

# Smokebox

## March 2015

# Beds Area Group Newsletter

**Welcome to the March issue of Smokebox.**

### **Eaton Downs**

Chris Moody delivered the baseboards during our February meeting. The proposed track plan has been on display during our last three meetings, giving members many opportunities to suggest changes to the basic plan. I have checked prices on-line and in SMT to find the best prices, I then picked two traders and wrote to them asking for a quote to supply the track and points. I have had a reply from Richard at Brandbright with a very competitive price. I'm still awaiting the second trader's quote. Richard and Shirley have been loyal friends to the group over the years so unless the other quote is substantially better than Richards I suggest we place the order with Brandbright.

I had been asking for suggestions for a name for the new layout since we first talked about it last year, I have received a couple of suggestions but in both cases it was thought they were too similar to the names of other layouts in the 16mm Association. So unless anyone feels strongly I propose we settle on "Eaton Downs", "Eaton" taken from the village name and "Downs" from the Dunstable Downs which we can see from the village hall.

As I reported in the last Smokebox 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.

5<sup>th</sup> April      3<sup>rd</sup> May      7<sup>th</sup> June      5<sup>th</sup> July      August no meeting

6<sup>th</sup> September   4<sup>th</sup> October      1<sup>st</sup> November      December no meeting

**28<sup>th</sup> November Steam in Beds 2015**

### **Prayle Grove**

Carol has confirmed that Prayle Grove will be at our March meeting and then not until our October 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)

## **Future Events**

National Garden Rail Show, I confirmed last month that we would be showing Ridgmont at the Association's Peterborough Show on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> April	1:00pm
Leave Eaton Bray	"	2:00pm
Arrive at Venue and set up	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	3:15pm
Unload and Set Up	"	3:30pm
Leave Venue	"	6:00pm
Finalise Set Up	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup>	8:00pm
Depending on Access to Village Hall		
Unload Ridgmont	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:00pm
Or		
Unload Ridgmont	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am
Return Van to Hire Company	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	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 am still taking offers of help with transport and running for the show. There will be 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 Pass 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**

### **G1MRA Spring Show**

As I reported in the February Smokebox we have been asked to represent the 16mm Association at the G1MRA spring show, which is held in Shepshed nr. Loughborough on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Those of you with sharp eyes will have noted that it is two weeks after our own show at Peterborough. 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, however I am still awaiting the final details to be agreed.

We have two locations in the show available to us, which one we go for will depend on the support we get from BAGs members. Our experience shows we need approximately 2 hours to build and prepare Ridgmont for a show; the journey time from Eaton Bray is about 1 ½ hours, this should be taken into account when we consider the two options.

The show itself opens at 10:30am Saturday.

#### 1. In the Main Hall

We have access to the hall from 5:30pm on the Friday, so a Friday build up would be possible. This would mean collecting Ridgmont from Eaton Bray around midday providing we can gain access. It will make Friday a long day for those helping to transport and build Ridgmont at the venue.

#### 2. In the Gym/Sports Hall

We would not have access to the main hall until 8:00am Saturday morning, we would still need to collect Ridgmont on the Friday and then travel up Saturday morning to arrive in time to start to unload at 8:00am, giving us 2 ½ hours to unload and set up.

Whichever of the two above options we choose we will need to return Ridgmont to Eaton Bray either Saturday evening or Sunday morning again depending on the access to the hall.

I must stress whichever option we go for will depend on the number of members who are willing and are able to help. As things stand now, we have the following offers of help.

Friday at Eaton Bray	4	This not enough, need minimum of 6, ideal 8
Friday at the Shepshed	5	This not enough, need minimum of 6, ideal 8
Saturday at Shepshed - Build up	?	
"                    " - Operating	9	We could manage but 12 would be ideal

Unless we can boost these numbers, it is going to be very hard work for those who do help. So can we please have more support for this opportunity to promote Ridgmont and the 16mm Association as a whole.

I am committed to let the organisers of the show know our answer by next week, so I really need to know today.

### **Pitstone Heritage Park**

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Late Announcement**

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.

Chris