

October 2006

# Steaming Ahead



[www.scmes.freemove.co.uk](http://www.scmes.freemove.co.uk)

Our sincere condolences to Roger Timings for the loss of his wife, Margaret (see Page 2)

The last birthday party for this year then we start on preparations for our three main events - Bonfire Night and two Santa Specials.

We should have our new rolling stock finished by then so we may see some longer trains that in turn should keep the queue's moving a bit quicker.

Peter McMillan is organising a stationary steam engine night on the 24th Starting at 6.30pm.

We still have a lot of work on in the north east corner if you can help please see Dave Mosley Stephen Hodges, George Weedon

## Events This Month—October

Sunday 8th Birthday Party

Saturday 21st Steam up 2.00pm onwards

Tuesday 24th Stationary Engine Steam—up and Social

### Club News in Brief:

- Scissor lift acquired for the carriage shed
- Excavation for Scissor lift near completion
- Help to mix concrete please contact Dave Mosley
- New Company Secretary Needed—see page 4.

### New Members

The following applications for membership were approved by the board on Tuesday 4th October

Full members :Kevin Renshaw  
Junior member: Elliot Shah

## Dates for Your Diary

- Oct 13—18th Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition  
Nov 11th Bonfire night—Balleny Green  
Nov 28th "Magnus Volk & his Brighton Seashore Railways" Speaker Alex Gordon—Balleny Green  
Dec 3rd Santa Special 1— Balleny Green  
Dec 10th Santa Special 2— Balleny Green

## This news letter will only work with your input

### Margaret Timings

It is with great regret that the passing of Margaret Timings must be reported to the Society Membership. This occurred in Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 when suffering from abdominal cancer. This complaint was late in being diagnosed so giving little possibility for the medical profession, to exercise their talents and the use of developments in medical technology, to provide a cure.

During her extensive life Margaret was completely dedicated to the well being of her family and also her husband, Roger, and had looked after him through the many tribulations and difficulties that he had endured.

*On behalf of the membership a donation has been sent to St Giles Hospice, any one wishing to make a personal contribution should send it to :*

St. Giles Hospice  
c/o Ian Hazel Funerals Ltd, 5, Belwell Lane, Sutton Coldfield  
B74 4AA

Margaret was also noted for a very fine sense of humour that was maintained in the face of these ongoing problems. Also, Margaret was an essential part of the "Box Office", team who worked diligently behind the scenes selling tickets for the major Society events of the year, for this alone she deserved huge thanks from our members.

A recent high point in her life was the arrival of a Granddaughter that was believed to be an enduring wish in her later years.

Margaret was one of the worlds "Good People", that are occasionally met throughout life and it must be remembered that any individual when parted from loved ones belonged exclusively to God and only on loan to the world.

### Advance Notice

I am pleased to announce that we have been invited to stage another display of our members work at next year's Sutton Coldfield Railway Society's Annual Exhibition. The venue of the exhibition will be Bishop Walsh School, Wylde Green as usual, and will take place over the weekend of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

Nearer the time I will be coming round twisting your arms for

models and exhibits, so I just wanted to give you plenty of notice so that you can make "much swarf" over the coming months.

Thanks

**Peter McMillan**

### This Months Quote:

Light is the task when many share the toil.

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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.

### Bonfire Night.

If anyone knows of a source where we can get free scrap pallets or similar, it would be appreciated.

**BUT PLEASE contact George Weedon before setting anything in motion or getting anything delivered.**

### Copy dates for future news letters:-

Tuesday 31st Oct for Nov

Tuesday 26th Dec for Jan

Tuesday 30th Jan for Feb

Tuesday 27th Feb for Mar

## Have you sent any comment or requests ????

### SEPTEMBER 2006 TUESDAY "HORT" TEAM REPORT

I'm pleased to say that the team have worked very well over the passed months. Almost all the planned work has been completed and by the time you read this, I expect it will be finished for this Autumn.

This is in no small way due to Bill bringing along his special power tools used for hedge cutting, shrub and bush trimming and reducing branches. Grenville's knowledge and work with the sprayer, when he's not been pushing a mower, has enabled us to keep the weeds in check in the track bed and all round the site.

It's taken a lot of hard work week in and week out to get to the site to the point at which it is now, so a big thank you to all of you who have helped in one way or another. When I first got involved looking after the site grounds and associated areas Mike Carr was still mowing but that didn't last long, I was soon handed the keys to the lawn tractor.

That was three or four years ago and I was subsequently asked to look after the 'hort' side of the society activities amongst other things. Lots of discussion took place on what needed to be done, particularly about hedges and trees. We decided to make a start on the hedge behind the club house as it was in a particularly bad condition on the understanding that the hedge

was the society's responsibility.

