



The Railway and Canal Historical Society

Bulletin

No 459 of 12 pages

January - February 2016

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Society.

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Closing date for next issue: 29 January 2016

Despatch date of next issue: 25 February 2016

SOCIETY MATTERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — ADVANCE NOTICE

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 30 April 2016, commencing at 11:00, in the Dakota Suite of the Hallmark Hotel, Purley Way, Croydon. Further particulars of the social activities surrounding are overleaf; meanwhile you are also asked seriously to consider standing at the AGM for an elective post, particulars of which will be found elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Matthew Searle, Hon. Secretary

CALLING NOTICE AND CALL FOR PAPERS —

THE NINTH WATERWAYS HISTORY CONFERENCE —

“ENCOURAGING WATERWAYS RESEARCH”

The Ninth Waterways History Conference will be held at the University of Birmingham on 24th June 2017 from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Papers for presentation at the Conference are invited.

After consideration of comments made after the Eighth Conference, especially in questionnaire responses, and in light of recent *Journal* articles by Joseph Boughey, there will be no specific “theme” for this Conference, except that the opportunity will be taken to “encourage research” in the widest sense. A ‘Briefing Document’ on this approach has been approved by RCHS Council — copies may be requested from me, as below — and it seems a suitable way to proceed at this stage.

Members are therefore invited to present papers and briefings on any aspect of their research into the History of the Waterways, including work still in progress: while particular consideration will be given to those presenting for the first time, it is hoped that a wide range of approaches to research and its presentation will be taken.

Proposals for papers should be passed to the Conference Organiser, Fabian Hiscock, by e-mail to fabianhiscock@virginmedia.com, or by post to 101 Byewaters, Watford WD18 8WH.

Presentations are usually allocated 30 minutes, but this can be adjusted according to content. For further information please contact me at the address above.

Fabian Hiscock

2016 AGM WEEKEND, CROYDON

The 2016 AGM Weekend will be based at the former Croydon Airport Hotel (now renamed The Hallmark, but incorporating the original building) from Friday 29th April to Monday 2nd May 2016. The surviving 1928 Airport terminal building, in which the Croydon Airport Society's Museum is located, stands next to the hotel. As arrangements are still being finalised, booking forms will be sent with the next *Bulletin* at the end of February. Therefore, there will be a window of only one month in which to make your booking. To allow time for mature consideration as to participation, provisional plans are set out below.

Friday 29th April — Afternoon tour of historical sites in Croydon by bus, a short walk and tram which will include sites and surviving features of the Surrey Iron Railway, the Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway, the Croydon Canal Company's tramway and canal basin, the London & Croydon Railway's atmospheric railway, the LBSCR Central Croydon branch, the Woodside & South Croydon Railway's three Park Hill tunnels and the Addington branch of Croydon Tramlink.

Saturday 30th April — The Croydon Airport Society's Museum in the adjoining terminal building will be open to members. AGM at 11:00, followed by buffet lunch in the hotel. Afternoon visit by bus and train to the Crystal Palace district and South Norwood. Includes a view (from the train) of the Croydon Canal reservoir, the site of the (demolished) Crystal Palace High Level Station and the (surviving) 1st Class ticket-holders subway, surviving remains of The Crystal Palace including the base of Brunel's water tower, the interior of Low Level Station, Norwood Junction Station (1846) and the notorious Portland Road bridge.

Sunday 1st May — Coach tour to Coulsdon, Merstham and Reigate. Includes the deep steep-sided London to Brighton Railway cuttings (1838-41 and 1896-99) south of Coulsdon and the south portals of the Merstham tunnels, Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway (1805) earthworks and terminus at Merstham followed by a buffet lunch at *The Feathers*, Merstham. Then to Reigate to see England's oldest surviving road tunnel (1823) under Reigate Castle and a guided visit to the Tunnel Road East sand mine containing a CMGIR track display. Return via Reigate Hill, a well-engineered 1760's turnpike.

Monday 2nd May — Coach tour via the Blackwall Tunnel to East End waterways and railways, including Bow Locks, Three Mills, Pudding Mill Lane DLR station (recently re-sited for Crossrail) and Canary Wharf for The Docklands Museum, three architecturally significant stations and lunch opportunities. After lunch continue around The Isle of Dogs, railway docks, Great Eastern Pier, Blue Bridge, and Poplar Dock to Stratford station for visit and drop-off for those returning home by train before returning to Hallmark Hotel, Croydon.

