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**LOCOMOTIVE CLUB of GREAT BRITAIN
BEDFORD BRANCH**

Newsletter No 136 – January 2017

DIARY

Friday 6 January 19:45 Kettering & D Loco. Soc.
Midland Makes for London - Robin Cullup + Brian Sullivan
at the Cornmarket Hall, London Rd, Kettering, NN15 7QA

Tuesday 10 January 19:30 RCTS Hitchin
A Railwayman Remembers - Dave Cockle
at Baptist Church Hall, Upper Tilehouse St, Hitchin, SG5 2EE

Thursday 12 January 19:30 LCGB St Albans
Strictly Freight Only Part 2 - Brian Ringer
at Chiswell Gn. United Reformed Church Hall, Watford Rd, St Albans

Monday 23 January 14:00 RCTS Northampton
Doncaster Station - Bryan Longbone
at Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Ln S, Northampton, NN3 3EP

Wednesday 25 January 19:30 Sandy Transport Soc
92 Squadron Locomotive Update - Steve Lacey
at Sandy Conservative Club, Bedford Rd, Sandy, SG19 1EL

Fri 27 to Sun 29 January Great Central Railway
Winter Steam Gala with guest SR Q class No.30541
at Loughborough Central Station, Great Central Road, LE11 1RW

Tuesday 7 February 19:30 LCGB Bedford
An Evening with my Father's Slides - David Cross
at St John's Hall, St J's St, B'f'd, MK42 0DL (near St Johns Stn)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS**

CONTACTS:-

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THANKS to all contributors. PLEASE send something – even if it's just one photo or a few lines. We're looking for YOUR thoughts and experiences. Material for February's 15D by Tue 31 January please.

cheers, Geoff

Reading Trade Show. ('O' Gauge)

Brian Cross



For 28 years the Guildford 'O' Gauge group have run this show. So on Sat 10th Dec, Eddie was going and I tagged along with him. We travelled by train Stewartby – Reading General via Paddington.

The outward journey was uneventful, with trains running on time. Padding to Reading electrification not much to see. Some masts and gantries in place but no sign of any wires. Looks a long way to go? The return journey was a different story. Eddie planned our return trip via St Pancras and Bedford. All was well until we got to Bedford. Having 40 mins to wait and after checking that the train was running and on time we headed for the tea room. With 20 mins to go we headed for the barrier and our train. Oh dear! train cancelled due to broken down train (subsequently discovered, failed by the driver due to a leak in the drivers cab!). Buses were to be laid on, now the fun started! Where is the bus?. Station staff very helpful, they were confident it would materialise. How naïve. It was hammering down with rain, no bus. Eventually a taxi driver strolled over and said anyone for Bletchley! Staff now confused, who ordered you? Someone at London Midland had rang him and authorised him to provide Taxi service for missing trains? Eventually got back to Stewartby. Taxi service provided for Stewartby, Woburn Sands and Bletchley! Passengers waiting for other stations were left to get wet! As for the show, very busy, over 1000 visitors. Worth the £4, lots of suppliers with a lot of money changing hands, 'O' gauge isn't cheap.



Erratum. In December's 15D there was a photo of Bill Davies presenting The Ashes to Northampton's Quiz Team's "Jack Knights". This should have been Graham Onley. Apologies. Thanks to David Scudamore and Roger Whitehead for pointing this out.