

January 2012

# Steaming Ahead



[WWW.SCMES.CO.UK](http://WWW.SCMES.CO.UK)



**Sutton Coldfield Model Engineering Society**

# 2012 Events list now out!

## Sutton Coldfield Model Engineering Society

President Neil Harrison 0121 378 3992  
Chairman Alan Leary 01827 892503  
Secretary Eric Davies 0121 308 6886  
Treasurer Chris Greene 0121 351 3509

### Directors

Bill Betts 01543 683729  
Mike Brophy 0121 353 6233  
Bill Colman  
Ron Freeman 01922 632180  
Stuart Harrison  
Peter Robinson 01543 253343  
David Smith 0121 351 7876

### Events This Month

Sat 14 January 2012 Steam up 12 noon onwards

### Events Next Month

Tues 07 February 2012 Board Meeting 7:30pm  
Sun 05 February 2012 Steam Up 10am onwards  
Tues 14 February 2012 Tues Evening Meeting 7:30pm  
Sat 18 February 2012 Steam Up 12 noon onwards

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**Press Date is the first Tuesday of the month**

# 2012 Events list now out!

## **Welcome!**

With the start of a New Year, I've given the magazine a minor overhaul—nothing major like a full works visit but just a few small changes.

Please keep your articles and photos coming to my inbox so we can continue to develop 'Steaming Ahead' over the next year.

*Steve Kesterton*

## **Membership Email Addresses**

Thanks to those of you who provide new/updated email address to the Membership Secretary following the request in the November edition.

A fully revised list can be found on the cover sheet you received with this edition of the Magazine.

## **Nameplate Profit**

No one claimed the miniature replica GWR castle name plate so I put it up for sale on Ebay and it raised £25.30 (after charges) for the society.

*Mark Bradley*

## **What do we do now?**

In Gary's article about future projects he mentions filling in the pond. I disagree that this should be done.

Lets keep it as another 'green credential' to an otherwise fossil fuel burning society !!, but make it more of a feature again by giving it an urgently needed clear out. Then by using excavated material from another project build up the land on the SE side, add rocks/stones etc. and thus create the large waterfall as suggested. Anybody else got any ideas or comments?

*Roger Addenbrooke*

# 2012 Events list now out!

## The Club Signal System Update

Two months have elapsed since the last report and a lot has happened.

The drivers' switch boxes, SB1 and SB2, have been upgraded with a better mimic diagram, blue LEDs, route selection push buttons and new logic. I understand that this has proved successful with drivers preferring this arrangement.

The signal posts have been rearranged on the hill after Pool Junction along with the adjacent detectors. This means that PJ is cleared much quicker and the sections above PJ have been halved in length. I am hoping that this will help considerably with traffic flow. I shall be interested to hear from drivers their experiences with this new layout.

The photoelectric beam detector has given trouble during periods of bright morning sun but a screen has been installed to prevent this. A new problem arose after the wet Santa Sunday. The lens at the active end became misted up with condensation. Steps are being taken to provide a cover and a separate power supply which is maintained when the site power is switched off. This will provide a tiny bit of heat (1 watt) continuously which I hope will just keep the unit from misting otherwise an extra heater will be needed.

Brian Clark and Bill Betts have kindly given the club a 32" television and a computer to make a signal display in the club house. We are very grateful for these generous gifts. This can also be used to instruct drivers and for small presentations. I got all this working quite well at home but suddenly all the licence keys disappeared and try as I may I cannot make it work again. I have had to get professional advice from Siemens and a Windows expert to sort it out but still it is not right. The TV has been mounted for it, so I have got to get it going!!

The last big job to do on the project is to wire new cables to the level crossing. Once this is done we can tidy up all the outside areas and the signal box.

## **2012 Events list now out!**

This year has been very busy for everyone involved in signals. We started by installing ducts everywhere, then cables, then detectors, then signal posts, then point motors and switch boxes. All this was done before the changeover shutdown of the system during April. The whole thing had to work by 25<sup>th</sup> April for the steam up and it did – just. Since commissioning continuous improvements have been made and this development process will continue for some time.

I am incredibly grateful to all of the team who brought to the project a multitude of expertise and a massive amount of time and effort. Very many thanks everyone. I hope you think it was worthwhile.

