

# OUTBOARD



**WINTER 2015**

**NUMBER 123**

**The quarterly Newsletter of the British Railways Board  
Headquarters Retired Staff Association**

**(Affiliated to the British Transport Pensioners' Federation)**



**Horse Bus dating from 1829**

*(On display at London Transport Museum, the first visit on our  
Outdoor Activities Programme for 2016)*

# **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT PADDINGTON**

**ON 30TH OCTOBER 2015**

**Present:** Vice Chairman: P.A. Blanthorn  
3 Officers and Committee Members  
27 Members

Peter Blanthorn welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that Ken Watson sent his apologies as he was on holiday. Unfortunately our speaker, Bob Bishop, has had to cancel his presentation owing to illness.

## **1. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 31st July 2015**

The Minutes, which had been printed in 'Outboard No. 122', were agreed as a true record and signed. There were no matters arising.

## **2. Membership**

Polly Watts reported that total membership was 631. There was one new member who was present and whom Polly welcomed. Currently 137 members receive 'Outboard' by Email and she hoped more would as it helped to keep costs down.

## **3. British Transport Pensioners' Federation**

The BTPF website is gradually being developed and the possibility of creating a nationwide events diary, showing what is happening at each Branch, is being investigated.

## **4. Pensions**

At a recent BTPF meeting Tony Cotgreave reported that the 1994 Section has some 117,000 members, of whom 40% are over the age of eighty. There were 2000+ deferred pensioners whose address was unknown, but by using specialist consultants 300+ are now receiving a pension. Although some 200+ had died, there were some widows unaware that they were entitled to a pension. The search continues.

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## **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING (Cont'd)**

### **4. Pensions (Cont'd)**

Any increase in pensions is based on the previous September Consumer Price Index and in September 2015 the figure was minus 0.1%. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be an increase in April 2016.

### **5. Travel Facilities**

Transport for London have advised ATOC that, where ticket offices are closed, TfL staff located near the ticket machines will issue new Privilege Rate Oyster Cards, update existing cards and help top-up cards on the ticket machines.

Rail Staff Travel are working towards sending out FIP coupons with multi-lingual explanations of how they work for the benefit of foreign train conductors.

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines have agreed to a 10% discount for BTPF members, which can be extended to family and friends travelling on the same booking. Just quote 'BTPF 10' when booking.

### **6. National Pensioners Convention**

The Secretary distributed a leaflet issued by the NPC which called for a decent state pension and on the reverse side listed eighteen regional groups which members could join.

### **7. Outdoor Activities**

Peter Blanthorn reported that there was only one event left for this year and that was to the Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery at Laverstoke on 26th November. In association with the Old Southeronians, ten events have been planned for 2016 and they will be detailed in the next edition of 'Outboard'. Next year's holiday to Barmouth is fully booked.

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## **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING (Cont'd)**

### **8. Annual Lunch**

Stan Bower said that 31 people had booked and all arrangements were in place.

### **9. Any Other Business**

The Secretary reported that one of our senior members, Peter Barlow, will be presented with the Legion d'Honneur by the French Ambassador on 11th November in recognition of his help in liberating France, when he landed in Normandy on D-Day. He fought his way through France, Belgium and Holland to Berlin.

### **10. 'The Bluebell Railway'**

In place of the originally planned presentation, Peter Blanthorn played a DVD of the Old Southeronians' visit to the newly extended Bluebell Railway. This showed the journey from East Grinstead to Sheffield Park and visiting the loco shed.

### **11. Meetings in 2016**

Network Rail have confirmed that we may use the Paddington Boardroom for our meetings on 29th January, 29th April, 29th July and 28th October 2016.

### **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Friday 29th January 2016 at 13.30hrs in the Network Rail Boardroom, Paddington – located to the right of the pub above the Lawn. The Agenda will be:

1. 'Ascension Island' – an illustrated talk by John Hobson
2. Minutes of the General Meeting dated 30th October 2015 (see this 'Outboard')
3. Matters arising
4. Reports on BTPF, Pensions, Travel, NPC
5. Outdoor Activities, Annual Lunch
6. Any Other Business

## **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

### **Programme for 2016**

March 16	London Transport Museum
March 17	Kensington Palace
May 18	Hatfield House
May 19	Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre
July 14	Hughenden Manor
July	Swanage Railway
August 10	Arundel Castle
August 24	Houses of Parliament
September 14	Greenwich Maritime Museum
October	National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas

### **London Transport Museum**

Our first visit of 2016, on **Wednesday 16th March**, is to the London Transport Museum housed in the old Grade II listed Flower Market building in Covent Garden Piazza. The Museum explores the heritage of London and its transport system over the last 200 years. The collection (over 450,000 items) includes original artworks and posters used to promote London's transport over the last century as well as outstanding examples of transport vehicles and objects evocative of times gone by. The Museum also looks at present day transport developments and concepts for urban transportation in the future. The Museum can be reached by train (Charing Cross), tube (Covent Garden) and bus (Strand). Members should meet at the museum entrance at 10.30hrs. The entrance fee at 2015 prices is £13.50 (concessions) or £11.50 (groups of over 10).

