

Smokebox

February 2015

Beds Area Group Newsletter

Welcome to the February issue of Smokebox.

Planned New Layout

Chris Moody will deliver the baseboards for our new layout at our meeting on 8th February. Then the priority will be to finalise the plan for the track layout, some of you will have seen the original plan, which has undergone a number of modifications since then. We will use Peco track and point work throughout for both the SM32 and G45 circuits. I have produced a number of Templates for both the SM32 and G45 points, I will also have Templates for a variety of Curves.

We still need to decide the name for the new layout, I favour the name "Eaton Downs", "Eaton" taken from the village name and "Downs" from the Dunstable Downs which we can see from the village hall. I did have one other suggestion but it was thought too similar to the name of another layout.

Once the track work is finished the new layout will represent a big opportunity to increase the running capacity on club days and will be welcomed by our existing members who wish to run 45mm, we may also attract new members who are interested in running 45mm Locos.

The Hall Management has agreed that we can use extra space under the stage to store the new layout.

Group Meetings Dates - 2015

The following dates have been booked for our 2015 meetings.

1st March 5th April 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

As you know Prayle Grove does attend a number of our meetings throughout the year. If you would like to know, which dates Prayle Grove will be at the club meetings please contact Carol direct via her email: caroleast@me.com

Future Events

National Garden Rail Show, I confirmed last month that we will be showing Ridgmont at the Association's Peterborough Show on Saturday 11th April. I am pleased to say that Graham Mander has kindly offered to drive the van to transport Ridgmont to the show.

The timetable will be much the same as previous years:

Load Ridgmont at Eaton Bray	Friday 10 th April	1:00pm
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
Show Opens	"	10:00am
Show Closes	"	5:00pm
Breakdown and Load Up by	"	6:30pm
Return to Eaton Bray by	Saturday 11 th	8:00pm
Depending on Access to Village Hall		
Unload Ridgmont	Saturday 11 th	8:00pm
Or		
Unload Ridgmont	Sunday 12 th	11:30am
Return Van to Hire Company	Monday 13 th	8:00am

Would you please let me know ASAP if you are willing to help with Ridgmont. We need volunteers for the following tasks:

Loading up at Eaton Bray on Friday	1:00pm
Help with the Set Up at Peterborough Friday	3:30pm onwards
Be an Operator on Saturday during the show	10:00 to 5:00pm
Help with the Breakdown and Load	From 5:00pm

Unload at Eaton Bray Saturday or Sunday

I will have a list of the above activities on which you can nominate which of the tasks you can help with. Remember, the number of Operators for each layout is limited so make sure you get your name down early. All operators will be issued with a Passes so you do not need to buy a ticket and you get in before the show opens to the public.

Andrew Neal will also be showing St Genny's at Peterborough and he will be looking for offers of help, please speak to him direct if you would like to help with running on St Genny's.

Other Future Events

The first is the G1MRA spring show, the Association has been asked if it would field a 16mm Live Steam Layout at their show, which is held in Shepshed nr. Loughborough on the 25th April 2015. Those of you with sharp eyes will have noted that that is two weeks after our own show at Peterborough. The Association is keen to present all that is best in 16mm so naturally they have asked Ridgmont to represent them. The G1MRA have the space to accommodate Ridgmont and have agreed to cover the Hire of the Van. I expect the timetable to be much the same as for the Peterborough Show, journey time is about 1½ hours so much the same as Peterborough. As it follows quite close to Peterborough, we do need to have a clear idea that we can put a team together to fly the flag for the 16mm Association and the Beds Group. As with Peterborough there will be a list for you to add your offer of help.

The second event 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 also 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.

Chris