Let's hope this year will be as active and creative at the club.

*Bill Colman*

### **Good Luck!**

Everyone at SCMES sends their best wishes to Bill & Val Betts and wishes them every happiness in their new home on the Isle of Man.

The move is planned for the 17th of January and the garden railway is already there!

Bill retires as a director but will remain a member of the society.

### **Thank You**

Carol & I would like to thank everyone for all the phone calls and cards sent after my recent health issues. Your kind thoughts and offers of help were very much appreciated.

Thanks to all and may we wish you a prosperous and healthy new year.

*Steve & Carol Whitson*

# **2012 Events list now out!**

## **December 2011 Grounds Maintenance Diary and Misc Notes**

### **TUESDAY 13th**

It had been a very wet weekend and for the Santa Special on Sunday and over night leaving the ground very wet. When I arrived a little later than usual Dave and Rod were well advanced taking down all the green and orange safety netting.

My first job was to put out the cones to stop members driving through the worst wet area by the level crossing. That done and feeling the 25 degree drop in temperature from that in Dubai I headed to the kitchen for an early coffee were a lot of activity was going on taking down Santa's Grotto and the decorations.

Having talked to various members and got the latest gen I walked the tracks checking how the new turf had settled down. From the turf point of view the timing laying it had been excellent with rain immediately after enabling it to settle in well. I gather that there had been a lot of good comments about how the place looked with the new turf laid, in particular under the end of the canopy now the work was complete.

### **TUESDAY 20th**

I just popped in for a few minutes on the way to get my car fixed Not many members there after the very wet cold weather over the weekend. Roger went round collecting up the branches and other debris.

### **TUESDAY 27th**

I arrived about 10.00 am to find just John W's and Neal H's cars parked in their usual spots. I was welcomed and the three of us went inside for tea/coffee, the urn having just come up to temperature. As we sat there the door opened a few times over the course of the next hour or so and we welcomed Stuart, Roger, Mike B and finally Chris.

A very quiet, pleasant, enjoyable morning with only jaw exercise putting the world to rights. See you next year, best Wishes to all.

*Eric Davies*

## 2012 Events list now out!

### A Grand Day Out ....

We had the first Santa Specials on Sunday 4th December, a very cold day but the rain held off until just after lunch time—whatever time that was. The trains just kept running and the baked potatoes (for which I say thanks to whoever was baking them) were eaten on the run as passengers kept coming along for more rides.

My own great grandchildren were attending, coming from Luton. Oliver and Nicole really enjoyed their day and their presents from Santa. They also loved winning presents off the tombola, Nicole jumping up and down clapping her little hands. She didn't mind that Oliver had won two things and he did say she could have some of his pencils that he had won.

When they were riding on the trains, they thought it was “the bestest thing in the world” - Oliver's words not mine. Nicole standing at his side nodding her head saying over and over “yeah”.

I was a little amazed when they took me home, as they got my several teddies sat on the floor (on cushions to be more comfy) in a line. Oliver was behind the (as a Guard), Nicole in front. The bit that got me was when Nicole said “keep your feet and arms in and sit still, be good”. Evidently she had listened to what they had been told when they got on the trains!

I have been told that since they have been back home, all the dollies and teddies are on a train nearly all day, which pleases me very much as it tells me that they really did enjoy their day. It was worth all the hard work (despite the cold) that everyone put in.

It means a great deal to me to know that my little ones enjoyed it all, they were in awe when we told them that their Daddy and Uncle Steven used to love having rides on Grandpa Barry's trains at Balleny Green when they were little boys.

## 2012 Events list now out!

I think, as all small children do, they find it difficult to believe that Mummy and Daddy were once little as well—and as for me being little—that is definitely not on.

Maybe the times we all spend at Balleny Green playing with our loco's helps to keep us all young at heart and in our minds, though maybe not our poor old bodies! We must keep on running our loco's and having events like the Santa Specials and Garden Parties, we give so much pleasure to so many people as well as ourselves. I certainly love driving my loco—even if it is electric—and as long as I can do, I will continue to do so.

To finish, I'll just say a Happy New Year to you all and a healthy 2012, and a big thank you to all the ladies in the kitchen and the ones doing the tombola!

*Betty Wincott*

