



CROYDON & SOUTH LONDON BRANCH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to the late Summer issue of the Branch Newsletter.

As promised in the last Newsletter, a copy of the Minutes of the Branch Annual General Meeting held on 11 March 2019 is enclosed. Also enclosed for those members who did not attend are copies of the papers presented at the Meeting and referred to in the Minutes.

Our Summer outdoor events have now all taken place. The Summer Dinner on Monday 10 June at the *Porter and Sorter* public house offered another great opportunity for members to meet for a drink and chat over a meal. Unfortunately, it rained heavily throughout the day and continued into the evening so, not surprisingly, our dinner party was a very small affair with only three members and one lapsed member venturing out on such a miserable evening, but we nonetheless had an enjoyable meal and lively conversation. The visit to Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre on Saturday 13 July during their Railway Gala Weekend was much better attended. On a pleasantly warm and sunny day seven of us enjoyed exploring most of the many displays and activities that Amberley has to offer, including rides on the 2ft narrow gauge railway, a visit to the model railway layouts, brought in specially for the weekend, and, perhaps the highlight of the day, the cavalcade of all the Museum's working industrial engines parading for the public to see and photograph. Then our visit to the Bluebell Railway on Monday 12 August attracted six on a very mixed day of heavy rain and sunny intervals. We travelled from East Grinstead on the 11.45 Bluebell Railway service to Sheffield Park worked by Maunsell S15 class 4-6-0 no. 847. At Sheffield Park we enjoyed a good lunch at the *Bessemer Arms*, when we eventually managed to get a table, before looking round the station including - for the first time for some of the party - *Steam Works*, the new educational installation located in the locomotive shed which uses information boards and interactive displays to show visitors how a steam locomotive works. We returned to East Grinstead on the 14.30 train worked by BR standard 2-6-4T no. 80151, which has only recently returned to service after an extensive overhaul on the Bluebell.

Looking forward to the new season, the Branch Programme of Indoor Meetings for 2019/20 is almost complete and, with this Newsletter, come flyers for the first two meetings of the season with the new Programme printed on the reverse.

Please note: Building work is still ongoing next door to the East Croydon United Reformed Church. If you intend to come to any of our meetings there this season entry to the Small Hall where we meet will be via the front of the Church. Look for the RCTS poster directing the way. Parking at the Church is severely restricted and both entry and exit for cars is via the roadway to the right of the Church.

For the first meeting at East Croydon URC, on **Monday 9 September**, we are looking forward very much to Chris Taft, Head of Collections at the Postal Museum, giving his presentation on *Mail Rail*, formerly the Post Office's underground railway in London.

During the season we will again be holding two afternoon meetings at Redhill Methodist Centre, Gloucester Road, Redhill, RH1 1BP. The first of these takes place on **Tuesday 24 September** starting at 1400 hours for which, as you will see from the Programme, David Maidment will make a return visit to the Branch to give us his talk *My Early Years*. David is an author and

writer, and a contributor to the railway press. His career with BR took him from Management Trainee to various senior management posts. In 1995 he founded the Railway Children charity which has become the favourite charity of the RCTS.

Then, on **Monday 14 October**, back at East Croydon URC, there will be a presentation on the *West Highland Line* by John Barrance. John is a consummate photographer of railway subjects. Those members who already know his work will not need much persuading to come along to this presentation; for those who don't, come and see what you have been missing.

Our first exhibition attendance of the coming season with a sales stand will be at the Brighton MRC's Model Railway Exhibition at Patcham Library and Community Centre, Ladies Mile Road, Patcham, Brighton, BN1 8TA, on **Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November 2019**. For those who have not been to this show, it is a small, friendly and enjoyable exhibition. We look forward to seeing you if you can come down to Brighton, and you will be especially welcome if you let us know that you can spend some time on the stand during the weekend.

Finally, we expect to return once again to the *Porter and Sorter* for the Branch **Christmas Dinner**. Please note that the date we have in mind is now **Tuesday 3 December**, and not Monday 2 December as mentioned in the last Newsletter. It is too early to make a firm booking with the pub. Full details, with booking arrangements, will be included in the Autumn Newsletter, due out at the end of October.

With all good wishes

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