



# The Friends of the National Railway Museum

Briefing 16

**South of England Group**  
Vice President - Captain Bill Smith VRD, RNR; Alan Pegler

October 1999

## ANOTHER MOVE OF VENUE FOR THE EVENING MEETINGS

We have made arrangements to move again - this time to the Meeting Rooms of Marylebone Station itself, courtesy of the Station Master there. Our trial of the V&A bar was not entirely successful. Although we had a private area, a railway-related ambience and Richard Hardy's very amenable company, the ambient noise proved a problem. The new venue should solve that since it is on the upper floors of the station, away from most of the bustle. You can enter by the door between *The Upper Crust* and *W.H. Smith's*, at the east end of the station concourse.

Our next talk is to be given by Beverley Cole, the curator of Railway Company posters in the National Collection. If you read *Railway Posters 1923-1947*, co-authored with Richard Durack, you will have an idea of the subject material and its impact. The presentation is a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of this subject from one of the country's leading authorities. It is bound to be highly popular, so please make a note in your diary and do come early. Details are given overleaf.

Another date for your diary is the Annual General Meeting and Social which will be held on 10 January 2000. Details are still to be firmed up and there will be further information in the next Briefing which will be issued in December. However, please make a note of the date now.

## COLLECTION STOCK IN THE SOUTH

Although *Green Arrow* has now returned to the north, there are a number of other exhibits from the Collection which we can see in our area.

At Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway, the National Collection's armoured vehicle is about to move under its own power for the first time for many years. This is a first World War Armoured Simplex narrow gauge petrol locomotive, used for hauling supplies up to the front. It has just been overhauled and it should be running for the Railway's 80th anniversary celebrations during part of the week-end 20/21 November 1999. For details (and confirmation), please contact LBNGR on 01525 373888 or [www.btinternet.com/~buzzrail](http://www.btinternet.com/~buzzrail)

Following completion of their steam shed, the South West Main Line Steam Co have finalised a deal with the NRM to "borrow" 4 wagons on 10 year loan from the New Year. The agreement allows for the Company to restore the wagons and then put them on display. To help finance this, the Company has launched an appeal for £14,000 to cover the transport, additional security and improved access. If you want to make a donation, contact the Treasurer, SWMLS Co, The Old Rectory, Stock Gaylard, Sturminster Newton, DT10 2BG). The four wagons are:

Description	Number	Built
LSWR gunpowder van	KDS 61209	1912
LSWR open carriage wagon	5830	1895
LBSCR 5-plank wagon	3537	1912
ICI nitric acid tank wagon	14	1928

Finally, 33109 (Captain Bill Smith RNR) has now been outshopped in BR blue at Ropley on the Mid-Hants with our information plate fixed under the name plate.

## OUTREACH EVENTS

The photograph shows the replica *Rocket* during its visit to Tenterden Station on the Kent & East Sussex Railway. It was there for just over a week, from 10 July, to help mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the line. The Group was in attendance with the support stand. On the second weekend, 17th and 18th July, *Rocket* was accompanied by the replica *Marc Seguin*, which was visiting from France. Both designs date from circa 1829, although *Marc Seguin* uses a "grasshopper" linkage and fan-assisted furnace, rather than the standard direct-drive and firebox-blastpipe arrangement of *Rocket*. The event was very successful and we sold out of all *Rocket* mementoes by the end of the second weekend.

On 7 August 60800 "Green Arrow" made her last run in the south and the South of England Group was on-board to provide mementoes of the engine and the Museum. The loco came on at Didcot and ran to Yeovil via Swindon, Chippenham and Frome, with a water stop in the parcels bay at Swindon. At Yeovil Pen Mill, 60800 was coaled, watered and turned at the South West Main Line Steam Co depot at Yeovil Junction whilst an unbelievably decrepit "37" managed to haul the train over Evershot summit. At Weymouth, we set up a sales stand on the platform as 60800 reversed down from Yeovil. *Green Arrow* put up a stunning performance on the stiff climb to Upwey, and was even blowing off at the summit. From then on it was relatively easy running, even making light work of the climb up the Hampshire Downs from Eastleigh to Basingstoke, thence to Paddington via Reading. A splendid day out: a great pity that the train was only about 30% full.

On 15 August and 3 October, we attended Shuttleworth Collection airshows at Old Warden Airfield, Biggleswade. The event on the 15 August was their annual Vintage Transport Display, with aircraft, cars, buses, lorries and steam traction engines, but the only railway engines were on our stand. The 3rd October display was the last of our outdoor visits and, with winter drawing in, we are now due to move indoors at various model railway shows throughout the South. The first of these will be the Colchester event on 30 and 31 October. This will be our second visit to this large show and, if you are in the area, it is well worth dropping by. If you would like to help with this, or other model railway shows in the area, please contact George Rutter, address overleaf.