

## EPISODE 4

I have a confession... i am addicted to collecting polystyrene, or EPS as I believe it should be called, or maybe Styrofoam. Very confusing but I hope you all know what I mean!



Any pieces from packaging are saved, just in case it will be needed as part of the village construction, whatever shape or size I'm convinced Sue, with her new found Hot wire foam cutting skills can transform it into something useful. A case in point, she has made a lovely surrounding for Santa's elf workshop. Better elf productivity is expected from a pleasant working environment.



As mentioned earlier placement of the houses and rides has given us more definitive ideas on how things will fit in. Although constant moving here and there to get the right balance is getting a little tiresome. Sometimes I think we worry too much on exactly what goes where. With probably a slightly smaller overall space, and definitely more pieces than last year I think a construction meeting is imminent.

The fairground rides definitely seem to be the problem, they take up so much space when located together as a group. I'm sure they are made to a larger scale than other buildings.

After lengthy debate, some fairground rides have been taken out of the village. The Carousel and Flying Chairs will now be part of a totally separate display elsewhere in the house.



The first area to get a bit more detail is the ski slope. This was awaiting delivery of our water feature which I'm pleased to say has arrived. It's just a case now of seeing if Sue's artistic imagery can be brought to reality! The idea was a waterfall type effect within the hillside of the mountain.



Once it's been adorned with a bit of greenery I'm sure it will look great. However if it ever has an operational problem I've no idea how we are going to sort it. The ski slope is now about finished. I didn't realise it but we appear to have two of every skier. That's the problem of shopping on impulse!



A new idea for us, seen in several village videos is to have houses either side of a rising hill. This give the opportunity to show more “fronts of buildings” in close proximity. It does come with its own challenge of flat plinths for houses to stand on and rising up to create a hill. It’s a good job I had a lot of different shapes and sizes of polystyrene to hand!



Finally for this episode, we have a problem with one of the stars of the show. He is adamant that he will not be part of a petting zoo. Threatening a mass walkout of all reindeer staff if reduced to such a lowly level of participation.



Cheers

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