



British Section

Newsletter

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European Association of Railway Personnel

Association Européenne des Cheminots (AISBL)

International Association (A.R. 4.2.1985)

**International Non-governmental Organisation with advisory status to the
Council of Europe (6.4.1977)**

**International Non-governmental Organisation with consultative status to
the UN (decision E/ 2002/ of 22.07.2002) and member of the**

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Registered address: A.E.C (AISBL). - 25 Square de Meeus 1000 Brussels, Belgium

**AEC EUROPEAN BUREAU – elected at the General Assembly at Poznan (PL),
September 2017.**

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Vice-President: Dott. Giuseppe Cirillo (I)

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AEC BRITISH SECTION COMMITTEE

The committee, officers (other than the President) elected at the Annual General Meeting on 19th April 2018, is as follows

Honorary President:

Colin Charman,
Operations Manager
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Past Honorary President & Hon. Life Member:

Theo Steel (formerly Project Director ONE Railway)

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Colin Charman,

The British Section Newsletter is produced by a small team headed by Philip Worsfold, who fulfils the non-committee role of Editor and Translator.

A.E.C. BRITISH SECTION NEWSLETTER, Vol. 23 No. 1
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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The take up of the form relating to the new General Data protection Regulations has not been great; but the British authorities have stated that it is not intended to stop the distribution of Newsletters. Members both at home and in Europe will therefore continue to receive the Newsletter by the means they have already chosen. However, you are still urged to complete the form attached to the last newsletter and return it to the editor – by post or e-mail to the Editor, Philip Worsfold, at the address on page 2. He will pass the copies to the Secretary as appropriate.

The European web page is at: <http://www.A-E-C.net> (now updated)

AEC Latvia is at www.ldz.lv/biedriba/

AEC Spain is at <http://www.aec-es.net/>

Poland is at www.aecpl.republika.pl (*Private site, not officially recognised.*)

AEC Austria is at www.aec-oesterreich.at.tf

AEC Romania is at www.aecaferom.xhost.ro

Due to security issues the **British Section Website** and the **British Section Facebook** page have been closed down. A new website is under consideration. The French website has also closed due to the webmaster's ill health. The British Section Newsletter is still available on line on line at the European website.

EDITORIAL

Since the last edition, I seem to have been yo-yoing across the Channel/Manche, first on European Days in Taormina, Sicily; then to Mons in Belgium with FEANDC and thereafter to the AEC French section's weekend based in Amiens to discover the Baie de Somme, its history (William of Normandy sailed from St Valéry-sur-Somme to defeat Harold in 1066). Jenny reports later on the AEC events. We did not know at the time that Amiens Cathedral would feature on our TV screens, when the service remembering the commencement of the Battle of Amiens signalled the 'beginning of the end' of the First World War.

It bothers me that so many of the events being organised in England (I cannot vouch for the other nations of the United Kingdom) keep using the word 'celebrate'. I see nothing to celebrate. No doubt our forebears were greatly relieved when the hostilities ended, but with so many families mourning the loss of loved ones sent as sheep to the slaughter, they had little to celebrate. At the time, Great Britain had an empire and called upon its subjects from overseas to join in the sacrifice. To hear many people speak, you might think that England won that war on her own. My recent reading of books by eminent historians, specialists in this period of history, suggests that it was more by luck than good judgement that the allies defeated the German juggernaut and that France suffered many more casualties – and both France and Belgium (for whom we went to war) suffered destruction and hardship beyond our imagination. It was the late involvement of the United States of America which changed the balance of power in favour of the Allies. Furthermore, one could hardly say that the war 'ended' – rather there was a pause until 1939. The 'War to end all Wars' was no such thing. The Versailles Treaty sowed the seeds for the continuation of the conflict in 1939

