



OLD SOUTHERONIANS' ASSOCIATION SUSSEX BRANCH NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2019

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 30 May	(R)Amble - Hove to Brighton Pier via seafront, starting at Hove station	Meet 11.30
Thurs 6 June	Social at Lancing Empire Club	From 11.00
Thurs 6 June Kent Social	Chatham – Wetherspoon “The Thomas Waghorn”	From 11.30
Thurs 27 June	(R)Amble – around Seaford starting at Seaford station	Meet 11.00
Tues 2 July	Social at Bognor Regis Railway Club	From 11.00
Thurs 11 July Kent Social	Margate – Wetherspoon “The Mechanical Elephant”	From 11.30
Thurs 25 July	Selsey Heritage Trail, meet at Chichester downside with bus pass	Meet 10.55
Thurs 1 Aug	Social at The Hassocks Hotel	From 10.45
Thurs 29 Aug	(R)Amble around Shoreham-by-Sea around riverside	Meet 11.00
Tues 3 Sept	Social at Hampden Park Railway Club	From 10.45
Thurs 12 Sept Kent Social	Tonbridge – Wetherspoon “The Humphrey Bean”	From 11.30
Thurs 26 Sept	(R)Amble to Bournemouth. Meet at Southampton station initially	Meet 11.10
Wed 2 Oct	The Lion King – Matinée at Lyceum Theatre, London	Book with Claire

For full details of all the listed events, please see articles later in this Newsletter. Please note: some of the (R)Ambles have been changed since our previous newsletter was published; the above information is up-to-date.

Mrs A M Palmer, Littlehampton

We apologise for an error which appeared in the Spring edition, when Mrs A M Palmer of Littlehampton was shown as deceased. You will be pleased to know her daughter advises that she is alive and well, and we offer unreserved apologies to Mrs Palmer and her family for the embarrassment and concern this caused her.

Chairman's Message

A very warm welcome to you all with this edition of the Summer Newsletter – especially our newest member! It looks like summer has finally arrived, and we are celebrating the result of our branch AGM as we have welcomed some new members onto the Sussex Branch Committee – but there is still room for more!

The first (R)amble of the year took place in April – despite severe weather warnings that did not materialise – when 15 colleagues enjoyed a wander around the Portsmouth Harbour portion of the Millennium Walk. There was a cool wind but it was mainly sunny. The next walk will be on 30 May from Hove to Brighton Pier via the seafront, starting at Hove Station.

The Annual Lunch has also taken place, but It must be said that, although the food standard was a bit better in most cases, we will revert to the Cooden Beach Hotel next year. This year's venue, having been given a second chance, again performed dismally, despite assurances that things would improve. We learn by our mistakes – and with hindsight – perhaps a second chance should have been denied. It is very frustrating for the organisers, Ron and Brenda Jones, to whom I am indebted, who took a great deal of time discussing this with the management in an effort to rectify last year's situation – alas, to no avail.

Well, enjoy the good weather and get out and about if you can, especially to our functions!

Best wishes,

Brian

GERALD SUMMERFIELD (03 May 1928 – 15 April 2019)

Obituary by Brian Read

Gerald was born in 1928 in Borehamwood, the younger of two children. His father broke family tradition as agriculturalists and joined the LMS as a Relief Station Master and, in 1944, Gerald followed in his footsteps starting as a Booking Clerk at Kenton. In 1946 he was conscripted to the Royal Navy, only to be discharged several weeks later after being diagnosed with Tuberculosis! He spent many months in hospital strongly supported by his (then) friend Barbara.

Following his illness, he worked for the LMS at Watford and Euston and realising that the polluted London air was having an effect on his health, sought a countrified post. He was appointed Station Master at Finnerley in 1952 and, realising that the three-bedroom house which came with the post would be rather empty, he promptly married Barbara! Their son, Trevor, was born in 1955. This position was followed by promotions to Rugby, Leicester, East Croydon, Waterloo and BRB HQ, Euston.

