

Smokebox

September 2017

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 Tenth Season at Eaton Bray, we increased the Subs to £30 back in 2011 and held them at the same level ever since in spite of yearly increases in the cost of hiring the Hall. As we now also have full use of the entire Hall this has also increased our costs. The good news is that we will continue to hold them at £30 for 2017/2018 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 2017 with the membership now standing at over 40. As usual Tony will be collecting our subs at our meetings but if you prefer you can pay by Bank Transfer please use the Sort Code: 09-01-51, and Account Number: 969977208, don't forget to include your name as a reference so Tony can log your payment. If you prefer, a cheque is fine it should be made out to "Bedfordshire 16mm Modellers". However if you prefer to pay cash it is always acceptable.

Meeting Dates 2017

3rd September 1st October 5th November Steam in Beds booked for Saturday 25th November 2017

Group Meeting Dates – 2018

I have given the planned dates for 2018 to the Hall booking clerk, it is quite early, but I want to make sure we can continue with our regular pattern of the 1st Sunday of the month. Our meetings have been running from 10:30am to 4:00pm throughout the last year, so far all seems to have gone smoothly. Another change was the decision to extend the hire so we had full use of the hall which would enable us to make full use of both Eaton Downs and Ridgmont. Now would be a good time to review the above arrangements before I book the 2018 dates. 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 5¹/₂ hours we will incur an increase in the hire cost. It has been suggested that we have a meeting in August, historically we have kept August clear to allow members to have open days on their own garden railways. Unfortunately garden meetings are few and far between in the month of August, which could make a case for having an August meeting. If you have a view about this please let me know otherwise I will continue with the current arrangements. I should say that unless I get some feedback on any of the above topics I will assume everyone is happy with the current arrangements.

Ridgmont News

I think as a group we are very fortunate to have both Ray and Bob who are prepare to devote their time, resources, and modelling skills to improve the scenery of Ridgmont for the benefit of the whole group.

Ray writes:

As promised in an earlier edition of Smokebox the latest extension for Ridgmont has now been completed. Again this has been accomplished with the aid of the carpentry skills of Bob Gamble. The next project is going to be the footbridge, which should be started in a couple of month's time.

London Model Engineering Exhibition

I am pleased to say that Ridgmont has been invited to attend the Model Engineering Exhibition at Ally Pally in January 2018 the show runs from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st January. The organisers have agreed our expenses to cover the cost of transporting Ridgmont to and from the show. We do need somebody willing to drive the van to transport the layout to and from the show; unfortunately if nobody is willing to take it on I will be forced to turn down the invitation. I would imagine that 99% of our members hold a driving licence so it should be possible to find somebody willing to take it on.

Steam in Beds

Traders

Invitations went out to Traders in the middle of June; all have confirmed their attendance except IP Engineering who declined, Ivan gave no reason. The final list of Traders attending is as follows:

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

I am delighted that the new owner of Brandbright has agreed to carry on supporting SIB as Richard and Shirley did in the past, plus all our usual favourites complete the line up for Steam in Beds.

Layouts

As far as layouts are concerned in the Main Hall we will have Prayle Grove upon the stage and Ridgmont in its usual place. Once again St Marys PCC have given us permission to have St Genny's in the church. It created a lot of interest last year, having a Live Steam Layout in the church did provide a much-needed incentive for visitors to go to the church and stay there longer. We may be able to add a second layout to the church providing it will fit into the available space, it should have a narrow gauge theme possibly battery or two rail electric.

Advertising

We will have a ¼ page advertisement in the October and November issue of Garden Rail Magazine; again we will also have a ¼ page advert in the local free magazine "Focus"

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

Naturally it will also be featured on our own Web Site.

Member Sales

Once again Member Sales will be in the safe hands of Martin Shrubsole, it will be located in the small hall off the entrance hall.

Outstanding Items

There is still a lot of planning to do before we are ready for the big day, parking is a particular problem at the hall if anyone has any ideas how we could manage it better please let me know your thoughts.

The floor plans for the Hall and Church still need to be finalised but are likely to follow last years, with traders along the window wall and the remainder in the centre of the Hall. There will be plenty of seating for visitors around the hall.

The catering is always a difficult area to plan, it's a bit like trying to pin jelly to the wall. We expect to be offering a similar selection to last year including Rolls, Cakes, and Savouries not to forget the Bacon Butties. I am pleased to say that Carol Regan has once again agreed to prepare the bacon in advance; Carol will also be advising and helping to plan other aspects of this year's catering. All offers of help will be gratefully received for support and help with the catering.

Up and Coming Exhibitions

Attached to the email that brings you Smokebox are a number of Flyers for up and coming events which you may find of interest.

Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum

All BAGs members would be very welcome, we would be pleased to see any Members at any of the following Open Days in 2017. Apart from Wags Wharf, there are plenty of other exhibits of interest to see whether a railway enthusiast or not. There are many interesting items that show the developments that have changed how we do things around the Home, Farming, Technology and Engineering, things we take for granted today. The Museum will be open twice before it closes, Sunday 10th September and 8th October it will re-open for Easter 2018.

Take a look at their web site for more detailst <http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk/>

Chris