PROGRESS ON REPLACEMENT WEBSITE

The members tasked with implementing the replacement website met in Birmingham before this year's Clinker Lecture to discuss the first draft of the outline specification. Comments on this draft were subsequently received from members who are closely involved with contributions to the present website. These are being incorporated into a revised specification to give to a professional website designer. Roger Brice has identified a suitable website designer and a contract should have been signed by the time this *Bulletin* is published. Turning the specification into reality is not expected to be all plain sailing and some interesting discussions are anticipated. A trial version of the replacement website should be ready for testing early in 2016.

Peter Filcek

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES to 24th November 2015

Notification of address changes, *etc.* should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Roger Taylor, at 16 Priory Court, Berkhamsted, HP4 2DP (tel: 01442-870295) or by e-mail to *membership@rchs.org.uk* .

(Note: The first column below is the Group/Address code in accordance with the key contained in the published address list)

Members Deceased

We are sorry to record the death of four members: Maurice Berrill (joined 1955 and was our fourth longest-serving member) of Edinburgh (Sc), on 5th September; Kenneth Holmes (joined 1998) of York (NE), on 1st October; John Sharland (joined 1999) of Stotfold, Bedfordshire (L), on 5th November; and Marie Smith (joined 1994) of Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire (WM) (but latterly Newbury, Berkshire) at the end of September. Also deceased, in June, was former member David Lindsay of Caergybi, Ynys Môn.

New Members

(Key to interests, where stated: R — Railways; C — Canals; e — Early railways;
RHR — Railway history research; WHR — Waterways history research;
w — Waterways (including Docks & Shipping); a — Air transport; p — Pipelines & Materials handling;
r — Road transport; c — Railway chronology; m — Modern transport)

NE HEATON, Mr.J.

NW JOHNSON, Mr.M.
and Mrs.D.

Addresses have been redacted for reasons of confidentiality
--

NW LLOYD, Mr.P.
L LONERGAN, Mr.J. ,

EM MASTERS, Mr.J.
L RILEY, Mr.P.

Resignations

WM AIMES, Mr.C.J.
SW BRETT, Mr.J.R.

NE HALL, Mr.A.J.

L STEVENS, Mrs.V. .
L TUCKER, Mr.L.F. .

Changes of Address

L ADAMS, Mr.J.

L TATLOW, Mr.P. .

MAURICE BERRILL, 1931-2015

Martin Palmer writes:

Maurice joined the Society in January 1955 and was Hon. Secretary 1958-60 and Hon. Treasurer 1960-62, serving on the Council until 1965. We met on the Society's first organised excursion on 26 March 1955, to and through the Blisworth canal tunnel, and remained the very best of friends throughout his life.

In those early days we made numerous trips in pursuit of railway and canal sites around the country, often in my Series I Land Rover. We researched some of these in detail, notably Dick Brook (the small navigable tributary of the River Severn), which was described in Volume 4, No 3 of the May 1958 *Journal* under the title, "Andrew Yarranton and the Navigation Works at Astley". In the same year Maurice had noticed the date of 1729 on the keystone of a since-demolished bridge by the Welland at Uffington, which turned out to be part of the long-abandoned and largely forgotten Stamford canal. The detailed research we undertook led to the reading of a paper on the history of the canal at the inaugural Conference of the Council for British Archaeology in London in December 1959.

Maurice at that time had been working as Librarian and Information Officer at the British Coke Research Association. He and Alison married in 1962, he then moving to the Institution of Civil Engineers as Senior Assistant Editor of Journals. In 1964 they moved to Edinburgh where Maurice joined the educational publisher, Oliver and Boyd, later being appointed a Board member. In 1973 he transferred to run the Saint Andrew Press, the book publishing arm of the Church of Scotland, before in 1977 being appointed Assistant Secretary of The Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh. He retired in 1991.

Maurice's enthusiasm for Industrial History continued undiminished until his death on 5 September 2015 and the RCHS owes much to his pioneering commitment in its early days. His air of knowledge and authority concealed a warmth and openness to others and a delightful sense of humour. He will be greatly missed.

R&CHS ACTIVITIES — I

North East Group — Saturday 2nd January: In the Council Room of the Railway Institute, York, at 2 p.m., Dr Michael Williams will expand on *The history of the Whitby, Redcar and Middlesbrough Union Railway*. He has written some articles on the subject in recent *Journals*.

East Midlands Group — Friday 8 January 2016: In the Meeting Room, Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, Bob Bramson will be talking about his *Experience as a Steam Locomotive Acceptance Engineer*. The meeting will start **promptly** at 7.00 p.m. as the room to be cleared by 9.00 p.m.

