

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 light green rectangular box with rounded corners and a drop shadow, containing the text "Smokebox" in a large, bold, dark red serif font, "October 2016" in a smaller, bold, dark red serif font, and "Beds Area Group" in a bold, dark red serif font.

# Smokebox

October 2016

*Beds Area Group*

## Welcome to the October issue of Smokebox.

### **I make no apology for including this paragraph again.**

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 October 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 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.

There is still quite 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.

I hope that 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 can confirm our meeting dates for 2017 are as listed below. I did ask members for their views on the new timing of our meetings i.e. 10:30am to 4:00pm. As only one person bothered to respond on the times of our meeting, I have kept the meeting times at 10:30am to 4:00pm. If that does not suit you, all I can say is you had your chance to have your say.

### **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.

The remaining dates for this year are as follows:      6<sup>th</sup> November

### **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)

### **Feedback on the Elsecar Show**

Ridgmont was very well received by the visiting public; I understand that the visitor numbers were up on previous years. Thanks should go to the 10 BAGs members and their respective partners who made the effort to support the Group during the show. Thanks also to those members who helped with the loading up at Eaton Bray on the Friday and returning Ridgmont to Eaton Bray on the Monday, a great team effort. It would be remiss of me if I did not thank Alan for hiring and driving the van to get Ridgmont to and from the show. One interesting thing that came out of the 2 days, it's very likely that we will be invited to take Ridgmont to Peterborough for the 2018 show.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> October as this will be the last opportunity to see Wags Wharf this year; it would be nice to see, plenty of BAGs member paying a visit to the Pitstone Heritage Centre.

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 this last open day of 2016, just let me know.

Chris