

16mm film presentation 12 May 1997

In these days of video, Alan Willmot's passion is in preserving the delights of giving presentations using real 16 mm cine film. Alan used to work with the British Transport Film unit. He left BR recently and this has allowed him to devote more time to his precious film and giving shows to appreciative audiences. Our own reception was no different.

Alan presented a selection of films from the 50s and 60s. Many of these were sponsored by commercial organisations. We started with one of these, which although dealing with BR at Euston, was actually made for the British Iron and Steel Federation 1955. The second film was of a typical journey of the Royal Scot train, made for BR. Alan followed this with a recent acquisition - a "magazine film" from British Petroleum. These were issued at regular intervals and used to publicise the company to groups at social clubs. This one looked at the training of London taxi men. Then followed a film of the Emmett railway at the Festival of Britain, and a look at transport on the River Thames, followed by "The Elephant Will Never Forget" - a record of the last day of London trams. "This is York" came next, recorded in the winter of 1953 and told by then Station Master. Finally, Alan presented a colour film made in 1966 "Forward to First Principals". This was produced for schools and colleges to tell the story of freight transport. Prof Jack Symmonds was the commentator and the film was produced by Edgar Anstey. The film was made on Eastmann 111 Colour which is notorious for fading with time and Alan has the best print available. Overall a very enjoyable evening watching films as they used to be.



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

THE DUCHESS AT THE NENE VALLEY

Following its visit to the Mid-Hants Railway in the Spring, which was reported in the last edition of these briefing notes, the Duchess moved to the Nene Valley Railway at Peterborough. The engine was in need of some attention to its boiler to prevent the recurring problems with leakage from the flues. This work took much longer than anticipated and, as a result, the engine did not enter service until the end of July. By the kind permission of the NVR, the outreach stand visited the line on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of August. Our stand was at the main station of the NVR, Wansford, so we had a good opportunity to draw the attention of waiting passengers to the NRM flagship.

Despite the lack of advertising caused by the extended repairs, there were quite a number of visitors who had come especially to see the Duchess. Some had travelled quite respectable distances and all seemed well pleased with the sight and sound of the Stanier Pacific. The engine crew were taken with the loco and the ease with which it pulled its load on this fairly flat line.

All too soon the engine had to be prepared for its move to the East Lancs Railway. This involved turning the engine on the NVR's turntable, a spectacle many of the visitors stayed to experience. It is unfortunate the NVR did not get more time in operating the engine after their efforts. We can only hope that they get a better opportunity the next time a NRM engine comes to pay a visit to this Cambridgeshire line. We wish our colleagues in the northern outreach programme best wishes in their support of the engine while it is in their area.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Although it is getting near the end of the summer, the Group continues to take information on the National Railway Museum to the population in the south of England. Our stand will be attending the Vintage Transport Day at the Old Warden Airfield of the Shuttleworth Collection on Sunday August 17th, and we will return there for the last flying display on Sunday October 5th. This will be a "reserve" stand, as the main stand to the Yeovil Open weekend for 4th and 5th October. This will be an opportunity to meet those members of the FNRM who live at a distance from both York and London. So if you live in the South West, why not visit the open weekend and visit the stand. You can be sure of a

welcome and update on all things concerning the NRM - and a few other things besides. Later in the year, we hope to continue with our experiment of visiting some model railway exhibitions; at least it keeps us out of the winter cold. If you would like to help with the outreach programme, even if it is only for a few hours, please contact the Chairman (address below). You'll get into the event for free and have the opportunity to give some direct help to the NRM. Because of our success, we are about to buy a larger trailer, so our current one is up for sale, see below. Any offers to the Chairman please.

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Contact: George Rutter