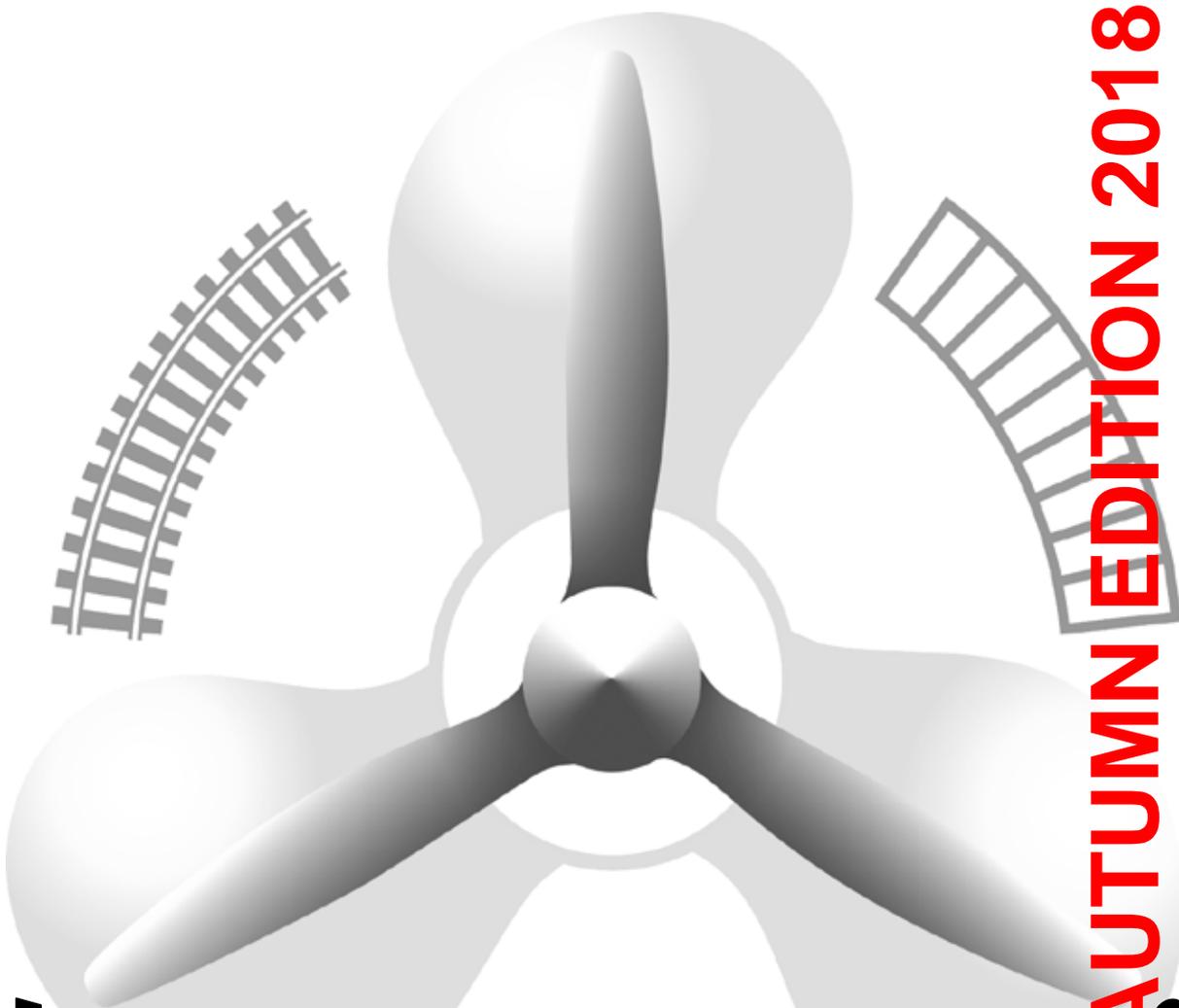


# *Club Magazine*



**AUTUMN EDITION 2018**

# **Luton & District MBC**

*.... a club NOT just for boats ....*

# ***CONTENTS***

<b><u>Article</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>Editorial</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Wrest Park Fathers Day Week End</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Hemel Hempstead First Sail</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lost in Hemel Hempstead</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Fenny Stratford Canal Festival</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Lake Side Action</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>A Shed to Remember</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Three Counties Trucking</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Club Models Registration Form</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Dates for your Diary</b>	<b>22</b>

