

A green banner with a white arrow pointing left on the left side and right on the right side. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with a green border containing the text "Smokebox" in a large, bold, red serif font. Below it, "November 2015" is written in a smaller, bold, red serif font, and "Beds Area Group" is written in a bold, red serif font.

# Smokebox

November 2015  
*Beds Area Group*

**Welcome to the November issue of Smokebox.**

The main topic for this month is the preparation and planning for Steam in Beds.

**Steam in Beds 2015, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

By the time you read this there will be less than 4 weeks to Steam in Beds, I have been very busy with the arrangements since early August when the first invitations went out. I can now confirm the final list of traders and layouts. See below

**Traders**

Anything Narrow Gauge

Jons People

Atropos

Trenarren Models

Kent Garden Railway

Loco-Boxes

Andrew Neale Books

Swift Sixteen

Dream Steam

The Sparesman

Berry Hill Works (Mat Acton)

Macmillan

**Layouts**

Ridgmont 32mm Live Steam

Prayle Grove 32mm and 45mm Live Steam

St Genny's 32mm Live Steam

Fen End Pit 32mm 2 Rail Electric

Aston Clinton 00 2 Rail Electric

Braysdale N 2 Rail Electric

Ted's Yard G9 2 Rail Electric

Steam in Beds is featured on the Association events diary also the Events section of The Model Shop Directory and in the events diary in "Railway Modeller Magazine".

As in previous years I have placed a 1/8 page advertisement in the Railway Modeller magazine, the same advert will also be featured in the local "Focus" magazine and in "The Vine" another magazine distributed free to homes in Luton, Dunstable and surrounding villages. The Show Guide and Tickets have also been printed.

## **Right, that's what I have been doing now it's your turn to lend a hand.**

I need volunteers to cover a number of areas and activities. They are, and in no particular order:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, Set up St Mary's to be ready for Traders and Layouts

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00 to 10:30am

Set up Village Hall, Tables, Chairs, Signage, hand out Badges.

Assist Traders unloading and Set Up

Assist Layouts unloading and Set Up

Assist with preparation for catering

Directing parking for Traders, Layouts and Club Members

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am

Ticket Sales on the Door                      1 Hour Slots

Sale of Raffle Tickets                              1 Hour Slots

Door Duty at the Church                          1 Hour Slots

Member to Member Sales                        1 Hour Slots

Car Park (Manage Visitor Parking)          1 Hour Slots

Help in the Kitchen

General Stewards

### **Member to Member Sales**

Martin Shrubsole has once again agreed to run the Member-to-Member sales; he will require help throughout the day.

### **Catering**

Carol and Alan Regan have once again agreed to do the Bacon Butties. We rely heavily on members partners to run the kitchen for us, that does not mean we would turn down any help offered by our members. I expect the goodies on offer to be similar to last year, Bacon Butties, Filled Rolls, Danish, Cakes and Savouries. If you have any ideas how we could improve the menu please let me know.

### **Get your name down**

There will be a display board on the stage with the list of areas we need help. Please have a look and add your name to as many lists that you can. Remember this is your clubs show, so your help and support is vital for its continued success.

### **Confirmed Group Meeting Dates - 2016**

3<sup>rd</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
No August Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Steam in Beds 2016, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

I have booked the Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December for Steam in Beds, this is one week later than normal, this avoids the clash we have this year with the Warley Show. A couple of our normal traders will not be coming to Steam in Beds because they will be at the Warley Show. Even though it is a two-day show, it may have some effect on our attendance.

### **Prayle Grove**

If you would like to keep up to date with Prayle Groves outings, please contact Carol direct via her email: [caroleast@me.com](mailto:caroleast@me.com)

### **Eaton Downs**

We held the final track laying day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, we had a good turnout of members. The good news is the track laying is now complete. Therefore, our 1<sup>st</sup> November meeting will see it in operation.

Our thanks should go to the team who did such a great job getting the track laying completed over four days, two normal club days and two special track-laying days. There were too many to mention by name but particular thanks should go to Ted who kept us all on the right track.

### **Annual Subscription to BAGs**

There are still a few members who have not yet paid their Subs for 2015/2016, they continue to enjoy the benefits of membership by turning up at the monthly meetings. This is unfair to the majority of members who have paid their subscriptions on time.

We will be coming into our eighth season at Eaton Bray, we increased the Subs to £30 back in 2011 and held them at the same level for the last 3 years in spite of yearly increases in the cost of hiring the Eaton Bray Village Hall. The good news is that we will hold them at £30 again for 2015/2016. This is due in no small part to the success of Steam in Beds and an influx of new members. We have continued to grow our membership throughout 2015 with the membership now at well over 40. You can pay your Subs by, Cash, Cheque or Bank Transfer, if you prefer the latter option Tony can let you have the Sort Code and Account Details for the transfer.

### **Future Events**

#### **London Model Engineering Exhibition**

As I reported last July, I accepted the invitation to take Ridgmont to the London Model Engineering Exhibition 2016 at Alexandra Palace. Please put the dates in your diary, set up Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, the show runs from 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

It is early days yet but please let me know as soon as possible if you are going to help with the Thursday set up and the running on Ridgmont during the 3 days of the show.

#### **South Arbury Railway**

Chris Moody has asked if the BAGs membership would be interested in holding a running day on the South Arbury Railway. With everything else that has been going on I am afraid this has slipped off the agenda, I will have a word with Chris Moody about fixing a date for next Spring.

Chris