

A decorative banner with a light beige background and a dark brown border. The banner has a central rectangular section with rounded corners, flanked by two triangular sections pointing outwards. The text is centered in the central section.

# Smokebox

May 2017

## *Beds Area Group*

### **Welcome to the May Smokebox**

#### **Secretary's Commentary**

##### ***Eaton Bray Hall / Eaton Downs***

Thanks to everyone for making our first meeting with running on both Ridgmont and Eaton Downs a great success. Judging by the turnout of members at the April meeting, we have full support for the extra space and bringing Eaton Downs into regular use. With your full support, we can keep the momentum going.

##### ***Proposed BAGS Trip***

Last month I announced the BAGs trip to the Bressingham Steam Museum. The proposed date was Saturday 12th August, that coincides with their Garden Railway Show. I had negotiated a Group Ticket that would allow entry to the show and access to the other delights of the Museum including unlimited trips on the narrow-gauge railway. The trip would include a coach to and from Bressingham and entrance for members and their partners as detailed above. This represents a significant commitment by the club so until we have a firm idea how much support there is for the trip we won't be making a firm booking for the coach and tickets.

The hire of the coach is a fixed cost regardless of numbers, so it follows if we cannot make full use of the coach, which has 55 seats the trip will not be viable.

Following the announcement last month, I have had just 10 firm bookings. I know several members will be making their own way there but this leaves many more members who have not said one way or another. I do need a firm yes or no from every member; not responding is not an option.

So here is the crunch, we need to fill at least 40 seats to make the trip cost effective. I will review the number of seats taken on the 14<sup>th</sup> May; unless we have filled the quota (minimum of 40) I will abandon the trip.

##### ***Committee Appointment***

I am pleased to announce that Garth Bridgewood has agreed to become BAGs Layout Co-Ordinator. Garth will help with organising the arrangements for invitations for Ridgmont/Eaton Downs to visit exhibitions; Garth will also assist me with the arrangements and running of Steam in Beds.

##### ***Running Dates for Prayle Grove***

Carol has confirmed she and Graham will be at the May and June meetings but not the July meeting.

#### **Membership Secretary's Commentary**

John Kitchenman advises that say he is reviewing the BAG membership list and updating changes and 'filling in' omissions with the intention of contacting individual members eventually to confirm accuracy of our records.

#### **Eaton Downs News**

Alan Regan writes:

Further to my comments last month, three of the required four removable buffer stops have been fitted to the 45mm spurs. I left the fourth one at home and as I will not be at the May meeting, plan to install it in June. Ted Robinson repaired several rail joints at baseboard ends, where they had become detached from the screw to which they were soldered.

#### **Group Meeting Dates – 2017**

7th May	4th June	2nd July	August No Meeting
3rd September	1st October	5th November	December No Meeting

**Steam in Beds** is booked for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## **Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum**

The Museum will reopen at Easter, listed below are the planned open days for 2017:

Bank Holiday Monday	29 <sup>th</sup> May
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> June
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> July
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup> August
Bank Holiday Monday	28 <sup>th</sup> August
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> September
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> October

We would be pleased to see any BAGs Member at any of the above Open Days in 2017, apart from Wags Wharf there is a multitude of other exhibits you could easily make a whole day of it.

Look at their web site at <http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk/>

## **Items for Sale**

**John Kitchenman** is offering the following item for sale:

A customised 32mm gauge Mamod 'Forney' fitted with copper boiler and gas burner with wooden cab. It was originally built by Robin Reynolds. a long-time member living in Chelmsford. It's very attractive and is offered for sale at £265.

**Gordon Gill** is offering the following items for sale:

A quantity of 45mm gauge track including:

- Code 332 brass flexible American mainline sleeper spacing, 6ft lengths, 18 pieces, brand new
- Code 332 brass European sleeper spacing, 0.9M lengths, 7 pieces, second hand
- Code 332 brass American mainline sleeper spacing, 10 pieces, second hand
- Code 332 brass curves, exact radius unknown, 3 pieces, second hand

There may be odd other items – speak to Gordon for further details. All the track is in undamaged condition but the second hand items are, of course, weathered.

Gordon would prefer to sell as one lot, but is prepared to accept offers for one or more of the individual listed items. No sensible offers will be refused and the buyer is to collect.

If you have any items which you wish to advertise to other BAG members through Smokebox, please send details in electronic format (Microsoft Word or Windows text file) to Alan Regan ([alan-regan@talktalk.net](mailto:alan-regan@talktalk.net)) no later than **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**.