Retiring in 1985, he then worked for Transmark in Malaysia and Australia for a year or so. His outside interests included sailing and the Sail Training Association, cruising, local government, the Red Cross and was an active member of The Council for Protection of Rural England. He was also a member of several railway-orientated organisations including the OSA and he served for several years on the Sussex Committee including a spell as Chairman, retiring due to ill health in April 2017. He imparted his experience and knowledge to us and delivered several talks at our AGMs.

He has written articles for Railway World and has written (although not published) a 54-chapter book on his life – excerpts and anecdotes from which will appear occasionally in future Newsletters. The Thanksgiving service at Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton, on 07 May was attended by many people, including several of our members and the Chapel was full and standing – a recognition of his popularity.

We extend our condolences to his wife Barbara, his son Trevor and all the family.

New Editor

Hello everybody, my name is Brian Goldstraw and I am in the process of taking over from Claire as Editor. This is very much a learning curve so please be gentle with me as I am sure I will make a few faux pas along the way. Claire is helping me until I take over completely and I also have help from my glamorous assistant (wife) Kathy. I look forward to the task I have agreed to do and also look forward to receiving plenty of your Railway reminiscences to put in the Newsletter. - Brian Goldstraw

ROY BELL MBE

- John Buckland

Roy's obituary was included in our last issue but, because of his involvement with the Spa Valley Railway over the years (he actually commissioned the new Groombridge signal box on completion of the passing loop trackwork), the Company decided to run a special train in his honour; The Roy Belle, comprising kitchen car Kate, an open second and 2 x First Class brake coaches with a loco at each end ran on 30 April.

It connected with the 1108 from London Bridge at Eridge on 30 April and, led by Peter Rayner, some 60 or so former colleagues and friends joined the train, which performed 3 trips throughout the day. Roy's memory was saluted by many visits to dining car Kate on all 3 runs. A collection was taken on the train and some £1,000 was raised, this to be divided between the Railway and the League Against Cruel Sports – Roy's nominated charity. All those present thought it was a special day for remembrances and a fitting tribute to him.

Socials

Our **Kent Get Togethers** take place in JD Wetherspoon pubs, where we gather for a drink and chat, and some people follow this with lunch (all at own expense).

They are very casual events, and everyone is made very welcome. The next few are:

6 June - "The Thomas Waghorn" Chatham

11 July - "The Mechanical Elephant", Margate

12 September - "The Humphrey Bean", Tonbridge

These are "Open" events, nothing is organised, all are welcome to just come along for a chat with old friends, starting at 11.30. For further information or directions to any of the venues, please call Ray Marlow - 01689 870012 or Rose Warren - 01795 473842

Our **Sussex Socials** take place in Railway Clubs or similar, where we gather for coffee/tea at 10.45 or 11.00 (depending on venue) and later have a light buffet meal with a cash bar. A raffle is held, for which we're always grateful for good quality prizes. Note that the coffee/tea and buffet are provided to you free of charge, but we just ask that you support the raffle by buying some tickets, as this is how we partly fund next month's event! All our members - and one guest per member - are welcome at any of our Socials in Kent and Sussex, and there's no need to book!

The remaining 2019 Socials in Sussex are listed below and maps for the next few are also shown on the next page.

