



INSIDE MOTION

News and Views from the
TYNESIDE SOCIETY of MODEL and EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERS
No. 62 April 2026

Preamble

The clocks have gone forward so we're into British Summer Time. The trees are greening and blossom is showing, the daffs are out, birds are getting frisky and Easter is out of the way. Things should pick up nicely around the Club, assuming we can afford to leave home to get there

Club matters

Public Running

Easter Sunday coincided with the first Sunday of the month and it was the first Public Running session of the new year. The day was bright but a stiff cold wind persisted as the tail-end of Storm Dave lingered rather longer than forecast. This did not keep people away though and we were busy from the off and throughout the day. Five locomotives were rostered to handle the traffic – they made an impressive line-up in the steaming bay.



The first trains of the day



An impressive line-up of 7 1/4" gauge motive power. Coats, hats and hoods testify to the sharpness of the wind.

In keeping with the Easter theme, small decorative Easter baskets were handed out at the end of each ride.



Easter Baskets

As ever, many thanks to all those who pitched in to help make a long cold day the success it was.

A reminder that May's Public Running event has been moved to the second Sunday, the 10th, because of an event in the Park the previous weekend. It coincides with the Jesmond Festival, so should be busy.

TSMEE Mapped

TSMEE played host to another Newcastle University Student project – this time comparing conventional ground-based surveying methods with aerial photogrammetry

The goal was to assess how accurately a relatively compact and accessible system can reproduce the railway geometry, and whether such methods could be applied more widely in engineering survey work.

Survey work on site included the establishment of a control network using GNSS equipment, followed by total station observations to capture key features of the track, buildings, and surrounding environment. In addition, detailed measurements of the rail itself was collected at regular intervals to provide a high-accuracy reference dataset.

The next stage of the project involved flying a drone over the site to capture aerial imagery, which was then processed into a 3D model and compared against the ground survey data. This allowed the accuracy and reliability of the drone-based approach to be evaluated.

The TSMEE railway provided an ideal test environment for this work due to its accessible layout, clear visibility, and variety of features, including curves, junctions, and surrounding structures.



Ground-based surveying



TSMEE as seen by the drone at 55 metres altitude

Vehicle Access Gate Chain

If you are a user of the vehicle access gates, please don't loop the chain over the concrete gatepost. There have been occasions where the gate has been closed with the chain still hanging resulting in the crushing (and weakening) of links in the gate hinge and straining the hinge itself. Either loop the chain up neatly on the ground (away from feet and tyres) or hang it around the wood palings of the adjacent fence. Ideally, it should be re-hung across the gateway once the gates are closed.

Other stuff

Stephenson Locomotive Trials 2026

From Eddie Gibbons

It is my great pleasure to advise you that the date for this year's trials event is Saturday 26th September to be hosted by the South Durham Society of Model Engineers at their track site at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth near Darlington. Please make a note in your diary. Whether you join us as a locomotive driver, a spectator or helper, I'm sure you will have an entertaining day.

Hopefully, the weather will be kinder to us than we had last year at Carlisle.

For further details contact Eddie at eddyg.52a@btopenworld.com

Strathaven

On May the 14th 2026 we will celebrate our 77th Anniversary of the railway in the park along with our steam loco Margaret's 77th birthday. Visitors from other Clubs are welcome to attend.

For further details contact strathavenminiaturerailway@gmail.com

Postamble

I'll be away for the first part of May, so if there is to be an edition of IM that month, it will come out rather late. In the interim, perhaps someone could make a note of how the Public Running event turned out and, maybe, take a couple of pictures. Anything else of note would be appreciated.

Contact information

Newsletter Editor – Mike Maguire – mike.maguire@btinternet.com

Club Secretary – Linda Nicholls – lindanic@sky.com – 01 670 816072

Website – www.tsme.co.uk Webmaster – John Rowley – johnrowley@btinternet.com

Headquarters and Multi-gauge Track – Exhibition Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PZ

Recent sighting



Thomas Kwan's 5" gauge rtr Maxitrak Wren.
Next job – a riding truck ...