

December 2005

Steaming Ahead Merry Christmas



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Well here we are
December already didn't
that year go quick.

Christmas Social—No
Speaker just a get together
for a chat, a few party

games and a light buffet
and soft drinks. Due to
licensing laws, if you
would like an alcoholic
drink, you are welcome to
bring your own, we can
open it, we can drink it for

you—but we can't provide
it!

A chance to relax after the
hard work of 'Santa
Specials'

PS bring your partner.

Our thanks and congratulations to Eric Davis and Jim Hill for all there effort
and the professional way in which they researched and submitted the Lottery
application. Without all the attention to detail that they have put in the
application surly would not have been successful. Thanks to this funding we
should have a fleet of newly constructed braked coaches by this time next year.

Club News in Brief:

- **Help** at the last Santa
Special.
Volunteers please
contact :-
**George Weedon on
01543 275106**

If you haven't spoken to
George please do - we
can all do something.

Events This Month—December

TUESDAY 13th 7:30pm Wylde Green Library—Christmas
Social—bring your partner

MONDAY 26th Boxing Day Steam Up

Can we take this opportunity to thank
Roger and Margaret Timings for all
there hard work this year as our Box
Office and wish Roger a speedy
recovery after his recent fall.

KEYS AT BALLENY GREEN

**Would any member who removes keys from
the clubhouse please ensure they are returned
as soon as you have unlocked
the utility you want access to.**

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 1st January -1st Sunday Steam Up

Tuesday 24th January Wylde Green Library
John Moxham—Swindon Steam Museum.

Sunday 29th January - Birthday Party

This news letter will only work with your input



Keith and his lady Jane representing CuP Alloys Ltd from Chesterfield endowed a good turn out of our members with his experiences and knowledge of a subject upon which we may all benefit. Silver Soldering is something we all pride ourselves in, chuckles were heard when we were faced with the reasons why our solder balls up, falls off and burns holes in our socks. (sometimes)

Red faces were seen when we were asked how we prepared our 'joints'! Are you sure you have the answers? Do you know ALL about flux and how it works? Ask someone who was there?

The quality of our soldering will be seen to improve as a result of our very enjoyable evening at Wylde Green. Tea and Biscuits as usual (thanks to Chris Green), members purchased the materials on offer, exactly to their specifications. Questions were all answered and after a hearty thanks to Keith Hale and his lady Jane we all powered off into the rain thinking gratefully that it was worth everyone's effort.

Peter J Henderson.

The penny farthing man.

CAN YOU HELP

Do you have, or know anyone who has, a length of portable track, and would be willing to run on it in aid of a worthwhile charity?

One of Chris Greens friends is organising a Fun Day in aid of Breast Cancer Research to be held at Aston Unity Cricket Ground (near to Basset Pole Island) over the weekend of next years May Day bank holiday.

She would like to be able to offer train rides as a lucrative fund raiser.

If you know anyone who can assist, please phone Chris on 0121 351 3509

A true story (honest)

I started to build our new house in the centre of Lichfield in 1985, about a year later the lady who lives opposite and was friendly said "How tall is your house going to be?" I said "About as tall as yours" Well she has never spoken to me again; I had stolen her view of Lichfield Cathedral.

The lady in question works at home, I believe in holistic medicine, aroma therapy and reflexology etc!

This week we had a temporary postman, he pushed a bundle of letters through our letterbox, four of which were not for our address. Two of them were for the lady opposite; one of them was a magazine with a picture of Jane Fonda on the cover in a transparent envelope and was entitled "Psychic News". I immediately started to panic and thought that I had better cross the road and put it through her letterbox as soon as possible, otherwise she will be banging on our door saying "You have got my copy of Psychic News, I want it"

Honest it's true

Stuart Harrison

This Months Quote

It won't work unless you do !

Editor: Steve Whitson Phone 01543 675852 Fax 01543 677671

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Boiler Inspectors

Colin Davis
0121 351 4681

Peter McMillan
0121 308 2957

Stan Jones
01827 63983

Barry Kefford
0121 350 5743

Richard (Dick) Smith
01827 12758

Neal Harrison
0121 378 3992

N.B. Should you require the services of a boiler inspector, please contact one beforehand. Please do not simply arrive at the ground and assume that there will be one available.

Since the next edition will not be until January may I extend to you the good wishes from the team for Christmas and the New year.

