



Welcome to the March Smokebox

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting during the Groups February meeting; attendance was a bit disappointing currently we have 39 members including Honorary members. We had a turnout of 23 members including the committee; we received 7 apologies in advance which left 9 members who just did not bother to turn up. I should like to thank everybody who attended the AGM with particular thanks to Alan Regan for taking the minutes which at times must have been quite a challenge. Every Group member was sent a copy of the minutes during the following week irrespective of whether they attended the AGM or not, if for some reason you have not received a copy let me know.

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**National Garden Railway Show**

The National Garden Railway Show is fast approaching 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 have now received the operators pack from the organisers, there is a lot of detail that volunteers need to be aware of and comply with. As this month's Smokebox is quite full already and there will be at least one other attachment to the email I have sent the NGR Info. Pack out with a separate email; you should have received it now.

I am still collecting names to cover all the above activities; there will be a schedule at our meeting to add your name to. No doubt Bob will be looking to fill any spaces left on the running roster. Once again we have Ted Robinson to thank for hiring and driving the van to transport Ridgmont to and from the show.

**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)

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Gauge One Model Railway Association

We are also taking Ridgmont to the G1MRA Spring Show being held in Shepshed on the 13th April. Yes that's right it's the Saturday following our own show at Peterborough. Maybe not ideal timing but it does present us with another opportunity to present Ridgmont and promote the Bedfordshire Group and the Association to a wider audience. 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

None of this happens by magic so please do your share and put your name down to help make the show a success.

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**Group Meeting Dates – 2019**

3<sup>rd</sup> March        7<sup>th</sup> April        5<sup>th</sup> May        2<sup>nd</sup> June        7<sup>th</sup> July  
4<sup>th</sup> August        1<sup>st</sup> September    6<sup>th</sup> October    3<sup>rd</sup> November

Steam in Beds will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

All meetings commence at 10:30 am and close at 4:00 pm.

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Members News

Andrew has a new layout called "Aberwyn" it is suitable for small battery powered locos and live steam locos such as the Roundhouse Bertie. He will be taking it to the following shows later in the year.

BRESSINGHAM SHOW IS SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST
EXETER GARDEN RAILWAY SHOW IS SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER

If you are interested in helping Andrew to run "Aberwyn" at either of his other shows again contact Andrew via his email a.neal686@btinternet.com

Roy Needs Help

Last month I told you about Roy's plan to bring his garden railway back into use and asking for volunteers to help bring it up to scratch. I am grateful to a number of members who offered help with his project, Roy has not yet fixed a date but expects to start in May. I know Roy would not turn down any offers of help so if you have not yet offered to help it's not too late. Once Roy has fixed a date I will publish it with details in Smokebox.

Ray Butler

You will remember that he was planning a presentation to the East Anglian Group of the Ffestiniog Railway Society. It went ahead as planned on the 5th February; it was by all accounts very well received. Below is a brief report from Ray on the presentation, there is also a photo included.

PRESENTATION OF 16MM NARROW GAUGE MODELLING TO THE EAST ANGLIAN GROUP OF THE FFESTINIOG RAILWAY SOCIETY

On Tuesday the 5th February Alan Regan and I (supported by Mark Scrase and John Kitchenman) gave a presentation on the history of 16mm narrow gauge and the Association (including a display of models) to the East Anglian Group of the Ffestiniog Railway Society.

The first part of the presentation focused on the origins of 16mm narrow gauge modelling and some of the important milestones leading up to the present time, using models relevant to the period.

The second part of the presentation was given by Alan, who discussed the formation and history of the Association. Additionally, he also illustrated the latest loco developments.

The evening was well attended and the presentation certainly kept the audience entertained, probably as this was the first time they had been given a presentation using this format.

The attached photo shows Ray Elliott (fourth from the left) together with two other members from the group.

The following day I received the following e-mail from Ray Elliott

Hello Ray,

Very many thanks for an outstanding evening yesterday, it was a unique event for us and one we shall remember for a long time. We are in awe of those whose skill and patience can produce such highly detailed models that we saw last night.

Please pass our thanks to Alan, Mark, and John.

Look forward to seeing you at our March meeting.

Kind regards,

Ray Elliott

Chairman & Secretary

Ffestiniog Railway East Anglian Group



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 nd April
Early Spring Bank Holiday	6 th May
Late Spring Bank Holiday	27 th May
Sunday	9 th June
Sunday	14 th July
Sunday	11 th August
Bank Holiday Monday	26 th August
Sunday	8 th September
Sunday	13 th October

Chris