To book a place or for more information please contact Gordon Burke by phone on 01323 894439 or by Email to [gordonburke@gmail.com](mailto:gordonburke@gmail.com).

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## **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)**

### **Kensington Palace**

The palace, which we shall be visiting on **Thursday 17th March 2016**, is located in Kensington Gardens in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. It has been a residence of the Royal Family since the 17th century and today is the official London residence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Harry, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke and Duchess of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. The admission charge for Seniors, payable on the day, is currently £12.40 (without a voluntary donation) or £13.70 (including a donation) and covers access to the palace, gardens and exhibitions.

The group will be meeting at High Street Kensington tube station at 10.45hrs for the fifteen minute walk to the palace. If you would like to join this visit, please advise David Brown (by 3rd March) by phone on 01256 320474 or by Email to davidbrown200@btinternet.com.

### **Hatfield House**

A visit has been arranged to the above for **Wednesday 18th May 2016**. Hatfield House, home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, has been in the Cecil family for 400 years. It was built by Robert Cecil, the first earl, in 1611 adjoining the site of the Old Palace of Hatfield. It was while living in the Old Palace in 1558 that Elizabeth 1 learned of her accession to the throne.

The group will be meeting in the ticket hall of Hatfield railway station at 11.00hrs (off the 10.35hrs train from Kings Cross). The admission charge for Seniors, which includes access to the house, west garden and park, is £15.00 or £13.00 for a group of twenty.

To book a place or for more information please contact Gordon Burke by phone on 01323 894439 or by Email to gordonburke@gmail.com.

### **Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre**

The above is set in a 36 acre site in the South Downs National Park. Dedicated to the industrial heritage of the South East, exhibits include a narrow gauge railway and bus service, Milne Electricity Hall, Connected

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## **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)**

### **Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre (Cont'd)**

Earth Telecommunications Hall, Printing Workshop and much more. The museum is also home to traditional craftspeople, such as the blacksmith and potter. It is currently planned to visit the site on **Thursday 19th May 2016**, but the date may be changed. Details will be provided in a later edition of 'Outboard'.

For more information please contact David Brown by phone on 01256 320474 or by Email to davidbrown200@btinternet.com.

### **Hughenden Manor**

The home of Disraeli, Hughenden Manor has had royal visits, political drama and a love story together with a role in the Second World War. A visit to the manor is planned for **Thursday 14th July 2016**. Entry is free for National Trust members, otherwise the cost for an adult is £11.00 (at 2015 prices). Members should take the 10.18hrs train from Marylebone to High Wycombe and then the 300 Bus from Bridge Street to the manor.

To book a place or for more information please contact Gordon Burke by phone on 01323 894439 or by Email to gordonburke@gmail.com.

### **Swanage Railway**

Visitors to the Swanage Railway can experience a unique journey through six miles of beautiful scenery passing the magnificent ruins of Corfe Castle, travelling down to the blue flag beach at Swanage. The railway is engaged in a major project to upgrade the section of railway line between Norden, the current limit of regular operations, and its boundary with Network Rail near Worgret Junction in order to enable the reintroduction of a regular passenger train service between Swanage and Wareham.

The date of our visit to the railway in **July 2016** will be decided when the timetable incorporating the extension to Wareham is published. For more information please contact David Brown by phone on 01256 320474 or by Email to davidbrown200@btinternet.com.

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## **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)**

### **Arundel Castle**

A visit has been arranged to the above for **Wednesday 10th August 2016**. The castle has been the seat of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors for over 850 years. The gardens, Fitzalan Chapel, castle keep, shop and coffee shop are open from 10.00hrs but the main castle rooms do not open until 12.00hrs. Members should meet at the Lower Lodge entrance off Mill Road at 10.30hrs – it is approximately ten minutes from Arundel station. The cost of admission for Seniors is £15.50 ('Gold PLUS') or £13.50 (Gold). The latter excludes the castle bedrooms.

To book a place or for more information please contact Gordon Burke by phone on 01323 894439 or by Email to [gordonburke@gmail.com](mailto:gordonburke@gmail.com).

### **Houses of Parliament**

Details of the above outing on **Wednesday 24th August 2016** are not yet available. To book a place or for more information please contact David Brown by phone on 01256 320474 or by Email to [davidbrown200@btinternet.com](mailto:davidbrown200@btinternet.com).