North West Group — Saturday 9th January 2016: The NW Group AGM is to be held in the Friends Meeting House and will follow the usual format. Contributions in the form of short talks are invited. Please contact Gerald Leach by December 12th 2015.

East Midlands Group — Thursday 14 January 2016: A Day on the NET (no surfboard needed)! — Nottingham Tram Day. Meet at Nottingham railway station, near the booking office on the concourse, at 11:15 after the arrival of the 09:49 train from Birmingham, 10:40 from Derby, arrive Nottingham 11:03. Travel on the Hucknall and Phoenix Park branches. After lunch meet, as above, at Nottingham station at 13:15 to travel on the recently opened Clifton South and Toton Lane branches. Light refreshments available on Nottingham station concourse and at many nearby hostelrys. Buy a £4 Day Tram Rover ticket from a machine at the tram stop before boarding the tram. (If you have a Nottinghamshire County Council concessionary travel card you travel free after 9.30 a.m.)

GROUP OUTINGS AND INNINGS — II

West Midlands Group — Saturday 16th January 2016: BRIAN NELSON will present an illustrated talk entitled *An Introduction to the SHREWSBURY & NEWPORT CANALS and Plans for their Restoration* — a pictorial tour of the S & N Canals from Norbury Junction to Shrewsbury, including black-and-white photos of past times and current pictures, looking at restoration issues to overcome. Commencing at 2 p.m. in the Briar Rose Hotel Conference Room, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. For further information, contact Ted Cheers on 01902-782641 or e-mail tedcheers@aol.com.

London Group — Monday 18th January 2016 — Please note the change in speaker and subject: The meeting at 6.30 p.m. at The Rugby Tavern, off Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn, London WC1N 3ES, will hear Peter Brown investigate the subject of *Crime on the Cut*. For additional information, please telephone Michael Thomson, 020 8997 7602, or visit www.rchs.org.uk.

North West Group — Thursday 28 January 2016: Walk (distance 6 miles) led by Allan Brackenbury along the trackbed of the former Great Central Railway's Fallowfield Branch. Meet at Fairfield station at 10.45 a.m. after arrivals of the train departing from Manchester Piccadilly at 10.34 and train from Rose Hill, Marple, at 10.23 (check that departure times have not altered in the new timetable — December issue). Indoor lunch facilities will be available. Several early escape points along the route. The walk will finish at St Werbergh's Road tram stop (the former site of Chorlton Junction). For further information contact Allan Brackenbury — telephone 0161 485 7555.

East Midlands Group — Friday 5 February 2016: In the Meeting Room, Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, Lucy Lead will explain that *They Flow for Country and People: Early Canal Development in England from a Land Perspective*. The meeting will start **promptly** at 7.00 p.m. as the room to be cleared by 9.00 p.m.

North East Group — Saturday 6th February: A talk entitled *The Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway in its heyday* will be given by Noel Coates, committee member of the L&YR Society, in the Council Room of the Railway Institute, York, at 2 p.m.

North East Group — Thursday 11th February 2016: A walk to study further remains of the Worsborough Railway, Rockley Iron Furnace and the site of the former Lowe Reservoir of the Dearne and Dove Canal. Meet at Barnsley railway station booking office at 10.15, return from Dodworth by train. 6 miles; packed lunch. Leaders: Graham Hague (tel. 0114 2686729) and Peter Martin.

North West Group — Saturday 13th February 2016: *From Pit to Market: Moving Cheshire Minerals by Rail & Water*. The focus of this illustrated talk by Paul Teather will be on how industrial railways were used to move minerals (coal, salt, stone, clay, etc.) extracted in Cheshire to either a processing plant, canal or a main-line railway. The review starts with the 18th-century tramway and canal era and then processes through the period when narrow- and standard-gauge systems served the national rail network till their demise (at Winsford) some 200 years later. This journey in time will be illustrated with analysis, maps, contemporary photographs and some views of what can be seen today. The talk will be given in the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS, commencing at 2.00 p.m. Directions to the Meeting House can be found in the NW Group pages on the Society's website. For further details contact Roger Brice: tel. 01625 533959 or 07702 303242; e-mail rogerbrice@microton.net.

West Midlands Group — Saturday 20th February 2016: WEST MIDLAND GROUP AGM followed by short presentations of 15 to 30 minutes each by group members, allowing them to share their particular interests with other group members. Commencing at 2 p.m. in the Briar Rose Hotel Conference Room, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. For further information or if you can make a contribution to the presentations, contact Ted Cheers on 01902-782641 or e-mail tedcheers@aol.com.

