

# Smokebox

## January 2017

### *Beds Area Group*

#### **Welcome to the first issue of Smokebox for 2017.**

I should first start by wishing you all a Happy and Train filled New Year. As our first meeting follows close on the heels of Christmas and New Years Eve this will be a brief Smokebox.

#### **Steam in Beds 2016**

I think it would be fair to say that SIB 2016 was a great success. I believe there were a number of reasons why it was the best ever. For the first time we had a live steam railway in the Church, we also had Ivan Prior with I.P. Engineering after a number of years absence, Mike Darby with Chuffed 2 Bits was also a welcome addition along with all our regular Traders.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make it a success. All those who helped out Friday afternoon and evening to prepare St Marys and the Hall. The catering team who kept everyone supplied throughout the day, not forgetting the Bacon Butties for members and traders. All those who helped on the front door, member sales, raffle tickets and guard duty on the church door. Special thanks should go to Brian and the car park team who under trying conditions kept the car park going. We do have the dubious reputation of bringing the village high street to a complete halt at one time, I have heard a rumour they may put buses on diversion next year

For the record, these are main points from Tony's Accounts for Steam in Beds 2016:

<u>Item</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Attendance	237	204
Tickets Sales	£1,185	£1020
Catering	£683	£641
M2M Commission	£226	£152
Raffle Tickets	£381	£381
2016 Surplus	£1,493	£1074

I have included the 2015 figure merely as a comparison.

Finally, I would like to suggest that we use some of the clubs funds to put on a social event for 2017 as a way of thanking members and their partners for their continued support. To be fair, I think it should be limited to current member. I have one or two ideas I have been working on but if anyone would like to suggest something suitable please let me know.

#### **Group Meeting Dates – 2017**

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.

Chris