



CROYDON & SOUTH LONDON BRANCH NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to the first Branch Newsletter of the year. We are pleased to report that this season's programme is again providing lots of interest and good attendances. It was also very pleasing to see a reasonable turnout at the excellent Branch Christmas Dinner in December.

At our first meeting in the New Year, on 14 January, we warmly welcomed Society member David Brown with his presentation *LMS Electrics*. David gave us an extremely well presented and interesting talk with superb photographs, many of them rare. He attracted our biggest audience of the season so far.

For our next meeting, on Monday 11 February, Brian Jackson, another Society member, will be with us to provide a presentation of his father's photographs in *Pictures from the Bill Jackson Collection, Part 1 - 1952*. Bill photographed mainly, but not exclusively, in Southern England. He also was a Society member, and the image on publicity for this talk is of 32424 *Beachy Head* taken during the RCTS *Brighton Works Centenary Special* Railtour of 5 October 1952 with (presumably) Bill and engine crew posing in front of the engine. Brian has given this presentation, and others from his father's collection, to other transport societies and both he and the show come highly recommended.

The main purpose of this Newsletter is to invite you to the *Branch Annual General Meeting and Photographic Competition*, due to take place on Monday 11 March at our usual venue, the Small Hall at East Croydon URC, starting at 19.30. A copy of the Agenda for the AGM is enclosed. You should already have the Minutes of last year's AGM, which were distributed with the May 2018 Newsletter. Spare copies will be available at the meeting, but if you need to see one before then please get in touch with Peter Wilson.

There is a continuing need to strengthen the Branch Committee. We currently have four Committee members (all of whom will be standing for re-election), but we really need, and would very much welcome, one or two new members to help run the - YOUR - Branch and take it forward. If you are interested in offering yourself for election and wish to discuss the matter, please get in touch with Chris Meredith or Peter Wilson initially.

The Branch Photographic Competition, now in its twelfth year, will follow the AGM. A copy of the Rules (unchanged from last year) is enclosed. Last year's Competition was won by Jeremy Harrison with his picture of 42xx 2-8-0T 4277 on the Churnet Valley Railway. The image was published in the May 2018 issue of the RO, and can be seen on the publicity for our indoor meeting on 11 March, a flyer for which is enclosed. Jeremy and other past winners and entrants will no doubt be entering again this year, but we will very much welcome new competitors. As in previous years, a £10 voucher will be awarded to the winning entrant to spend on the Branch sales stand.

We have invited Andy Davies, the Society Archivist, to join us for this evening's meeting. When there is a convenient point in the proceedings he will give a short talk on the new Archive and Library at Leatherhead which, as you will know from Peter Wilson's report of the event in the December RO, was officially opened by Paul Atterbury last October.

The evening will finish with Members' Slides and Digital Images. After a short absence, here is

another chance for you to demonstrate what you have been doing with your camera. If you have a small selection of images on railway subjects that you would like to bring along please do so.

The current season of indoor meetings continues on Tuesday 19 March with our Spring afternoon meeting at Redhill Methodist Centre, Gloucester Road, Redhill, RH1 1BP. Starting at 14.00, our Society President, The Rev Canon Brian Arman, will present *A Transpotter's Odyssey, From Gloucester to Stratford (on Lea), out via Bournemouth, back via Birmingham*. Brian is a consummate GWR man, but don't let that put you off as this presentation is designed to appeal to a much wider gathering of rail enthusiasts. Brian is also a most engaging speaker with a fantastic collection of photographic images. We can expect a thoroughly interesting and entertaining afternoon.

On Monday 8 April we return to evening meetings in the Small Hall at East Croydon URC with a very welcome return from David Mitchell with *On Tracks Narrow and Broad*, a presentation of more of his photographs. David has been taking quality photographs of railway subjects for over fifty years and is the author of a splendid book for which he selected over 150 of his images. Those who came to his first presentation to the Branch in January last year will not want to miss this opportunity to see more of his work.

Our indoor meetings season will finish on Monday 13 May when Paul Mitchison and John McEntee from Network Rail have very kindly agreed to come and talk to us about the *Brighton Line Upgrade - Unlocking the Croydon Bottleneck*. Many members will know that Network Rail conducted a consultation process during November and December last year, inviting comments on their proposals to unblock the Croydon bottleneck. The scheme would involve rebuilding East Croydon station to provide two additional platforms, remodelling the Selhurst Triangle junctions and rebuilding the Lower Addiscombe Road/Windmill Bridge to accommodate the two additional tracks proposed for north of the station. Our meeting on 13 May will provide an excellent opportunity to hear what Network Rail gathered from the consultation process and how it will inform plans for the Brighton Line Upgrade. An evening not to be missed by any member living in Croydon or interested in rail infrastructure in the area.

During this half of the season we will be taking the Branch sales stand again to Chiswick Town Hall, Heathfield Terrace, Chiswick, W4 4JN. This time, on Saturday 16 March between the hours of 11.00 and 15.00, we will be returning to the annual Transport Collectors' Market organised by the Irish Railway Record Society (London Area). As before, offers of help on the stand will be more than welcome.

Finally, as in previous years, your Branch Committee hopes to be able to arrange a number of outdoor events for the Summer months. Information on these will be available at the Branch AGM and full details will be included in the next Newsletter which is due to appear in May.

With all good wishes.

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