

A green banner with a white arrow pointing right on the left and a white arrow pointing left on the right. In the center is a white rectangular box with a green border containing the text.

Smokebox

January 2016

Beds Area Group

Welcome to the January 2016 issue of Smokebox.

I e-mailed all members on the 2nd of December a brief summary of Steam in Beds. At our January meeting we will have a copy of Tony's Final Account for Steam in Beds showing how we performed against 2014. The only other issue outstanding is the date for SIB 2016. As you will see from the accounts, the concerns over the clash with the Warley Show and impact on attendance did not materialise. With this in mind, I suggest we stick with our traditional day of the last Saturday in November, which will be the 26th. If you have any concerns about staying with this date, please let me know.

Confirmed Group Meeting Dates - 2016

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, was provisionally booked for Saturday 3rd December, subject to any negative feedback from members we will revert to the last Saturday in November as mentioned above.

What does the future hold for the Beds Area Group

As you all know, Brian stepped down as Chairman of BAGs in September last year. As we were in the final stages of planning Steam in Beds it did not seem the right time to consider how the club should move forward. Clearly, we need to find a replacement who can help the club grow and prosper. There is however a broader picture of how the club should be organised and run in the future. At present the club has three officers, Chairman (vacant), Tony McManus our Treasurer who does a sterling job keeping our Finances in order, arranging our Insurance Cover and maintains our affiliations to the Southern Federation and Chilton Model Railway Club. Finally me as Club Secretary, maintaining close links with the Association, Publishing our monthly Smokebox and a contact point for invitations for BAGs to attend exhibitions and generally act as a central contact for all members.

There is also one other thing, that is Steam in Beds, I have been organising and running it since 2007, in which time it has grown to become an important event in the 16mm calendar. The planning starts in early June with the invites going out to traders towards the end of the month, also any invites going to visiting layouts. I know it does not sound much but the whole process from beginning to end takes up a lot of my time. There are also other considerations, planning the layout of the Hall and Church to make the best possible use of space keeping a balance between Traders and Layouts. Finally there is the planning for the Catering, what and how much etc. Come the day of SIB and the members come into their own by pitching in to help with the show on the day, for which I am very grateful.

This brings me round in a full circle first we need to find a replacement for the position of Chairman.

Secondly, we need two members to help with the planning and organising of Steam in Beds. The first to take on the responsibility for Traders and the second to take on the responsibility for Layouts. I will continue overall control co-ordinating all elements and anything else that may fall through the cracks. I will also continue organising the catering this unless somebody else would like to take it on.

Finally, I should say that as things stand I am not prepared to carry on running SIB single-handed without help, otherwise 2015 may well be the last SIB in its current format.

Future Events

London Model Engineering Exhibition

As I reported previously we are taking Ridgmont to the London Model Engineering Exhibition 2016 at Alexandra Palace. I have been collecting names of runners and helpers for the last couple of months. There are still a few places free on the running roster for most days. I need to submit the final list of names by the end of this week; you will need to commit to a day or days to qualify for a Free Pass. There is also free space in my car if you want a lift to the show. Anyone else who plans to use their car and has space please let me know, I will circulate a list. Finally, the organisers have advised me that they will require a valid steam test for any locos you intend to run; they did want a full boiler certificate but have agreed that they will accept proof of current Steam Test instead.

Please check on the volunteers list to make sure you are entered on the correct day. See below for details and timing for the show:

Thursday	14 th	13:00	Eaton Bray	Load Ridgmont
"	"	15:00	Arrive Ally Pally	Unload and Set Up Ridgmont
Friday	15 th	8:30	Access to Show	Finalise Set Up and Preparation of Ridgmont.
"	"	10:00	Show Opens to Public	
"	"	17:00	Show Closes	
Saturday	16 th	9:00	Access to Show	
"	"	10:00	Show Opens to Public	
"	"	17:00	Show Closes	
Sunday	17 th	9:00	Access to Show	
"	"	10:00	Show Opens to Public	
"	"	16:30	Show Closes	
"	"	16:30	Commence breakdown of Ridgmont	
			Load up Ridgmont and Return to Eaton Bray	
"	"	19:00	Unload at Eaton Bray	

In the event we cannot get access to the Hall at Eaton Bray Sunday evening, we will meet at 9:00 Monday to unload.

I must submit the final list of names this week to qualify for "Free Passes" to the show anyone who does not have a Pass will have to pay to get in even if you expect to run on Ridgmont. A very dim view will be taken of members who requests a Pass but does not run on Ridgmont.

South Arbury Railway

Chris Moody has asked if the BAGs membership would be interested in holding a running day on the South Arbury Railway. With everything else that has been going on I am afraid this has slipped off the agenda, I will have a word with Chris Moody about fixing a date for the Spring.

Prayle Grove

If you would like to keep up to date with Prayle Groves outings, please contact Carol direct via her email: caroleast@me.com

Chris