



# The Friends of the National Railway Museum

Briefing 23

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

October 2001

## SUMMER OUTING

On Sunday 29th July, twenty Friends joined our summer outing. We met outside Didcot station in glorious sunshine and high temperatures, before we made our way to the Pendon Museum at Long Wittenham. Here we were treated to a private guided tour round both floors of the establishment. Our guides explained the background to the building of the super-detailed models - the 4mm rolling stock on the Dartmoor layout and the exquisite buildings and scenery on the "Vale of the White Horse". If you have not visited the museum it is a real eye-opener and even if you have, there has been a good deal of progress in recent years.

From there it was back to Didcot, to the Great Western Society's museum. We had lunch before watching the demonstrations of the travelling post office service, hauled with gusto by Castle-Class No 5051 "Earl Bathurst". As there was a professional film crew on hand from Harlech TV, we were treated to several retakes - the volunteer Post Office stand-ins were really made to work, hauling the mail-bags up to the pick-up equipment in the summer heat. Those of you in the South West and Wales, should keep an eye out to see if you spot any of the group in the background when the programme is finally screened. A leisurely tour followed round the extensive site, taking in the replica broad-gauge exchange sidings, the carriage sheds with the GWR diesel railcar, rides on the two demonstration trains and inspections of the National Collection's 1857 Wantage Tramway 0-4-0WT "Shannon" and the "Pollen E" - four GWR, 1909-built, 6-wheel vehicles which together form a girder wagon set.

For those who didn't manage to join us on the visits, and for those who did but want to find out more about the Pendon Museum, Mr ..... has agreed to give us a talk on the history and future of the establishment in next year's lecture programme.

## NRM ON THE RADIO

You will be interested to hear that "Archive Hour", on BBC Radio 4, Saturday 3rd November, will focus on railways. It will use extracts from The Friends work on the National Archive of Railway Oral History (NAROH). Production of the programme is still in hand but it is expected to include footplate staff talking of their experiences of working with steam locomotives and of the transition to diesel. Make a note in your diary now!

## OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Group has started a very busy period of outreach events. We commenced on 5th August at the Shuttleworth Collection's flying display, and returned on 7th October, having prime spots in the hangers. An intensive Autumn season at various model railway exhibitions, started with the Mid Essex show at Shenfield on 15 September. where we were made extremely welcome. We are now becoming known of the circuit and it is a reflection of the interest we create that we are nearly always invited back to future shows, as was happened at this event. On 13 and 14 October we are at Farnham & District, followed on 20 and 21 October at the NEC for the Warley Model Railway Exhibition, arguably the national event. The following week sees us at Colchester - now an established date on our calendar. On 3 November we move to High Wycombe, before completing the autumn season at Royston on 17 November. Judging by the typical attendance at these events, this programme should see us reach upwards of 10,000 people, many of them families who can be encouraged to make a follow-up visit to the NRM to see "the real thing". If you would like to help with the manning of the stand please get in touch with George Rutter (address overleaf).

## SECONDHAND BOOK SALE

Mr Harold G Ayres, a lifelong railway-man on the SR, has donated a collection of books. The income from their sale is being split between the National Childrens' Home. and the renovation fund for "Lord Nelson". All the books are listed below with suggested sale price. All are in good condition apart from those marked #. If you would like to buy any item, please get in touch with George Rutter (see over for contact details)

| Title  | Sale price £ |
|--|--------------|
| BR Timetable Summer 1988   | 1.50         |
| ABC British Locos 1944 repro 1993                                    | 1.50         |
| GWR rulebook repro1993   | 1.50         |
| Branch line memories (Ed John Smart : Atlantic)                      | 8.95         |
| Forgotten Railways (H P White: D St J Thomas)                        | 9.95         |
| All Stations (Thames & Hudson 1981)                                  | 6.95         |
| The Country Railway (D St J Thomas: pback)                           | 3.95         |
| The Country Railway (D St J Thomas: hback)                           | 4.00         |
| The Lynton & Barnstaple Railway (JDCA Prideaux;D&C)                  | 8.95         |
| Railway Station Architecture (D Lloyd & D Insall: D&C 1978)          | 5.95         |
| Didcot Railway Centre guidebook                                      | 1.50         |
| Branch Lines to Longmoor (V Mitchell & K Smith: Middleton Pr)        | 6.95         |
| Railways Round Exmoor (R Madge: Exmoor Press)                        | 1.00         |
| The Gt Western Rly, A New History (F Booker:David & Charles)         | 5.00         |
| Don't Knock the Southern (G Behrend:Midland Publishing)              | 5.95         |
| Go Great Western (R B Wilson:David & Charles)                        | 5.95         |
| Railway Ghosts and Phantoms (W B Herbert: BCA/David & Charles)       | 4.95         |
| Railway Archaeology (O S Nock:BCA/P Stephens)                        | 6.95         |
| Great Railway Journeys of the World (M Frayn et al:BCA/BBC Pubs)     | 5.95         |
| Past & Present: Berks & Hants (T Gough:)                             | 8.95         |
| Southern Electric 1909-1979 (G T Moody: Ian Allan 5Edn)              | 8.95         |
| Rail Tales of the Unexpected (K Westcott Jones:BCA/DStJ Thomas)      | 3.95         |
| Transport of Delight: W Somerset Rly (C Dunmall:Exmoor Press)        | 2.95         |
| The Great Way West (D StJ Thomas: David & Charles)                   | 3.95         |
| World Atlas of Railways (O S Nock:Mitchell Beazley)                  | 9.95         |
| British Steam:the Classic Years (J Westwood: Bison)                  | 10.95        |
| The Lore of the Train (C Hamilton Ellis:Nordbok)                     | 9.95         |
| Railways of the World (B Hollingsworth:Bison)                        | 8.95         |
| The Atlas of Train Travel (J B Hollingsworth: BCA/Basinghall)        | 6.95         |
| Steam Trains: A World Portrait (Colin Garratt: Colour Library Books) | 6.95         |
| The Romance of Scotland's Rlys (DStJ Thomas & P Whitehouse)          | 9.95         |
| LNER 150 (P Whitehouse & DStJ Thomas)                                | 9.95         |
| SR 150 (DStJ Thomas & P Whitehouse)                                  | 9.95         |
| GWR 150 (P Whitehouse & DStJ Thomas)                                 | 9.95         |
| LMS 150 (P Whitehouse & DStJ Thomas)                                 | 9.95         |
| LMS 150 (Greenwich reprint) (P Whitehouse & DStJ Thomas) #           | 4.95         |
| LSWR West Country then & now (Mac Hawkins) #                         | 6.95         |
| The Great Days of the Southern Rly (P Whitehouse & DStJ Thomas)      | 9.95         |
| Pictorial history of trains (O S Nock:Treasury Press)                | 4.95         |
| Trains (John Westwood: BCA/Octopus)                                  | 4.95         |
| Flying Scotsman: On Tour (Chapmans)                                  | 2.95         |
| BR Maps of Yester-year (Ian Allan)                                   | 6.95         |
| A History of the Great Trains (C Cook:Wiedenfeld & Nicolson)         | 3.95         |
| More Last Days of Steam in Hants (D Fereday Glenn:Sutton)            | 3.95         |
| The Great British Railway (Tony Hall-Patch:David & Charles)          | 2.95         |
| End of the Line (P Atterbury: Boxtree)                               | 9.95         |
| Locomotion (N Faith:BCA/BBC Books)                                   | 4.95         |
| Steam Days (G T Robinson: BCA/Ian Allan)                             | 5.95         |
| The Somerset & Dorset (Ivo Peters: OPC)                              | 6.95         |