



## CROYDON & SOUTH LONDON BRANCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

Dear Member

Welcome to the late Spring issue of the Branch Newsletter.

We have now come to the end of the Branch programme of indoor meetings and can look back on another successful season.

Thank you to those who attended the Branch AGM on 13 March. We had a better than usual turnout for such a meeting, including several visitors. The Minutes of the meeting will be circulated with the next Newsletter, due out in August. If you did not attend, you will wish to know that Chris Meredith, John Archer and Peter Wilson were all duly re-elected as, respectively, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary for a further year; and Jeremy Harrison and Andrew Jones were re-elected to the Committee. Sad to say that there were no new nominations for election to the Committee.

The Branch Photographic Competition, which followed the AGM, once again attracted a good number of excellent entries. The winner was Geoff Brockett with his picture of 60163 *Tornado* and Class 377 Electrostar units outside London Victoria station. Geoff received a £10 voucher to spend on the Branch sales stand. To conclude the evening, Chris Meredith gave a short talk about Sir Winston Churchill's funeral train based on his article on the subject which had been published in the December 2016 issue of *Steam World*. The talk proved to be the big draw of the evening, the reason for the good turnout and providing plenty of audience participation. Thanks to everyone who contributed to an enjoyable evening.

Our last event of the season with the Branch sales stand will be on Saturday 1 July when we attend the Chiswick Rail & Bus Collectors' Fair at Chiswick Town Hall, Heathfield Terrace, W4 4JN from 10.30 to 15.00 hours. If you can help out on the day please contact Peter Wilson.

We now turn to our Summer activities which are described below. We do hope that you will be able to join in one or more of them.

(i). **Monday 12 June. Dinner at the Porter & Sorter public house at 1900 for 1930 hours.** We have been doing this for several years now and have always had a good meal and an enjoyable evening. If you haven't been there before, the pub is less than five minutes' walk from East Croydon station, tram and bus stops, and is situated on the east side of the station in Billinton Hill (aka Station Road East), CR0 6BT, down the road and over the pedestrian crossing from the line of waiting taxis. If you need further directions please get in touch with one of us. Dinner will not be pre-booked; we will each choose what we want on the night from the pub's varied menu and order at the bar. As a guide to prices, a main course is about £8-£10, with other dishes on the menu. Starters (grazers), desserts and drinks are at additional costs.

(ii). **Saturday 29 July. Visit to the Great Western Society's Didcot Railway Centre.** This will be a train running day on which visitors, as well exploring the many attractions on static display, can enjoy unlimited rides in the vintage carriages on the Centre's two demonstration lines - all included in the price of admission. Meet in the booking hall at East Croydon station at 08.15 for a train to London Victoria, thence by the Circle Line to London Paddington for the 09.50 Great Western service to Didcot Parkway, arriving at 10.38. **OR** join us at Paddington or Didcot. **If you are meeting at East Croydon please allow plenty of time to buy your train ticket, or buy it before the day. If you intend to join us en route, please let one of us know in advance so**

**that we can look out for you.** Travel costs will depend on individual circumstances. An Off-Peak return from East Croydon to Didcot Parkway is £28.40 or £18.75 with a Senior Railcard. The Museum admission price is, for Adults: £10.00 with Gift Aid, £9.00 without; for Over 60s: £9.00 with Gift Aid, £8.00 without. The Centre has a Refreshment Room serving lunches as well as all day hot and cold snacks and drinks - or bring your own lunch; and a Shop with a wide range of gifts and souvenirs.

(iii). **Monday 14 August. Visit to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.** 2017 sees the 90th anniversary of the opening of this very popular 15in gauge 13¾ mile railway. Meet in the booking hall at East Croydon station at 10.00 for the 10.18 Thameslink service to London Bridge. **OR** join us at London Bridge station to catch the 10.49 Southeastern service to Dover Priory calling at Folkestone Central at 12.21. A bus ride from Folkestone Central of some 30 minutes will take us to the RHDR station at Hythe in plenty of time for the 13.30 train to Dungeness. **If you are meeting at East Croydon please allow plenty of time to buy your train ticket, or buy it before the day. If you intend to join us at London Bridge, please let one of us know in advance so that we can look out for you.** Travel costs will depend on individual circumstances. An Off-Peak return from East Croydon to Folkestone Central via London Bridge on the train we are going for is £37.20 or £24.55 with a Senior Railcard. The bus fare will be £2 or £3 each way, or free with a Bus Pass. The return fare on the RHDR is, for Adults, £18.00 and for Concessions (over 60) £16.00. Several of the seven stations on the line offer refreshments of some kind. They include the Greenly Coffee Shop at Hythe station, serving hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and cakes; and the Light Railway Cafe at Dungeness, which offers a full menu and is famous for its locally sourced fish. Or bring your own lunch.

Looking ahead to next season's indoor meetings, members of the Committee are still contacting potential speakers to include in the programme, and the new Fixtures Card will be sent to you with the August Newsletter.

It seems far too early to be talking about the **Branch Christmas Dinner**, but please mark **Monday 4 December** in your diary and look out for further details in future Branch Newsletters.

The Committee would once again like to thank all those members who have attended, or provided help and support for, the various Branch activities during the past year, and those who were not able to do so but who have remained supportive members of the Society.

Finally, a reminder that if you have been sent this Newsletter by post and would like to receive future notices about the Branch's activities in electronic form, please contact Jeremy Harrison, who manages the e-mail list as Branch Web Co-ordinator, by sending your name and membership number to him by e-mail at [croydon.web@rcts.org.uk](mailto:croydon.web@rcts.org.uk).

With all good wishes for an enjoyable Summer.

Peter Wilson  
Branch Secretary and Exhibitions Officer  
Tel.: 01737 355150  
e-mail: [croydon@rcts.org.uk](mailto:croydon@rcts.org.uk)

Chris Meredith  
Branch Chairman  
Tel.: 020 8660 9237  
e-mail: [croydonchairman@rcts.org.uk](mailto:croydonchairman@rcts.org.uk)

**P.S. During the final preparation of this Newsletter we received the very sad news that our former Branch Treasurer, Brian Lewis, has died. If you wish to have details of the funeral please get in touch with Peter Wilson. An appreciation of Brian and his work for the Branch will appear in the next Newsletter.**

visit the RCTS web site at [www.rcts.org.uk](http://www.rcts.org.uk)