R&CHS ACTIVITIES — III

North West Group — Thursday 25 February 2016: A walk led by Frank Shackleton and Gerald Leach along the towpath of the Rochdale Canal, starting from Mills Hill Station, to Failsworth (distance 3 miles). In addition to the canal towpath, the walk will include a short diversion to view the site of the former Middleton Junction and Station (closed 3 January 1966). Meet at Mills Hill Station at 10.40, following arrival (at 10:37) of the 10:26 departure from Manchester Victoria. For anyone travelling from the Rochdale and West Yorkshire direction the suggested train is the 10:10 departure from Rochdale, arrives Mills Hill at 10:18. This train is *ex* Blackburn (dep. 09:19) and Burnley Manchester Road (09:38) and from Todmorden (09:55). Connection to this train from the Leeds and Bradford direction is the 08:51 from Leeds, which arrives at Rochdale at 10:00. (Check the train times time as the Winter Timetable will then be in operation.) The lunch break will be at the *Boat and Horses* pub in Chadderton. Several opportunities for an early escape are available. The walk will end at Failsworth, where return to Manchester can be by Metrolink tram or by bus to Manchester, Oldham or Rochdale. Further information can be obtained from Gerald Leach, telephone 01565 654342 or e-mail to gerald.leach@btinternet.com.

London Group — Monday 29th February: The meeting at 6.30 p.m. at The Rugby Tavern, off Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn, London WC1N 3ES, will hear Fabian Hiscock tailor a talk on *Conserving Historic Wooden Boats*, using *The Roger* as an example. For additional information, please telephone Michael Thomson, 020 8997 7602, or visit www.rchs.org.uk.

East Midlands Group — Friday 4 March: In the Meeting Room, Beeston Library. Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, starting promptly at 7.00 p.m. as we have to be clear of the room by 9.00, the Society President, Graham Wild, will give a rousing speech: *Once More into the Breach! — Dawlish*.

North East Group — Saturday 5th March: The group's Annual General Meeting will be followed by a selection of members' contributions, in the Council Room of the Railway Institute, York, at 2 p.m.

East Midlands Group — Thursday 10 March (please note date change): Circular walk of 5 miles between Pleasley and Teversal. Meet at Pleasley Pit Car Park (SK 503645) at 11.15 following arrival of the 10.05 Pronto bus from Nottingham, Victoria Bus Station, Mansfield dep. 10.50, Pleasley arr. 11.05, and the 10.40 bus from Chesterfield Coach Station Bay 'B', arrive Pleasley 11.10. Light refreshments available at Teversal Visitor Centre or bring sandwiches.

North West Group — Saturday 12th March 2016: *The London & Dublin Railway: Surveys and Parliamentary Influences*, an illustrated talk by Derek Cobby and Brian Dotson. Further information will be given in the next *Bulletin*.

North West Group — Thursday 17 March 2016: A circular rail tour including the Cumbrian Coast line. This year's NW Group rail tour will be based on a circular route starting and ending at Manchester via Lancaster, Whitehaven and Carlisle. The train selected is the 10:25 departure from Lancaster to Barrow, where we will change for the 11.38 departure to Whitehaven. Whitehaven is interesting both architecturally and historically (there is a Rum Museum) and there are plenty of choices for lunch there. On-going travel will be to Carlisle with time for a short break to view Citadel station and/or take tea before taking a train south to Manchester. The return arrival time at Manchester is either 17:29 or 18:29 and will be a personal choice depending on time spent at Whitehaven or Carlisle. For those starting in Manchester, the suggested train to Lancaster is the 09:16 from Piccadilly (arr. Lancaster at 10:14). Suggested tickets are the Cumbria Round Robin, which costs £29.50 (£19.45 with a railcard), and an off-peak return to Lancaster. From Manchester Piccadilly the latter costs £17.30 (£11.40 with a railcard). All times and prices are based on the current timetable. For further information contact Roger Brice, telephone 01625 533959 or 07702 303242 or e-mail to rogerbrice@microton.net.

GEOGRAPHICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES — IV

West Midlands Group — Saturday 19th March 2016: PETER JENNINGS will present an illustrated talk entitled *GREAT WESTERN SOCIETY'S RAILMOTOR, its History, Restoration and Operation*. The presentation will include a brief history of Railmotors on the GWR; how Railmotors work and how they differ from conventional locomotives and why they survived only for some 35 years; before-and-after shots of the GWS railmotor interior and exterior during restoration; and stories of operating the GWS Railmotor on Heritage railways and on Network Rail. Commencing at 2 p.m. in the Briar Rose Hotel Conference Room, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. For further information, contact Ted Cheers on 01902-782641 or e-mail tedcheers@aol.com.

