



**Welcome to the August Smokebox**

**Group Meeting Dates – 2019**

Group meeting dates for the remainder of 2019, all meetings commence at 10:30 am and close at 4:00 pm.:

4th August Prayle Grove should be at Eaton Bray.

1st September Prayle Grove will **not** be in attendance.

6th October Prayle Grove should be at Eaton Bray.

3<sup>rd</sup> November Prayle Grove should be at Eaton Bray.

Steam in Beds will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November and will include Prayle Grove.

We are trying to make more use of Eaton Downs we will certainly use it to cover when Prayle Grove is absent. As Eaton Downs is easier and quicker to build, we will bring it into use instead of Ridgmont on other meeting days depending on the level and mix of those members turning up. Eaton Downs also gives members an opportunity to run their 45mm Locos and Stock and provide for 32mm without loss of capacity. The refurbishment of Eaton Downs is at a very early stage; in the meantime, it makes sense to make full use of it in its present form.

The meeting dates for our 2020 meetings have been booked and confirmed the attached sheet lists all the dates and any other commitments the group has for 2020

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**Eaton Downs Project – Update**

As I said previously in Smokebox the project is at a very early stage, I will provide regular updates as it progresses. Last month I included the final configuration of the baseboards and track plan. As things develop I will include updates in Smokebox as appropriate, in the meantime as highlighted above we must make regular use of the layout when the opportunity is there.

**Papplewick Green**

As I mentioned last month Papplewick Green attended the Pitstone Museum during the July open day. John Kitchenman and a small group of BAGs members kept visitors to the museum entertained throughout the day. Attendance was typical for a Sunday around 200 people made up of mainly family groups with children who enjoyed seeing the layout and the trains.

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**Garden Rail Magazine**

As I reported last month, we have been asked to provide an article for the magazine about Ridgmont and its development over the last 30 years. The article is now complete, the final stage is to select the photographs to be used with the article. It is planned to appear in the November issue of the magazine to coincide with Ridgmont attendance at the National Festival of Railway Modelling on the 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Peterborough Arena. The preparation of the piece has been a collaboration of a number of members Ray Butler, Mark Scrase, Martin Shrubsole, Ted Robinson and myself. Thanks should also go to the many members who sent me photographs to be used to support the written word.

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**Andrew Neal** has a new layout called "Aberwyn" it is suitable for small battery powered locos and live steam locos such as the Roundhouse Bertie. He will be taking it to the following shows later in the year.

**BRESSINGHAM SHOW IS SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST  
EXETER GARDEN RAILWAY SHOW IS SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER**

I am pleased to say Andrew has also agreed to bring "Aberwyn" to Steam in Beds in November. If you are interested in helping Andrew to run "Aberwyn" at any of his other shows contact Andrew via his email [a.neal686@btinternet.com](mailto:a.neal686@btinternet.com)

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**Roy Sterry Garden Railway Re-Furbishment**

Roy's project days on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July went ahead as planned, I believe there was a good turnout of BAGs members and very good progress was made. I am told that at least one train ventured out and successfully completed a full circuit without mishap.

At this point I don't know whether Roy is planning any further days, but rest assured I will keep you informed of any future plans.

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**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 open days for 2019 are as follows:

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday              | 11 <sup>th</sup> August   |
| Bank Holiday Monday | 26 <sup>th</sup> August   |
| Sunday              | 8 <sup>th</sup> September |
| Sunday              | 13 <sup>th</sup> October  |

Chris