



Welcome to the February Smokebox

Annual General Meeting 3rd February 2019

As you will all be aware we will be holding the Group's Annual General Meeting at 12 noon, you will have received a copy of the Agenda. I would ask that you help with setting up the meeting room by moving chairs and a couple of tables to the meeting room so we can start promptly at 12 noon.

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**National Garden Railway Show**

As I reported in the November Smokebox we will be taking Ridgmont to the National Garden Railway Show on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the Peterborough Arena. Naturally we want to put on a good show and present Ridgmont in the best possible light. Set out below are the timings for the movement of Ridgmont:

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

|                                    |       |                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Collect Ridgmont from Eaton Bray   | 12:30 |                                                                                 |
| Leave Eaton Bray                   | 13:15 |                                                                                 |
| Arrive Peterborough Arena - say    | 15:00 |                                                                                 |
| Unload and Set Up Ridgmont         |       |                                                                                 |
| Leaving Peterborough at the latest | 18:00 | I won't have firm timings until I have been advised them by the show organiser. |

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April

|                                       |       |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Finalise the build and scenic details | TBA   | Again I won't know the access time until I receive details from the show organiser. |
| Show Opens                            | 10:00 |                                                                                     |
| Show Closes                           | 17:00 |                                                                                     |
| Breakdown Ridgmont from               | 17:00 |                                                                                     |
| Clear Venue ASAP                      |       |                                                                                     |

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 will be looking to collect names to cover all the above activities; there will be a schedule at our meeting to add your name to. In the past there has been a limit on the number of runners allowed per layout so it makes sense to put your name first in case you miss out. Remember if you're down as an operator on Ridgmont you get in to the show free. 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 Bob Gamble has once again agreed to act as Track Marshal for the show. Bob will be collating and organising all requests to book a running slot on Ridgmont. We must avoid any breaks in running and maintain a full service on both tracks.

Once again Ted Robinson has agreed to hire and drive the van to transport Ridgmont to and from the show.

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Roy Needs Help

Those of you with long memories will remember the excellent running days Roy Sterry used to have at his garden in Dunstable. They were always very well attended by club members and friends. The line is quite extensive with a steaming area and ponds; the line also connected to Roy's indoor layout which is housed in a very large garage. As many of you may know Roy spent several years caring for his wife, over this time he had little time to play trains and the garden line has become in need of some TLC. I believe the line is quite sound but has become a bit overgrown and needs a good clean up. Roy wants to bring the line back into use so he can once again host garden meetings. It's a daunting task for one man but with help and support from club members he hopes to have the line running again this year.

So here is the deal Roy would like a team of volunteers from the club to help him restore the line to its former glory. A date has not been fixed but Roy has suggested making a start in May, it will depend on how many members are willing to give some time to help. If you would like to help Roy with his project please let me know and naturally there will be the chance to run on the line once the task is done.

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## **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:

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Easter Monday             | 22 <sup>nd</sup> April    |
| Early Spring Bank Holiday | 6 <sup>th</sup> May       |
| Late Spring Bank Holiday  | 27 <sup>th</sup> May      |
| Sunday                    | 9 <sup>th</sup> June      |
| 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