

Smokebox September 2012

Welcome to our first meeting of the 2012/2013 running season

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 fifth season at Eaton Bray and up until last year we were able to hold the Subs at £25 in spite of yearly increases in the cost of Hiring the Hall. We reluctantly increased the Subs to £30 in 2011/2012 however we can expect a further increase to hire cost for 2013 but in spite of that and due in part to the success of Steam in Beds we will be holding our subs at £30 for 2012/2013.

Our current membership stands at around 30, if we had a larger membership it would be possible to spread the cost which would mean we could lower the individual cost per member. Please let us know any thoughts you have on how we could recruit more members.

Steam In Beds 2012

The Hall has been booked for the 1st December for this year's **Steam in Beds**. The following Traders have been invited to attend:

Brandbright	Anything Narrow Gauge	Atropos	Jons People
Trenarren Models	AnDel Models	Kent Garden Railway	

I expect to confirm next month which railways will be in attendance, we will of course have the clubs "Ridgmont", and will be inviting Carol and Graham with "Prayle Grove" and Andrew with "Chalkwood".

There are still a lot of things we need to finalise, Hall Layout, Stewards, Catering, Advertising, Leaflets and I am sure there are others which will crop-up as the day approaches. As usual we will be looking for help with organising the set-up and close down at the end of the Show.

BAGS Modelling Trophies

Having revived the BAGS Modelling Trophies last year we had an excellent response from members with models of a very high standard we plan to run them again this year. The Awards will be open to any current BAGS member the judging will be as last year and presentation of the awards will take place at Steam in Beds. Just a quick reminder of the Awards and the categories

"The Tim Grisdale Shield"	Awarded for Best Freelance Model
"The BAG Committee Shield"	Awarded for Best Prototype Model
"The Roger Goodall Trophy"	Awarded for the Most Novel Narrow Gauge Model

You still have a good 3 months before SIB so get cracking on that model you have been planning to finish, go on you know you want to.

2012 Meeting Dates

The following are the club meeting dates for 2012:

2nd September 7th October 4th November
1st December Steam in Beds Show

Provisional Meeting Dates 2013

6th January 3rd February 3rd March 7th April 5th May 2nd June
7th July 1st September 6th October 3rd November SIB date to be confirmed

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Exhibitions 2012

Andrew Neal will be taking Chalkwood to Trains in Haynes on Saturday 6th October, we took Papplewick Green last year to this great local show which is organised to raise money for the Haynes village hall, so please come along, bring something to run and support a worthy cause.

Other dates for your diary:

St Albans Modelling Show, 29th & 30th September, Samuel Ryder Academy, Drakes Drive, St Albans.
Details at www.stalbansmes.com

TaD-Rail 2012, 13th October, The Cottosloe School, Aylesbury Road, WING, Bedfordshire LU7 0NY.
Details www.tdmrc.co.uk/Index.html

Midland Model Engineering Exhibition, 17th – 21st October, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Foss Way.
Details at www.midlandsmodeleengineering.co.uk

The National Festival of Railway Modelling, 20th & 21st October, East of England Showground, Peterborough.
Details www.model-railways-live.co.uk

Model Engineering Exhibition, 2nd – 4th November, Sandown Park Racecourse,
Details at www.modelengineersshow.co.uk

Garden Meeting

I have once again been contacted by John Rogers of Arlesey, Beds. Pete Newman and I visited his garden line earlier this year. We were made very welcome and had a very pleasant afternoon playing trains, it is not a large line but it is very interesting and challenging. John is suggesting a Sunday afternoon during September or early October, please let me know if you would like to come along. If we get enough interest I will arrange a date for a visit.

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Pitstone Museum

This will be Wags Wharf's 4th year at the museum; if you have visited this year you will know that we have moved to a new location in the centre of the museum which has given us much more room for the model and visitors. If you have not visited yet there are still two open days this year, 16 September and 14 October they will be your last chance to visit before next Easter. More details can be found on the Museum's Web Site at www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk.

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Chris Pretty