Thursday 6 June – Lancing

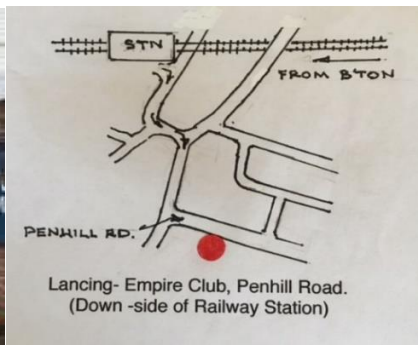
Tuesday 2 July – Bognor Regis

Thursday 1 August – Hassocks

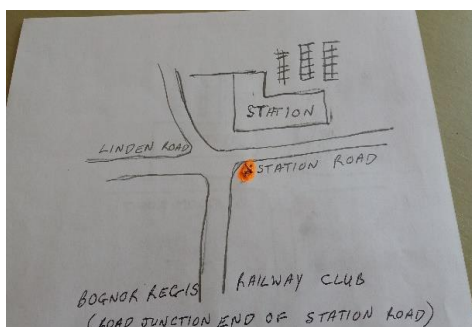
Tuesday 3 September – Hampden Park

Thursday 3 October – Bognor Regis

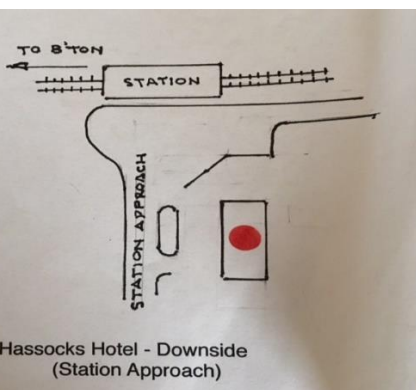
Tuesday 5 November – Newhaven



Lancing – 6th June
Photo courtesy of The Empire Club



Bognor Regis – 2 July
Photos Steven Saunders



Hassocks Hotel – 1 August
Photo courtesy of The Hassocks Hotel

Meet your Branch Committee Members – Branch Treasurer



Tony Hobden

I joined BR in 1958 straight from school and after initial clerical training was allocated to the staff section of the District Traffic Superintendent's Office at Redhill. Other postings took me to Croydon (Essex House), Southern HQ at Waterloo and finally back to Croydon (Stephenson House). Various jobs undertaken included payroll compilation; rostering of Divisional relief staff to cover leave and sickness; Industrial Relations (mainly with Regional representatives of ASLEF) and Manpower Planning to assess future recruitment needs.

Following retirement, I was persuaded to join the OSA Committee specifically to organise the annual lunch at Cooden Beach. After

doing this for six years, I took over my present post of Branch Treasurer. Those of you who attend our coffee mornings may recognise the accompanying mug shot as someone who, accompanied by my wife Wendy, can usually be found at the raffle table. Family wise, we have one son, a daughter in law and three (grown up) step grandsons.

Leisure interests, include canals, computing, cricket, jazz, photography and railways.

Outings and Theatre Trips

- Claire Wickes

There are no outings being advertised to you this summer, because the take-up of the last two has been so low, that we barely made the minimum number required. By contrast, our theatre trips (publicised through our free-to-join Matinee Club) are thriving and we regularly take between 35 and 50 people to shows in London and beyond, and these will therefore continue to be arranged.

If anyone would like to organise an outing for us, you are welcome to come forward with your ideas and offers of help! However, please bear in mind that some outings require an upfront non-returnable deposit payment, or a venue will only hold places for a month or less, which means we do not have time to advertise it in the pages of this newsletter.

We do thank several of you for suggesting outings in the past, and the only reason that some of them have not been progressed is that, either we've already done it (e.g. Christ's Hospital School) or they do not hold places long enough (e.g. SS Shieldhall or Paddle Steamer Waverley boat trips) or we cannot get tickets at all (popular shows in West End like Hamilton) or it's appallingly expensive (e.g. RHS Chelsea Flower Show), or it's not accessible by public transport (e.g. Borde Hill Garden).

It doesn't mean we don't like the idea, just that it doesn't work for our group. One lovely idea was to have a boat trip from Southampton with Blue Funnel Cruises – it sounded wonderful – but unfortunately they require a hefty deposit upfront and only hold places for two weeks. TWO WEEKS! How can we advertise this sort of outing in a quarterly newsletter (which many of you receive by post), get it printed and posted, then get your bookings back by post and bank your cheques, wait for the cheques to clear so we can pay the supplier, within two weeks? It's not going to happen!

