



# **Smokebox**

**June 2016**

## ***Beds Area Group***

### **Welcome to the June issue of Smokebox.**

#### **Steam in Beds**

Following my appeal for support and help with the organising and running of Steam in Beds. The team held our first meeting during the April meeting. We covered a lot of ground and identified a number of areas that could be improved. I hope to have our second meeting during our June club day to firm up some of the main areas.

#### **Group Meeting Dates - 2016**

As from our March meeting our club meeting will commence at 10:30am and finish at 4:00pm. We will review these changes at the end of 2016 to see if they suit our members. We have the option of bringing the start forward to 10:00am or extending the close of day to 4:30 or 5:00pm, naturally if we make the meeting longer than the current 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours we will incur an increase in the hire cost.

5<sup>th</sup> June,            3<sup>rd</sup> July            No August Meeting            4<sup>th</sup> September,  
2<sup>nd</sup> October,            6<sup>th</sup> November.            26<sup>th</sup> November Steam in Beds.

#### **Prayle Grove**

Carol has confirmed that they expect to bring Prayle Grove to the June meeting. If you would like to keep up to date with Prayle Groves outings, please contact Carol direct via her email: [caroleast@me.com](mailto:caroleast@me.com)

#### **South Arbury Railway**

I have now heard back from Chris and because of ongoing work at the line he thinks it is going to be July/August before it will be ready, as soon as I hear from Chris with more news I'll let you know.

#### **Brambleton MRC Outdoor Site**

I have been asked if the group would like to have a running day at the Brambleton Outdoor Railway, which is very near Harpenden. In spite of suggesting several dates for a possible meeting, the response from BAGs members has been very poor, certainly not enough to warrant having the site opened and prepared.

The status of the above running day at Brambleton has not changed unless I get some more positive feedback from BAGs members' I will thank the organisers of Brambleton for the offer but due to lack of interest I will turn down the offer.

#### **Bressingham Show**

Andrew Neal will be taking St Genny's to the show on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August. Andrew would like to hear from any member who would like to help run St Genny's during the show.

Email him at [a.neal686@btinternet.com](mailto:a.neal686@btinternet.com) if you are interested.

## **Future Exhibitions**

As I reported last month we have been asked to take Ridgmont to the Elsecar Show on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

As you are aware, the Elsecar Show is organised by the 16mm Yorkshire Group. In view of the distance (approx. 150 Miles) and driving time (approx. 3 hours) involved, the organisers have agreed to fund a limited amount of accommodation for Friday and Saturday night.

It would seem the sensible option would be to travel on the Friday with a view to setting up Ridgmont Friday afternoon. I am grateful to Alan Regan for once again agreeing to drive the hire van, I believe we would need a minimum of 6 members to load and set up Ridgmont on the Friday. Priority for the available accommodation will be given to members who are willing to commit to loading up at Eaton Bray, travelling to Elsecar to help set up on Friday and to help run Ridgmont during the show on Saturday and Sunday.

The funding is based on two people sharing a room in Travelodge style of accommodation; if you would prefer a room to yourself then you will be expected to cover 50% of the cost yourself, this is the same arrangement that prevails for the Peterborough Show. If you would prefer to make your own arrangement for your stay that would be fine but you will have to cover the full cost yourself.

I now must have a firm commitment to help with the loading and running of Ridgmont. I have had some members saying it's too far to travel but to put it into perspective, Elsecar is 150 miles, Exeter is over 200 miles and Llanfair is over 170 miles and yet people will travel to them so why not Elsecar.

I have had very limited offers of help so far and it would be a tragedy if we had to back out due to a lack of support from club members.

**I am afraid that I have lost track of the offers of help I have had so far so would you please let me know if you have already promised to help.**

The other show is the G1MRA at the Fosse to be held in **June 2017**, yes 2017. I have said that the BAGs group will support the show with Ridgmont but at the present I do not have any further details.

## **Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum**

We are now almost half way through the open season at Pitstone, we have had a fair mix of weather for the first 4 open days but visitor numbers have held up fairly well. The next open day is on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, we could do with some extra help to run Wags Wharf that day so please come along if you would like to get involved. You would also be welcome to visit just for a chat on any of the dates below.

12 <sup>th</sup> June	Sunday
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday
29 <sup>th</sup> August	Bank Holiday Monday
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday

The team of operators for Wags Wharf are as follows:

Geoff Evans, Pete Newman, Roy Sterry and myself, non BAGs members include Pete Shaw, Phil Wheeler and Malcolm Brown. If anyone would like to join in the fun running Wags Wharf on one of the open days you would be very welcome, just let me know. We will be short of operators on Sunday June 12 and September 11, so that would be a good time to join us.

Chris