



indicates that it will remain at Falconwood for 2020, and a list of running dates has been received by **EIM** and will appear in our diary. It's good news that the club appears set for a running season but surely all concerned must hope for some long-term certainty before too long?

Good to hear from the **North Wales ME**, the editor recalling a highly enjoyable day at the club in 2018 when it opened its new track on the West Shore at the coastal resort of Llandudno. I certainly agree with the club's claim that the track must have one of the best locations in the UK – it's a couple of hundred yards from the sea, with the magnificent backdrop of the Great Orme to one side and the Menai Straits and Snowdonia to the other.

North Wales member Keith Jones has recently completed a Don Young designed 5-inch gauge 'Aspinall' locomotive with local connections, the model based on British Railways (ex Lancashire & Yorkshire) loco no

52119 that languished on the scrap line at Llandudno Junction shed (6G). The note from the club tells us that the full-size loco was a favourite with all trainspotters in the 1960s and the model goes as well as it looks. Keith has now completed at least four steam locomotives and we are told his next project will take him into the field of horology. Excellent, perhaps write it up for **EIM**?

Among many club journals received at **EIM** Towers (please keep them coming!) is the latest from the **Worthing SME**, within which is a delightful tale contributed by chairman Kevan Ayling, paying tribute to club patron Dennis Marshall who passed away in 2019.

It seems Dennis ran a company that had been contracted to manufacture equipment for a very well-known airline, supposedly the world's favourite... Having ordered the steelwork, the airline then changed the specification, rendering much of what had been supplied, and

*"Does it really matter that we can no longer say 'I made all that?'"*

#### ABOVE & LEFT:

The fine Lancashire & Yorkshire Aspinall loco built in 5-inch gauge by North Wales ME member Keith Jones. Photos: North Wales ME

#### FACING PAGE:

Three views of the mystery loco found in a loft – do any readers recognise the type? Photos courtesy Roger Backhouse, SMEE

paid for, redundant. As a result, the Worthing Club's desire for a footbridge over its track to the clubhouse, a project long put on hold due to the cost, suddenly became highly possible!

"Alas we didn't get any air miles!" Kevan quips, rounding off a lovely tale demonstrating how you can never second-guess the provenance of the facilities at our clubs...

The cover of the latest edition of *Criterion*, the newsletter of the **High Wycombe ME**, unusually features the club's woven shirt badge, but for a very good reason. 'Est 1920' states the badge, a reminder that the coming season will be a very special one as the club clocks up its centenary. No suggestions yet as to how this auspicious milestone will be marked but we are sure the club will be planning something suitable and we look forward to reporting on the celebrations in these pages.

#### Embracing change

A thought-provoking piece in the latest edition of *Vectimod*, the newsletter of the highly active **Isle of Wight ME**, addresses the fact that times are changing and that the club should ensure it changes with them. Club secretary Roger Scott-Roberts, penning the piece, argues that clubs and societies that are determined to resist evolution will disappear.

Model engineering has changed a great deal, Roger says, the demise of heavy industry in the UK making 'true' engineers a rare breed and reflected in the hobby, with a new breed of model engineer. Modellers who would previously have spent countless hours making parts in their workshop that would not be visible on their completed model are now far more relaxed about buying ready-made examples online.

Does it really matter that we can no longer say "I made all that?" Roger asks. In some places regulation makes such complete builds far more difficult, particularly where boilers are concerned – even if you have the skill to build your own boiler rather than have it built professionally, today's regulations mean selling a model with a home-built boiler is much more difficult than it once was.

Roger expands the theme in his well-written piece, arguing that model engineers today have much wider interests than spending hours in a workshop and clubs must reflect that. Even clubs such as the Isle of Wight, in the enviable position of being under no pressures, owning its site outright, need to evolve, to welcome new projects put forward by members.

Roger concludes; "The Society can't afford to stand still or like the

