



Smokebox

News Letter of the Bedfordshire Area Group of the

Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers

September 2008

Thanks to all our members who held garden meetings during the summer break and thanks to the many members who came along and supported those garden meetings.

A New Year

Being the first meeting of our new year I must remind you all that it's Subs. time. Tony our treasurer has prepared accounts for the year and it would seem that the cost of hiring the hall has increased since 2006/2007, by 30% for the year 2007/2008. The level of Subs. which was set at £15 when we moved to the Scout Hut no longer covers the cost of hire. We would need to increase the level of subs. to at least £17.50 to cover the cost of hire for this coming year. That presumes that we maintain the current level of membership which at present stands at 34 and the cost of hire does not increase for 2008/2009.

No decision has yet been made so please let us have your views when we meet on the 7th.

Web Site

As you all know Pete Newman has handed the running and management of the BAG's Web Site to Michael Walton, the new site developed by Michael has been up and running for several weeks. He has done a great job of introducing a complete new look which has brought the look and feel of the site bang up to date. Michael tells me there are still a few teething problems that he needs to sort out. But please do check the site out for yourself and let Michael have your feedback.

You can find the BAG site at www.bag16mm.org.uk

Confirmed dates for Group meetings 2008

7 th September	Normal running day
5 th October	Normal running day
2 nd November	Normal running day
7 th December	Steam in Beds 08

Dates for 2009 have still to be agreed with the Hall organisers.

Steam in Beds 2008

Since I last reported on SIB08, I have been advised by Alan & Janet of Lineside Delights that they won't be able to attend this year due to ill health. This did leave us with a bit of spare space, some of which has been taken by Jim Leggett of Jim's Model (see SMT 125, page 41 for a review of some of his kits). I am still looking to fill one more space so if you have any ideas who we could invite please let me know.

Traders who have confirmed attendance so far:

Brandbright	Busy Bodies	Imp Models
Jons People	Atropos	Jim's Models

As far as layouts for running are concerned, we will have our own Ridgmont, plus Graham and Carol with Prayle Grove and Andrew and Joy Neal with his latest offering of St Gennys.

Members Running Days

14th September

Steam Running day on Martin Shrubsole's Somesay Island Railway

This should prove to be a very enjoyable and entertaining days steaming, with Martin trying to keep us all under some kind of control. I hear he likes a challenge! If you missed Martin's thoughts on his plans for the days running, attached is a copy for your information.

Please ring 01296-688913 or e-mail: welaws@aol.com

12th October

Open day at Alan Regan's 45mm gauge line at Olney, Alan tells me he has plenty of rolling stock so as long as you can re-gauge your Loco you're OK, or you are welcome to just come along and watch.

Contact e-mail: alanpregan@btopenworld.com

Exhibitions

11th October

"TaD-Rail 2008", Tring and District Model Railway Club, 'Wags Wharf' will be attending, we always need people to help run the Layout so if you can spare an hour or two let me know.

25th October

East Anglian Garden Railway Show, Breckland School, Brandon IP27 0NJ.
St. Gennys and Nidderdale attending.

For more details see: <http://www.eag16mm.org>

14th – 21st October

Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre for more details and advance tickets contact: Tel 01926 614101 or visit www.modelengineeringexhibition.co.uk

Chris Pretty
Secretary