Eric Davies

Tuesday Hort Team 30th
November 2005

Copy dates for future news letters:-

Tuesday 27th December for January

Tuesday 30th January for February

Tuesday 28th February for March

Have you sent any comment or requests ????

A pictorial report on bonfire night. By Bob Bates



A pictorial report on Santa Special 1 By Stephen Hodges



SUTTON COLDFIELD MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

NOVEMBER TUESDAY "HORT" TEAM AND LOTTERY APPLICATION NOTES

Well, what a month! I got back from holiday at the beginning of November and found quite a lot had happened. The Team, in addition to the normal routine, has cleared the old bonfire remains and dumped it in the lower copse. The ash could not be used because of the amount of contamination, e.g. nails, nuts, screws and other dangerous bits of metal. In an effort to clear up this copse, which had become a general dumping ground for 'left over' rubbish, it is being filled in with the old ballast and soil from the track renewal project.

During the summer three small trees died, due we believe to a dry period when the bank they were on lacked moisture. As you know the site is well drained and except after very heavy or prolonged rain can be used at all times for parking members cars. Over the winter we will continue to manage the site and take any appropriate action to improve the site visually and environmentally whilst most of the vegetation is in its dormant period. Another years growth and some trees are getting overpowered by adjacent one's and odd one's could become dangerous so will be trimmed back.

As usual the first two Tuesdays in November see the preparation for Bonfire Night and Santa Specials. That means putting out the strings of coloured lights, setting up the protective shelters for the ticket collection, fireworks, point management etc., and not least organising the wood and building the bonfire. This year I was not able to be there (I was playing trains in Spalding) and therefore, Vic Smith was asked to look after the bonfire. I understand that it was another very successful event and the weather kind but cold.

For me the most important day was Monday 7th November when I opened the letter from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Awards for All (AforA) and found that our application had been completely successful and they had awarded us a grant for the full amount -- **four thousand six hundred and fifty pounds** -- £4,650.00. I was able to tell the 'Tuesday members' at Little Hay on Tuesday morning and then Jim and I announced it to those present on Tuesday evening at Wylde green.

Back tracking slightly, the HLF AforA requested an alternative Referee with suitable qualifications because of the children who use our facility. Jim's neighbour, a Deputy Head Teacher, agreed to act in the place of Mike Ballinger and Jim personally re-delivered the amended papers to the AforA. Other than that, the AforA accepted our application without query or requesting any further

information or clarification of the answers I provided to the 25 questions contained in it. Thanks from Jim and I to those who assisted by providing information; I know it was a pain but I think you will agree '*the pain justified the gain*', so to speak.

The money awarded was paid into our bank account in the week commencing 7th November and we will of course also benefit from the interest on the amount until spent. The money MUST be accounted for in a separate project Income & Expenditure Account but shown in the society accounts in the normal fashion, with an appropriate note. Full records of ALL transport, administration and labour costs/time spent working on the carriages MUST be maintained and a notional invoice prepared to charge the time against the project.

The amounts submitted and which received approval are as follows:-

CARRIAGE PROJECT HLF
AMOUNT REQUESTED
TOTAL COST

Bogies with Braking System (16 - 2 per carriage)	£3,500.00	£3,595.00
Carriage Chassis and body (8)	£1,000.00	£1,388.00
Transport & Administration	£150.00	£150.00
Labour Costs - Manufacturing, Assembly & Testing	£680.00	
TOTALS	£4,650.00	£5,813.00

The main Carriage Project Team members are Steve Whitson, Garry Tyso, Stephen Hodgetts and Dave Moseley

who have done a lot of preparatory research. Stuart Harrison produced a sample bogie for evaluation. As always, additional help will be appreciated and needed as the project gains momentum but please speak to the team before doing anything else.

By the time you read this you may have seen HLF AforA press releases in the local papers; under the terms of the agreement they are entitled to do so. However, it was agreed that we needed to communicate the information to every member, in Steaming Ahead, before considering any publicity.

This has been a very successful application for a HLF AforA grant and provided us with a lot of valuable experience. We will be looking at other opportunities but for now we must prove ourselves. In case you are thinking about new track, the HLF AforA consider track a consumable maintenance item. However, the Carriage Project grant does mean that the equivalent valuable society funds can be released for the further replacement of existing track or other projects.

Finally, the clock is now running and the project MUST be completed and signed off within twelve months, on or before November 6th 2006. By the time you read this there will only be eleven months remaining.

Eric Davies

Tuesday Hort Team 30th
November 2005