Visit to Westminster Abbey

We had an enjoyable visit to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries (within Westminster Abbey) in March. Sadly, photography is not permitted inside the Abbey, so we cannot show you any of the amazing or fascinating things we saw, but we recommend you go and take a look yourselves if you weren't with us. The tour of the Abbey was also very enjoyable and informative; we were very impressed that groups get access to parts of the Abbey that are not accessible to individuals, such as the St Edward the Confessor tomb. At time of writing we are looking forward to visiting Denbies Wine Estate and will report on this next time.



Photo: Claire Wickes

Most theatres and ticket agencies will only hold seats for a month before they have to be either paid for or released. That means we can rarely offer them in this newsletter, as it takes more than a month to do all the following: organise a theatre offer, then print and post out the newsletters, and give you the chance to apply for tickets by post and send in your cheques, for us to bank the cheques and wait for them to clear, and to confirm the final numbers back to the theatre or ticket agency, and pay for them in full using the cleared funds in our account.

That is why I set up the “Matinée Club” 13 years ago. It speeds things up such a lot.

Members who are interested in going to the theatre can join the Matinée Club free of charge at any time, and will then be informed of any theatre offers I have arranged. If you have an email address, I can email you a theatre offer as soon as I’ve fixed it up. If you don’t have an email address, then all I ask is that you send me a few 2nd class stamps (or SAEs if you prefer) from time to time, so that I can post the offers to you instead.

You can book as many places as you want – bring family or friends if you like, as they don’t all have to be OSA members. The more the merrier! The notification letter/email tells you how to book, and your cheque will not be banked until we’re sure we’ve enough tickets (first come, first served). Tickets are posted out to you as soon as received, which may be almost straight away, but sometimes as late as two weeks before the show. Occasionally the offer is for Seniors (over 60s) only, but most times it’s open to all. We only book Matinées, that is to say, afternoon performances, as none of us likes being out late.

Interested? Just contact me at claire.matineeclub@gmail.com and ask to be put on the Matinée Club mailing list. If you don’t have an email address, then write to me (address is on back page) and kindly enclose a few second class stamps or SAEs.

There is no subscription to join the Matinée Club, I just need your stamps if you don't have an email address (because emails are free, unlike postage stamps, envelopes and printer ink!)

The Lion King – Wednesday 2nd October 2019 – Lyceum Theatre, London

Here's a theatre trip that has been on our wish list for a very long time. We've obtained a bunch of tickets for the Matinée performance of Disney's The Lion King on Wednesday 2nd October 2019, at the Lyceum Theatre in Wellington Street, London WC2E 7RQ. These tickets have a face value of £85, but they will cost you £35 per Senior (60 or over) or £48 per adult (under 60).

Cheques and SAEs required by Tuesday 28 May payable to **"Old Southeronians Association – Sussex Branch"** and sent to: Claire Wickes, 85 Larkspur Drive, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0UL. Please include your phone number and email address (if you have one) in case of query, and please send an SAE so your tickets can be posted to you once received here, which may be much nearer the date of the show.

If we receive more bookings than we have allocated tickets, we will of course try to get more to accommodate everyone who would like to come. Failing that, tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Anyone who does not enclose a stamped addressed envelope, or who makes out their cheque to an abbreviated version of the account name (which is invariably rejected by the bank) will also be "demoted" to the back of the queue!

Keep Us Updated Please

If you're planning on moving house, please add us to the list of people you need to tell. All updates, new email addresses etc. should be notified to the Membership Secretary (see back page for contact details). Similarly, news of any current or former members is always appreciated, even when the news is not good news, so that the Association's members can continue to support each other in retirement, in good times and in bad.

Here are the next few (R)Ambles, all taking place on Thursdays (mostly the last Thursday of the month, but beware October!).

