

SMOKEBOX

APRIL 2013

Monthly Update

Over the past few months I have been rattling on about unpaid subscriptions and the benefits that come with membership of the Beds Area Group.

I think it worthwhile to highlight some of the advantages of belonging to the Beds Group. Here in no particular order are several good reasons for continued membership of the group, the obvious ones being regular monthly meetings running on the clubs own layout Ridgmont. We also have one of the 16mm Association Boiler Testing Kits which by prior arrangement Pete Newman will test your boiler and issue a Boiler Certificate. What you may not know is that BAGs has its own Personal Accident Insurance which covers all paid up members of the Beds Area Group, attached is a copy of the schedule of cover provided. All BAGs members who are also 16mm Association members are covered by the Association Public Liability Insurance.

Another benefit which is hard to put a price on is the wealth of knowledge that our members have who are always more than willing to help out other members with advice and help with a 16mm problem.

Group Meetings 2013 Dates

5th May - 2nd June - 7th July - August No Meeting - 1st September - 6th October-PG - 3rd November-PG

Prayle Grove will be in attendance at our monthly meetings on the dates marked above with PG.

Prayle Grove, as many of you will know Graham has a problem with his feet which is affecting his mobility which in turn may affect Prayle Grove attending our meetings, if you would like to know if they will be at a particular meeting you should contact Carol via her email to check: caroleast@me.com

Steam in Beds

SIB 2013 will be on Saturday 30th November, we are currently talking to the Church Warden with a view to using some extra space in St Mary's church, and if we get their agreement it would mean that we would add further traders and possibly an extra layout to the show. Nothing has been agreed yet, if nothing comes of it we will be no worse off. If anyone has any other ideas how we could improve SIB please let me know.

Members News

A number of members had remarked that Sue, John Friendship and Ted and Betsy have not been to a recent meeting and wondered if they were alright. Well I spoke to Sue a couple of weeks ago and while they have had some problems they are making progress. John is having more treatment to help with his breathing problem, it takes a few months for the treatment to take full effect so we shall have to wait and see. Ted has had another period in hospital and Betsy has had a fall but is getting around with a walking frame. I am sure we wish them all a speedy recovery. Sue assures me that they still intend to come to the club as often as possible and will bring Ted and Betsy when they feel up to it.

Gas Supplies

I have been contacted by Chris Moody of Locobox to see if we would like to pre-order some gas for collection at Peterborough on the 27th. I have checked their web site, the prices are as follows:

Butane 277g/482ml Single Canister @ £3.20 Box 12 @ £35.00 which works out at £2.92 per Canister.

Butane Mix 350g/631ml Single Canister @ £3.75 Box 12 @ £41.00 which works out at £3.42 per Canister.

If we can put together a worthwhile order and buy full boxes to share we will get the benefit of the lower Canister price. If anyone is interested in buying gas let me know. If enough members are interested I will place a Group Order for collection at the show then we can split the boxes later, but I will need the cash up front. I got caught last time, members ordered gas but never collected it so I was left with more Gas than I could possibly need and out of pocket.

Future Exhibitions

Martin Shrubsole has advised me of the following dates for the “***Somesay Island Railway***”

Trains for Marie Curie Cancer Care operating days (running the railway with Somesay Island's own stock, including a session of Timetable operation) Sat 4th, Sun 5th and Mon 6th May 14:00 to 19:30.

Invitation to run steam on Somesay Island Sun 12th May 11: 30 to 16:30 (lunch provided 13:00 ; contributions to Marie Curie Cancer Care gladly received). See www.somesayislandrailway.org.uk

I understand from Andrew Neal he will be taking one of his Railways to the following exhibitions:

Saturday April 27th [16mm AGM/Garden Railway Show](#)
Peterborough

Saturday August 10th [East Anglia Garden Railway Show](#)
Bressingham Steam Museum, Low Road, Bressingham, Diss

There are a few shows coming up in April and early May which you may find of interest.

Saturday 13th April [Amersham & Chorleywood Model Railway Society Exhibition](#)
Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, Buckinghamshire

Saturday 13th April [Brambleton Model Railway Club - Outdoor Model Railway Open Day](#)
Highfield Oval, Ambrose Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Saturday 20th April [Tring and District MRC - Cheddington Scouts MREx](#)
Pitstone Memorial Hall, Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Buckinghamshire

Saturday 20th April [De Havilland Model Railway Society - Model Railway Exhibition](#)
Ludwick Way Methodist Church, Ludwick Way, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

Sunday 5th May [Hoddesdon Model and Railway Club - Modelling Extravaganza](#)
The New Clubhouse, the Old Mill, Mill Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire

Saturday 11th May [Association of Larger Scale Railway Modellers - ALSRM Reading Show](#)
Rivermead Centre, Richfield Avenue, Reading, Berkshire

Saturday 11th May [South West Herts Model Railway Society - Annual Model Railway Exhibition](#)
Queens School, Aldenham Road, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire

More details for these and future exhibitions can be found at www.ukmodelshops.co.uk

Pitstone Museum

The Pitstone re-opened on Easter Monday and Wags Wharf was in full operation and in spite of the cold weather we had over 150 visitors which was much better than expected. If you have not been to the Museum apart from the obvious attraction of Wags Wharf there is plenty for all the family to do and see. Please pick up a leaflet for full details of the Museum's attractions.

Garden Meeting

If you are thinking of having an open day at your Railway please let me have the details so I can include them in the next Smokebox.

Chris