London Group — Monday 21st March — Please note the change in speaker and subject: The meeting at 6.30 p.m. at The Rugby Tavern, off Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn, London WC1N 3ES, will hear David McFetrich expound on *Some Interesting Canal and Railway Bridges*. For additional information, please telephone Michael Thomson, 020 8997 7602, or visit www.rchs.org.uk.

East Midlands Group — Friday 1 April 2016: In the Meeting Room, Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, Mike Kelley will awaken members with a talk entitled *Cromford Canal — The Sleeping Beauty*. The meeting will start **promptly** at 7.00 p.m. as the room to be cleared by 9.00 p.m.

North West Group — Saturday 9th April 2016: *The Presidential Address: The LMS School of Transport, Derby*, an illustrated talk by Graham Wild. It will be given in the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS, commencing at 2.00 p.m. Directions to the Meeting House can be found in the NW Group pages on the Society's website. For further details contact Roger Brice: tel. 01625 533959 or 07702 303242; e-mail rogerbrice@microton.net.

North East Group — Thursday 14th April 2016: A walk in the area of Ferrybridge Power Station, Kellingley Colliery and Knottingley. Further details will appear in the March-April *Bulletin*.

London Group — Monday 25th April: The meeting at 6.30 p.m. at The Rugby Tavern, off Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn, London WC1N 3ES, will hear Stephen Deamon provide a solution to crime in the cuttings, *Railway Police, 1824-1948*. For additional information, please telephone Michael Thomson, 020 8997 7602, or visit www.rchs.org.uk.

EMIAc 90 — Saturday 14th May 2016, 9.30 – 4.30, hosted by RCHS East Midlands Group: Theme, *The Ashby Canal*. Speakers, Wendy Freer and Geoff Pursglove (Ashby Canal Restoration Project Officer). An all-day programme of lectures and visits, including to a restoration site, at The National Forest Waterside Visitors' Centre, Bath Lane, Moira, Derbyshire DE12 6BA. Fee: £22. Advance booking essential. Booking forms and enquiries: Graham Wild, 141 Allestree Lane, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2PG; e-mail: wild141@talktalk.net. Programme details and booking form can also be downloaded from the East Midlands Events page of the RCHS website, www.rchs.org.

North West Group — Thursday 26 May 2016: A walk led by Gas Hill around the extant and former Manchester Ship Canal railways in Ellesmere Port and towards Eastham. Enquiries to 0114 2752303, but full details will appear in the March-April *Bulletin*.

BOOK PRICE REVIEW

Peter Brown has realised that he made an error in his editing of the reviews of the Middleton books published in the November *Journal*: their price was incorrectly quoted. They cost £18.95 post-free. As self-destruct plastic bags have replaced scratchy sackcloth and ashes have become less easy to find since the Clean Air Acts replaced steam with diesel exhaust, Peter hopes a grovel can be accepted as sufficient recompense.

MODERN TRANSPORT GROUP

Co-ordinating Newsletter Number Twenty Nine was distributed during October 2015. With a 1982 photograph of Huddersfield Station on the front, it contained the following articles.

<i>Transport Matters</i> [Politics; coal; cross-Channel ferries; cycling on canal towpaths]		1 page
<i>Birmingham, New Street — opened at last (but not finished)</i>	David Kimber	3 pages; illus.
<i>William Robert (Bill) Clarke (1934-2015)</i>		½ page
<i>Great Western Trains</i>		2 × ½ pages; illus.
<i>Building Bridges with Northern Voters and then abandoning them</i>		1 + 2 × ½-pages; illus.
<i>Evolution and Development of Railway Containers</i>		2½ pages
<i>East Midlands Trains — extension of franchise</i>	Jon Yeomans	½ page
<i>The Nottingham Tram</i>		2 × ½ pages; illus.
<i>Birkenhead Tramway</i>		2 × ½ pages
<i>MARS (the Mayflower Autonomous Research Ship)</i>		2 × ½ pages; illus.
<i>Condor Ferries</i>	Chris Kitching	5½ pages; illus.
<i>Other operators on the Channel Island Routes</i>		2½ pages
<i>Flying Boat Bases post-1946</i>		½ page
<i>Aquila Airways</i>		2 + 2 × ½-pages; illus.
<i>Forth & Clyde Ship Canal Group</i>		½ page
<i>Environment Agency Waterways Neglect and improvements</i>		1 page; illus.
<i>A new West Midlands Motorway Link</i>		½ page

Correspondence concerned “Ordsall Chord or Ordsall Curve” from Roger Brice, *Flying Scotsman* from Michael Denholme, and an appeal for information about Brunel’s Iron Bridges from Graham Laught.

