

Smokebox

April 2015

Beds Area Group Newsletter

Welcome to the April issue of Smokebox.

Eaton Downs

As reported in the March Smokebox I had written to two traders asking for quotes to supply the track for the new layout. I only had the one reply from Richard at Brandbright with a very competitive quote compared to On-Line prices, the second trader did not respond so I presume he is not interested in supplying the track. Richard and Shirley have been loyal friends to the group over the years so I have placed the order with them and have arranged to collect it at Peterborough.

We hope to make a start on sealing the top of the boards with Sandolin Wood Treatment during our meeting on the 5th April, if the weather is fine we will do it outside, we will not have to worry about protecting the Hall floor.

If all goes well we should be able to start laying the track during our meeting on 3rd May, all track and point work will be Peco SM32 and G45, the radii will be as follows: the SM32 circuits will be 900mm, 1050mm and 1200mm and the G45 will be 1350mm.

Group Meetings Dates - 2015

The following dates have been booked for our 2015 meetings.

3rd May 7th June 5th July August no meeting

6th September 4th October 1st November December no meeting

28th November Steam in Beds 2015

Prayle Grove

Carol has confirmed that Prayle Grove will not be at our meetings until October. If you would like to keep up to date with Prayle Groves outings, please contact Carol direct via her email: caroleast@me.com

National Garden Rail Show

The timetable will be as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Load Ridgmont at Eaton Bray | Friday 10 th April | 1:00pm | 30 minutes allowed for loading |
| Leave Eaton Bray | " | 2:00pm | |
| Arrive at Venue and set up | Friday 10 th April | 3:15pm | |
| Unload and Set Up | " | 3:30pm | |
| Leave Venue | " | 6:00pm | |
| Finalise Set Up | Saturday 11 th April | 9:00am | Access from 7:00 am |
| Show Opens | " | 10:00am | |
| Show Closes | " | 5:00pm | |
| Breakdown and Load Up by | " | 6:30pm | |
| Return to Base | " | | |
| Unload Ridgmont | Sunday 12 th | 11:30am | |
| Return Van to Hire Company | Monday 13 th | 8:00am | |

Graham Mander will be hiring and driving the van for us to transport Ridgmont to and from the show, I am grateful to Graham for offering to assist, many thanks Graham.

I have summarised the offers of help received, please check the display board on the stage to confirm your involvement.

As in previous years, the Association have imposed a limit on the number of Passes allocated to each Layout irrespective of its size or operating requirements. I have more volunteers wishing to help than I have passes, but just to illustrate how absurd the rule is Andrew Neal has added the surplus names to his list for St Genny's, so we do have happiness. You will be given your Passes when you first arrive at the venue on either Friday or Saturday.

Peterborough Member to Member Sales

Martin and Liz Shrubsole have agreed to take on the running of the Member to Member Sales stand at the National Garden Rail Show at Peterborough. They would very much appreciate it if any members of BAG would be able to assist for an hour at any time during the course of the day.

Anybody who feels they could help for an hour should contact Martin direct.

G1MRA Spring Show

As I reported in the February Smokebox we will be, representing the 16mm Association at the show with Ridgmont. The venue for the show is as follows:

Shepshed High School
Forest Street
Shepshed
Loughborough, LE12 9DA

Ridgmont will be located in the Sports Hall.

The timetable will be as follows:

Friday 24th

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Load Ridgmont at Eaton Bray | Friday 24 th April | 12:00 Noon |
| Leave Eaton Bray | " | 12:30pm |

Saturday 25th

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Arrive at Venue and Set Up | Saturday 25 th April | 8:00am |
| Show Opens | " | 10:30am |
| Show Closes | " | 5:00pm |
| Breakdown and Load Up by | " | 6:30pm |

Return to Base

Sunday 26th

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Unload at Eaton Bray | Sunday 26 th | 7:00pm |
| Clear Eaton Bray | Sunday 26 th | 7:30pm |
| Return Van to Hire Company | Monday 13 th | 8:00am |

Unfortunately, the Eaton Bray Hall is in use during Sunday 26th, hence we can't get access until 7.00pm,

I will be in touch with the Hall management nearer the time to see if it is possible to return Ridgmont later Saturday evening or earlier on the Sunday.

Alan Regan will be hiring and driving the van for us to transport Ridgmont to and from the Show, I am grateful to Alan for offering to assist, many thanks Alan.

I have summarised the offers of help received, please check the display board on the stage to confirm your involvement.

It looks as if I am very short of help at Eaton Bray on the Sunday if anyone can help please let me know, it will be hard work for just 4 of us to unload and put Ridgmont away under the stage.

Pitstone Heritage Park

This is a local affair, the Heritage Park, Pitstone Green Museum are planning a Model Railway event during 2015. Those of you who know the venue will know it is home to a large collection of artefacts covering many diverse ranges, from restored farming equipment, a science room, domestic appliances, print shop and blacksmiths they even have a replica of the cockpit of an Avro Lancaster Bomber, the list is endless. It also has a G1 layout and is now the permanent home of Wags Wharf. The site is just 12 miles from Eaton Bray so distance would not be a problem. They have a large 2-wheel trailer 8ft x 5ft rated for 3 / 4 tons which would be plenty big enough for Ridgmont we just need somebody to tow it. The Museum have suggested Sunday 9th August and as we don't have a meeting during August I think it would work well for us providing we can put together a team to run Ridgmont, the site is open to the public from 11am to 5.00pm so it is not a long day. Again, please let me know if you would be willing to support this event.

Brian also tells me that BMES are planning a small loco event on the 12th July and have asked if Papplewick Green can attend again this year. I do not have any further details at present; no doubt, Brian will have more information nearer the time.

Bure Valley Railway

Andrew Barnes, Director & General Manager of the Bure Valley Railway, who just happens to be an Ex. member of the Beds Group has asked if we would like to take Ridgmont to their "Steam in Miniature" event on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th September 2015.

The railway is based at Aylsham, which is about 12 miles north of Norwich; they have agreed to cover the cost of van hire and the fuel and because of its location, they will cover any reasonable overnight expenses incurred by our members.

Even though it is, quite some way off Andrew would like to know if the Beds Group would like to be part of this event. I do not expect a firm commitment at this stage but an indication that you would be willing to support and help would give me an idea if we could put a team together for this show.

You can find more details about the Railway and the event at:

<http://www.bvrw.co.uk/events/events.asp#models>

The date is quite some way off and we have two other major shows to attend during this month, it's too soon to expect people to give a firm commitment. It would however be helpful if I can get some idea if the membership is interested in taking Ridgmont to this event in September. If not I must let the organisers know so they can look for an alternative attraction.

Chris