

SMOKEBOX NOVEMBER 2013

Welcome to the November Edition of Smokebox

Steam in Beds

Steam in Beds is now less than 4 weeks away so most of this edition will be devoted to the organising of the event. There are a number of important tasks that we need help with. During the course of the day I shall be collecting names of volunteers. There's no point in trying to hide 'cause I will find you.

1. Firstly we need a team of 6 on Friday afternoon to help clear the chairs in the Church.
2. As always we need as many as possible at the Hall 8.00 am Saturday morning to help with the set up.
3. We will have a Roster of ticket sellers on the front door; we will operate 30 minute slots.
4. Likewise we will need somebody stationed at the Church entrance to check tickets, again 30 minute slots.
5. Once again Martin will be running Member to Member Sales, volunteers needed for 30 minute slots.
6. One of the big problems in previous years has been the car parking, we need volunteers to help visitors by making sure we make the best use of the available space, again there will be 30 minute slots.

Below is the complete timetable for the 30th:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Friday 29th November		
Clear Church	2pm	6 Members
Saturday 30th November		
Set Up Ridgmont	8.00am	8 Members
Layout Hall	8.00am	Full Team
Supervise Set Up of Church	8.00am	2 Members
Posters & Signs	8.00am	2 Members
Kitchen Set Up	8.00am	
Bacon Butties	from 8.30am	
Handout		
- Breakfast Vouchers & Badges	8.00am	1 Member to do both
Meet and Greet Traders/Layouts	8.00am	Chris P - Brian W
Member to Member Sales	8.00am	Roster - 30 mins each (Martin S)
Manage Car Parking Spaces	9.30am	Roster - 30 mins each
Ticket Sales	9.30am	Roster - 30 mins each (Tony Mc)
Show Opens 10.00am		
Check Tickets at Church Entrance	10.00am	Roster - 30 mins each
Selling Raffle Tickets	10.00am	?
Collect Raffle Prizes from Traders	10.00am onwards	Chris P - Brian W
Draw Raffle	3.00pm	Chris P - Brian W
Show Closes 4.30pm		
Clear Hall	4.30pm	All
Hall Clear by	6.00pm	All
Clear Church	4.30pm	All
Restore Church Seating Etc.	4.30pm	All
Clear Church	ASAP	All

Cont.

One other important area is the catering, in the past we have had excellent support from the wives of members. Unfortunately we will be missing at least two of our regular team members this year. Sheila Cheeseman has agreed to do the Bacon Butties again for us and I am hoping that Joy Neal and June Kitchenman will also be on hand to run the catering on the day. As we are going to be short of two in the kitchen I am sure that they would not turn down any help from members or their wives.

As far as promoting SIB is concerned we have once again had a Free Half Page advert in the Focus Magazine, this magazine is delivered free to all houses in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall. We have in the past advertised in SMT but as the publication date is so close to SIB we have taken the bold step of placing an advert in the Railway Modeller Magazine which has a circulation in excess of 42,000 but don't panic they're not all in Bedfordshire. I have also had some Flyers printed which I will bring along on Sunday, if you would like to take some to pass out to family, friends etc please help yourself.

As I mentioned earlier Martin will be running the Member to Member Sales again this year. It is an opportunity to turn unwanted items into cash which in turn you can spend with the Traders on the day, go on you know it makes sense.

From the following list you will see that we have added a number of extra Traders, we have kept our regular 16mm Layouts but we have tried to introduce a bit more variety which we hope will have a more general appeal to local families visiting the show.