# **EDITORIAL**

Since our last issue of the Club Magazine I am glad to report that we have had some fine weather for model boating, allowing most of us to enjoy some relaxing sailing down on Wardown Park Lake (With a cup of tea), do I hear some of you crying out that it was too hot? I guess you can never please some people.

In this issue of the magazine we have a report on our two day meeting at Wrest Park for Father's Day Weekend. Two reports on the inaugural meeting of the Hemel Hempstead Boat Club, with some of us managing to get lost and meet in the wrong place? There is also a report on the Fenny Stratford Canal Festival and a report by Pete Carmen on a Three Counties Trucking event that he attended in early August. So there is plenty for our armchair sailors to immerse themselves in.

In the next issue we will have reports on the Club visit to Foxdale School and the St Albans Model Engineering Show that is held at the Townsend C of E School St. Albans, 22/23<sup>rd</sup> September, make a note in your diary, something to look forward to so why not make an effort and attend the show in person and view all the models first hand with a chance to glean some information from the model builders themselves. Hope to see you there.

In the last issue of the Magazine there was a Model Registration Form included to allow our Secretary to create some professional looking labels for each model that members may exhibit at exhibitions. I am sorry to report that to date not one form has been returned completed. I have therefore included the form again in this issue in the hope that at least some members may make an effort and complete a form for each model that is in their possession.

Tony Dalton.

## **WREST PARK FATHERS DAY WEEKEND**

Well, it comes to that time of the year, and Wrest Park reared its head. After last year's heat wave weekend, what was this year going to be like?

We learnt a lot last year, so this year we put into practice what we learned. More people running the have a go boats, more batteries and better communication on charging, and a gazebo lakeside! All was going to plan apart from the weather! It was mild.....very mild. Saturday was extremely quiet, in fact we spent most of it eating cake and drinking tea! Nothing unusual there!

Sunday was a different kettle of fish, we had biscuits!! Plus there were children wanting to have a go on the boats, of all ages! Our new boat, which is a 4ft speed boat performed well, the club 500's as usual got gummed up with weed, but not as much as last year. This year we also took an inflatable dinghy, which was used on several occasions for rescuing errant boats. The sun did come out, but it was nothing like last year! It also seemed we were the only independent items going on. All the other stands were run by

English Heritage. Although busy, we only took £74 but this year it went to club funds, as this pays for the upkeep of the boats. Again, I only walked part of the gardens, going at this rate it will take 20 years to see it all!

As for next year, we are not sure at present whether to do this again. We may look at doing just the Sunday, and not doing the have a go boats, due to the boats getting old and the continuous weed problem. A few photos of the event may be seen below.

Pete Carmen



Cars Being Unloaded



Sorting all the Bits Out for the Display



The Lake



The Weed in the Lake, Causing Problems



Starting to Set Up the Area



Gazebos Erected



Have-a-Go Boat Tent



Transmitter Stand with Matching Boats



Dave Seath playing Boats



Ready with the Boats - but no Takers



Pete Playing in his Little Dinghy



Model Boat Retrieved & Being Fixed

## ***HEMEL HEMPSTEAD FIRST SAIL***

Well, it finally happened, with all the meetings, risk assessments solicitors and dubious questions answered, the document bringing Hemel Hempstead Model Boat Club was signed off, and the newest MBC was born!

