

A green banner with a white arrow pointing left on the left side and a white arrow pointing right on the right side. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with a green border containing the text "Smokebox April 2016 Beds Area Group" in red.

# Smokebox

April 2016

## *Beds Area Group*

### **Welcome to the April issue of Smokebox.**

As I will be away at the end of April and the beginning of May I will not be publishing a Smokebox for next month. As I will be away for the May meeting Dave Demaine has agreed to open and close the Hall for the meeting.

### **Steam in Beds**

Following my appeal for support and help with the organising and running of Steam in Beds. I have been approached by 4 members who have said they would like to help. With this in mind, I have suggested an informal get together with them probably during our April meeting to see how we can improve what we do for Steam in Beds. I believe there are 4 main areas which can be addressed Traders, Layouts, Best use of space in the Halls & St Mary and the Catering on offer.

### **Group Meeting Dates - 2016**

As from our March meeting our club meeting will commence at 10:30am and finish at 4:00pm. We will review these changes at the end of 2016 to see if they suit our members. We have the option of bringing the start forward to 10:00am or extending the close of day to 4:30 or 5:00pm, naturally if we make the meeting longer than the current 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours we will incur an increase in the hire cost.

1<sup>st</sup> May,            5<sup>th</sup> June,            3<sup>rd</sup> July            No August Meeting            4<sup>th</sup> September,  
2<sup>nd</sup> October,            6<sup>th</sup> November.            26<sup>th</sup> November Steam in Beds.

### **Prayle Grove**

Carol has confirmed that they expect to bring Prayle Grove to the March and April meetings but will miss the May and June meetings. If you would like to keep up to date with Prayle Groves outings, please contact Carol direct via her email: [caroleast@me.com](mailto:caroleast@me.com)

### **South Arbury Railway**

I have now heard back from Chris and because of ongoing work at the line he thinks it is going to be July/August before it will be ready, as soon as I hear from Chris with more news I'll let you know.

### **Brambleton MRC Outdoor Site**

I have been asked if the group would like to have a running day at the Brambleton Outdoor Railway, which is very near Harpenden. In spite of suggesting several dates for a possible meeting the response from BAGs members has been very poor, certainly not enough to warrant having the site opened and prepared.

### **Bressingham Show**

Andrew Neal will be taking St Genny's to the show on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August. Andrew would like to hear from any member who would like to help run St Genny's during the show.

Email him at [a.neal686@btinternet.com](mailto:a.neal686@btinternet.com) if you are interested.

## **Future Exhibitions**

As I reported last month we have been asked to take Ridgmont to the Elsecar Show on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

As you are aware, the Elsecar Show is organised by the 16mm Yorkshire Group. In view of the distance (approx. 150 Miles) and driving time (approx. 3 hours) involved, the organisers have agreed to fund a limited amount of accommodation for Friday and Saturday night.

It would seem the sensible option would be to travel on the Friday with a view to setting up Ridgmont Friday afternoon. I am grateful to Alan Regan for once again agreeing to drive the hire van, I believe we would need a minimum of 6 members to load and set up Ridgmont on the Friday. Priority for the available accommodation will be given to members who are willing to commit to loading up at Eaton Bray, travelling to Elsecar to help set up on Friday and to help run Ridgmont during the show on Saturday and Sunday.

The funding is based on two people sharing a room in Travelodge style of accommodation; if you would prefer a room to yourself then you will be expected to cover 50% of the cost yourself, this is the same arrangement that prevails for the Peterborough Show. If you would prefer to make your own arrangement for your stay that would be fine but you will have to cover the full cost yourself.

There will be more details available nearer the time but an early indication of your willingness to help would be appreciated.

The other show is the G1MRA at the Fosse to be held in **June 2017**, yes 2017. I have said that the BAGs group will support the show with Ridgmont but at the present I do not have any further details.

## **Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum**

As you no doubt noticed the morning of Easter Monday was a bit of a wash out, it did recover later and we had a surprisingly good turnout at Pitstone. I can report that the Beam Engine performed very well following Jim's work on it over the last few months.

Let's hope the next open day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April is kinder to us with the weather.

10 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank Holiday Monday
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday Monday
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Sunday
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday
29 <sup>th</sup> August	Bank Holiday Monday
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday

The team of operators for Wags Wharf are as follows:

Geoff Evans, Jim Elliott, Pete Newman, Roy Sterry and myself, non BAGs members include Pete Shaw, Phil Wheeler and Malcolm Brown. If anyone would like to join in the fun running Wags Wharf on one of the open days you would be very welcome, just let me know. We will be short a couple of operators on Monday 2 May, so that would be a good time to join us. If you can spare some time on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April we could show you the set up.

Chris