



Welcome to the September issue of Smokebox.

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 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. As Tony will be away for the September meeting I will be collecting the Subs, Cash, Cheque or Bank Transfer, if you prefer the latter option I can let you have the Sort Code and Account Details for the transfer.

Eaton Downs

Since the July meeting the baseboards were returned to Chris Moody for a number of problems which needed to be corrected before track laying could begin. Following their return we held a track-laying day on Friday 31st July, we had a good turnout of volunteers and very good progress was made with the inner circuit completed. I hope that we can continue during our September meeting and with the option of holding another track-laying day later in the month if we have members who are interested in helping.

Group Meeting Dates - 2015

These are remaining dates for our 2015 meetings.

6th September 4th October 1st November December no meeting

28th November Steam in Beds 2015

Prayle Grove

Carol has confirmed that Prayle Grove will not be at our meetings until October. If you would like to keep up to date with Prayle Groves outings, please contact Carol direct via her email: caroleast@me.com

Provisional Group Meeting Dates - 2016

I have requested the following dates for our meetings for 2016, I expect to have them confirmed shortly.

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

Steam in Beds 2016, Saturday 3rd December

I have booked the Hall on Saturday 3rd 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 affect on our attendance.

Steam in Beds 2015, Saturday 28th November

There is still about 12 weeks to go before this year's Steam in Beds and there is much still to be done.

So far I can confirm the following traders will attend:

- Anything Narrow Gauge
- Jons People
- Atropos
- Trenarren Models
- Kent Garden Railway
- Loco-Boxes
- Andrew Neale Books
- Swift Sixteen
- Dream Steam
- The Sparesman

I can also confirm the following layouts will attend:

- 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

Steam in Beds will be listed on the Association events diary; it will also be listed in the Events section of The Model Shop Directory and in the events diary in Railway Modeller.

As in previous years we will place a 1/8 page advertisement in the Railway Modeller magazine, the usual advert will also be featured in the local Focus magazine. I am also hoping to place an advert in "The Vine" another magazine distributed free to homes in Dunstable, Whipsnade, Studham, Kensworth and Houghton Regis.

As always I will be asking for volunteers with the organisation and running of the key areas as follows:

- Catering
- Members Sales
- Ticket Sales on the Door
- Sale of Raffle Tickets
- Door Duty at the Church
- Stewards

We need a team on Friday afternoon to get the church ready for the morning and a full team at the Hall from 8.00am to set up Ridgmont and prepare the hall for the other layouts and traders.

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 15th, 16th and 17th January 2016.

It is early days yet but please let me know as soon as possible if you are going to help with Ridgmont.

Other Future Events

Andrew Neal has asked me to mention that he will be at the following show with St Genny's and would welcome any BAGs members who would be willing to help. If you are interested, please contact Andrew direct. Show details and date:

Exeter Garden Railway Show - 31st October.

Open Days

There were 2 open days held during August, Alan Regan's on the 2nd August and John Rogers on the 23rd, unfortunately I was unable to attend either of these events but I understand they were both well supported.

South Arbury Railway

Chris Moody has asked if the BAGs membership would be interested in holding a running day on the South Arbury Railway. We have not fixed a date yet but if enough members are interested, we could agree a suitable date.

I did include the above item in the July Smokebox inviting members to let me know if they were interested in going to Chris Moody's line.

I have not been overwhelmed by the responses so far; only two members have shown any interest in going. Unless I get some more members showing an interested in this visit, I shall feel inclined to tell Chris Moody thanks but no thanks due to lack of interest.

Chris