 'safeguarding') or to [safeguarding@fmes.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@fmes.org.uk). We will correlate feedback and use it to make decisions of future direction.

If you are interested in helping us promote model engineering to younger people ('young engineers') as well as developing safeguarding as a support, let us know at the above addresses: anything we do is always limited by volunteer resources!

# Safeguarding for Seniors

At the recent AGM of Federation of Model Engineers, there was an excellent workshop regarding Safeguarding.

Our club is updating its Safeguarding rules, because we want to grow our Junior section, but it had not come to my mind, the Seniors are just a vulnerable, if not more so!

Like most model engineering clubs, we have a major trip hazard, called a raised track. We have members trying to dance over it, only to then try and head stamp the concrete on the other side.

We have taken two steps to help with this.

Firstly, the club ran a professional course, paid for by the club, so that the members that wanted to could gain a "First Aid at work certification" We now have 10 qualified First Aiders. There will be a shift pattern allocated on the running days so that everyone will know who to contact in case of an incident. We have 8 walkie talkie units so the Person In Charge (PIC) and all relevant areas can be contacted urgently. The First Aiders will be able to stabilise the patient, prior to the professionals arriving. (Do you have your Post Code clearly displayed on your notice board so that the emergency services can find you easily?)

The other step we have taken is to have, in our clubhouse, a tin clearly marked "EMERGENCY ENVELOPES" where each member has placed a completed form which states the two names and contact details of the next of kin, should there be an issue. They can also add any medical history that a paramedic might find helpful, for example a pacemaker fitted etc. This information is then put in an envelope, and sealed with the members name on the outside.

They would only ever be opened in the event of an emergency, so in our opinion, we are not breaching any rules regarding holding data. It is simple, effective, and doesn't involve computer databases etc.

I trust you will find some of this information of use.

Ken Grubb  
Secretary  
South Cheshire Model Engineering Society  
Nantwich

# Young Engineers Competition

The entries for the FMES trophy and Polly Model Engineering competition that ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 were reviewed by our panel of judges, and it was decided that the trophy would not be awarded this year. This was disappointing but maybe expected as the decline in the number of entries for this competition, essentially since COVID, finally reached this point. This has caused us to reconsider the support we provide for Young Engineers through such competitions as described below.

We were asked by one of our member clubs to consider a joint 'team' entry. This falls outside the competition rules and we were not able to accept this for the competition – but we were impressed with the idea and the proposal that we agreed to receive. As a result, we decided to make a special award for the club to support their young engineers and we had the pleasure of making this award to the club at the AGM.

We were very pleased to award £500 to Bristol SME for them to spend as they see fit to further their young engineers team. Norman Rogers, Chairman of the club, came to the AGM with three members of their team (the other five were unable to be there on the date).



Bob Polley greeting the three team members who could attend

In the photo above, the young engineers were, from left to right Jace Johnson, Ned Pearson and Jett Taylor



Norman receiving the award from our Chairman, Bob Polley



The three models of 'Ellie' (an oscillating cylinder engine, boiler and accessories) made by our visiting young engineers were displayed.

We hope to arrange a visit to Bristol to see their work and meet the rest of the team soon and will report this in a newsletter in due course.

## *The Future:*

As a result of our recent experiences attracting entries for the FMES trophy and Polly Model Engineering competition, we announced that we are going to pause this competition at least for 2026 while we consider how best to continue our Young Engineer support.

Part of this review is for us to hear from our member clubs for their advice and guidance. We are seeking ideas to help us decide how to proceed and so are appealing to our member clubs for their thoughts. This review needs to consider the widest possible ways we could assist young engineers with the resources we have, and have phrased a few comments that we would like these thoughts on:

- Whilst we are endeavouring to support clubs with the processes necessary to consider supporting young engineers (such as safeguarding, discussed elsewhere in this newsletter), these concern the steps needed by clubs to comply with requirements rather than motivating support that will be directly to the benefit of young engineers: the latter is the aim of this review.
- Although some form of 'competition' is likely in order to allow us to manage and focus our resources, this need not be of the 'trophy' and 'prize' variety. For example, we could provide direct financial support to clubs making a good case out for it (such as we have endeavoured to do for Bristol SME in the special award this year)
- We wish to support young engineers through their clubs rather than individual entries and a 'team' approach might be a good way to achieve this.
- We are happy to continue with a conventional competition, however we need confidence that this is going to motivate clubs and their young engineers to enter thus resulting in a good selection of future entries.
- Note that 'young engineers' means just that, and as an example, the existing, paused, competition enables entries for people up to 24 years of age. We want to support new entrants to the hobby, preferably (at least for this endeavour) to not only support their interest but also potentially their careers in engineering or other technical subjects.
- When we can decide what we should be doing, we would like to explore commercial support for this to maintain involvement with 'the trade'. We have enjoyed such support from Polly Model Engineering for many years and the fall off in entries is a natural disappointment to them and us. Your thoughts on how we might do this to reinforce support would be useful.