However, our neighbour was not pleased and quickly pointed out that the deeds showed the hedge to be his. After further discussion with senior board members, the Company Secretary and looking at the deeds again, replacement new hawthorn trees were put in and our neighbour placated. These are now becoming a very good hedge and our neighbour is much happier these days.

After this inauspicious start it was decided that we should attempt to lay the 'goat hedge' having determined it was the societies. Grenville went on a hedge laying course and on his return a start was made with a team of six. Grenville and Vic doing the main part of the laying and the other four of us cutting and clearing.

That gave us time to think about the whole site and what needed doing to make it more manageable bearing in mind we were all getting older. Over the passed three years we have progressively worked towards the team agreed objective whereby at least 95% of all society hedges and shrubs will be capable of being managed with hand tools whilst standing on firm ground.

Problem trees have been removed, others carefully trimmed and many more new trees and shrubs introduced. These have been carefully placed in various positions and places to strengthen the perimeter hedges which, although vastly improved, still

require further work.

Along with this the ongoing weekly routine jobs of mowing, strimming and general tidying up have had to be done.

We are only a small team, currently the core team is just 3, but when other pressing work permits we are joined by another 3-4. It's a matter of priorities what gets done but we believe, as we come to the end of September, that we have achieved most of our main aims. We are now considering what needs to be tackled over the winter months and before the Spring growing season commences.

By the way. If you should have any chestnut or oak trees growing from where squirrels planted acorns or conkers last Autumn, e.g. one's with good straight vertical shoots less than 12 months old and you can spare them, I can find good homes for them in Balleny Green. However, I don't want to be accused of starting another 'national forest' or offending anyone so would you would please contact me before taking them to Balleny Green.

Please let us have your views and any suggestions and we will endeavour to take them on board, subject to general and Board agreement.

Thank you

*Eric Davies 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006*

PS Sorry if some of you found the bit of 'navel searching' repetitive in the foregoing but we have some newer members who may find it of interest.



**It's Santa Time Again**

Where on earth has 2006 gone? Here we are three-quarter of the way through and I am begging again, for any items you may be able to donate to us for the Tombola's. You usually do us proud for

these occasions, and I am relying on your good generosity again. Please leave anything you may have in the club room marked 'For Tombola'. Thanking you in anticipation.

**Betty Wincott.**



**Vacancy**

After many years of loyal service as Company Secretary and director the board has reluctantly accepted Neal Harrison's wish to vacate the Secretary's Job at the next AGM.

We therefore need a replacement to work along side Neal up to the AGM.

Any volunteers or nominations please contact in the first instance the Chairman George Weedon on 01543 275106



**An Apology**

Chris Greene would like it to be known that he was acting under the event organisers instructions on 19th August (see Steaming Ahead September 2006 re Diesel Driver Licensing). He does not want to be branded

forevermore as a saboteur/vandal/hooligan or whatever. Suggestions are invited for ways in which we may compensate him for his hurt feelings.

*Take your mind of it Chris and buy us all a pint !! Ed*



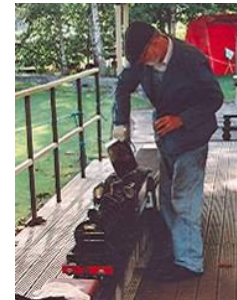
**Saturday 23rd September Steam Up**



Above—Mike with his traction engine running really well until a thorn punctured the driving truck—where were the rest of you TE lovers?



Above left —Carol on her first solo drive of a steam Loco  
Above Centre—Graham with his loco before Carol got hold of it  
Above Right—John with his loco before Steve got hold of it  
Left—Bob preparing to run on the ground level



**PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR 2006**

**(All Tuesday Evening meetings start at 7:45pm unless otherwise indicated)**

Sat 21 Oct 2006	Steam up	(2.00pm onwards)	BG
<b>Tue 24th Oct 2006</b>	<b>Stationary Engine Steam Up &amp; Social</b>	<b>(6.30 pm onwards)</b>	<b>BG</b>
Sat 11th Nov 2006	Bonfire Night		BG
<b>Tue 28th Nov 2006</b>	<b>Meeting –speaker Alex Gordon "Magnus Volk &amp; His Brighton Seashore Railways"</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>BG</b>
Sun 3rd Dec 2006	Santa Special I		BG
Sun 10th Dec 2006	Santa Special II		BG
Tue 12th Dec 2006	Christmas Social		TBA
Tue 26th Dec 2006	Boxing Day Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
Mon 1st Jan 2007	New Year's Day Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG