

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LYMINGTON TO BROCKENHURST LINE



No. 71 February 2023

Dear Friends,

First, business, and an official notification of the **Annual General Meeting on 3rd April 2023 at 7 pm** will be found at the end of this Newsletter, together with the Minutes of the previous AGM on 25th April 2022.

Now, news on a change in **the way train fares are charged**. David Mead writes:
In a recent restructuring of fares the morning day returns fares outside of the inner London suburban became "Any Time Returns". Depending on distance some of these fares are valid for return within a month. The commonly known "Cheap Day Returns" which were generally valid after 10hrs were withdrawn and renamed "**Evening Day Returns**" and the time altered to after 12noon. It was a cunning way to charge more money for passengers who needed to travel in the morning, in particular those going to London. The evening Day Returns are also not accepted from London (Waterloo or Clapham Junction) from Mondays to Fridays on trains between 5pm and 7pm, or overnight return journeys from London before 12 noon. All other journeys using the evening off peak time are unrestricted. Railcards are valid to obtain the normal third discount on both Anytime Returns and Evening discounts.

For those travelling **without tickets**, fines of £100 plus the ticket are being levied. If the station is closed and the ticket machine is not working, **talk to the guard** before getting on the train (ideally as it is about to go down to the Pier). There has been trouble with **tickets on phones** paid online: **print it out** beforehand if at all possible.

Good news on changes in the **timetable of Wightlink's Lymington-Yarmouth ferries** in order to connect better with rail services. The summer schedule is being tweaked to ensure that passengers have more time to make train connections at Lymington Pier station. From Monday 27th March, the 6pm, 7pm and 8pm ferries leaving Lymington will depart 5 minute later. The return sailings from Yarmouth will leave at 10 minutes past the hour. Chief Executive Keith Greenfield hoped the changes would be 'helpful'.

Lymington Transition, a 'Green' society, want to promote **cycling in Lymington**, especially for people bringing their bikes by train. If you are a cyclist, and would like to take part in this, please contact me (see below).

We would also like your support by letter when there is a problem, such as the recent **continuous flooding** in the station yard at Lymington Town.

A quick reminder: your **subscriptions are due** if you pay each year in cash.



Stephen Jones and Alastair Mann at the Volunteer Fair (see below)

As you know, one of our aims is to publicise the Line, so we were delighted to attend a **Volunteer Fair** on 29th January organised by the National Park Authority (see photo above). Societies like ours are given a stand, and members of the public who would like to give their time to a good cause can come and find out about local charities and similar bodies.

We hope to have a presence on the day in May that Lymington & Pennington Town Council hold a **Coronation celebration** at Woodside Gardens, and again at the Town station in July at the time of the Seafood Festival. An enormous number of visitors arrive in Lymington by train. Let us know if you would like to take part.

We do have a need for volunteers who can advise us in such areas as **Social Media and setting up a website**; can anyone help?

On a practical note, several people have drawn our attention to **SWR's inconsistencies in their website**; two people can visit SWR at the same time and find quite different answers, in particular to ticket costs. Do you have any experience of this? If so, please tell us, as we want to build up a picture and ask SWR to investigate.

Now for Friends' news, and a sad note to begin with. Our tremendous supporter right from the beginning, **Susan Ewer**, has died recently. Many of you will remember her from John Canavan's excursions, and from all our meetings, which she attended faithfully. Her funeral service is at St Thomas's church in Lymington on Friday 3rd March at 12.30 pm. All are welcome.

On a lighter note, our **early summer excursion** is being planned by John Canavan as I write this; this will be a repeat visit, on 13th May, to the **Mid Hants Railway**, aka the Watercress Line, from Alresford to Alton (*we are still waiting for timetables & prices*). There is to be an added attraction if we can organise it. Our Committee member David Mead is a staunch supporter and Volunteer on the line.

Later in the summer, on 19th August, there will be a rail/bus/boat/preserved railway trip to Poole and **Swanage** (£35 *each for members*), including free fish and chips!



The Mid-Hants Railway at Ropley.
(The board marked 'Alresford' denotes the destination of the next train.)

We are still threatened with the inevitable **engineering work** in our area, so please check before you travel. In addition to **strikes currently forecast**, here are the Engineering work links:-

<https://www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey/planned-improvements/february-2023-works>
and

<https://www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey/planned-improvements/march-2023-works>

Strike Action link:- https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/service_disruptions/industrialaction.aspx

Another line which may be affected is the GWR: see <https://www.gwr.com/strike>.

With best wishes from your committee, and from

Georgina

Tel. 01590 672406 g.craufurd@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF THE LYMINGTON TO BROCKENHURST LINE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 3rd APRIL 2023 AT 7.00 pm AT
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CANNON STREET, LYMINGTON, HANTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Lymington to Brockenhurst Line will be held at 7.00 pm on 3rd April 2023 at the Community Centre, Cannon Street, Lymington, Hants.

Nominations for the posts of officers and committee are asked for, to include names of the proposer and seconder, and to be signed by the candidate (who must show his/her willingness to stand); these must be received by G. Craufurd, East Grove, Grove Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 3RF three weeks before the meeting.