As often stated, we need feedback from our member clubs to help us formulate improvements to our activities, so please take time to consider this, especially if either your club could enhance a current young engineer activity with more support, or, indeed, begin a new young engineering aspect of your club.

**Please let us know your comments by email to [info@fmes.org.uk](mailto:info@fmes.org.uk) (refer to Young Engineer support).**

# What's After Lego?

*Patrick Hendra      The Young Engineers Club*

**I am inspired to write this piece after publishing an article in Model Engineer about 2 years ago. This is a newly written update.**

My view of the future of modelling is rather bleak. For at least two generations, schools have **not** been teaching their lads and lasses how to make things. As a consequence, declining numbers of parents are engineering practitioners---plumbers, machinists, electricians, or welders--- referred to today by our beloved establishment as TIN BASHERS. Very few parents have served apprenticeships. Grandparents, yes, but Parents no. The result is that modern children DON'T MAKE ANYTHING because no one is there to provide tools and workshops and appropriate teaching and encouragement.

This doom-laden message is no exaggeration.

Do you have a decent model shop near you? I don't. These shops are definitely a threatened species but it is simple minded to blame their demise on online shopping or COVID; they have disappeared because of a lack of demand.

Youngsters who have the urge, buy (or their parents buy) radio-controlled racing cars or ready-to-fly model drones or boats rather than make them from scratch. In a sense, this doesn't matter overall, but it really does affect the Boys and Girls who have a POTENTIAL interest in engineering and a potential to become MODEL ENGINEERS when they are much older. If a youngster is 'good with his hands' and has no way to take the matter further, how does HE or SHE learn the skills that are out there? Ah! 3D printing. Very valuable but for the vast majority of youngsters, that means PLASTIC and low-performance plastic at that.

## A local Solution

I created a Club---the Eastleigh Young Engineers, based in a village north of Winchester. Why Eastleigh?---I'm coming to that!

The Club has been operating for 13 years and had a stand at MMEE2024 and 2025 in Warwick where members ran away with the honours in the junior class of the competition.

The Young Engineers are a group of about a dozen children aged between 10 and 17--- boys and girls--- who come to my workshop weekly for an hour or 90 minutes and more during school holidays. Terry Brown of the Eastleigh Model Boat Club and I teach the youngsters ALWAYS on a one-on-one basis. This is done for safety reasons.

Does the initiative produce any real-life engineers? **Of course, Yes!**

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One of the first members was Angus French. He won the Turner Shield three times at successive Midland Model Engineering Competitions and is now a fully qualified production engineer at Jaguar Land Rover. Another 'old' Young Engineer, Ewan White, is now a practising professional Electrical Engineer. Two ex-members are studying engineering at university, another one is about to start studying electrical engineering, and one is now a practising vet, and so it goes on.

### **Crawley Youth Club and the Eastleigh and District Model Boat Club.**

I started working with Children in 2011. At that time, there was an excellent Youth Club in Crawley, a tiny village near Winchester. The kids had nothing to do during August, so I set up a scheme to teach Youth Clubbers who turned up on a Mon. Wed. and Friday mornings from



9.30 -11 for four weeks. I bought a Keil Kraft high-wing balsa kit, and we made an R/C electrically powered plane. 22 youngsters were involved. I might have a dozen one morning and only three the next, as they all went at various times, on holiday. Unfortunately, I had never built a plane myself and didn't realise how tricky it is to fly a radio-controlled model plane, especially on its first flight, so the plane had only three flights, all finishing up in hedges. Oh Dear.

The next summer, we built an R/C boat-MUCH safer! We launched HMS Crane on the village pond and then the following August we built a Thornycroft Lorry----both from scratch. The lorry was based on a Lorry of the 1920s housed at the Milestones museum in Basingstoke. These two models won a silver at the Model Engineer Competition at Sandown Park, and then the Youth Club ran into the buffers.





I had accepted an invitation to let the Crawley-based youngsters become the Junior Section of the Eastleigh and District Model Boat Club. E&DMBC produces some of the very best model boats in the South of England and members helped me improve what we were up to. All went swimmingly until 2015 as we appeared on the Club stand at the Model Boat Show and Alexandra Palace, until a newly formed committee decided that the E&DMBC wanted to terminate the Youth Section because ‘the Youngsters don’t make boats they make lots of other things.’

By that time we were known for our involvement with the Eastleigh Club at Shows so we took the ball and departed but kept Eastleigh in our new title and became **the Eastleigh Young Engineers**. The crazy thing about this sad little story is that a small enthusiastic group within the E&DMBC membership helped us to build up the Junior Section AND they ran a weekly class for the Eastleigh Scouts teaching the Scouts how to build boats from scratch and **they still do!**

Fortunately, we have restored excellent relationships with the Eastleigh Club and they provide me with a steady flow of unfinished hulls and considerable help. In particular, Terry Brown, the Club commodore and an expert at building shapes like hulls from planks and also sheet metal work teaches the YEs regularly. So----let’s forget our experience and move on.

### **Let me tell you how the Young Engineers Club works**

#### **Members**

Our young members come from seeing us at the Annual Littleton and Harestock Show or my parent-to-parent introduction. I am always overloaded and have a waiting list that never gets shorter: *like the NHS*.

I interview potential members and parents to check that the youngster is really keen AND that the parents realise what they are letting themselves in for. Parents are expected to provide travel in all weathers and to regularly check to see what their child has done. The Youngsters get particular satisfaction when they explain how they have made a component and know full well that their parents don’t have a clue.

I have an up-to-date DBS Certificate and am always present when the children are on site.



Safety is an obsession. Everyone wears glasses----- several of the members hate the glasses, but I insist. The girls and boys have to tie their hair back before they start a session. I also ask the Members to wear one of Dad's old T-shirts because Mums tend to go ballistic if a nice white uniform shirt or blouse has a line of black spots up its front. As they gain experience, the members are allowed to use more demanding (and potentially more dangerous) machines but the band saw is *prohibited* until

parents have seen how dangerous it can be **and agreed**.

The Young Engineers try soldering early on in their career. Soft soldering is often done with a hot air torch but small flames are involved. Silver soldering using a powerful propane torch on a very small hearth is introduced early on.

To be honest---the children think they are doing the silver soldering, but really they are helping. I'm sure you get the message.

The Club carries insurance and is a Member of the Federation.

### ***One point about electrical safety:***

We rarely use mains-powered hand tools because most are battery-operated. The Members are NEVER allowed to handle 230v supplies or wiring. There is a 12VDC line on the benches and this is their normal source. Models are usually LiPo powered but the Club owns the batteries and members are not allowed to charge them for obvious reasons.

## **Subscriptions**

Until this year, the parents paid a sub. and I bought in, at their cost, any items specific to their YE's project. This year we have changed to a simple sub. covering everything required.

The Subscription is just under £200 per year, with a reduction if a family has two or more YEs. I am embarrassed at the amount; it seems to my aged mind that is too high but the parents tell me it is absurdly cheap for a practical Club where members are using expensive equipment. Neither Terry or I charge for our services and the Club does not have to pay for space; the workshop is in my house.

## **Projects**

We avoid trains like the plague. To make even the simplest bit of kit for a steam-powered railway takes many hundreds of hours. Kids don't have the time.

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The Young Engineers come to the workshop after every school day, plus extra time during the school holidays. Typically, this amounts to about 45-60 hours per year.

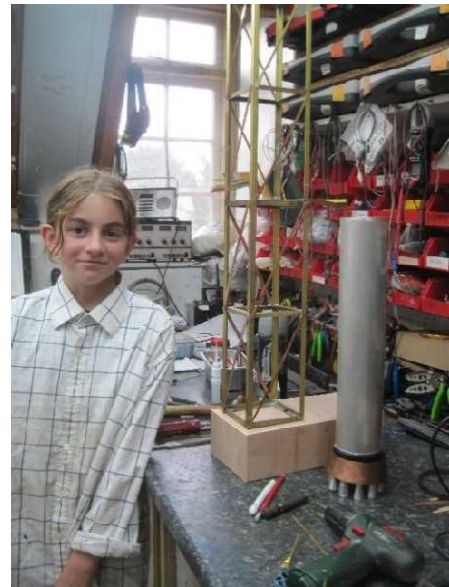
Youngsters want to make things that move --- **preferably fast!** They also need to see results quickly. I try to get them to build a lorry or car or a boat. We get the bare model running around as quickly as possible.

Let me tell you about just three projects that were on our show stand at MMEx2025.



**Alice** is our youngest member. She is at primary school. Using photographs picked up online, she built a blue Citroen 2CV, made of a mixture of wood and metal. This was Alice's second model, and it impressed the Judges.

