



RMA RETIRED MEMBER ASSOCIATION

APRIL /MAY 2017

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your newsletter!

Welcome to new members who have joined the RMA recently. Your newsletter includes details of regular activities such as the lunch talks and rambles and also news of two new coach trips planned for 2017.

Lunch Meetings

The next lunch meeting is on **Tuesday 11th April** with a talk entitled **Edward Elgar Countryside** by Brian Draper. Regular speaker Brian will take you on a journey around the countryside of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire where the composer grew up and which he loved.

Then there is a talk on **Tuesday 9th May** by Malcolm Watkins on **Toys for the Empire**. Malcolm has researched the history of Roberts Brothers of Gloucester between 1890 and 1957, one of the largest makers of pastimes and games in the UK at the time and he will talk about their story and the products which brought entertainment to millions right across the British Empire

You can meet for lunch in the restaurant at Barnwood at 1pm and then the talks take place in the S&SC pavilion at 2pm. This is a great opportunity to meet up with people and have a chat, so do come along if you can.

Coach Outings & Theatre Trips

We are pleased to announce two new coach trips planned for 2017. The first is to **Swindon** to visit the **GWR Steam Museum and Designer Outlet Shopping Centre** on **Tuesday 2nd May**.

STEAM is the Museum of the Great Western Railway and is in the heart of the former Swindon Railway Works, telling the story of the men and women who built, operated and travelled on the Great Western Railway. This story is brought to life with famous GWR locomotives, imaginative story-telling displays, interactive displays and the real life stories of Swindon's railway workers. The Designer Outlet Centre is adjacent to the STEAM museum on the same site and features an extensive range of shops, cafes and restaurants with around 100 outlets in total for you to visit.

The trip costs £3 per person which includes coach travel from Barnwood and entrance and re-entrance to the Museum on the day. Full details are on the attached booking form which should be returned to Jack Brook by Wednesday 26th April.

Then there is a summer trip to **Weston-Super-Mare** on **Thursday 15th June**. This is simply a day trip to the seaside for you to enjoy all that Weston has to offer including time on the beach, a visit to the pier, fish & chips or an ice cream or even a donkey ride!

The cost of this trip is also £3 per person and the closing date for return of booking forms to Jack is Friday 2nd June.

Please note that because the cost of the trips has been heavily subsidised by the club, the booking for both trips is restricted to one Member and one Guest in the first instance. However, in the unlikely event of low demand extra guests will be allowed and you can contact Jack near the closing date to enquire about availability.

Rambling routes

Tuesday 25th April – Commencing at **2-00 p.m.**

COTSWOLDS – Edgeworth & River Frome Valley

O.S. map 179 – Gloucester, Cheltenham & Stroud

Distance: - About 3 ½ miles. Allow 2 ½ hours (incl. rest stops)

Leader: - Howard Milner 01452 714264 or 07771791563

Parking on un-classified lane Winstone to Sapperton immediately beyond crossroads Duntisbourne Leer left and Edgeworth right.

Leave A417 at Highwayman Inn, pass under dual carriageway and go through Winstone Village. Taking Jackbarrow Road, follow Sapperton signage for about 2 miles, hard standing is on left hand side.

Going: - Steep hills on both outward and return legs, valley section by river very easy. Bridleways potentially muddy early season.

Grid Ref. SO 960063 - Post code (GL7 7LE = Duntisbourne House)

Start of the walk is downhill "on-road" for ¾ of a mile passing by 'Duntisbourne House' set in extensive grounds remote from Edgeworth Village. The infant river Frome passes unseen under

this road through a culvert. Having crossed over to the west bank a short stiff gradient up to the next hairpin bend takes us to 'Valley Farm' private access road. This doubles as an undulating bridleway for about ½ a mile. In the past, river flow was dammed forming small lakes along this valley, some of which still remain. Converted and very much enlarged 'Edgeworth Mill Farm' on the opposite bank, bears witness to a bygone water powered era [first recorded 1086 AD]. At the second cattle grid our route veers off onto a footpath dropping to the riverside. Successions of sheep grazed meadows fringe this meandering gin clear stream, overlooked by farm buildings. At 'Ashcombe Bottom' we enter boggy un-cultivated land via a footbridge and cross back onto the east bank. Now having reached the bottom of "Bull Banks", it's an idyllic spot for rest and refreshment.

A public access track commences here heading "off-road" toward Duntisbourne Abbots, we follow this steep gradient and still climbing enter aptly named 'Thick Wood'. Several stops may be necessary for a breather; it's quite a stiff pull!! The track divides with the right fork becoming a woodland bridleway where the gradient eases marginally and then undulates. Underfoot it can get rather sticky, [soft to heavy] in horse racing parlance. At the brow we exit trees into a sheep grazed meadow before joining a rural cul-de-sac by the Miserden Estate touring caravan/camping site. Macadam from here onward, passing isolated 'Jackbarrow Cottages' then 'Jackbarrow Farm' on Duntisbourne Common. Easy going now having exited the valley, final ½ a mile's "on-road" back to our transport.