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WELCOME by the Chair, Alison Hull

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF SWR if possible
3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (25.4.2022)
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, including forthcoming events and thanks to members
6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT
7. CONFIRMATION OF LLOYD'S BANK AS BANKERS.
8. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT
9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Chair Alison Hull, Hon. Secretary A. Mann and A. Sugden (job-share), Hon. Treasurer R. Craufurd, Hon. Membership Secretary A. Mann) and committee (S. Jones, publicity; J. Canavan, Excursions; Cllr. J. England, D. Mead, G. Craufurd, Newsletter and gardening).
10. APPOINTMENT OF AN EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS for next year (Mr Peter Simpson)
11. CLOSURE OF MEETING by the Chairman, followed by a chance for members to put comments or questions.

By order of the committee,
Georgina Craufurd, Hon. Secretary g.craufurd@gmail.com Tel. 01590 672406

To be followed by a film show on railways of Wales, with our thanks to
John Canavan



Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth line: train at Talerddig c. 1953

FRIENDS OF THE LYMINGTON TO BROCKENHURST LINE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 25th APRIL 2022 AT 7.30
pm AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CANNON STREET, LYMINGTON, HANTS

WELCOME by the Chair, Alison Hull: The Chair welcomed everyone, especially His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. James Hoare. Thirty-five members were present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: these had been received from M. Humber, A. R. James, Cllr. Dunning, P. Mann, J. Gifford.
2. REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF SWR: there was no-one.
3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (27.9.2021): these had been previously circulated, and after a correction of the subject of the film-show from 'Railways' to 'boats', they were passed as a true report of the meeting. (Copies were available to those present.) Prop. E. Lewis, sec. J. England; passed nem.com.
4. MATTERS ARISING: there were none, apart from topics covered later in the meeting.
5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: A. Hull reported that due of course to the continuing threat of Covid, no event had been held apart from the previous AGM in September 2021, but that contact had been kept with the membership through Newsletters. Many of these had contained interesting railway-themed articles by David Mead with Georgina Craufurd. The gardening team had managed to keep both stations looking attractive (thanks were due to J. Ellis and S. Jones) while keeping within anti-Covid restrictions. The boats at the Pier had been removed and a planter styled like 'Dessie' the Desiro train had been installed and planted up.
The three usual problems remained: no shelter for passengers, no transport interchange at the Town station, and no footbridge. The last however had been the subject of a Planning Decision in favour of NFDC against Redrow; the 'window' for an appeal was already passed, and further news would be sent to members in a Newsletter. The transport interchange was hampered by the fact that the bus depot was on private land not owned by Network Rail.
She thanked John Canavan for organising his forthcoming excursions to SS. Shieldhall in May and to Kintbury and the Kennet & Avon Canal on 24th September (cost £40). She also thanked A. Mann for taking over as Membership Secretary at the previous AGM, and reported that the Hon. Secretary had warned that she would have to retire (after 14 years) at the AGM in 2023, though she would remain on the Committee and would edit the Newsletter and remain as a Bank signatory as before. She asked for a volunteer who could 'shadow' the Secretary over the coming year, but no-one volunteered at that time.
6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT The financial report for the year had been circulated, with a surplus of £43.37 and a credit balance of £2252.44 at 31st December 2021. R. Craufurd explained various differences between the figures for the current year and the previous one, due to changing circumstances. There were two queries. The first was to ask where money from the raffle appeared on the accounts; R. Craufurd explained that it was included in the figure for profits from Talk evenings. J. Dimmick enquired whether the considerable balance in the Bank would benefit the members; the answer was given that a

contribution of £600 to the station shelter for passengers had already been promised, and that this would be increased in view of the funds available. Better planters for the platform were also being considered. Carried nem. con. (prop. J. England, sec. M. Fletcher.)

7. CONFIRMATION OF LLOYD'S BANK AS BANKERS. This was agreed by the membership; the Treasurer warned that Banks were becoming more difficult, so no change of signatories would be possible.

8. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT. A. Mann reported that there were 158 paid-up members and 27 honorary members (ex officio or those who had helped the Friends in some way). The numbers were stable.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Chair Alison Hull, Hon. Secretary G. Craufurd, Hon. Treasurer R. Craufurd, Hon. Membership Secretary A. Mann) and committee (S. Jones, publicity; J. Canavan, Excursions; Cllr. J. England, D. Mead). This was voted for en bloc. (Prop. P. Simpson, sec. P. Stone, carried nem.com.)

10. APPOINTMENT OF AN EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS for next year. Mr Peter Simpson was confirmed as Examiner, and was thanked by the Chair for his work on the year under review.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING: Chairman closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.05 pm, and invited members to put comments or questions.

These were as follows:

a) P. Simpson suggested planting cacti at the Pier since they did not need watering; G. Craufurd replied that the problem was caused by the weeds; the current planting was of seaside plants which were resistant to wind and salt, so sustainable in the harsh conditions.

b) P. Stone commented adversely on the lack of notice on the bus replacement in March; a report was being prepared to put to SWR. He also deplored the lack of a representative from SWR; A. Mann promised to send an Internet link which would provide passenger figures, and to summarise them for the Newsletter. M. Fletcher remarked that passenger figures for Brockenhurst were rising.

c) Members' notice was drawn to the stationmaster's house (1886) at New Milton, which was being converted into a museum. Nick Saunders the film producer was involved. [For further info see

<https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/no1-new-milton/#map=10/-1.66/50.76/0/24:0:0.6|39:1:1|40:1:1>]

The formal part of the meeting was followed by tea or coffee and a raffle, and then a most enjoyable film-show on the subject of Yorkshire Railways, compiled by J. Canavan

By order of the committee,

Georgina Craufurd, Hon. Secretary g.craufurd@gmail.com Tel. 01590 672406