

This Year's Summer Outing.....

will be to the Mid-Hants Railway (the Watercress Line) on 20 June. We shall have a conducted tour of the shed and workshops at Ropley followed by lunch on the *Countryman* train from Alresford to Alton and return. Guests are welcome. If you wish to go, please send a cheque for £21.00 per person to George Rutter (payable to FNRM South of England) at the address below by 31 March. Bookings received after this date may be accepted subject to there being space on the train. You can travel to Ropley on the 10.30 train from Alton or the 10.41 train from Alresford, ticket included in the price.

Green Arrow in the South

On March 6 Green Arrow, the latest of the NRM engines to be overhauled for use on the mainline, took a special from Leeds via Sheffield, Derby and Banbury to London Marylebone. This brought the engine to the terminus of the GCR in time for the centenary celebrations (see separate item).

The locomotive is to remain in the south until the summer to haul a number of specials for Wessex Trains. The current schedule is:

| | |
|----------|--|
| April 3 | Ealing Broadway* - Reading - Yeovil - Weymouth - Newbury - Ealing Broadway* |
| April 17 | East Croydon - Didcot* - Bath - Bristol & return |
| May 1 | Faversham - Didcot* - Yeovil - Weymouth - Westbury - Didcot* - Faversham |
| May 15 | Northampton - Didcot* - Bath - Bristol & return |
| May 31 | Clapham Junction - Didcot* - Yeovil - Weymouth - Westbury - Didcot* - Clapham Junction |
| June 12 | Tonbridge - Didcot* - Bath - Bristol & return |
| June 26 | East Croydon - Didcot* - Yeovil - Weymouth - Westbury - Didcot* - East Croydon |
| July 10 | Faversham - Didcot* - Bath - Bristol & return |

Note * indicates Green Arrow on/off train.

The sales stand will be travelling on the train to sell appropriate NRM and FNRM material. If you want to help (and get a free ride) please contact George Rutter. Alternatively, if you want to pay to have a ride behind the engine, details can be obtained from Wessex Trains Ltd on 0808 009 3773

Outreach Programme

The Biggleswade Model Railway Exhibition was held on 13 February and the sales stand was in attendance. On sale were a number of second-hand books which were some of the surplus left after advertisement in the Review to members. In total the group raised £122 at the event.

In addition to the trips behind Green Arrow, the sales stand will be visiting a variety of other events during the Spring. We start on April 17 and 18 at Romford Model Railway Exhibition. Then, on May 15, we will be celebrating the centenary of the J52 (GNR 1247) during its stay at The Bluebell Railway.

Steam on the Met is again to be run between Watford and Amersham. The stand will be at Rickmansworth on May 22 and 23. The following week during the bank holiday weekend we will be at Amersham. You are welcome to come and help on the stand and see the trains go by - please contact George Rutter, see address below.

Contact Addresses for South of England Group

GROUP WEB PAGE - <http://www.argonet.co.uk/users/mel.draper/index.html>

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 : e-mail mel.draper@argonet.co.uk



Forthcoming Events

15 March 1999 "An evening with Ron White of Colour-rail"

17 May 1999 "The Railways of Sri Lanka", by our Chairman, George Rutter

20 September 1999 "The NRM Poster Collection" by Beverley Cole of the NRM

Evening talks are held in the South Eastern Career Development Centre, Colombo St, off Meymott Street, London (near Waterloo Station). Doors open at 18.30, with the talk commencing at 19.00 and the sessions usually finish around 21.00. Please sign the attendance book.

Great Cockcrow - a Return Visit

You may recall that last year we held a very successful visit to Ian Allan's extensive 7 1/4 inch gauge Great Cockcrow railway near Chertsey. The Stephenson Locomotive Society have invited us to join them on 20 June for a return visit. As before, this will include a behind-the-scenes tour of the site, including the fully operational and interlocked signal system. Rides may be taken without restriction if rolling stock and locomotives are available. The visit will culminate in a double-headed run over the "Gladesman" route, departing at or before 13.30 with normal services commencing at 14.00, after which the regular fares will be payable.

Families and friends, including children and grandchildren are most welcome (minimum age 2). A charge of £3.50 per person has to be paid in advance. Please contact Bruce I Nathan, 7 Salamanca, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6AP by 31 May (remittance should be by cheque payable to B.I. Nathan) and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for the tickets and further details. Please mention the FNRM South of England Group when you write.