

October 2005

Steaming Ahead



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The Return to Wylde Green Library!

Yes—2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at Wylde Green are back and I've heard lots about the entertaining evenings in the past, I hope the forthcoming programme can

live up to expectations. The first one is on Tuesday 11th October 7:30pm till 10pm with Geoff Nicholson giving a talk and demonstration on Metal Bashing, prior to his three days at the Model Engineering Show. These evenings are on trial so if you would like these

evenings to continue you have to vote with your feet!

Entrance fee for members remains at £1 but why not bring your friends (non-members £2).

Thank you to all who have given me ideas and I'll always welcome more. *Carol Whitson*

Events This Month—October

9th Birthday Party 2 - 4pm (LAST ONE THIS YEAR)

11th 7:30pm Wylde Green Library—

'Metal Bashing' by Geoff Nicholson

25th 7:30pm Wylde Green Library—

'Bits & Pieces' Evening

Club News in Brief:

- New Programme
- New Track Laying
- Help required at Bonfire & Santa Specials.

Working Parties

Sunday Mornings

Tuesday Mornings

Special October Track Laying

Sat & Sun 15th /16th, 22nd /23rd, 29th /30th

Monday evenings 10th 17th 24th 31st

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 8th November 'Silver Soldering' by Keith Hale from CuP Alloys

Saturday 12th November Bonfire night

Tuesday 22nd November Auction Night

Items can be donated to raise money for club funds or will be sold on a commission basis.

Sunday 4th December Santa Special

Sunday 11th December Santa Special

Tuesday 13th December Christmas Social at Wylde Green Library

This news letter will only work with your input

SUTTON COLDFIELD MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER ---- TUESDAY "HORT" TEAM ---- NOTES

Since the August report, in the new Steaming Ahead, the team has been reduced due to holidays and some of the usual team assisting construction of the concrete support for the tunnel embankment. Lack of the lawn tractor and trailer, because of its use transporting construction materials, has meant that grass cutting and the clearing of rubbish has not been completed each week.

Grenville has done sterling work mowing larger areas than normally necessary in the absence of the lawn tractor. He has also completed the periodic spraying of the tracks and other areas with weed killer -- **thanks Grenville**. Mid September Michael started coming on Tuesday's again and has assisted with mowing and clearing.

The banks at either end of the pool were so overgrown with shrubbery and ivy that there was little or no grass growing. Now having completed the clearing and cutting back, the banks will raked and grass seed spread as soon as weather conditions are suitable. It is only twelve months since we last carried out this exercise and shows how vigorous the growth can be. Imagine what the consequences would be if this was not carried out; visibility and driving on the high level

track could become virtually impossible.

The group constructing the concrete support for the tunnel embankment should complete this work by the end of the month and then make-up fencing to go on top between the posts. The group has made a very good job of it and the question now is, what/how will the concrete face be treated, e.g. paint a train on it, groups faces?? All suggestions should be addressed to Colin Davis and his team (Vic, Anthony, Jim, Mac, etc).

We have a bunker at the north east corner and this tank trap secures the approach !!!!!

Work on the pool by the 'three men in wellies' is now almost complete and there only remains (mid-September) the stream to clear, new netting to be erected to protect the pool and a final tidy up.

I have completed assembling most of the information answering the questions contained in our Heritage Lottery Fund 'Awards for All' Application. By the time you read this it's expected that the application will be complete and if not submitted then it will be within a few days.

Submitting an application for

one project does not prevent us from applying for another. We have taken considerable trouble preparing the present application in an endeavour to show we are a responsible and a worthwhile beneficiary. Hopefully, the experience gained will enable us to consider opportunities for other projects.

Finally, Bonfire night the 12th November is nearly upon us and I must remind you the society has been warned that no person may bring or leave rubbish for disposal-burning. To do so would be contrary to Waste Disposal Regulations and leave the society open to prosecution. Therefore, on **NO ACCOUNT** should any member bring such materials to the Balleny Green site without first obtaining approval from members of the Board.

Eric Davies

Copy dates for future news letters:-

Tuesday 25th October for November

Sunday 27th November for December

Tuesday 27th December for January

Tuesday 30th January for February

Tuesday 28th February for March

This Months Quote

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones

Editor: Steve Whitson Phone 01543 675852 Fax 01543 677671

Mobile 07976944171 email steve@casprint.co.uk

Have you sent any comment or requests ????

Tuesday 13th September

Evening Steam up and B-B-O

Thanks to Carol & Steve, a very pleasant evening.

At last a social event attracted many members and visitors all of which enjoyed the first of what I hope will be many from our new programme secretary.



Chris Perkin's new engine Initially a school project, took him 4 years to build, runs well on 7 1/4" ground level.

John Copestick & others ran on the raised track.



Steve & Carol. A pleasant injection of new enthusiasm



Quite a family affair with Gemma Whitson's birthday & cake B Kefford

PS Our thanks to Julia Copestick for helping Carol with the BBQ, and somehow avoided the camera—get you next time.

Ed



The ladies taking a seat and having a natter

Tuesday 27th September

Stationary Engine Evening

Another very pleasant September evening organised by Peter Mcmillan.



Our thanks go to all who took the trouble to bring engines to run and for display, we had some running on steam and some running on compressed air.



It was interesting to see one running compound (off the exhaust of the first engine if I have got it right) I wonder how many you could run? There's a challenge for next year.

Our thanks to Peter for a interesting and informative night.

Chris Perkins on his new Royal Scot



This is the latest new engine into our society, and Chris is to be complimented on building this fine machine!

Peter Mcmillan

For sale or Wanted section in the news letter

YES OR NO ?????? No feed back yet ????????

OH NO --- NOT AGAIN!!!!

The society was formed in November 1948 and has been run by various Committees' and Board's since. They have managed the society and successfully achieved what we have today.

The board is currently made up of nine members plus the Company Secretary, President and other officers, e.g. Membership Secretary. Most of the time matters for discussion are routine and follow a set agenda, but from time to time something crops up which needs special attention.

These can involve legal, company or various authorities and not least members for one reason or another. The full reason for some decisions taken have not always been transparent to members; it's impossible to reflect all aspects of the background in the minutes and some things are better left unsaid.

It is when this happens that the minutes reflect the item and decision made but do not contain all the background, any personal comments or hearsay. For accidental, innocent, good intentions, legal, malicious or other reasons the society can get drawn into problems which can and do often prove difficult, if not impossible, to resolve.

Recent, incidents or actions by members have resulted in the society being involved or threatened with action by:- Health and Safety, Trading Standards, the Local Council, Members of the Law Society etc. A consequence of the latest is that the society is faced with expenses running into many hundreds of pounds.

Please think very carefully about what you do and the possible consequences of any actions likely to affect the society we all enjoy.

Eric Davies

1st October 2005

Treasurer's Whinge

Judging by the lack of response to my piece in the last Balleny Blast, I do not expect, and therefore will not tolerate any objections from the membership when (not if—when) increased subscription rates are announced next year.

So far only one member has given me any feedback. He thinks that my proposed discount scheme is a good idea, but he feels that it is a pity that we should have to resort to such measures in order to encourage the membership in our fund raising events.

Your comments please.

TRACK CLOSURE IN OCTOBER

The section of track from the foot bridge to the points joining the outer loop will be closed Saturday 15th to Sunday 26th October for track renewal.

Members wishing to run locos can still use the steaming bays but will have to reverse out onto the outer loop, the raised track is unaffected by this work

**YOUR HELP WOULD BE
APPRECIATED PLEASE DON'T
LEAVE IT TO THE DEDICATED FEW
!!!!!!**