We organised the first sail, and although there were not many present, it was good enough for a start. We had 5 members turn up from Hemel, with a variety of boats including a steam boat. Several Members from Luton also turned up, and 2 who shall not be named spent a whole morning at the wrong end of the lake!!!! Lol

We had the usual problem of some stuck boats but nothing a long pole could not sort out. Keep an Eye out, as we will be going once a month from now on, dates for this year are already on the website diary!

Pete Carmen

## ***LOST IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD***

I had agreed with Derek Thompson to go to the inaugural meeting of the Hemel Hempstead MBC on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July and in keeping with the arrangements Derek arrived at my house to pick me up together with my boats at about 9.30am. Weather was fine so we set off cross country, destination the River Gade (Hemel Hempstead).

The journey was fairly uneventful and after passing through Dunstable we meandered our way through the country lanes via the Dunstable Downs, Dagnall, Water End and Piccotts End finally approaching Hemel Hempstead from the North, veering off to the left into an old multi-story car park, which according to the instructions was the correct place to be?

We parked the car in a convenient place by an exit and adjacent to the river, found a pay and display machine that was working correctly to get the parking ticket and wondered

out of the car park to the river side to see if we could find any other model boaters. During the course of our wonderings we did come across another gentleman who had read about the model boat meeting on the 'MAYHEM' web-site and was dismayed not to find anybody with their boats in attendance.

At about 11am we decided to have some lunch and found a nice spot under a shady tree at the northern end of the river, by this time it had become hot and sunny. While we were relaxing having lunch we both noticed a lot of activity on the other side of the road, which is the Hemel Hempstead Bus Station and yes there were plenty of buses there but not modern ones. They were all old antique types and people were queuing up for rides on them. All this activity kept us both amused and a conversation ensued regarding the bus routes each of us used during our younger days before we could afford cars. At about mid-day we decided to make tracks for home having had an enjoyable morning despite not seeing any fellow model boaters. Finally (Photo 1) is a view of the bus stations activity and (Photo 2) is a view of the section of the river where we were both seated. Trust you all have enjoyed reading about our non-event. Why was I in the wrong place at the right time? I blame our Secretary for producing such a useless map, it needed to be far more detailed for me to understand, after all at my age I am well past my 'Sell By' date. Tony Dalton



Photo 1 Bus Station and the Old Buses



Photo 2 Our View of the River Gade

## ***FENNY STRATFORD CANAL FESTIVAL***

In late July I received a telephone call from Pete Carmen asking if I would be available to attend a Canal Boat festival at Fenny Stratford on August 4/5<sup>th</sup> to display a range of model boats with an opportunity to sail them on the canal. I agreed to attend on the Saturday and also arrange to bring Derek Thompson along. The arrangements (made by Pete) was to meet on the M1/A5 link road lay-by at about 9.30am, so I collected Derek and his boats at about 9.00am and set off for a day's model boating on the Canal. As it turned out there were no other Club members in a lay-by on the link road to be found so we continued on our journey to Fenny Stratford. Luckily I had googled the venue and printed a map of its location thus we were able to drive straight to the canal

meeting point arriving at just before 10am. What the map did not show was the new unfinished housing estate that was in the process of being built resulting in an absolute parking nightmare.

We did manage to find a place to park, all be it some distance away from the Club area which we had spotted while looking for a parking space. We then joined our fellow Club members and provided some additional assistance in setting up the gazebos and tables alongside the canal towpath Photos 1, 2, 3 & 4. I then managed to re-locate my car closer to our display area which meant we did not have very far to carry all the boats.



Photo's 1,2,3 & 4 Display Area Set up

Have completed all the setting up and placed the models on the tables it was time for a well deserved cup of tea provided by our well known Catering Manager Terry Martin Photo's 5 & 6.



