

THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

As described in the last briefing, we are extending our publicity work for the Museum. 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.

The programme this year is already getting full, but we are still exploring more possibilities. So far, the diary includes the following events at which the South of England Group will have a presence (events marked # still need to be confirmed):

Sat April 20

E5001 on a special from Basingstoke to Eastbourne via Eastleigh and Brighton. Members on board promoting the museum

Sat/Sun May 4 & 5

Shuttleworth Collection (Old Warden, near Biggleswade) - the first event of the year and a major air and transport show.

Sat/Sun May 18 & 19 ; Sat/Sun/Bank Hol Mon May 25, 26 & 27

"Steam on the Met" - what is fast becoming the regular annual event on London Underground. We will be at Rickmansworth on all these dates.

Sat/Sun June 15 & 16

Celebrating 150 years of railways at Ipswich. We hope to be attending this major rail event in East Anglia

Sun August 18

Shuttleworth Collection, again - this time for the Vintage Vehicles day - old automobiles as well as aircraft with even some steam engines (7 ¼ inch gauge)

Thur/Fri August 22 & 23

Paignton & Kingswear Railway - Rocket's visit to this outpost in the South West

Sat/Sun/Bank Hol Mon August 24, 25 & 26

With the NRM's J52 during its visit to the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore

Sun September 1

No 777 'Sir Lamiel' on a steam run from Victoria to Dover and Sittingbourne

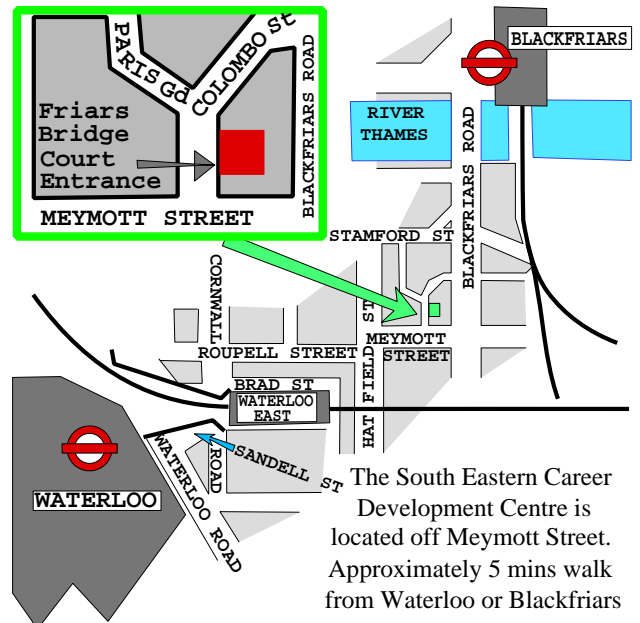
Sat October 12 & 19

Bedford to Bletchley 150 celebrations - Steam trains on this branch line in Beds & Bucks.

Sat/Sun November 16 & 17

Bedford to Bletchley 150 celebrations - The main celebrations of the first cutting of the sod.

Although the "regulars" can cover these events, we are still looking for more volunteers, even if only occasionally. If you would like to help, or would like to know more about the planned attendances, please contact George Rutter (address below).



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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We are working on the Autumn 96 and Spring '97 programme of indoor meetings. Dates for the diary are:

September 23 November 18 (see below)

January 6 March 17 and May 12

On each of these Mondays we aim to hold a meeting at our regular venue, the South Eastern Career Development Centre - see map above.

November 18 - Prof Colin Divall

The head of the Institute of Railway Studies at the University of York will describe the activities and research being developed at this body which is closely associated with the museum.

RAILWAY SIGNALLING

Are you interested in helping with some research and do you live near Kew?

The authors of a new "Railway Signal Monograph", are looking for help in researching the Board minutes of the pre-grouping Railway Companies held at Kew. They aim to find references to the Company's attitude to safety and signalling. One of the authors has already covered two Companies but there is clearly a great deal of work remaining to be done, especially as it would appear that the problems caused in this field of safety were not given a generally favourable treatment at the time. Perhaps one of our retired members who lives within easy reach of Kew might like to help. You need only put in one or two days per week, under the guidance of the authors, in carrying forward this research which is otherwise likely to be quite expensive in terms of travelling. The FNRM May Newsletter, which will appear at the beginning of the second week of May, will carry a general appeal, but here is our chance to show that the Southern Group can be of direct help to one of the museum's research programme.

CONTACTS FOR SOUTH OF ENGLAND GROUP

Chairman :

George Rutter, 75 Upper Lodge Lane, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, HP15 7AS : Telephone 01494 716684

Briefing Editor:

Mel Draper, 18 St Margarets Gardens, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 8NU: Telephone 01767 316288