

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LYMINGTON TO BROCKENHURST LINE



NUMBER 30: APRIL 2016

Dear Friends,

I hope that you all had a happy Easter. Now that Spring is come (at least in theory), we are looking forward to our programme of events.

The first is a reminder of Nigel Mussett's talk on **The Fabulous Settle & Carlisle Railway – Busting some of the Myths**, which is coming up on **18th April at 7.30 pm** at the usual venue, the Fuller Room at the Lymington Community Centre (now renamed The Lymington Centre – no, I don't know why either).



After that we look forward very much to another of John Canavan's enjoyable excursions, this time to the **Wey Navigation [canal] at Godalming on 7th May**; more details on page 2 of this Newsletter. Robin went on this trip with the Railway Club last year and said that it was lovely; since the barge is horse-drawn, you can hear the birds in the quiet. The National Trust has opened a further stretch of the canal including a lock, which will be of interest.

Best wishes from the committee,
Georgina (01590 672406)

Friends of the Lymington to Brockenhurst Line

GODALMING HORSE DRAWN CANAL EXCURSION



A Nostalgic Victorian Experience Aboard "IONA"

Travel the Victorian Way along this unspoilt waterway in Surrey as generation of boatmen before you. Journey on the narrow boat "IONA", which is pulled by one of the heavy horses, traverses both river and canal and passes through a lock.

SATURDAY 7th MAY 2016

Cost: Members £30.00 Non Members £38.00

MEET at 9:50am LYMINGTON TOWN STATION CAR PARK

Trip Includes: -

**Return Rail Travel from Lymington Town to Godalming
Return Travel on the Horse Drawn Barge on the Way Navigation**

Return to Lymington Town Station at 18:50

**To Book Please Phone 07505 123826 (Leave a Message)
By Saturday 16th April 2016**

Godalming Itinerary

We meet on Saturday 7th May 2016 at 09:50am in Lymington Town Station car park. The Excursion costs £30 to members and £38 to non members; this includes return rail travel to Godalming and a two hour return trip by the Horse Drawn Canal Barge.

We travel by SWT via Woking to Godalming where the train arrives at 12 noon (at leisure in Godalming).

We board the barge at 2 pm, and it arrives back at Godalming at 4 pm. The barge passes through a lock on the Wey Navigation which has recently been re-opened. We return to Lymington Town at 18:50.

This Excursion will be very popular and places will be limited by a maximum capacity on the Barge. So if you would like to go to Godalming, please phone John to book your place on **07505 123826** (leave a Message).

Payments have to reach John Canavan by Saturday 16th April 2016.

We thought that a summary of the events would be of help, so you will find it below. **Excursion dates are subject to change due to Engineering works.** Those who are interested in the Sprat & Winkle line (see November 7th) might like to visit the preserved Signal Box at Romsey which was originally part of the line; information on page 4.

Friends Forthcoming Excursions and Talks

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| Talk | Monday 18th April 2016 ~ Settle to Carlisle Railway:
Busting the Myths by Nigel Mussett |
| Excursion | Saturday 7th May 2016 ~ Horse Drawn Canal Boat on Wey
Navigation at Godalming |
| Excursion | Saturday in September or October 2016 ~ Ride Seaton Tramway
from Colyton to Seaton Return |
| Talk | Monday 7th November 2016 ~ Sprat and Winkle Line (Andover to
Romsey) by Dick Hewett |
| AGM | February 2017, date tba |
| Excursion | Saturday in May 2017 ~ Ride Emirates Cableway, London, optional
Boat Trip on the Thames |
| Excursion | Saturday in September 2017 ~ Ride Volk's Electric Railway on
Brighton Sea Front |
| Excursion | Saturday in Summer 2018 ~ Swanage Railway, Return travel to
Swanage entirely by train |

APPENDIX: ROMSEY PRESERVED SIGNAL BOX (which will figure in our Autumn 2016 Talk by Dick Hewett)



Romsey Signal Box is the centre of a unique working museum in Romsey, open to the public twice a month. Originally opened around 1870 and closed in 1982, the box was saved and moved down to its own dedicated site in 1987. The signal box has been restored to operational order, with various signals and a point connected to some of the levers, which visitors of all ages are encouraged to pull. Visitors can also be given demonstrations of the signal box in operation, and enthusiasts can operate the signal box to a full timetable as if for real. The site also features many other working exhibits, a small museum, a cafe and toilet. Visitors with limited mobility can be accommodated. The whole site in Brick Lane, easily accessible from the town centre, the railway station and the old canal towpath, has been landscaped and provides for a relaxing visit which can easily last an hour or more. The box is open from 12pm to 4pm, on the first Sunday (February-December) and third Saturday (January-November) of the month, as well as several other additional occasions (see www.romseysignalbox.org.uk). A small entrance fee is charged for adults. Enquiries: 01794 500523.

