

Smokebox September 2011

Welcome to our first meeting of the 2011/2012 running season

As it is the beginning of a new year in the club's calendar it's time to pay our yearly Subs. We will be coming into our fourth season at Eaton Bray and during that time we have held the Subs at the same level in spite of an increase in the rental cost last year, it also seems likely that the cost will again increase in January 2012. Taking this and our static level of membership we must now increase the level of our Subs. to £30 in order to cover the cost of hiring the Hall. There are also other costs which we incur running and maintaining the Insurance, Affiliations, Advertising, Postage etc. We rely on any Profit we make from Steam in Beds to cover these other costs so it is important that we can cover the cost of the Hall from our Subs.

Our current membership stands at 30, if we had a larger membership it would be possible to spread the cost which would mean we could lower the individual cost per member. Please let us know any thoughts you have on how we could recruit more members.

Steam In Beds 2011

The Hall has been booked for the 3 December for this year's **Steam in Beds**. The following Traders have confirmed they will be attending:

Brandbright	Anything Narrow Gauge	Atropos	Jons People
Trenarren Models	AnDel Models	Kent Garden Railway	

We will have the following railways for members running:

The Clubs "Ridgmont"	Carol and Graham with "Prayle Grove"
Andrew with "Chalkwood"	Nick with "New Mexican Dock"

There are still a lot of things we need to finalise, Hall Layout, Stewards, Catering, Advertising, Leaflets and I am sure there are others which will crop-up as the day approaches. As usual we will be looking for help with organising the set-up and close down at the end of the Show. Let's just hope we don't get a repeat of the snow this year.

Email Addresses

During the course of our summer break both Brian and I sent emails to every BAGs member who we had email addresses for. It would be true to say that we were totally underwhelmed by the responses we received. In both cases only a handful of members bothered to acknowledge receipt which only needed you to tick a box, we would at least know you received it.

Now there could be a number of reasons for this, you just can't be bothered, not interested, or as I suspect we don't have your correct email address. You will find a list on the front table with details of the email addresses we have for you, please take the time to check it and if it's wrong please enter the correct address in the space against your name. Hopefully, that way we will avoid wasting time sending emails to old addresses and you missing out.

2011 Meeting Dates

The following are the club meeting dates for 2011:

4th September 2nd October inc. P/G
6th November inc. P/G

Prayle Grove will be attending those dates marked P/G

2012 Meeting Dates

The following are the club meeting dates for 2011:

1st January 5th February 4th March
1st April 6th May 3rd June
1st July 2nd September 7th October
4th November 1st December Steam in Beds Show



National Garden Railway Show and AGM

I have now had the official invitation asking us to take Ridgmont to the Association annual show at the end of March next year. As you know it will be held at a new Venue the Exec Centre at the East of England Showground near Peterborough. In terms of mileage the new Venue is in fact closer to Eaton Bray than Stoneleigh by about 6 miles but I suspect it may take a few minutes longer.

For those of you that don't know, the details are as follows:

Venue Exec Centre
East of England Showground
PE2 6XE

Date 31 March 2012

Timetable

Load Ridgmont at Eaton Bray	Friday Lunch Time
Drive to Exec and unload and set up	Friday PM
Show Opens at	10 am on the 31 st
Breakdown and Load Ridgmont at end of Show	
Return Ridgmont to Eaton Bray	Sunday 11.30 am (Club Running Day)

I will finalise the actual times nearer the time but in the meantime I do need to start collecting names of members willing to help with the following.

Loading Ridgmont at Eaton Bray
Unloading and setting up at Exec
Operators on the day of the Show
Breakdown and loading at the end of the show
Unloading at Eaton Bray

It goes without saying that priority on the Shows Running Roster will be given to those members who have helped out with at least some of the above.

Finally, it's all too often the same small group of people who turn up to help, I am very grateful for their help without them it just would not happen so please let's see some of our other members lending a hand this time. So please let me have your offers of help ASAP, there will be Form on the front table to note what tasks you are able to help with.



Exhibitions 2011

Andrew Neal will be taking St Genny's to the Elsecar Show this year, it's a 2 day show to be held on the 24th and 25th September. This is a big commitment for Andrew and Joy so I am sure they would welcome any support from the BAGs members helping to run the layout

Papplewick Green

Papplewick Green was invited to the Bedford Model Engineering Society's last weekend for their public running event. The layout was located in a Marquee along with a large display of the Society's members Locos and Rolling Stock. Judging by the feedback from the Society Chairman, the show put on by the team on Papplewick Green went down very well with the many visitors over the weekend. Well done to all those involved with the presentation of Papplewick and the Beds Area Group a very good bit of PR for BAGS.

Garden Meetings

I have been contacted by 16mm Ass. Member John Rogers (No. 7602), he lives in Arlesey, Beds. He has offered to open his Garden Railway to any BAGs member. He describes the line as a small 32mm figure of eight with a minimum radius 3' 6", Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday would be best and because of the size he is limited to 2/3 visitors at a time. Anyone who is interested in this kind offer please give John a ring on 01462 731506 to arrange a suitable date for your visit. John has sent me some photos of Garden Railway hoping it will whet your appetite for a visit.

We have also been contacted by Chris Hughes, the Secretary of the Milton Keynes Model Railway Society, with a view to BAGs members running on their outside track at Bletchley Park on a Saturday or Sunday. I understand that they have both 32mm and 45mm running tracks. I have not as yet followed up the offer so if you would be interested in a visit in the near future let me know and I will make contact with Chris Hughes to arrange a suitable date.



Pitstone Museum

This will be Wags Wharf's 3rd year at the museum; if you have visited you will know that we have not had a good location. Earlier this year the Museum management agreed a move to a new location which puts us in the centre of the museum grounds. The move was completed in July and has proved popular with both visitors and the WAGs team. If you have not visited yet there is only one more open day this year, 11 September is your last chance to visit before next Easter. More details can be found on the Museums Web Site at www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk.



Gas Supplies

We have a quantity of Butane Gas available, 277g Canister £3.50

Chris Pretty

Finally the following thought from Geoff Evans

MAKING A SCENE

I have been thumbing through some back editions of Railway Modeller as one does. The smaller scale indoor layouts all feature scenery of hills, stations, goods sheds, houses, factories et al. The larger scale layouts outdoors seem to be in two groups – those with houses, stations, sheds etc and those without. Mostly, I would suggest the Gauge O & 1 layouts are devoid of scenery and simply are means to full operation of scale length trains.

In 16mm the tendency is to narrow gauge slow train operation so in addition to all that natural foliage the extent of the addition of stations, sheds etc is to the owners preference. BUT does it make any difference to the appeal of the garden railway?

My railway is located in a small estate house garden so there is limited space for the extensive landscaping seen on some well publicised lines. Is a 16mm garden railway the better or worse for all those houses etc? What do other members of Beds Area Group think?

Geoff Evans