Traders:

Andel Models	Rolling Stock Kits and Accessories
Andrew Neale	Railway Books
Anything Narrow Gauge	Locos and Accessories
Atropos	Rolling Stock Kits and Accessories
Brandbright	Everything you could possible want and more
Jim Models	Rolling Stock Kits and Accessories
Jons People	16mm Figures
Kent Garden Railway	32/45mm Rolling Stock and Accessories
Loco-Boxes	Loco Storage and Carrying Boxes, Butane & Butane Mix Gas
Trenarren Models	16mm Accessories and Figures
MacMillan	16mm Accessories in aid of Cancer Care

Layouts:

Ridgmont	Club Layout	16mm	Steam
Prayle Grove	Carol & Graham East	16/45mm	Steam
Aberwyn	Andrew Neal	16mm	Steam
Fen End Pit	David Barham	16mm	Electric
Putnoe Halt	Simon Marshall	G Scale	Electric
Perfection & Beaver Bend	Malcolm Brown	On30	Electric
Flagg Fluorspar	Brian Dominic	16mm	Electric To Be Confirmed

From the above you will see that Chris Moody will also be selling Loco Gas as well as Storage Boxes. The show price for gas will be as follows:

Butane	£3:20 single can, £35 for a box of 12
Mix	£3:75 single can, £41 for a box of 12

If you would like to pre order some gas to pay/collect at SIB let me know I will collate the orders and pass it on to Chris Moody.

One last final appeal the Raffle, we do rely on our Traders to provide us with Raffle Prizes, they have not let us down yet. But the more the merrier so if you could possibly donate a prize for the Raffle it makes it even more worthwhile for our visitors to buy tickets.

Finally with your help we can make this year's Steam in Beds the best yet, good luck to everyone.

Other Business

Group Meetings 2014 Dates

Prayle Grove will be in attendance at our monthly meetings on the dates marked above with PG. If you would like to know about any future dates in particular please contact Carol direct via her email: caroleast@me.com The following dates have been booked for our 2014 meeting.

5 th January	2 nd February	2 nd March	6 th April	4 th May
1 st June	6 th July	August – No Meeting	7 th September	5 th October
2 nd November				
29 th November (Saturday)	Provisional Date for SIB		December – No Meeting	

Exhibition

Model Engineering Exhibition – Ally Pally

We have been asked to take Ridgmont to next year's Exhibition at Ally Pally. It runs from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th January. This does represent a great opportunity to present Ridgmont and the Beds Group at a large London event. We will need to put a team together to support the set up on Thursday 16th through the three running days and the breakdown after the show closes on the Sunday. I don't expect anyone to commit to the set up and all 3 running days, mind you if you're willing I won't say no. I believe the usual Passes will give access to the show without the need to pay or queue for the days you are involved with Ridgmont. I know it is early days yet and we have our own SIB first but I would like to get a clear idea of who is willing to help. I have had some members who say they will help but we could do with more help to cover all 3 days and the set up on Thursday.

Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway – Modelling Event

We have also been asked to take Ridgmont to a Modelling Event to be held at LBNR site next year. The event is to be held on Saturday 5th July which is the day before our July meeting at Eaton Bray. Information about set-up and opening times are yet to be agreed with the organisers, when I have more information I will include it in Smokebox. I have already asked for members who are willing to help with this event unfortunately when I asked it was thought it would be held during May, however I will carry the names forward. If you have not got your name down please let me know if you are available to help.

2013/2014 Subs

Just a gentle reminder to those of you who have not paid your subs. We will be coming into our sixth season at Eaton Bray, we increased the Subs to £30 in 2011 and held them at the same level for 2012. In spite of yearly increases in the cost of hiring the Hall we will hold them again at the same level for 2013/2014. This is due in part to the success of Steam in Beds and a modest influx of new members. Our current membership stands at around 35, with an increased membership it would be possible to spread the cost which would mean we could lower the individual cost per member. If you have any ideas how we can increase our membership don't be shy let us know your ideas.

Garden Meeting

Peter Elvy has emailed me with the following invitation to another open day at his Sandy Bay Light Railway. All members and their wives are invited on the 15th December for Steam and Mince Pies, Peter tells me there will be welcoming fires inside and out. Sounds great fun.

As this will be the last Smokebox before Christmas I would like to wish all our members and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Chris