Thursday 30 May	<p>Hove to Brighton Pier via Seafront – meet at Hove station on the downside at 11.30hrs. This is a 2–3 mile walk via the Promenade to Brighton Pier on level ground. Toilets at station and <i>en route</i>. Brighton has a wide range of bars, cafes or Wetherspoon etc.</p> <p>Leader: Les Richardson</p>
Thursday 27 June	<p>Circular Amble around Seaford (this is a change from Hampton Court which was shown in the previous newsletter).</p> <p>Meet at Seaford station at 11.00 for a 2-mile stroll through the town to the seafront. Coffee shop stop for a rest, then a walk further towards Seaford Head. We then stroll back towards the town, finishing at the Old Plough for anyone who wants lunch.</p> <p>Leaders: Colin and Janet Marshall Contact on the day: 07899 850604</p>
Thursday 25 July	<p>Selsey Heritage Trail & Esplanade; bring your bus pass! Meet at Chichester Station downside at 10.55 then take bus from Chichester Bus Station to Selsey East Beach, returning from Central Selsey after a 3-mile Amble.</p> <p>Leader: Ed Morgan Contact on the day: 07597 323569</p>
Thursday 29 August	<p>Amble round Shoreham-by-Sea (this is a change from Lewes which was shown in the previous newsletter) meet at Shoreham-by-Sea station at 11.00 on the downside. Circular route of approx. 2 – 3 miles on level ground around the riverside then back to town for lunch.</p> <p>Leaders: John and Chris Hudson Contact on the day: 07594 234303</p>

<p>Thursday 26 September</p>	<p>Amble to Bournemouth. Bring your bus pass! Meet at Southampton station, platform 4 at 11.10 hrs, then take the 11.24 train together to Bournemouth station.</p> <p>We'll take the bus to the promenade, for a stroll to the Savoy Hotel for lunch/snack under £10.00, followed by walk along seafront and through park, and back to the bus for the station.</p> <p>Leaders: Tony and Deirdre Luff. Contact on the day: 07867 651298</p>
<p>Thursday 24 October</p>	<p>Amble to the Isle of Wight via Southampton (please note the change of date). Take the train to Southampton to meet up at 11.05 hrs, then get the bus (don't forget your bus pass!) to the Red Funnell Ferry to Cowes (costs £6.40). From Cowes, we'll take the bus to The Sloop Inn at Wootton for a Carvery Lunch costing approx.. £6.00. After lunch, we'll take the bus to Ryde Sea Cat to Portsmouth.</p> <p>Leaders: Tony and Deirdre Luff. Contact on the day: 07867 651298</p>



April's Ramble in Portsmouth Photo: Brian Read

News from Rail Staff Travel (RST) – Steven Saunders

Staff Travel Card renewal for 2019/2020

The Staff Travel Cards for Safeguarded Staff and Dependants valid from 1 April 2019 until 30 June 2020 were sent out on Wednesday 20 March 2019.

The cards have some new features this year:

- the front has holographic images on gold foil for the validity dates and the BR double arrow symbol;
- the rear is covered with a holographic laminate sheet;
- **there is no longer any requirement to sign the Staff Travel Card.**

If you have not yet received yours, you should contact RST in writing. If you do not report non-delivery by 30 June 2019, you will have to pay for replacements. If they arrive and are damaged in the post, you should report this to the Post Office and submit a claim to the Post Office for compensation before contacting Rail Staff Travel.

Priv Oyster on Heathrow Express

Priv Oyster cards can be used on Heathrow Express (HEX) services between Paddington and Heathrow Airport to travel at quarter rate of the adult pay-as-you-go single fares. The adult single pay-as-you-go public fares are currently £25.00 peak and £22.00 off-peak. The equivalent adult single pay-as-you-go priv fares are £6.25 peak and £5.50 off-peak.

Children under 16 travel free at all times on HEX, as long as they travel with a fare-paying adult. Customers travelling with children under 16 should ask HEX staff to open the ticket gate for them, to allow entry to the platform. Children who have a 5-10 or an 11-15 Zip Oyster photocard or a Young Visitor discount added to a standard retail Oyster card or to a Visitor Oyster card should not touch in or out. There is no limit to the number of accompanied children allowed to travel for free.