Tuesday May 23rd - Commencing at **2-00 p.m.**

SEVERN VALE – Norton/Sandhurst Hills & Bishops Norton

O.S. Map 179 – Gloucester, Cheltenham & Stroud

Distance: - Nearly 4 miles, allow 2 hours walking, plus breaks.

Leader: - Howard Milner Tel. 01452 714264 or 07771791563

Car parking on original road through Norton Village [off A38 Glos. to Tewks]. Go beyond Kings Head pub [now a building site].

Grid Ref. SO 859243 -- Post Code GL2 9LR

Here's another opportunity for members who missed this walk on the hottest day of 2016. If you did participate, the modified route will be tackled in reverse direction and goes through some new territory.

Setting out into the river Chelt flood meadows we follow 'Colliers Brook' until joining a track accessing the vale from Green Farm. Reaching the brow we leave this track through stock grazed meadows with mature specimen trees and enter Court Farm Equestrian Centre. Impeccably manicured paddocks flank each side of the access road which doubles as the public footpath! Wainlode Lane is crossed and the ascent of Norton Hill beckons. We're "off-road" again climbing around rustic fenced paddocks leading into woodland fringed meadows near the summit. A short breather will be in order here to admire the view north over Severn Vale. Bridleway tracks across the summit plateau take us to the topography pillar on Sandhurst Hill. Tewkesbury Walkers have thoughtfully donated a bench seat here. Extensive views from The Cotswolds to Wales make this climb well worthwhile and a suitable break point for refreshment.

A steep descent follows, first through newly established woodland, then arable fields with grassy margins into pretty Bishops Norton village. After skirting the dry duck pond, a roadside footpath along Wainlode Lane takes us about ½ a mile to Cook Lane, on the map shown as 'Norton Farm'. It was converted for residential use and appears to have triggered more rural development twixt villages. Turning our backs on adjacent building work, we join a footpath through stock grazed field's heading off eastward. Entering into woodland it then crosses diminutive Windmill Hill returning us to the starting point.

Going is mainly firm underfoot, however, it can be boggy through woodland at the outset. Several well maintained stiles on the outward leg, kissing gates on return. Bridleway sections on Norton Hill and beyond are hoof pitted; therefore, walking poles will be very useful particularly on downhill sections.

BARNWOOD INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY & TRANSPORT SOCIETY (BIATS)

We begin our spring programme with a **walk in the Forest of Dean** looking at some of the old mining sites and railway routes in the Howbeach, Moseley Green and New Fancy areas. This will be on **Sunday 30th April 2017** starting at the Mallards Pike site with its attractive lake, woodland paths and leisure facilities. Frank Colls will be the guide and the walk will be around 4 miles on tracks and footpaths so stout footwear is recommended. Please let Frank know if you intend to join the walk so that any last minute details can be advised. Mallards Pike is at Grid Ref SO 638091 and we will meet from 1.45 for a 2pm start by the toilet block close to the car park. This is approached from the B4431 road between Blakeney and Parkend; look out for the entrance signs to the north of the road.

Future events are still being looked into and Frank would be pleased to hear from members on any ideas or suggestions which might be suitable. Offers to plan and lead walks or to organise visits would be especially welcome. Please contact Frank on 01452 538366 with any enquiries. Note also that we now have quite a good list of email contacts which can be used to notify people of any activities and this is administered by John Berry. Please let Frank know if you wish your email address to be included.

Welfare

John Greenwood died in December 2016 aged 81. He started his career with the CEGB at Agecroft and went on to work at Barnwood, latterly in the Nuclear Engineering Department until his retirement around 20 years ago. We send our thoughts and condolences to his wife Joy and all the family.

Alan Sherringham, who worked for the CEGB designing instrumentation for the power stations and who retired prior to privatisation, died in January at the age of 95. Our thoughts are with his children Martin and Vivienne and his family and friends.

We also remember Thomas Baines, who died recently aged 89. He worked at Barnwood as a draughtsman and retired around 25 years ago. We send our condolences to his daughter Judith and family.

Michael Hynes died in March aged 83, having been unwell for some time with Parkinson's disease. Michael originally worked for the CEGB Midland Project Group at Bourneville, before moving to Barnwood. He was a Quantity Surveyor in the Civil Engineering Group. We send our condolences to his wife Janet and Michael's family and friends.

