

## Summer Activities

Our summer activities, as usual, concentrated on sales activities. Exeter Rail Fair on 1st & 2nd May, brought out the crowds and we did excellent trade in glorious west country sunshine.

"Steam on the Met" over 21st & 22nd May, and the bank-holiday of 28th to 30 May, provided plenty of crowds and the opportunity to move our "pitch" to different sites at Rickmansworth, Harrow-on-the-Hill and Amersham. The day at Amersham was marked by cool and damp conditions. We discovered that, although the sales stall provides good shelter from the sun (being made in Australia), it isn't particularly waterproof.

At the invitation of the Friends in York, the South of England Group lent them the sales stand for the open day at Doncaster works 9th & 10th July. Yeovil Rail Fair on 8th & 9th October provided excellent weather, but a slight shortage of crowd, especially on the Sunday. They'll never know what they missed, as on the Saturday evening we watched a demonstration of the refurbished vacuum power unit for the turntable.

It isn't all sales work though. On 16th July, we had our annual summer outdoor visit. This year members enjoyed a wide variety of mixed steam diesel and freight services on the Nene Valley Railway at Peterborough. There were, of course, a number of passenger trains, and we left of the 12.20 for a trip down the line and look round the facilities at Wansford.

## Dates for the Diary: Meetings during the Coming Year

The group will continue to hold its regular Monday evening meetings at the (ex BR) South Eastern Career Development Centre, Friars Bridge Court (see map). Meetings start at 7pm, but refreshments are available from 6.30 pm. Most meetings end by 9 pm, allowing plenty of time to catch trains, tubes and buses back home. The schedule for the coming year is:

9 January AGM/ social evening with slides, movies and videos

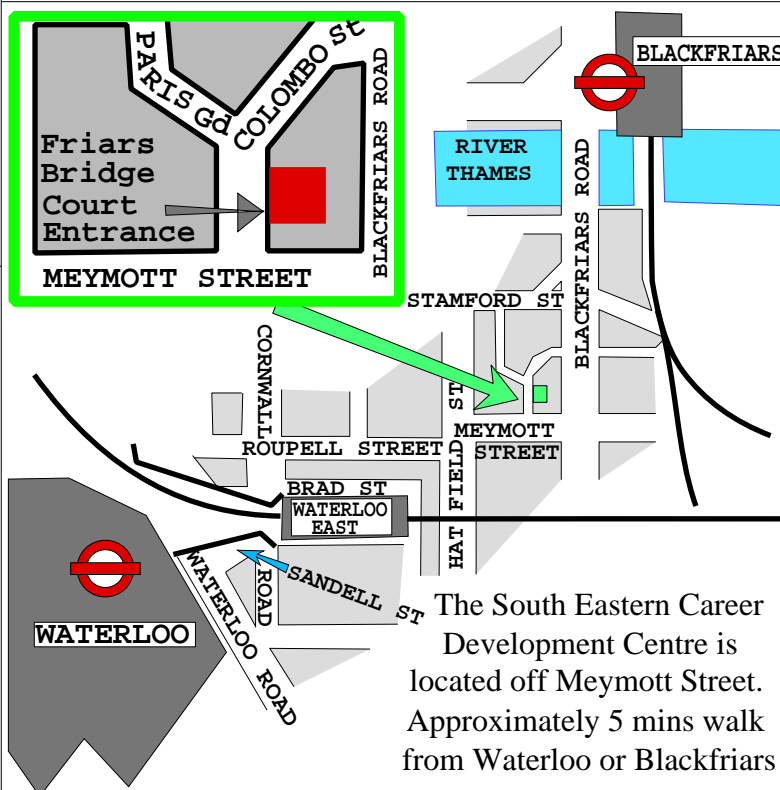
27 March A speaker from the Venice Simplon Orient Express

24 June (Saturday) Organised trip to the FNRM AGM at York  
(further details to follow)

18 September, 13 November Speakers to be announced

8 January 1996 AGM/ social evening

18 March 1996 Speaker to be announced



## Turner Prints

As you may know, a large stock of prints by Mike Turner were generously donated to the South of England Group. Sales of these prints form the backbone of our income. But the artist M A Turner, a Life Member, has written explaining there has been an identity problem between himself and Michael Turner, an artist who specialises in motor car and aircraft subjects, with an occasional railway picture.

Our Michael Turner, known as Mike, has asked for the opportunity to clarify and writes " these paintings were commissioned back in the eighties, ... It was unfortunate that my full name was allowed to go into print at that time. My paintings are signed M A Turner." Hence the covers we are supplying with these prints do carry the name Michael Turner on the front.

Mike's current projects include a collection of paintings at the Eurotunnel Exhibition. Many of the pictures depict scenes of bygone Dover and Folkestone, the Golden Arrow, TGVs etc.

We still have a good stock of these most excellent prints. If you can't find the form distributed with FNRM Newsletter 66, drop a line to any of the contacts below, and we will send a copy.

## Well, what do you think of it?

This is the first Newsletter of the South of England group of the FNRM. Its aim is to inform Friends of what the Group is doing; encourage you to participate in the activities and get your friends to become Friends!

We will distribute the Newsletter to Friends in the South by post. It will also be available when we run sales stands at Open Days etc.

Let us know what you think; and if you have an item of interest, that too. Contact names are below.

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