At Paddington, HEx trains usually depart from platforms 6 or 7. If a HEx train departs from a platform other than 6 or 7, the TfL Rail Paddington-Heathrow priv fare will be charged and customers will not be expected to pay more.

To enter the system using pay-as-you-go with a Priv Oyster card, customers need to have at least enough credit on their Priv Oyster card for the entry threshold. The entry threshold is the minimum fare available from the departure station.

- At Paddington, the Priv Oyster entry threshold for adults is a quarter of the adult pay-as-you-go public peak or off-peak fare.
- At Heathrow Airport, there is a zero entry threshold, as travel between the airport terminals is free. Entry at Heathrow, using an Oyster card, will always be permitted, as long as the Oyster card is not in a negative balance.

National Rail Status Passes, Oyster Status Passes or Staff Travel Card dated boxes cannot be used for free travel on Heathrow Express services. National Rail Status Passes and Staff Travel Card dated boxes can however, be used on Heathrow Connect services operated by TfL Rail.

Over-ordering of FIP coupons

RST has noted that some people are requesting excessive quantities of FIP coupons. These requests appear to be purely speculative, without any intention to use the coupons. The FIP organisation has questioned why this is happening and asked RST to prevent it. Coupons can only be issued when there is a genuine intention to use the coupons in the country concerned. Excessive over-ordering of coupons will affect the perceived usage of facilities and can in some instances lead to administrations reducing facilities available.

To comply with the request from FIP, RST will refuse any requests which appear to be for just collecting coupons for personal interest, rather than having a genuine intention to travel. Where, over the course of a year, an excessive number of coupons is requested, Rail Staff Travel may request a planned itinerary to justify the issue of the coupons.

It is the job of RST to make sure that people get the facilities to which they are eligible. However, RST reserves the right to suspend the issue of any FIP facilities to those who abuse the facility.

Some general advice from RST

Both FIP free coupons and the FIP International Reduced Rate Card are only valid when presented with a passport in the same name as the FIP documentation. Following the latest addition of some companies that are relatively new to accepting FIP facilities, the employees of those companies are more likely to have received recent training and will expect to see a passport when you try to buy tickets or present them for inspection. Failure to present a passport when purchasing a discounted ticket may result in refusal. Failure to present a passport when travelling may result in withdrawal of the facilities and a Travel Irregularity report being submitted to Rail Staff Travel.

Privilege Rate Oyster Cards on London Underground

It's that time of the year again when Privilege Rate Oyster Cards need to be revalidated once you receive your new Staff Travel Card for 2019/2020. This can be done at any of the ticket machines at London Underground stations, or at any Transport for London station (which includes stations operated by London Overground such as West Croydon or Crystal Palace), by the member of staff on duty. You cannot update the details yourself. You must get this done on or before 30 June; after that date any use of the card will be charged at the full Oyster fare instead of the privilege rate until it is updated.

Cruise with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

Summer Sale – Apply your Affinity Discount code for additional savings

British Transport Pensioners' Federation (BTPF) members, which includes everyone in the Old Southeronians Association, can enjoy exclusive discounts with award-winning Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines – and that's on top of any current offers. Fred. Olsen's aim is to provide BTPF members with a 10% discount off a wide range of high-quality Fred. Olsen Ocean and river cruises, if you have never sailed with them before, or a 5% reduction, for previous Fred. Olsen cruisers.

Fred. Olsen uses smaller-capacity ships for a more personal and intimate style of cruise, reaching ports other bigger cruise liners cannot access.

To book your Fred. Olsen cruise holiday with your exclusive discount code BTPF10, call the BTPF booking hotline 0800 0355 108 or visit <https://www.fredolsencruises.com/>

Main Line Steam in Kent and Sussex (plus the Redhill – Guildford line)

Rail tours with planned steam haulage for at least part of their itinerary in the next few months are listed below. The information is given in good faith and is subject to change or cancellation. Check on www.uksteam.info/tours for further information.