Please send any information for future Welfare announcements to the S&SC Office.

From the Office

Thank you to those of you who attended the recent BADCo panto, it was lovely to have your support. The donations to our charities CLIC Sargent and Brain Tumour Research are expected to total at least £1800 and will be confirmed when our accounts are completed in a few weeks' time.

Spring is changeover time for several of our S&SC sporting activities with the winter seasons such as table tennis coming to a close and the summer seasons for bowls, tennis and golf all kicking off. For those of you involved with any of these then we look forward to seeing you around Barnwood and wish you an enjoyable season.

Anna Eaton (Club Administrator)

RMA & S&SC CONTACTS

RMA Chairman Jack Brook Tel: 01452 668194 email: jackbrook@talktalk.net

S&SC Office Anna Eaton Tel: 01452 652058 email: Anna.Eaton@edf-energy.com

Ruth Dixon Tel: 01452 653388 email: Ruth.Dixon@edf-energy.com
(RMA Treasurer)

Address: EDF Energy, Barnett Way, Barnwood, GL4 3RS

Website: www.Barnwoodssc.org.uk

Facebook: Barnwood Sports & Social Club

Diary of Events 2017

Tuesday 11 th April	Lunch Meeting - Edgar Elgar Countryside by Brian Draper
Tuesday 25 th April	Ramble - Edgeworth & River Frome Valley
Sunday 30 th April	BIATS Walk – Forest of Dean
Tuesday 2 nd May	Coach Outing to Swindon Leaves Barnwood overflow car park at 9.30am
Tuesday 9 th May	Lunch Meeting - Toys for the Empire by Malcolm Watkins
Tuesday 23 rd May	Ramble - Norton/Sandhurst Hills & Bishops Norton
Tuesday 13 th June	Lunch Meeting (Hong Kong Trans-Siberian Railway)
Thursday 15 th June	Coach Outing to Weston-Super-Mare Leaves Barnwood overflow car park at 9am
Tuesday 11 th July	Lunch Meeting (Glamorgan Coast)
Tuesday 12 th September	Lunch Meeting (Unst Scotland)
Tuesday 10 th October	Lunch Meeting (Woodland Trust)
Tuesday 14 th November	Lunch Meeting (AGM)

Lunch meetings are held at Barnwood with lunch from 1pm in the Restaurant followed by the talk commencing at 2pm in the Pavilion.

BOOKING FORM FOR
COACH OUTING TO SWINDON GWR STEAM MUSEUM AND DESIGNER OUTLET
SHOPPING CENTRE

TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2017

LEAVING BARNWOOD AT 09-30 HRS & LEAVING SWINDON AT 16-00 HRS

COST £3-00 PER PERSON (not refundable after closing date)

**Please return booking form by 26th April to Jack Brook, 7 Galley Court, Wharfside Close,
Hempsted, Gloucester, GL2 5FH. (Tel. 01452 668194)**

The Steam Museum and the Designer Outlet Centre are adjacent to each other on the site.
The trip includes entrance and re-entrance to the Museum on the day.
There are approx 100 outlets together with cafes and restaurants etc

Please note my Mobile No. For emergency use on the day
07467028853

Note! Because of the substantial subsidy to cost the booking is for one Member and one Guest. However in the unlikely event of low demand extra guests will be allowed. Please contact Jack near the closing date to enquire.

Booking Slip Please detach and return to Jack Brook with cheque.

Coach Outing to Swindon GWR Steam Museum and Designer Outlet Shopping Centre
Tuesday 2nd May 2017

Please reserve mecoach seats at £3-00 each £.....
Cheques payable to EDF Energy (Barnwood) S & SC.

Name

Tel No.

**BOOKING FORM FOR
COACH OUTING TO WESTON-SUPER-MARE**

THURSDAY 15TH JUNE 2017

LEAVING BARNWOOD AT 09-00 HRS. & LEAVING WESTON AT 16-00 HRS.

COST £3-00 PER PERSON (not refundable after the closing date)

**Please return booking form by 2nd June to Jack Brook, 7 Galley Court, Wharfside Close,
Hempsted, Gloucester, GL2 5FH. (Tel.01452 668194)**

This trip is simply a day at the seaside!

Please note my Mobile No. for emergency use on the day
07467028853

Note! Because of the substantial subsidy to cost the booking is for one Member and one Guest. However in the unlikely event of low demand extra guests will be allowed. Please contact Jack near the closing date to enquire.

Booking Slip Please detach and return to Jack Brook with cheque.

Coach Outing to Weston Super-Mare on Thursday 15th June 2017

Please reserve mecoach seats at £3-00 each £.....
Cheques payable to EDF Energy (Barnwood) S & SC.

Name

Tel. No.