



Welcome to the February Smokebox

We will be holding the group's Annual General Meeting during our group's meeting on 4th February 2018, it will commence at 12 noon and as in 2017 there will be no running allowed on Ridgmont or Prayle Grove during the A.G.M. Full details including the Agenda were sent to all members week commencing 8th January via email or post if the recipient did not have an email.

The meeting gives the BAGs members the opportunity to raise questions regarding group matters, I would urge all members to make the effort to attend the meeting.

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.

Since booking the dates for our 2018 meetings we were asked to move our usual July date to 15th, which we agreed to do. I have now been approached again by the Hall Committee to move our 7th October booking to either the 30th September or 14th October.

Personally I am getting a bit tired of these requests to move, I provide our dates some 12 months in advance and make a firm booking. I have made my view known to the Hall Committee but pointed out the final decision is down to the group's membership. I will raise it at the AGM for member's views; the offer is that if we do agree to the move we will not be charged for hire that day.

4 th February	4 th March	1 st April	6 th May
3 rd June	15 th July*	No meeting in August	2 nd September
7 th October	4 th November		

Steam in Beds will be on Saturday 24th November

London Model Engineering Exhibition

The take up of places for the show was very disappointing with only 8 members on the Friday and Saturday we fared much better on Sunday with 12 on hand to run and help with breakdown at the end of the show. The Monday morning return to Eaton Bray did not go quite according plan but we managed in the end. I should thank all those members who helped with Ridgmont whether it was driving, loading, building or running.

Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum

Apart from Wags Wharf, there are plenty of other exhibits of interest to see whether a railway enthusiast or not. 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 nd April	Early Spring Bank Holiday	7 th May
Late Spring Bank Holiday	28 th May	Sunday	10 th June
Sunday	8 th July	Sunday	12 th August
Bank Holiday Monday	27 th August	Sunday	9 th September
Sunday	14 th October		

Chris