**Freya** is sadly earthbound. She had to be satisfied with a model of Mr Musk's latest creation! Her rocket is almost entirely made in metal and involved some interesting machining. It houses a home-built smoke generator and a fan to blow the smoke out the bottom as the rocket rises up the supporting tower. The workshop has been full of smoke---frequently. The Judges liked this one too!



**Sacha**, like Freya has built two models from scratch before coming up with 'La Jamais Contente' the World Land Speed record holder in 1899 --- at 62mph.

The model has a chassis fabricated in brass and steel, and the top is made of thin aluminium sheet over wooden formers. The noses are solid and made from rigid PU foam. Sacha was awarded a first and the Turner Shield. Oh yes--it runs up and down the village street!



*I am not allowed to tell you what the members are going to offer at this year's Warwick Show. It's a secret! Three members insist they are going to win this year. Hmm! Here is a little peek---a Greek Chariot from Lyra, our resident expert.*

## To conclude

I'm not planning to stop but I have just celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Why can't you folks set up Junior Sections in your club? Many of you have the building, better kit than mine and much more expertise than I can offer. Working with youngsters is really satisfying and it keeps **me (and you)** young.

Creating a Youth Section is much simpler than you think.

Remember----there are not going to be very many Model Engineers in the future. We Brits don't make very much these days. We think great thoughts, tell the Chinese to bash the metal and we buy the product.

**If any Club is interested, please contact me and let me fill you in with much more detail than I have given above.**

I am very happy to be of help. I mean it!  
[ph3.6@outlook.com](mailto:ph3.6@outlook.com)

Patrick Hendra 01962 776 314 or

**SEE YOU IN OCTOBER AT MMEEX2026 IN WARWICK.**

**LOOK FOR THE YOUNG ENGINEERS STAND**

# Basingstoke and District MES

## Steam Gala April 2026

Basingstoke held their annual miniature steam gala on Saturday and Sunday, 11/12<sup>th</sup> April. The event displays the clubs range of interests well including a 5"/3.5" gauge raised railway track with nicely made track using recycled sleepers and steel 'rail', 'less than full size' traction engines and a garden railway, as well as their visitors for the day including model boats, stationary engines and visiting traction engines and railway locomotives. The event was open to all and at the Saturday opening, when I was there, the drizzly weather heralding the set-up time disappeared followed by nicer weather that was starting to bring the local patronage in. The club, founded on the current site in 1982, is based within the 'Viables' craft centre, a local authority owned community attraction that was originally a farm, but now surrounded by industry and



housing. The club is probably classed as 'medium sized' with around 50 members, roughly split 50:50 between locomotive and track based interest and traction and other road vehicles. I did not *count* the traction engines present, but there was an impressive display of over 20 of different scales in steam on the adjacent field, and running around a purpose made 'road' inside the railway track loop. The railway

had both steam and electric ('diesel') interest also offering rides around the c300 metre long track, including a tunnel that has an impressive exit and was



built on a curve (so you could not see through it!).

The station was neat and tidy with easy access to steaming bays (that were fairly lightly used at the early time I took the photos) with some 5" gauge engines waiting to steam up.



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A very long 'point' to service the carriage sheds caught my eye, the 'pivot' is on the main circuit (the yellow end in the photo) and is capable of taking a train at a time. There is also a garden railway circuit for those interested in smaller outdoor gauges.



Here is a further selection of photographs, for your interest, of models and exhibits: note the stand by Basingstoke Model Boat Club, a usual collaborator in such local events.





I enjoyed my visit to this friendly club and commend you to visit next year if you can. Details of the club can be found on their website at <http://www.basingstoke-dmes.co.uk/> and watch for future announcements and other open days for visitors throughout the year.

## Web Page News

How often have you looked at a well-engineered model only to see that it has been poorly painted and badly lined? A well finished model can even cover up poor engineering!!

Deep in the FMES library help is on hand if you are about to finish your model that maybe has taken many years to complete. [Painting-and-Lining.pdf](#)

This article covers:

Detail Finishing. Covering polishing and rounding of edges

Painting. Including when to paint, undercoating and methods of painting

The Paint Shop. Equipment needed and set up

Choice of Paint. Matt or gloss, enamel or acrylic, off the shelf or specialist, primers

Masking. Making sure the right bits are painted

Paint Preparation. Use of thinners

Paint Application. Testing, number of coats

Lining. Pens, transfers, freehand, application of lettering

Don't forget that the library has a large suppliers list and a suggested speakers list both recently updated.

Finally, a reminder that you can easily check on recent new entries in the library, go to the main library page and click on 'Recent new entries' where you will find links to the latest articles.

