



Welcome to the July Smokebox

Group Meeting Dates – 2019

For those of you who may have missed my email regarding Prayle Grove at our meetings I have included the dates below.

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

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|--------------------------|--|
| 7th July | Prayle Grove will not be in attendance. |
| 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 rd November | Prayle Grove should be at Eaton Bray. |

Steam in Beds will be on Saturday 30th November and will include Prayle Grove.

To cover in Prayle Groves absence we will bring Eaton Downs back into use on this Sunday. Any future dates Prayle Grove can't be with us we will also have Eaton Downs set up to provide an opportunity for members to run their 45mm Locos and Stock and provide additional 32mm 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.

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Papplewick Green

Following several attempts to show one of our layouts at the Pitstone Museum we have finally got agreement to take Papplewick Green to their open day on Sunday 14th July. As you know Wags Wharf is permanently based at the Museum and in regular operation every open day. On a typical day the museum has over 400 visitors mostly families. If you are not familiar with Papplewick it is a small portable layout using Mamod Track it is well suited to small steam locos and battery powered diesels. It needs a team of 4 or 5 to have a full roster, if you would like to come along on the 14th and help run the layout you will be most welcome, you should have plenty of time to take in the many other attractions at the Museum. You can find further details by following the link: <http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk/>

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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 we must make regular use of the layout when the opportunity is there.

National Festival of Railway Modelling

7 & 8th December 2019 Peterborough Arena

As you are probably aware Warners are the organisers of the show, they are also publishers of the Garden Rail magazine. As we will be presenting Ridgmont at the show Phil Parker Editor of Garden Rail has asked if we could supply a piece about Ridgmont to be included in the December issue of their magazine. I am pleased that Ray Butler has offered to contribute a piece about the scenic aspects of Ridgmont. There will be other contributions covering the development of Ridgmont over the years. We will also need a number of photographs of Ridgmont showing it in its exhibition finery. We need a balance of photos not only showing the detail but including more general views showing the full visual effect of Ridgmont. If you have any photos that would be suitable would you please email them to me. We can then make a selection of shots that show Ridgmont at its best.

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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

As I reported last month the dates set for Roy's project are 17th and 24th July they are both a Wednesday. I have a few members' who have put their names down to help but it would help if we could get a few more.

Roy has suggested a 10:00 am start; he will provide Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits. Depending on how long you can stay and the weather you may want to bring along something for lunch. If you could let me know which dates you can do and whether you can do morning, afternoon or all day it will help Roy to plan the day. If you are not aware Roy lives in Dunstable, if you need his address let me know. Once the railway is operational again Roy will be hosting an open day where BAGs members will be welcome. In the meantime many thanks for supporting Roy with his project.

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**West Herts Area Group**

Once again the above group are hosting a Steam-Up day at the Brambleton Site in Harpenden on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Details on the Flyer attached to the Smokebox email.

**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              | 14 <sup>th</sup> July     |
| 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