



Smokebox

June 2018

Beds Area Group

Welcome to the June Smokebox

Group Meeting Dates – 2018

The following dates have been booked for 2018. 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 15th July, and the October meeting has moved to the 14th 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

15th July*
4th November

5th August

2nd September

14th October*

Steam in Beds will be on Saturday 24th November

For your protection and safety

I have included this again in case any member missed it last month.

Over the many years we have been using the Village Hall a number of people have banged their head on the low beams under the stage. Even though they have padding added it is not very secure and can give you a painful bang if you hit your head, Max got a particularly nasty bump at the April meeting. In an effort to minimise the risk we have bought 4 Bump Caps which I would urge you to wear if you venture under the stage. Naturally we can't make you wear one but I do urge you to do so if you are working under the stage.

For Sale

John Kitchenman has the following for sale

Pearse Ulysses loco, gas fired with large capacity boiler having tee-fire tube – water volume extended into firebox. 32mm gauge - fixed, with inside frames and wheels and motion visible. 2.4 GHz radio control. Colour red (could be Crimson Lake). Little used and in good condition and good runner in forward and reverse. Price £995.

Reading Large Scale Show

Ridgmont appeared at the Reading show and was very well received by visitors and the organisers. Unfortunately I had to cut short my time at the show, my thanks to Ted and others who packed away my Locos, Stock and Tools Box and returned them safely to Eaton Bray.

Somesay Island Railway

Martin Shrubsole held a Steaming Day on the 13th May; I believe it was well supported by BAGs members.

Future Events

I have received advanced warning of a Garden Railway Show being planned by the GMES. I have been in touch with Bryan Finch suggesting they should invite Ridgmont, the response was very positive. The invitation will go out next January so we will have to wait and see but in the meantime book the dates in your diary.

GUILDFORD GARDEN RAILWAY SHOW 2019

Guildford Model Engineering Society (GMES) are pleased to announce that it will be staging a Garden Railway Show on 8th & 9th June 2019.

This new event will fulfill the need for a Garden Railway Show in South-East England, and will be unique among Garden Railway Shows as it will be offering trade stands, visiting layouts, GMES GR layouts in operation, plus miniature steam train rides on the Society's 3½" and 5" Gauge raised track, and the 7¼" Gauge ground level track.

Refreshments will also be available on site. The show will be open from 10am – 5pm on both days and there will be an admission charge.

This will be the first time that GMES has organized an event specifically aimed at the Garden Railway scene, but the Society has over 50 years experience of holding annual two day model engineering events at its site in Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey.

The GMES Garden Railway Group has been running an outdoor 16mm Narrow Gauge layout onsite for over 25 years, with extensive improvements being made to the layout over that time, there is also a portable (16mm/45mm) layout which has attended many shows around the country in recent years.

An outdoor Gauge 1 layout has relatively recently been added to the facilities on site at GMES and is subject to on-going development.

It is hoped that the new Guildford Garden Railway Show will become an annual feature at GMES helping to promote and support the Garden Railway movement.

Brambleton MRC

I have provided details of the proposed all day steaming event at the Brambleton MRC. Harpenden 14th July 2018. It is being organised by the "16mm West Herts Group" and all 16mm Association Members are welcome.

Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum

Fortunately we had good weather for both the May open days which meant plenty of visitors to entertain. All BAGs members are welcome.

I am grateful to the two BAGs members Brian and Steve who helped to operator Wags Wharf last weekend. I did wonder at one time whether Brian thought we were all quite mad but he seemed to survive to tell the tale.

We still need extra operators to help run Wags Wharf on Sunday 10th June. Apart from Wags Wharf, there are plenty of other exhibits of interest to see whether a railway enthusiast or not. As part of the team you would get plenty of time to look around the whole site. There are many interesting items that show how things have changed over the years. There are exhibits covering the Home, Technology including early computers, Farming 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:

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