

Group Meeting Dates – 2020

Below are the meeting dates booked for 2020, times are as before 10:30 am to 4:00 pm.

5 th January	2 nd February	1 st March
5 th April	3 rd May	31 st May *
5 th July	2 nd August	6 th September
4 th October	1 st November	

* Note June meeting is one week early on 31st May due to clash with Eaton Bray Beer Festival
Steam in Beds 28th November

Carol East has confirmed that Prayle Grove should be at the following meetings.

1st March 3rd May

Carol will update the list as and when other dates are confirmed

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**Andrew Neal** has advised me that he is looking for 2 or 3 members to help run his layout "Aberwym" when he takes it to the GIMRA Show at Shephed, Loughborough on 25th April. If you are able to help, please email Andrew for more details. [a.neal686@btinternet.com](mailto:a.neal686@btinternet.com)

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BAGs Facebook Page

An issue was raised at our AGM in February about the need to recruit more younger members. Exactly what is meant by "younger" members depends on your own interpretation of younger. It is probably fair to say that most of our current members are 60 plus, with some 70 plus, so anybody under 60 is younger. It was suggested that one way to attract younger members is via Social Media. BAGs have had a Facebook Page since 2015 set up and maintained by Pete Newman. Pete has reported the following statistics for the site:

- 1416 people have viewed the web site post, 117 clicks of the link to BAGs web site and 51 shares or comments.
- 238 people are currently following our Facebook Page, 225 people have liked the page.
- 64 people have viewed the Pitstone post, 2 clicks of the link to the Pitstone web site and 6 shares or comments.

By contrast the BAGs Web Site has during the last 2 months:

- 806 unique visitors
- 1200 pages viewed

Bearing in mind the average age of our members it would seem our target for new members is going to be in the 40/60 age range, not that we would turn away anybody younger.

Alan Regan has been looking into using an email to target local 16mm Association Members to promoting the BAGs Group and our activities. The actual area to be covered is yet to be agreed.

Brian Chidwick is also working on several initiatives and looking at other Facebook Pages and Forums that can be targeted for prospective members. He is also working on an article he would like to submit to "Garden Rail" for publication, if approved by the BAGs Committee.

If we do decide to go ahead with some sort of Promotional Day for Beds Group, we can have it listed in the Railway Modeller Magazine and on The UK Model Shop Directory Web Site, Events Calendar.

If any member has any other ideas how we can attract new members don't keep it to yourself, please let us know your thoughts.

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.

Take a look at their web site at <http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk/>

The details of this year's Open Days are below:

Easter Monday 13 th April	Friday 8 th May VE Day	Bank Holiday Monday 25 th May
Sunday 14 th June	Sunday 12 th July	Sunday 9 th August
Bank Holiday Monday 31 st August	Sunday 13 th September	Sunday 11 th October

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Chris