Details about the Group may be obtained from Ray Shill at 100 Frederick Road, Stechford, Birmingham, B33 8AE, or by e-mail to rayshill25@gmail.com .

AIR TRANSPORT GROUP

The November 2015 mailing of this special interest group, Newsletter No 34, mailed by its coordinator, Mr P L Scowcroft (8 Rowan Mount, DONCASTER, DN2 5PJ), included the following Occasional Papers. Anyone requiring copies may contact Mr Scowcroft by post or Mr Wild by e-mail to wild141@talktalk.net . There may be a charge.

304	<i>The Later FEs</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	2p
305	<i>Precursor of the Swordfish: The Blackburn Shark</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
306	<i>Royal Naval Air Service Pusher Aircraft, 1913-17</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	2p
307	<i>The Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
308	<i>The Purposes of Military Aviation: The Great War, 1914-18</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	2p
309	<i>Triplane Plus One:</i> <i>A Note on the Armstrong Whitworth FR.9 and 10</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
310	<i>Airbus with Engines made in Derby set for Passenger Flights</i>	via Graham H Wild	2pp, illus
311	<i>Building Aircraft in Lincoln</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
312	<i>The Blackburn Kangaroo</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
313	<i>The Handley-Page Heyford</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
314	<i>Lloyds' Spitfire</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
315	<i>The DH.3</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
316	<i>The "NINAK" (De Havilland 9A)</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	2p
317	<i>Houston, We Have A Problem</i>	Graham H Wild	4pp, illus
318	<i>The PUP and the STRUTTER</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	2pp, illus
319	<i>French-Designed Aircraft in British Service in The Great War</i>	Philip L Scowcroft	3pp, illus
320	<i>Aviation Memories in Dover, Kent</i>	Brian A L Jones	3pp, illus

The coordinator is very willing to accept papers in respect of Air Transport and its infrastructure from anyone.

RAILWAY CHRONOLOGY GROUP

Co-ordinating Newsletter Number Eightyfour was distributed during October 2015. It contained Part 2 (Pages 21 to 41) of Geoffrey Webb's Notes on Clinker's *Register* as transcribed by Don Steggles and occupying 17 pages of this Newsletter.

Notes, queries and responses concerned the following subjects.

<i>Curve or Chord</i>	Nick Higton and Andy Overton	1 page
<i>Barton & Immingham Light Railway:</i>		
<i>Start of Passenger Services</i>	Richard Maund	1 page; illus.
<i>Adwick Junction – Stainforth Junction (WR&GJt)</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page
<i>Sandycroft H.M. Factory Platform (L&NWR)</i>	Richard Maund	1 page; illus.
<i>Bulwell Hall Station or Halt (GCR)</i>	Richard Maund	1 page; illus.
<i>London: Kings Cross York Road</i>	Richard Maund	½ page
<i>Point Pleasant Junction – East Putney (L&SWR)</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page
<i>Colliery Halts: Markham Colliery, Bolsover Colliery Halt, Calow Junction Halt (GCR)</i>	Richard Maund	½ page; illus.
<i>Teigl Halt (GWR)</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page
<i>Station Names in Gaelic</i>	Richard Maund	1 page
<i>Tuxford Central – Tuxford North</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page
<i>Barton (later Downholland) – Hillhouse Junction (CLC): L&YR Branch</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page
<i>Station Closures during WW I</i>	Richard Maund	1½ pages; illus.
<i>Clipstone Camp (Mansfield Rly)</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page; illus.
<i>Closure Dates</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page
<i>Talylyn Junction</i>	Richard Maund	2 pages
<i>Ashton Moss North Junction (L&Y) – South Junction (OA&GB)</i>	Richard Maund and Allan Brackenbury	<½ page
<i>Beaconsfield Golf Links Halt (later Seer Green)</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page
<i>More Minor Changes in the Location of Stations and By-passed Terminal Passenger Stations</i>	Richard Maund	<½ page

Correspondence for or about the Group should be sent to 7 Wealden Hatch, Wolverhampton, WV10 8TY, or by e-mail to RCHSChronology@aol.com.

MIDDLETON PRESS

This well-known book publisher lost its co-founder when Barbara Mitchell died on 22 September 2015. She had typeset around 400 titles that emerged from the pencil of Vic Mitchell, her husband for 57 years.