Tuesday 04 June	LNER Thompson Class B1 61306 Mayflower	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford- Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 11 June	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford- Redhill-Waterloo

Thursday 13 June	60103 <i>Flying Scotsman</i>	NORTHERN BELLE (provisional) Victoria-Shalford-Victoria (am), Victoria-Shalford-Victoria (pm)
Thursday 13 June	Motive power to be confirmed	STEAM DREAMS EXCURSION Victoria-Folkestone and return (am) Victoria-Folkestone and return (pm)
Tuesday 18 June	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Saturday 22 June	Motive power to be confirmed	STEAM DREAMS EXCURSION Victoria-Eastbourne, Hastings-Victoria
Tuesday 02 July	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 09 July	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 16 July	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 23 July	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo

Tuesday 06 August	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 13 August	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 20 August	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 27 August	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Tuesday 03 September	Motive power to be confirmed	THE SUNSET STEAM EXPRESS Waterloo-Guildford-Redhill-Waterloo
Sunday 22 September	Motive power to be confirmed	STEAM DREAMS EXCURSION Paddington-Winchester-Littlehampton, Fratton-Winchester-Paddington
Sunday 29 September	Motive power to be confirmed	STEAM DREAMS EXCURSION Victoria-High Wycombe-Oxford-Guildford-Redhill-Victoria (to be confirmed)

The Belmond British Pullman is currently scheduled to run from Victoria via Staines – Guildford – Redhill – Victoria on the following dates, due to be hauled by Bulleid Merchant Navy Pacific 35028 *Clan Line*:

Friday 07 June, Friday 28 June,
Saturday 27 July, Friday 16 August.

At the moment, I am Acting Membership Secretary during a short period between John Buckland stepping down and Phil Evans taking over. Never fear, normal service will be resumed shortly!

Until then, it is my great pleasure to welcome our newest member, Michael Tullett of Crawley, who was a Signaller at Three Bridges ASC. Welcome Michael! We all hope you enjoy your membership and hope to see you at some of our events.

Membership Comings and Goings – we currently have just over 400 members, but nearly 40 of these do not choose to subscribe to our newsletters (whether by post or email) and so we are not in contact with them and have no idea if they are OK and/or still interested in our activities.

When you join the OSA, your initial one-off payment is for Life Membership, and this also entitles your spouse/partner to take over your membership and become a Spouse Member if you are incapacitated or predecease him/her (assuming they want to, of course). However, in order to find out what is going on, both in terms of our Association events and to keep up to date with news of other members, it is necessary to subscribe to our branch newsletter. We will try and contact these 40-ish “semi-detached” members during the course of the year, and hope to find that all is well.

With regret, I have to report the deaths of five members since the last update:

- Mrs O Young of Rustington (we are grateful to Norman Langridge for advising us following a bit of “detective work”)
- Mrs Elsie Palmer of Rye
- Gerald Ames of Ashford
- Ron Ansell of Horsham
- Gerald Summerfield, our Past Branch Chairman (please see obituary elsewhere in newsletter)

Communication by post or email

Thank you for renewing your newsletter subscriptions. We have used the opportunity to check members' contact details, in response to Data Protection Regulations – thank you for your help with this too. Our membership list is always kept strictly confidential by your Committee. In keeping with the Regulations, no information contained therein will be divulged without your express permission.

Some of you will have had approaches for verification of some details and our messaging system is being updated as a result. At the time of writing we can now make direct contact with 174 members by email – but there is always room for more!

All changes of address, updates, new email addresses should now be notified to Claire Wickes (see back page for contact details). Similarly, news of any current or former members is always appreciated, even when the news is not good news – the Association exists to socialise with and to support each other in retirement, after all



To read our posts on Facebook, search for **OSA Sussex Branch** and click the “Like” button with the thumbs-up sign



To see our tweets on Twitter, search for **OsaSussex** and click on the “Follow” button

The OSA's Welfare Trust Fund

The Welfare Trust Fund exists to provide financial assistance to any members who find themselves in a situation of hardship brought about by unexpected expense. This could mean, for example, assistance with funeral expenses, disability equipment and stair lifts, to make day to day life easier or replacement of

essential items such as a boiler, cooker or fridge etc. In the first instance, the Branch Secretary will arrange, in complete confidence, for the circumstances to be investigated. Each case will be considered by the Welfare sub-committee who are empowered, if appropriate, to make a grant to assist with the cost.