Further 'historical' reading by the same lauded historians suggests that we were not so clever there, either, apart from such successes in North Africa and the Normandy landings. Thereafter we rather messed things up by trying to stage set piece battles that went rather wrong (Arnhem and Nijmegen come to mind) and our failure to clear the waterway into Antwerp after seizing the port itself – something that would have been a walkover if the Western allies had acted swiftly – contributed to the desperate times experienced by the Dutch in the early months of 1945. And having gone to war to deliver Poland from the Nazi jackboot, she was promptly delivered into the hands of another oppressor. In that it is true that Winston Churchill saw what was coming and tried to persuade Roosevelt not to cosy up with Stalin; but by the time of the Yalta conference, which decided the future shape of Europe, Britain was exhausted and just a bit player on the sidelines. Indeed, many consider that Britain's decline commenced before the First World War. For all its brutality, if anyone 'won' the final victory in Europe, it was, in fact, the Soviet Union, who drove the Germans from Romania and thereby denied them the oil they needed to power their armoury and continue the conflict. The total losses suffered by the USSR were greater than the total of those of the rest of the combatants, allies and enemy all put together, even by the most conservative of estimates. But the Soviet leader, Stalin was already pursuing his own agenda, which led to the 'Cold War'. For all his faults, Winston Churchill was a true European and helped to found the European Movement, which, along with many other groups, is pressing for Britain to remain within the European Union. But there are many groups, all with varying agendas and they do not present a single front (although they are getting better). The idea of stopping Brexit dead seems to have passed. Now a second referendum is sought, this time with the sixteen and seventeen year olds being allowed to express their opinion, which is seen to be different from those of an earlier age, who seek the Utopia of an earlier time, when Britain had an Empire and was truly 'Great' – a Britain that in fact never existed except in the minds of writers of fiction. Hopefully there is still time....

But the British section of AEC still carries in and will continue to do so in its quiet way. We hope to arrange visits of a longer nature, with overnight stays, so that we can get to know one another better. John Wood says that he hopes that the arranging of events will morph into a 'job share' type of task, similar to the Young Buffers Association; and that is already happening to an extent. Do we have any volunteers to arrange a visit to the "Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway"?

(Whilst the information above comes from the works of eminent historians and published in the United Kingdom, the views expressed are personal and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association.)

Recruitment

Nigel Hyde has been elected as Treasurer and membership Secretary as well as Recruitment Officer. Any ideas you have should be channelled through him. All enquiries about membership should be addressed to **Nigel Hyde. Please note telephone number and e-mail address on page 2.**

THE PRESIDENT'S SLOT

Bob Clark

Sanity or Insanity. Is the planet being killed or will nature rise triumphant?

As I see things it looks like the world is in the grip of a few deranged people. This poses a threat to our freedoms and liberty in particular the right to free movement of labour and as these despots frequently fabricate scenarios of constant impending doom and other fakery to mislead the gullible or blame the other side for lack of progress in negotiations when it is the fault of they themselves convinced the lies they tell are actually the truth and spouting divisive speech designed to promote hatred supported by a rabid media owned by foreign nationals opposed to democratic freedom of speech. We are sleepwalking back to the past and a less secure future for all our families railway or otherwise. Hopefully people will wake up to the manipulation of their thoughts and violations of the rights their ancestors fought to achieve. Austerity is being used as a weapon to diminish the dignity of less able and those who are living in poverty. Hatred, intolerance, ignorance, arrogance, apathy these together are the greatest threat to our peaceful existence, used by Dictators to destabilise civilisation as a prelude to seizing absolute power, suppressing our rights usually before we realise. Disasters, whether natural or manmade, cause immeasurable damage and loss of life, as the recent unexpected bridge collapse in Genoa and the devastating floods in Kerala, India, have shown; along with previous occurrences prove the power of nature over humankind. Human activity is destroying the planet by our rapacious appetite for the riches our planet has in ever dwindling quantities. Our demand for new items for what ever reason contributes to these natural disasters, our lack of responsibility for our actions contributes polluting elements to the environment leading to the extinction of wildlife whose habitats we destroyed. Deforestation contributes to the destruction of the ozone layer causing the atmosphere to warm, which in turn causes glacial melt, rising sea levels erosion, loss of liveable land leading to overcrowding causing tensions to rise sometimes wars break out.....more loss of life, property and dignity for those survivors as it has been ad infinitum. It seems we never learn from our past and as deranged politicians in this country incite hatred and xenophobia by irrational statements (this is, however not unique to us) and supply oppressive regimes with weapons they use to kill schoolchildren and bomb hospitals with the sick & injured along with those who treat them becoming a statistic to be disputed over amid claims of FAKE NEWS from the western worlds most deluded political leader, the son of an

