



**Welcome to the April Smokebox**

**Group Meeting Dates – 2018**

The following dates have been booked for 2018 meetings. The meetings commence at 10:30 am and close at 4:00 pm.

We have made two changes to our regular meeting date, our July meeting will now be on the 15<sup>th</sup> July, and the October meeting has moved to the 14<sup>th</sup> October. I have been asked by the Hall booking clerk for our 2019 dates with a view to avoiding these clashes again. I will not list the 2019 dates in Smokebox but you can assume they are all the first Sunday in the month.

Confirmed Dates for 2018

1 <sup>st</sup> April	6 <sup>th</sup> May	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> July*
5 <sup>th</sup> August	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	14 <sup>th</sup> October*	4 <sup>th</sup> November

Steam in Beds will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November

**Lines of Communication or Lack of Them**

In last month's Smokebox I floated the idea of having an August meeting it had been suggested by several members, the purpose was to see who would support having an August meeting. The initial response of members was very positive, on the strength of that I booked the hall for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August. However after the initial response the rest of the replies were not in favour. The final outcome suggests that only 40% members were in favour of an August meeting. The numbers breakdown as follows:

Members who read the piece	24
Members who replied	16
Of those replies the following supported an August meeting	15

That leaves 22 members who did not reply or declare any preference, convention says that by default they voted no. On the strength of that the overwhelming majority don't want an August meeting. As this August's meeting is booked and will in effect be free I suggest we go ahead with it and see what happens. If as I suspect there is a poor turnout there will not be August meetings in the future.

I did also seek views on extending our hours during the summer months to 5.00 pm, there seems to be even less support for that so I will not pursue any further. Apologies to those members who did reply and give their views. I can only try but without the support of the membership it is just a waste of my time.

I have just one last word on the subject, I spend a considerable amount of time trying to organise events, club meetings and reacting to member's suggestions and proposals. The most recent ones being the August Meeting, Extended Hours and the Reading Exhibition. If I make time to email members for their views and less than 50% can't even be bothered to respond the very least I expect is the common courtesy of an acknowledgment, I would at least know they had read it. If the majority don't reply why should I bother to email them in the first place?

## **Future Events**

### **Reading Large Scale Show**

I can confirm that the Beds Group will be taking Ridgmont to the Large Scale Modellers Show in Reading on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Even though we have enough members willing to help run Ridgmont on the day we need more members to step up to help with the loading at Eaton Bray on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 1:00 pm and unloading again at Eaton Bray on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, neither session should take more than 30 minutes, even if you won't make the journey to Reading surely you can spare 30 minutes to help at Eaton Bray.

### **Brambleton MRC**

I have received details of a proposed all day steaming event at the Brambleton MRC. Harpenden 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018. It is being organised by the "16mm West Herts Group" and all 16mm Association Members are welcome. Attached is a Flyer giving full details.

### **Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum**

Easter Monday is the first open day for the Museum this year.

We will be one member short this year so we do need help to operate Wags Wharf, if you could help on any of the dates listed below please let me know. The two dates highlighted in yellow we are particularly short of operators. Apart from Wags Wharf, there are plenty of other exhibits of interest to see whether a railway enthusiast or not. As part of the WW team you would get time to look around the whole site. There are many interesting items that show the developments that have changed how we do things around the Home, Farming, Technology and Engineering, things we take for granted today. Look at their web site at <http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk/>

The open days for 2018 are as follows:

Easter Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Early Spring Bank Holiday	7 <sup>th</sup> May
Late Spring Bank Holiday	28 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> June
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> August
Bank Holiday Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> September
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> October		

Chris