Photo's 5 & 6 Terry Managing the Club Restaurant

Having now rested and enjoyed some refreshments it was time to show willing and sail some boats. In order to launch a boat into the water one had to walk the plank, so to speak. Photo 7 show's Pete lying on the plank and at the same time managing to set fire to his boat (only a minor electrical fire) I am reliably informed. Perhaps it was more serious than was first thought, by the look of the picture has he got a mobile phone in his hand, could he be phoning the Fire Brigade?



Photo 7 Pete Carmen Setting Fire to his Boat and Lying Down on the Job

The following photo's 8,9,10 & 11 show a selection of member's boats sailing on the Grand Union Canal at Fenny Stratford.



Photos 8,9,10 & 11 Boats Sailing on the Canal

Pete was sailing his little yacht and allowing other Club members to have a go, but his specific instructions was not to go near the reeds at the side of the canal because it would be very difficult to retrieve. Yes you guessed correctly, Pete managed to sail his yacht into the reeds. Photo 12 shows him with the long club pole attempting to retrieve it.



Photo 12 Pete Retrieving his Stranded Yacht

Another minor disaster was that Greg Weedon managed to get his boat stuck in the reeds on the opposite side of the canal, even the club pole fully extended would not reach it. Thus the new club inflatable was put to good use after it had been inflated by Pete. Greg was delegated to use the inflatable to retrieve his stranded boat Photo's 13 & 14.



Photo's 13 & 14 Greg retrieving his Boat Using the Inflatable Dingy

The following pictures are of members relaxing. Photo 15 shows Terry Martin - not eating a sandwich, Mike Scuse with sunglasses - incognito and Derek Thomson having a rest after an exhausting time sailing his boats. Photo 16 shows Graham Rumball, our retired Club Secretary very tanned, must have just come back from the South of France?



Photo 15 Terry, Mike and Derek.



Photo 16 Graham Rumball

That's all to report on regarding this new Club activity, however the Festival itself was very interesting, to which end I together with Derek decided to take a walk along the canal towpath to explore all the wares that each of the boats had for sale. One barge had turned itself into a Public House another was a Coffee Shop, there was handmade cards, pottery of various types, printed linen, wine, beer, mead (Pete Carmen's favourite) sweet shops, Ice cream and many others well worth a day out, particularly if the weather is good. So make a note in your diary for the beginning of August next year.

Tony Dalton

# ***MORE PICTURES OF FENNY STRATFORD***

By Pete Carmen





## ***LAKE SIDE ACTION***

The following picture was provided by Nixon Taaffe (via Pete Carmen) it appears that Joe's Crane-Boat had broken down on a rainy day on Wardown Lake, however that was not a problem as his little Tug came to the rescue.

If anybody witnesses any action on or off the water, take a picture and send it to the editor for publication.