### **Greenwich Maritime Museum**

A visit has been arranged to the above for **Wednesday 14th September 2016**. In addition to the National Maritime Museum, other attractions are the Royal Observatory, Queen's House Art Gallery and the Cutty Sark, which is adjacent to Greenwich Market – regarded as one of London's best covered markets, with up to 120 stalls showing crafts and design. Members should meet at the entrance hall to the museum at 10.30hrs – it is about ten minutes from Greenwich or Maze Hill rail stations.

To book a place or for more information please contact Gordon Burke by phone on 01323 894439 or by Email to [gordonburke@gmail.com](mailto:gordonburke@gmail.com).

### **National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas**

It is intended to visit the above on either **Saturday 15th or Monday 17th October 2016**. To book a place or for more information please contact Gordon Burke by phone on 01323 894439 or by Email to [gordonburke@gmail.com](mailto:gordonburke@gmail.com).



## ANNUAL LUNCH

Our Annual Lunch was held on 24th November at the Thistle Hotel, Euston for the eleventh year and we were once again given a warm welcome by the staff. As shown by Polly Watts' photo below (*Thanks Polly, Ed.*), the room was tastefully decorated and each diner received a festive hat, cracker and horn. The staff were very attentive and the food was generally very good - some of us were a little disappointed that the greens were underdone, as is the current trend, otherwise no complaints. Our numbers were down from previous years with only 27 diners, due to three cancellations on the day.

A suggestion has been made that in 2016 we move the date of the lunch to 29th November, so it would be helpful if those members who have a preference contact Stan Bower by the next meeting so that he can confirm a date with the hotel manager. Stan can be contacted by telephone on 01442 833056, by Email to [sbower1@talktalk.net](mailto:sbower1@talktalk.net) or by letter to 11 Green View Close, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0LE.



## **DONATIONS**

The receipt of donations towards the printing and distribution costs of 'Outboard' is gratefully acknowledged from Mr. D. Meek, Mr. P. Mulvie and Mr. K. Vaughan.

Donations (cheques payable to BRB HQ RSA) should be sent to the Treasurer Mr. K.J. Watson, 16 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1HE (Phone: 01442 878242, Email: K9kenwatson@gmail.com).

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## **BIRTHDAY CORNER**

If any members would like their birthdays mentioned in this spot please let the Membership Secretary know (see 'Membership Matters').

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

A **Very Warm Welcome** to Mr. C. Mortimer of Twickenham.

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## **DECEASED MEMBERS**

We regret to advise the deaths of the following members:

Mr. J.M. Bliss of Aldershot  
Mr. N.S. Brice of Sonnac, SW France  
Mr. J.R. Burnham of Worthing  
Mr. R.G. Cox of Sutton Coldfield  
Mr. B. Dimes of Upminster  
Mr. P.J. Hewett of Whitstable  
Mr. F.A. Robertson of Leavenheath  
Mr. G. Walters of Horsham

Please spare a thought in memory of our friends and colleagues who are no longer with us.

## **'LOST' MEMBERS**

The copy of 'Outboard' addressed to Mr. R. Randall of Ashted has been returned by the Post Office marked 'Gone Away' and the copies emailed to Mr. R.E.W. Jenkins of Stafford and Mr. R.J. Sinfield of Gerrards Cross have 'bounced'. If anyone knows of their whereabouts would they please contact the Membership Secretary (see 'Membership Matters').

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## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

Change of address, membership correspondence and subscriptions (cheques payable to BRB HQ RSA) should be sent to the Membership Secretary Mrs. P.M. Watts, 14 Liphook Crescent, Forest Hill, London SE23 3BW. Polly can also be contacted by phone on 020 8699 2695 or by Email to polly.watts14@btopenworld.com.

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## **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

General and Meetings correspondence should be sent to the Honorary Secretary Mr. L.S. Windwood, 2 North Heath Lane, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5AH (phone: 01403 268325).

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## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Our Treasurer is Mr. K.J. Watson, 16 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1HE (Phone: 01442 878242, Email: K9kenwatson@gmail.com). Please note that all cheques should be made payable to BRB HQ RSA.

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## **WELFARE MATTERS**

Our Welfare Officer is Mrs. I. Lemon, 49 Rugby Road, Kingsbury, London NW9 9LA. Iris can be contacted by phone on 020 8204 3197 or by Email to lemonflower@hotmail.co.uk.

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## **BTPF WEBSITE**

The address of the BTPF website is **www.btpf.org**

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**Deadline Date** for contributions to the Spring Newsletter is  
**18th March 2016**

