



Welcome to the April Smokebox

I am afraid this month Smokebox is going to be quite brief (thank goodness I hear you cry) it's been a very busy month for me. Apart from the last minute arrangements for Peterborough and the G1MRA show the following week, I have got a big project going on in my garden. No it's not to do with my garden railway but a new Greenhouse which needed a new base to be prepared. The greenhouse arrived this week it's a bit like a huge Meccano set; I spent half a day checking all the bits were there. That's enough of that I had better get on with Smokebox.

~~~~~

**National Garden Railway Show**

Hopefully you are all ready for the Peterborough National Garden Railway Show. As you know the Beds Area Group will be taking Ridgmont to the Peterborough Arena on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. As we have done successfully in the past we will be allocating running slots in advance to avoid any last minute panic to fill a vacant slot. I am pleased to say once again Bob Gamble has taken up the challenge of Track Marshal, having spoken to Bob in the last week he is still looking to fill spaces on the running roster.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

|                                               |       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Collect Ridgmont from Eaton Bray              | 12:30 |
| Leave Eaton Bray                              | 13:15 |
| Peterborough Arena Unload and Set Up Ridgmont | 15:00 |
| Leaving Peterborough at the latest            | 18:00 |

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

|                                             |       |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| Finalise the build and scenery, access from | 7:00  |
| Show Opens                                  | 10:00 |
| Show Closes                                 | 17:00 |
| Breakdown Ridgmont from                     | 17:00 |

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

|                      |       |                                                                   |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Unload at Eaton Bray | 10:30 | As it's our regular meeting day we will unload and build Ridgmont |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|

I understand Bob Gamble still has a couple slots left to fill on the running roster, so it's not too late to book yourself in.

**Don't forget your Form 1 to collect your Lanyard.**  
**And if you want to park in the exhibitors car park you will need Form 3.**

**St Gennys**

I understand from Andrew that he will also be taking St Gennys to the Peterborough show, if you would like to book a running slot on St Gennys please contact Andrew direct on his email [a.neal686@btinternet.com](mailto:a.neal686@btinternet.com)

~~~~~

Gauge One Model Railway Show

We already have a few members committed to help run at the show and Alan has agreed to drive the van. However we do need more help with the loading up at Eaton Bray on the Friday and help on the Saturday with the build up of Ridgmont and running during the day. There will be a running roster and volunteers sheets to help with the following tasks, please put your name down to help with at least one thing.

The routine will follow a similar pattern as for Peterborough but with one or two changes:

Friday 12th April

Collect Ridgmont from Eaton Bray 13:00
Leave 14:00 Note we will be taking Ridgmont to Shepshed Saturday morning

Saturday 13th April

Arrive at Shepshed Venue 8:00 Iveshead School, Forest Street, Shepshed. LE12 9DB
 • Unload and Set Up Ridgmont including Scenery
Show Opens 10:30
Show Closes 16:00
Breakdown Ridgmont from 16:00
Clear Venue ASAP

Monday 15th April

Unload at Eaton Bray 9:00
Leave Eaton Bray 10:00 at the latest

We could do with more help loading up on Friday 12th and unloading on Monday 15th. Please let me know if you can spare an hour on either day.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

National Festival of Railway Modelling

7 & 8th December 2019 Peterborough Arena

Following on from Alan Regan’s suggestion at our AGM that we should offer to present Ridgmont at the above show. I am pleased to say that we have now received an invitation to take Ridgmont to the Warner Show this December. As the show exhibits are predominantly in the smaller scales it will be a first for a live steam layout at the show so it is bound to generate a lot of interest from the shows visitors. There are one or two details still to be sorted out but in the meantime please put the dates in your diaries.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

EXETER GARDEN RAILWAY SHOW

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2019

I sent out an email on the 6th March regarding an invitation I have received from the organisers of the above show. As it was quite close to our own show I was trying to see if members would support taking Ridgmont. Taking in to account the distance and it being a 2 day show, it would be true to say that the response was lukewarm at best. I did get 2 or 3 positive replies but on the whole there was not enough to support us going. The other consideration was the expenses the organisers have a limit of £250 which would not even cover the cost of hiring the van. I have not yet turned down the invitation but I did make the organisers aware of the likely cost of hire so I don’t realistically expect them to follow it up.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