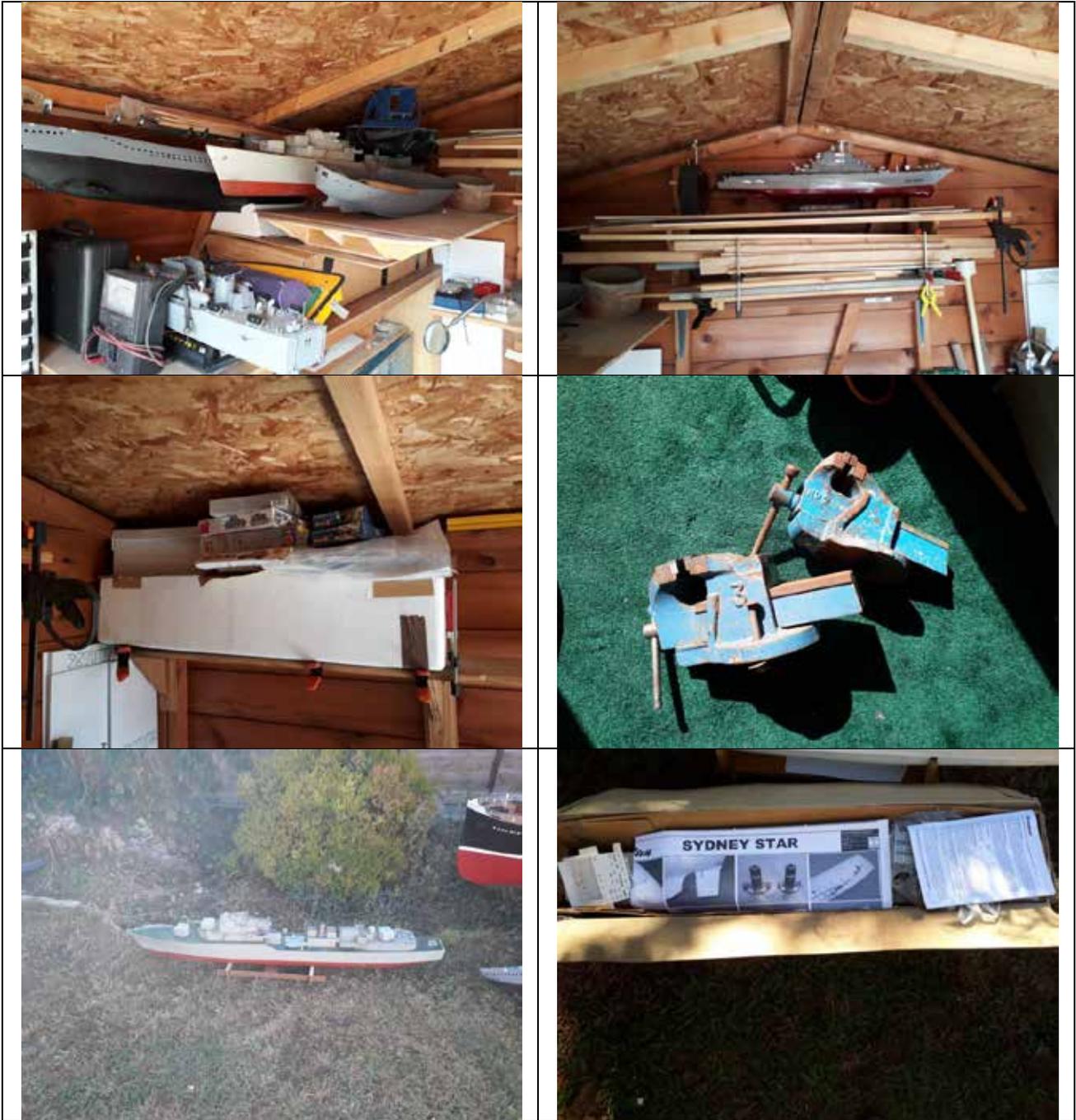


## ***A SHED TO REMEMBER***

A few weeks ago, I had a spare Saturday, so finally got round to the task of sorting out my main shed for boats. I envisaged getting everything out of the shed, a spring clean inside then put everything back neatly and get some overflow from my loft out. It never worked out!

For starters, the wife had other ideas. I know this for sure as she started to make me tea, several in fact. So I proceeded to empty the shed. Like usual I found lots of stuff I had forgotten about. Motors, props, hulls etc. There are some pictures below of all the boats. I did two tip runs that day of complete garbage, hoovered the carpet (yes I'm posh) sorted drawers and cupboards and put it all back in again. Now considering the amount thrown away, I still could not get any more boats out of my loft!! I did find three fret saws in there.....I knew I had one. Are fret saws hermaphrodites???? I sorted out my wood pile, and found some composite board I thought I had run out of! I also had a good look at all the boats, and have decided to sell a few, so keep the eyeballs peeled!

Back to the wife, more tea flowed, and then she hit me with it. She had ordered a new free standing cupboard and my task was to decorate the kitchen! Not my idea of fun, but I did complete it! Next time I am not telling her I will have a holiday!