*Jim Hollom*

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**Events:** The FMES website has an events calendar. It is accessed under the "About" heading and can show events as a list or in calendar format. If you have an event your club would like to include on this calendar, please send details to [info@fmes.org.uk](mailto:info@fmes.org.uk)

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Part of the  Group of companies

We would like to inform you of a change of name/rebranding of **Walker Midgley (WM)**, the insurers for many of our clubs (and ourselves). The new name will be '**Everywhen**' and this is now active, although some details (eg email addresses etc) may be updated in due course. It is very important to note that WM have the following explanation and confirmation: *The rebranding is a replacement of the WM name and logo with Everywhen and the relevant logo. All the people in the office, contact phone numbers, address etc remains exactly as they are now. The tone of the rebrand is that it is very much business as usual, with the same people they have always dealt with, doing the same type of business with the same high level of service that they have always had.* The web address, [www.walkermidgley.co.uk](http://www.walkermidgley.co.uk) will still work for a while with a divert to a new URL which is currently <https://www.towergateinsurance.co.uk/walker-midgley> .

Updates to insurance policies and other paperwork will follow in due course, but existing policies under the WM name will be otherwise unchanged.

If you have any questions for the insurers, please use the contact links above.

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## FMES Accounts

### 2026 Annual subscriptions for Members:

We are pleased to announce that, for 2026, our member club subscriptions will remain at £10. Please help us by informing us of any changes to your primary contact details (that is name, club, email, telephone in the first instance) in advance. Check on the website using your login, or ask us if you need to confirm these details.

Many clubs have already paid the annual subscription fee. If you have yet to pay, a reminder on how to pay follows:

1 - Preferred payment please is by BACS (On-Line Banking)  
Federation of Model Engineering Societies  
Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-50, Account No. 13328562  
Remember to include your affiliation number as the reference.

OR

2 - By cheque made out to Federation of Model Engineering Societies  
Please send the cheque to:  
Mr. A. Lee, 6 Thatchers Close, Epwell, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 6LJ

Please include a note with your affiliation number or write it on the back of the cheque on the right hand side.

# *The Federation Boiler Registrar*

## Copies of Written Scheme of Examination for the Boiler Registrar

I've had a few enquiries on the return of the pink slips for our records.

As most things are sent electronically these days, so I am happy to accept a copy of the Written Scheme of Examination by email or messenger. Please scan or take a picture of the **white** copy, as the pink slips are almost impossible to read from a picture

You can still send them by post if you prefer, I am happy with either method. However you send them to me, please make sure that the certificate is filled out correctly and all fields are populated.

Copies without Boiler Number, Owner, Model, Scale, Club Affiliation Number or Date cannot be registered and will be returned.

Thank you

*Colin Walton*

## Missing Certificate set

**We have a report from a member that a blank certificate set has gone missing from their pad.**

**Please watch out for certificate number C210459 as it might be used to support the sale of a model with an untested boiler.**

**Please be aware when purchasing a model or when a 'new' pressure vessel is introduced to your club.**

Supplies of certificate pads etc.can be ordered using the SHOP page on the website:

<https://fmes.org.uk/shop-2/>

and the order will go direct to Colin, or you can contact him by email using colin.walton@fmes.org.uk or by phone on 07745 687159

His address for sending WSE forms is:

12 Lytham Road  
Midandbury  
Southampton  
SO18 2BP

# FMES Committee

President	Brent Hudson
Vice President	Mike Chrisp
Vice President	Ivan Hurst
Chairman	Bob Polley
Secretary	Peter Squire
Treasurer	TBA
Vice Chairman	Paul Naylor
Safety Officer	Robert Walker

Management Team: Peter Harrison, Jim Hollom, Peter Kenington,  
Tony Lee, Melvyn O'Connell, Colin Walton

## INSURANCE CLAIMS AND INCIDENTS

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

It will be useful if Clubs also advise FMES when an incident has been reported.  
(Information held in confidence – internal use only)

[info@fmes.org.uk](mailto:info@fmes.org.uk)

## *Publications Available from FMES*

The FMES publications listed below are available from our stand at rallies and exhibitions or by post.  
Please make contact first by email, initially to [info@fmes.org.uk](mailto:info@fmes.org.uk) or use the 'shop' option on the website.

The figures below are for single items and do not include postage.

We will minimise postage costs for multiple items.

Please make cheques payable to 'Federation MES' or use BACS to Sort Code 20-71-82 Acct 43755967.

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

Colin Walton

Tel:+ 07745 687159

[Email: colin.walton@fmes.org.uk](mailto:colin.walton@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.