They had become engaged during the formative years of the Festiniog Railway Society, of which he was a founder. On becoming a director, he suggested that its public launch should be at the Model Railway Club's annual show in Westminster in April 1955 and that she should dress as its pre-war station mistress at Tan-y-Bwlch. This was so successful that she appeared in all three Welsh daily newspapers the next day. Thus began the first railway revival.

She later had practical involvements, notably running the buffet car when trains terminated at Tan-y-Bwlch.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

One very useful way of gaining access to specialist journals is by reciprocal exchange. Which may sound like a patent steam engine draughting system but is simply that each society exchanges its own publications for those of the other, and without any cash changing hands!

One of these arrangements exists with the premier railway historical society in France — l'Association pour l'histoire des chemins de fer (AHICF) — and for many years the R&CHS correspondent has been Grahame Boyes. Grahame felt it was time to hand over the baton, and an appeal in the *Bulletin* resulted in an avalanche of volunteers — well, I certainly did!

It seems an appropriate moment to (a) introduce myself and (b) introduce the publications of the AHICF, which may be of interest to Members, and might even prove helpful in their research. I have been a Member of R&CHS for many years, and have found a niche of usefulness as one of the team of book reviewers. My interests are both canal and railway with a special emphasis on my natal county of Derbyshire but also encompass military logistics, and the railways of France. I am a member of, and article contributor to, the SNCF Society, and have travelled extensively on the French railway system, most notably for over 20 years on an annual pilgrimage for a walking holiday in the Pyrenees.

The AHICF has two main organs of publication, an annual volume, and a biannual Journal. I have reviewed the latest annual volume for our own *Journal* and, hopefully, Members see its potential as an interesting additional source of material. I would especially single out the study on the Rouen railway system logistical bottleneck during WWI, and how this was impacted by inter-company rivalries. The AHICF Journal is a relatively recent innovation but a very attractive one. They run to about 50 pages and include shorter studies with emphasis on good quality illustration throughout. Two recent editions are April 2014 (No 6) and November 2014 (No 7) and some examples of the material in each will suffice, I hope, to encourage an interest.

In the former I would single out an article on the development of the French steam engine cab, and the work of the surveyor and engineer Antoine-Remy Polonceau (1778-1847). In the latter there are articles on the early steps towards the building of the Channel Tunnel, and the considerable differences, in type and capacity, of those wagons we lump together as for 40 men or eight horses. One regular feature is called "Portail des archives", and the reader is treated to the reprint of an evocative brochure from 1938 with keyed 3-D plans of the major Paris railway termini in Volume Six. In Aeven, under this title, is the equally atmospheric work of the railwayman illustrator, Georges Forgeron, from the 1940s.

I would be very happy to send Members (by photocopy or scanned pdf file over the internet) copies of the content pages of these volumes or indeed any article that might interest them (cost of copying and postage would be welcome).

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DISPOSAL OF WEST MIDLAND TRAFFIC AREA NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS

Paul Hudson (hudsonpaul52@yahoo.co.uk) has the following books to dispose of in four volumes for no charge to any interested parties.

Volume 1, 458-470, 4th July 1947 - 19th December 1947.

Volume 2, 471-483, 2nd January 1948 - 18th June 1948.

Volume 3, 484 - 497, 2nd July 1948 - 31st December 1948.

Volume 4, 524 - 549, 1950.

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR DEVON'S RAILWAY STUDIES COLLECTION

Rail enthusiasts now have better access to one of the largest collections of railway resources in the country thanks to Devon County Council's Library Service and the Heritage Lottery Fund.. Devon Libraries received a £50 000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve access to their Railway Studies Collection, which is housed at the Passmore Edwards Centre in Newton Abbot.

A new website has been launched to provide visitors to the collection with all the information they need. The website displays thousands of images from the collection and is fully searchable. Visitors to the website can get in touch with those who manage the collection to tell them more about the images they hold and contribute their own images too.

The collection was started in 1991 by David St John Thomas of David and Charles, the publishers. A keen railway enthusiast, he had a vision to set up a railway-related collection for researchers in Newton Abbot. The town owes much to the introduction of the railways and still has a main-line station, which was the site of a large locomotive shed, engine repair shed and carriage and wagon works. At its height the majority of people in the town were employed on railway business.

The collection is growing all the time, with thanks to generous bequests. The latest of these is from the family of David St John Thomas who died in 2014.

In 1992 a Friends' group was formed to support the Collection by fundraising, volunteering and giving specialist advice.