# **THREE COUNTIES TRUCKING**

I decided again to go to see Greg and Emma at the truck meeting in MK. I was a bit tired of boats and needed a break, and to honest, it was nice to go somewhere where I did not have to interact with anyone! I was ANONYMOUS....

So along I went on a Sunday morning, getting there to help set up. Putting the road out was fun and different to our club so I did not mind. I had taken along my VW camper and my Tamiya Leopard 2a4, which was not running since I got all the bits to repair it after it was damaged a couple of years ago. Once the set up was done, and with a cuppa in hand, I set about binding the VW and Tank to my new Spekky TX. With that complete, I had little run around the road as there were not many people there that early. Great fun letting the little Camper zoom around the roads and up and over the bridge.

I set about sorting the tank, it needed some TLC. I had lost 18 track pins 3 years ago at the Armed Forces Day in Harpenden, and it took 2 years to replace them. The tank is an original Tamiya RC tank from the 70's and getting parts for it is rather hard! I managed to get a new set of track pins and installed them immediately, but then never looked at the tank. It was clean inside, but needed greasing and a small repair to the clutch mechanism. 30 minutes late and all sorted, but could I get the thing to run, nope. Open up the turret and trace the wires, I had forgotten it has 2 switches to turn on, 1 x receiver and 1 x motors....DOH.

That fixed I set the tank down and had a quick rumble around the floor, then on the road. Don't think the truckers were impressed, but what the hell. More tea was drunk and a gentleman became interested in my VW camper. It's a WELLE RC camper, it's really a toy radio gear set up, but I had ripped that out and done a full conversion job on it, he had one and wanted to see inside. I opened her up and he was very impressed with miniature radio gear that had been used. 4gms servo, 6gms 10amp forward/reverse ESC and the neat wiring (it's the only time I have done neat wiring!) he was going home to do his as mine had inspired him....another first!

A few words about the pictures, the layout was designed and made by Greg and family, and can be put together in any number of ways. The bridge is the main feature, and is great to drive over, especially as radio control vehicles don't have brakes!!! There are surprisingly few crashes, but they do happen. It takes about 40 minutes for 3 or 4 people to set up, including the shrubbery and figures etc.

If anyone wants to go let me know and I will find out the next date, you don't need a vehicle.

Pete Carmen



# **MEMBERS MODELS REGISTRATION FORM**

In an endeavour to obtain an up-to-date register of most of the models owned by club members and in order to produce some information labels to be used when attending events and exhibitions, please find below a model registration form.

If members would care to complete a form for each model in their possession and pass a copy to the Club Secretary, the information will then be used to produce display cards.

MODEL TYPE	
MODEL NAME	
KIT	
OWNER	
BUILDER	
YEAR BUILT	
MODEL DESCRIPTION	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE REAL ITEM, ITS HISTORY AND FATE IF KNOWN	

## ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>AGM Bushmead Centre</b>
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Hemel Hempstead Visit
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>Bacon Roll Sunday</b>
Sat/Sun 29/30th Sept	St. Albans Model Engineering Show (Townsend C of E School, St. Albans)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Club Evening Meeting – Bushmead Centre
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Hemel Hempstead Visit
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Bacon Roll Sunday</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Love Luton - Half Marathon Road Closures?
Fri/Sat/Sun 9-11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Warwick International Model Boat Show
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Club Evening Meeting – Bushmead Centre
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Hemel Hempstead Visit
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Bacon Roll Sunday</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Club Evening Meeting – Fish & Chip Supper Bushmead Centre – <b>Orders to Pete Carmen</b>
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Pigs in Blankets and Mince Pie Sunday</b>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Sail from 10am. Festive Lunch at Moat House, deposit required, see Pete Carmen

### **2019**

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Club Evening Meeting – Bushmead Centre
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Bacon Roll Sunday</b>
Fri/Sat/Sun 18/19/20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	London Model Engineering Exhibition Alexandra Palace