

The Outreach Programme

The museum has decided to follow our lead and extend the publicity work we have been doing in the South, to the rest of the UK. The intention is to have a presence at Open Days, Traction Engine Rallies and other transport-related events or exhibitions. The Friends have been asked to undertake this work, the aims are to raise the profile of and increase attendance at the Museum, raise money through sales and to increase the membership of the Friends.

We in the South are presently tasked with attendance at the "Steam on the Met" weekends in May, Rocket's visit to the Paignton & Kingswear Railway during August, and other events, the dates of which are still to be confirmed, at the East Somerset Railway (Cranmore), The Great Dorset Steam Fair, and the Bedford to Bletchley 150 celebrations (see item below). We are also investigating attendance at an airshow, and involvement in some rail-tours with the travelling stand.

We have already made a start this year, with our oversight of the "Duchess" outings on the Great Central Railway at the beginning and end of January, with the York FNRM covering the middle weekends. Despite the weather (biting easterly winds and snow), we made sure visitors knew who owned the big red engine, and took £285 in sales in the process.

We are looking for volunteers to help, even if only occasionally, with the future programme. There will be no pay and we can't guarantee fine weather, but you'll certainly meet some interesting people, and enjoy the company of your other "Friends". If you would like to help, or would like to know more about the planned attendances, please contact George Rutter (address below).

Forthcoming Events

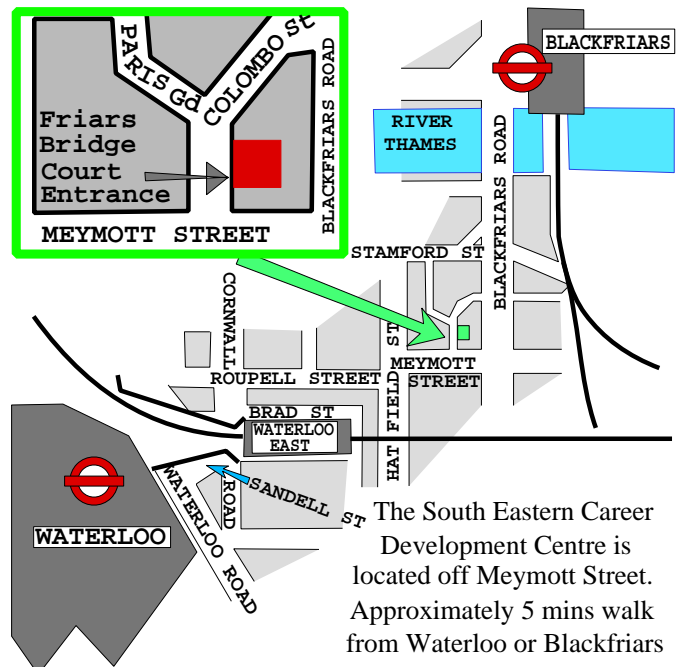
18 March 1996 - Peter Featherstone

"The Midland Railway Trust"

Peter describes the operation of this respected centre of railway preservation which has been the home to several National Collection exhibits at various times.

Autumn meetings will be on 23 September and 18 November - Watch this space for details

All the evening events are held at the South Eastern Career Development Centre - see map below - starting at 19.00 (doors open at 18.30 with light refreshments).



The South Eastern Career Development Centre is located off Meymott Street. Approximately 5 mins walk from Waterloo or Blackfriars

BEDFORD TO BLETCHLEY 150

17th November 1996 marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Bletchley to Bedford railway. This short line became one of the constituent parts of the Oxford to Cambridge line. A group, under the chairmanship of our own Vice President, Capt. Bill Smith, has plans for a series of events throughout the coming year. A selection from the provisional programme is shown below. The South of England Group of the FNRM expects to be present at some of these. We will keep you informed of developments.

COLOUR SLIDES / TALKS - "Bedford's Railway Age": Wednesday 27 March - Bedford Historical Railway Society

Wednesday 3 April - Toddington Methodist Church; Tuesday 21 May - Bedford U3A Group

Monday 1 July - Milton Keynes Civil Service Fellowship

DISPLAYS - 1 to 31 August - Milton Keynes Library; 30 September to 12 October - Bedford Library

12 October to 4 November - Bedford Museum

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION - 21 September Woburn Sands

TRANSPORT FESTIVAL - Saturday/Sunday 5th/6th October - Bedford Midland Station siding area

PUBLIC STEAM TRAINS - Saturdays 12 and 19 October - between Bedford and Bletchley

SPECIAL DIESEL HAULED TRAINS - Saturday 26 October - between Bedford and Bletchley

During the anniversary weekend, on Saturday 16th November, there will be several activities including a "RAIL DAY EVENT" between 10.30am-4.30pm at the Civic Theatre, Bedford, hosted by the Bedford-Bletchley Rail Users' Association. This will be followed by a Film Show given by JOHN HUNTLEY titled "The Glorious Years of the LMS", starting at 7.45pm. The following day, Sunday 17th November (subject to final clearance) there will be a special public train service on the normally 'Sundays-Excepted' line between Bedford and Bletchley. It is planned to convey VIP guests on an afternoon train from Bletchley for a simple ceremony at Bedford Station. An exhibition at Bedford Midland Station is also being discussed with Thameslink.

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