

Smokebox

November 2019

Beds Area Group

Welcome to the November Smokebox

I understand there are still several members who have not paid their subs for our new year which began on the 1st September. As I reported in the September and October Smokebox, we have held them at £30 since 2011 we have managed to do this in spite of annual increases in the Groups overheads. The hire of the Hall, Layout Insurance etc. We have only been able to do this because of the continued success of Steam in Beds and growth in our membership. If you have not paid your Subs now us the time to act. Payment can be made by cheque or cash direct to Tony at our meeting or by Bank Transfer to Account No. 26041686, Sort Code 23-05-80, Account Name Bedfordshire 16mm Modellers and don't forget to add your name so Tony knows who to credit the payment to.

Steam in Beds Update

We are in the final stages of finalising the plans for this year's Steam in Beds, all the Traders are booked and confirmed, and the Layouts are also booked. All we need now is a lot of willing helpers to make the show a success, you know what's coming next "Your Club Needs You" to step up and help with the preparations and during the show. John Kitchenman made an excellent start at the October meeting but there are holes in the cover that still need filling. Please check the notice board for vacancies that you can fill. We need every member to do their fair share to make this year's show a success.

Friday 29 th	Setting up the Church	3pm to 5pm
Friday 29 th	Setting up the Hall	8pm to 10pm
Saturday 30 th	Finalise setting up the Hall from	7:30 am

During the Show the Following areas need to be covered:

- Ticket Sales
- Checking Tickets at the Church Door
- Member to Member Sales
- Car Park
- Catering

Bob Gamble did a great job at the October meeting recruiting runners for Ridgmont. I understand there are still slots that need to be filled, if you haven't got your name down to run. Please check with Bob for any vacant slots.

Advertising for the show is also in hand, we have a ¼ Page advertisement in the Garden Rail Magazine published early November we will also be listed in the Railway Modeller diary page. As in previous years we will have an Advert in the local free magazine "Focus" and listed on the UK Model Directory Web Site and finally in the diary page on the Association Web Site. We will also have the usual Posters and Flyers for members to distribute.

Member to Member Sales at SIB

Unfortunately, Martin Shrubsole has had to drop out of running this year's M2M Sale. I am very grateful to Gordon Gill who has agreed to step in at short notice to cover this for this year's show.

All current BAGs and 16mm Association members may place up to 10 Lots for sale. The Rules covering the submission of lots to M2M Sales and the Booking in Form are included with this issue of Smokebox. Items will be refused if they don't meet the criteria set out in the M2M Rules.

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Group Meeting Dates – 2019/2020

As this is our last meeting for 2019 it just leaves Steam in Beds on Saturday 30th November to finish another successful year for the Beds Area Group.

Below are the meeting dates booked for 2020, times are as before 10:30 am to 4:00 pm.

5 th January	2 nd February	1 st March
5 th April	3 rd May	31 st May *
5 th July	2 nd August	6 th September
4 th October	1 st November	

* Note June meeting is one week early on 31st May due to clash with Eaton Bray Beer Festival

Other dates for your diary

BAGs AGM	2 nd February
Steam in Beds	28 th November

Eaton Downs Project – Update

I understand from Bob Gamble the first two boards which together make one corner are now complete. This still leaves six more boards to be completed to make up the other 3 corners. As yet the method of support for these new boards has yet to be agreed. As you can see there is still quite a lot of work to be done before the new track plan can begin to be laid. Once completed there will be two full circuits of both 32mm and 45mm track.

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Garden Rail Magazine

As I reported last month, we had been asked to provide an article for the Garden Rail magazine about Ridgmont and its development over the last 30 years. The article is now completed, and the accompanying photographs selected. It was emailed to Phil Parker, Editor, earlier this month. Its scheduled to be included in the December issue which goes on sale on the 14th November. Just in time for Steam in Beds and timed to coincide with Ridgmont's attendance at the National Festival of Railway Modelling on the 7 & 8th December 2019 at the Peterborough Arena. Thanks, should go to a number of members for their contributions including Ray Butler, Mark Scrase, Martin Shrubsole, Ted Robinson. Thanks, should also go to the many members who sent me photographs to be used to support the written word.

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Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum

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 is now closed until Easter Monday 2020 but have a look at their web site at www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk

Chris