



# Smokebox

September 2016

## *Beds Area Group*

### **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 Ninth Season at Eaton Bray, we increased the Subs to £30 back in 2011 and held them at the same level for the last 4 years this is 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 2016/2017 Season. 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 2016 with the membership now at 41. As usual Tony will be collecting our subs at our September meeting, he would prefer payment by Cheque or Bank Transfer, Tony will provide you with the Sort Code and Account Details to make the Transfer. However if you prefer to pay cash it is always acceptable.

### **Steam in Beds**

Invitations went out to Traders in the middle of June; all have replied after a bit of chasing for the late ones. The final list of Traders attending is below:

Andrew Neale Railway Books	Anything Narrow Gauge	Atropos Models
Chuffed 2 Bits	Dream Steam	IP Engineering
John Sutton Models	Jons People	Kent Garden Railway
Swift Sixteen	The Sparesman	Trenarren Models

All our usual favourites plus two new established 16mm traders, welcome back to IP engineering after a period of absence and Chuffed 2 Bits who will make a welcome addition to the line up for Steam in Beds.

The PCC for St Marys has given us permission to have a Live Steam Layout in the church and I am delighted that Andrew Neal has agreed that it will be St Genny's. This is something new so please give Andrew all the help and support he needs by taking a running slot during the day. Having an operating Live Steam Layout in the church will provide a much-needed incentive for visitors to go to the church and stay there longer.

The Working Party have been working on the best ways to promote the show, the following advert/promotions have been actioned.

We will have a ¼ page advertisement in the November issue of Garden Rail Magazine which comes out on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. Once again, we will have a ¼ page advert in the local free magazine "Focus". We will also be featured in the what's on section of the Leighton Buzzard Magazine "BeeLocal" and listed on their Web Site.

Steam in Beds will be included in the Events Pages of Railway Modeller and the Association Web Site plus the events listing on the UK Model Shops Web Site.

The Working Party still have a lot of planning to do before we are ready for the day: Car Parking Spacing, Hall and Church Floor Plans, Catering, Signage. At least Member Sales will be in safe hands, Martin Shrubsole has offered to manage it again this year.

The Working Party will meet again during the day to discuss progress so far and things still to be planned and organised.

## **Group Meeting Dates – 2017**

I have given the planned dates for 2017 to the Hall booking clerk, it is quite early but I want to make sure we can continue with our regular pattern of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.

Our meetings have been running from 10:30am to 4:00pm for several months, so far all seems to have gone smoothly.

Now would be a good time to review the new times before the 2017 dates and times are finalised. We have the option of bringing the start forward to 10:00am or extending the close of day to 4:30 or 5:00pm, naturally if we make the meeting longer than the current 5<sup>1/2</sup> hours we will incur an increase in the hire cost.

If you have a view about this please let me know otherwise I will continue with the current arrangements.

The remaining dates for this year are as follows: 4<sup>th</sup> September                      2<sup>nd</sup> October                      6<sup>th</sup> November

## **Planned Dates 2017**

1st January      5th February      5th March      2nd April      7th May      4th June      2nd July

August No Meeting                      3rd September      1st October      5th November

With Steam in Beds booked for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## **Prayle Grove**

Will be at both the October and November Meetings and naturally at Steam in Beds at the end of November. If you would like to keep up to date with Prayle Groves outings and when it will be at the club, please contact Carol direct via her email: [caroleast@me.com](mailto:caroleast@me.com)

## **Year End Accounts**

As it is our year-end; Tony McManus has prepared a set of accounts for the 12 Months ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. I have attached a copy of the accounts to the email, which brings you this copy of Smokebox. Please bear in mind the content of the accounts are confidential and only intended for paid up members of BAGS and should not be made available or discussed other than with BAGS members.

## **Arrangements for Elsecar**

As I reported last month, we will be taking Ridgmont to the Elsecar Show on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

As you are aware, the Elsecar Show is organised by the 16mm Yorkshire Group. In view of the distance (approx. 150 Miles) and driving time (approx. 3 hours) involved, the organisers have agreed to fund a limited amount of accommodation for Friday and Saturday night.

It would seem the sensible option would be to travel on the Friday with a view to setting up Ridgmont Friday afternoon. I am grateful to Alan Regan for once again agreeing to drive the hire van, I believe we would need a minimum of 6 members to load and set up Ridgmont on the Friday. Priority for the available accommodation will be given to members who are willing to commit to loading up at Eaton Bray, travelling to Elsecar to help set up on Friday and run Ridgmont during the show on Saturday and Sunday. We are unable to return Ridgmont to Eaton Bray until Monday morning, so we will need help with that as well.

The organisers of the show will fund £50 per person to cover the two night's accommodation; this is based on two people sharing a room in Travelodge style of accommodation. They have set a limit of £300 to cover the cost of accommodation. This is based on the requirement for a minimum of 6 people to handle and run Ridgmont, so it's first come first served. If you would prefer a room to yourself then you will get a

contribution of £50 and you will have to cover the rest of the cost yourself. This is the same arrangement that prevails for the Peterborough Show. If you would prefer to make your own arrangements for your stay you can, you will still be able to claim £50. All expenses will be paid direct to the club after the show and will then be passed on to those entitled. Receipts will not be required.

Below is a summary of the members who have agreed to help with Ridgmont, the summary shows who is covering what. I have also included a complete timetable from collection on Friday to return on Monday.

Please check the summary to make sure I have correctly recoded your offer of cover for Elsecar.

Who	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Eaton Bray	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Elsecar	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Running	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Running	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Unload Eaton Bray	Comments
Alan Regan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Hiring and Driving the van
Andrew Neal	?	?	Yes	Yes		
Bob Gamble	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Carol East	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Chris Pretty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Dave Demaine	Yes	No	Yes	No	?	
Graham East	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	
Max Hampson	Yes	?	Yes		Yes	
Peter Elvy	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	
Ted Robinson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	
Ray Butler					Yes	
Peter Newman	Yes					

**Timetable for the Transport  
Of  
Ridgmont to the Elsecar Show**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

Van Hire commences	-	11:00am
<b>Eaton Bray</b>		
Load up Ridgmont	-	12:00pm
To be clear of Hall by	-	12:45pm
Depart for Elsecar	-	ASAP
<b>Elsecar</b>		
Unload and Build to be clear of venue	-	6:00pm

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

Access from	-	8:00am
Show Opens	-	10:00am
Show Closes	-	4:30pm

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

Access from	-	8:00am
Show Opens	-	10:00am
Show Closes	-	4:00pm
Breakdown and load commence at	-	4:00pm
Depart Venue	-	5:30pm

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Eaton Bray</b>		
Commence unload by	-	9:30am
To be clear of Hall by	-	10:15am at the latest
Return Hired Van by	-	11:00am

**Another Show BAGs will be supporting**

We are also taking Ridgmont to the G1MRA at the Fosse to be held in **June 2017**, yes 2017. I will have further details in the New Year.

**Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum**

We are now over half way through the open season at Pitstone, we have had a fair mix of weather for the 8 open days but visitor numbers have held up fairly well, this last Monday Bank Holiday was a record breaker. The next open day is on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, extra help is always welcome to run Wags Wharf so please come along if you would like to get involved. You would also be welcome to visit just for a chat on any of the dates below.

11 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday

The team of operators for Wags Wharf are as follows:

Geoff Evans, Pete Newman, Roy Sterry and myself, non BAGs members include Pete Shaw, Phil Wheeler and Malcolm Brown. If anyone would like to join in the fun running Wags Wharf on one of the open days you would be very welcome, just let me know.

We will be short of operators on September 11, so that would be a good time to join us.

Chris