Find out more about the Railways Studies Collection on-line at <http://newtonabbotrailwaystudies.co.uk/>.

DRIFFIELD NAVIGATION boat trips on which RCHS members will be welcome

The upper River Hull and its 5½-mile canal continuation through five restored locks to a terminal basin in Driffield is now officially available again for sailings by passenger-carrying vessels, but physical constraints, especially a very low fixed bridge at Wansford, mean that in practice only very small craft can traverse the canal. Plans are in hand, for a date to be decided in March or April 2016, to use several small open motor boats, carrying 3 or 4 passengers each, to navigate the full length. Participation will be on a cost-sharing basis, but not expected to exceed £40 per head for the whole day. There is also, newly introduced by Trustees of the Navigation and based at the navigable limit on North Frodingham Beck, a 10-passenger covered trip boat which can be deployed to enhance coverage of the Beck and the main and West arms of the River Hull as well as south of the tidal limit of Struncheon Hill Lock at Hempholme, and a repeat is envisaged of a successful September 2015 charter to explore these rare and remote waterways. These projects are now open for registrations of interest, which should be made by post or phone to N J Hill, 73 Norfolk Park Avenue, Sheffield, S2 2RB, or 0114 2752303. All enquirers will be provided with further details and included in consultations on date options and the firming up of any definite arrangements.

OLD TRACKS

It may be appropriate to draw to members' attention to <http://www.oldpway.info/>. The website deals mainly with the appearance, design and development of British railway permanent way between the 1820s and the 1930s, but also includes some notes on railway track in the USA, India and Australia. No assurance can be given about the quality of information but the site's owner worked for British Railways Eastern Region Civil Engineer's Department in the 1970s and the following comments from the "Frequently Asked Questions" page may be relevant: "Why isn't oldpway colourful with distinctive backgrounds and a logo? — This is information, not entertainment! It is designed to be easy to read on any computer and easy to print out."

DUCKMANTON (*Bulletin* 458/15)

The 08:10 SuX Lincoln Central – Nottingham Victoria should, of course, have been [*through carriages for Marylebone*].

Richard Maund

DO WE NEED A DEFINITION OF A STATION?

A West Midlands correspondent was at Birmingham New Street Station in mid-November when HM The Queen popped into town on her train. Most trains, except one (!), were running late and there were also many cancellations — so it was just a normal day. The correspondent is sure she admired the new shopping precinct *etc.*, but she also unveiled a plaque. It states, “Birmingham New Street Station re-opened by Her Majesty the Queen accompanied by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh on 19 November 2015.” In black print on granite it looks fine — BUT when did Birmingham New Street Station close? “Puzzled of Sutton” wonders if any members can help! [*Maybe during the lengthy works undertaken by the successors of Stephenson to re-New the surrounding Streets up the Hill from the Station intending users of the trains found Navigation to and from the platforms beneath the Temple to mammon so difficult that many assumed that the station had indeed closed. Hence even the Queensway of arriving for plaque placement was not to attempt to use the former Queen’s Drive but to come by train. — Ed.*]

Of course, one woman’s admiration may be another man’s disgust. A correspondent to the Bournemouth Railway Club’s newsletter travelling from the Sunny South to Kidderminster on Friday 17th July and hot-footing across Birmingham to Moor Street after a seven-minute late CrossCountry arrival at New Street commented that the latter’s rebuilding “meant that the route between the two stations was somewhat convoluted and gave a sight of the hideous exterior — the polished, warped, stainless steel cladding provides very distorted and disconcerting reflections. Hopefully, when finished, the pedestrian route between the stations will not require us to gaze upon the monstrosity.”

ALAN GODFREY MAPS

Almost 3000 titles have now been published in this series. The majority of maps cost £2.50 each, but **colour-printed maps**, including those of Germany and France, **cost £3.25**. However, considerable discounts are available for those subscribing in advance for all issues or for all of particular areas. For a copy of the 36-page Winter 2015-16 catalogue of available maps containing preview extracts of maps of Reading, Ardwick, Pontefract, Coleraine and Hamm, send a stamped, addressed envelope to the publisher, Alan Godfrey Maps, Prospect Business Park, Leadgate, Consett, DH8 7PW, or visit the website at www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk, where maps can be also be bought on-line. The following are some of the titles that have been published since August 2015. (International Standard Book Numbers should prefixed with 978-1-84784-).

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	[Original Ordnance Survey plan published as London Sheet IX.9.]	
	120 Eltham Green, 1867	922-9
	[Original Ordnance Survey plan published as London Sheet LXXX.]	
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