Woking Homes

Woking Homes provide the very best in residential care. It is the only Home in the country dedicated to the care of former railway staff and widows. Further information can be obtained from the website: www.woking-homes.co.uk or by telephone to 01483 763558.



RAIL-BOOKS

If you're looking for railway books, please support Keith Jarrett of rail-books.co.uk who helps us enormously by enabling us to post newsletters at reduced cost through his franking machine. Have a look at: www.rail-books.co.uk to shop online, or phone Keith on 0208 648 7328 (18:30 to 21:30 is best).

Holiday Insurance advice

Our thanks to Mike Mundy for sending us this cutting from Travel Which? Magazine.

Travel insurance lottery for those with pre-existing medical conditions

Buying travel insurance is not the most exciting part of holiday planning, but if you have, or have had, a serious medical condition it can turn from a chore into an expensive ordeal.

Travellers with pre-existing medical conditions who are looking for travel insurance routinely face punitive premiums and tricky clauses allowing insurers to alter terms – or even cancel their policies – if their health deteriorates after taking out cover, we have found.

When we surveyed 10,495 Which? members about buying travel insurance in November 2018, we discovered 64% had declared a pre-existing medical condition when doing so. Some 23% of these said they've faced inflated premiums, and 20% could only find policies that excluded all claims related to their condition. Those with cancer face a particular

challenge tracking down affordable premiums, even if they're in remission.

The majority of insurers use medical screening software from a company called Verisk to generate a 'medical risk score'. What insurers then do with that score, and what they charge, is up to them. Verisk can work well, particularly if your last treatment was several years ago and there is no further treatment planned. But, alternative screening systems that go into greater detail can be more suitable in other cases.

The Financial Conduct Authority is proposing a new signposting service. The aim is to get insurers, brokers, travel agents and comparison sites to redirect consumers with a history of cancer and other serious medical conditions towards brands that are more likely to cover them.

Read more at which.co.uk/travelpatient.



INSURANCE BRANDS FOR PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

	UPPER AGE LIMIT SINGLE-TRIP	UPPER AGE LIMIT MULTI-TRIP	MEDICAL SCREENING	POTENTIAL COVER FOR TERMINAL PATIENTS
ALL CLEAR	None	None	Verisk ^a	Yes
AVANTI	None	85	Verisk	No
CLEAR2GO	100	n/a ^a	Individually underwritten	Yes
CO-OP INSURANCE	None	None	Verisk	Yes
COVER CLOUD	90	90	Verisk/Protectif	Yes
EXPLORER TRAVEL	None	79	Verisk	No
FIT2TRAVEL	85	85	Verisk	No
FREEDOM INSURANCE	85	75	Verisk	No
FREE SPIRIT	None	None	Verisk	Yes
GOODTOGO INSURANCE	None	None	Verisk	Yes
INSURE CANCER	None	None	Individually underwritten	Yes
OK TO TRAVEL	None	None	Verisk	Yes
STAYSURE	None	None	Verisk	No
TRAVELINSURANCE4MEDICAL	100	79	Verisk/Protectif	Yes
TRAVEL INSURANCE SAVER	65	65	Verisk/Protectif	Yes
TREAT U FAIR	90	90	Tamis	No
WORLD FIRST	100	79	Verisk/Protectif	Yes

^a No cover for annual policies. ^b Bespoke hybrid version of Verisk

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Autumn Newsletter 2019 Newsletter – looking forward.....

Please ensure anything you wish to submit for the next issue of the Newsletter reaches the Newsletter Editor before 31 July 2019. All suggestions, comments and ideas for activities and new events are all gratefully received as well. Thank you.