immigrant who wants to stop immigration to his country because they bring crime, disease (and they are terrorists as well!), a climate change denier and supporter of a rogue state that disregards international law by illegally occupying territory and expelling the rightful occupants condemning them to a life of poverty and conflict. These people and their moronic supporters refuse to believe scientists and have a rabid fear of "experts". Therefore the world hurtles towards an apocalypse of manmade disaster inducing natural catastrophes whilst we bystanders sit around watching the horrific images on TV etc wringing our hands saying for example "How awful this is happening but they never learn" in a war situation; or "why do they live in places they know are dangerous?" when the appeals for aid go out on the media after a natural disaster. We all need to rethink how we go forward if we are to have a future on this beautiful planet as we the Human Race fear our deranged politicians are becoming the TERRORISTS they warn us of!

Natural disasters might just be that or they maybe the way the planet is fighting back against our greed. Helping the planet recover is something we can all do by being aware of the damage to our habitats caused by globalisation which may mean that our appetite for year round strawberries etc, may need to end and the consumption of these foods be confined to their natural season. Science may help food supply by using hi tech to cut mileage travelled before the consumer buys it. Our planet needs to recover from our excesses therefore we need to curb our demands for that "new improved model" whatever temptations manufacturers place in front of us.

Just think before you act as we all belong to the same worldwide family sharing the same planet and same problems. Are they solvable? That's up to all of us, although many of us may not be perfect we are still human. Flawed, imperfect, deluded or impressionable we all have a place on this planet so let us aim to be the best human we can.

PEOPLE.

John Batts

John tells us that his photographic archive is going on to www.transporttreasury.com. So far the 1960s are available with a good amount of European material.

John Woods

John has reminded me of his interest in the musical 'Billy Elliot'. It was mentioned in September last year in the preamble to the article concerning Herbert Spencer but John now adds a little bit more.

Philip mentioned earlier that I had seen all the Billys at Victoria Palace Theatre, London. The show began in 2005 and I took it up only in 2013, so in fact saw 18 out of the 42 Billys; the finale there being in 2014, not quite getting to its 10th birthday. A separate, touring cast then circulated around the Britain and the Irish Republic Isles including Plymouth, Bristol, Sunderland, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Cardiff and Liverpool and Dublin, where the "Royal Ballet" screen appeared; and Edinburgh where it didn't, due to the limited size of the proscenium arch, not politics!

Just as the AEC has spread its influence through many European countries so, bizarrely, has "Billy Elliot" (termed a "musical" though it's a show in its own right) which has greatly intrigued me: from small beginning it was a pithy little depiction by Lee Hall of the gruelling struggles of a young lad born into a mining family in strike-torn North East England but wanting to be a ballet dancer - all in the 1980's days of Arthur Scargill and Margaret Thatcher.

Strong language is involved in the context of the play and represents the gut-feeling of miners and their affected families surviving on strike pay and is not to be taken

personally by the audience as one of our members mistakenly did! It is thought that the miner's leader, Arthur Scargill had reputedly won from the government most of his demands for the miners; but was intent on an ego trip. We may never know. For further reading, 'The Enemy Within' is suggested.

Seen, by chance, at the Cannes film festival by Elton John, it became, with his involvement, a stage show and has been grasped by directors widely over the European theatrical world - Norway, Finland, Netherlands, Estonia, Italy, Spain, (Japan and USA too) and recently for the fourth time in Hungary. Some of these I have visited - Oslo, Helsinki, Turin, Stavanger etc, where I have met many of the players and their proud families some of whom I'm personally in touch with as good friends - - symptomatic to me of a laudable European spirit parallel in some ways with that of the AEC.

A child winning in the end, against formidable odds is, I feel, what appeals - his "dream comes true" as indeed it does for the actor. Elliott Hanna (the youngest Billy, leads in the DVD of the 2014 show "Billy Elliot Live" not to be confused with the original 2000 film with Jamie Bell and Julie Walters) was only 10 when playing the role- described as "like playing Macbeth whilst running a marathon"

As you will have gathered and confusingly, one of my other interests is the George Eliot Fellowship - note these various quantities if letter "t"!

John Woods August 2018

† Henry Frampton-Jones

We were sorry to hear of the death in July of Henry Frampton Jones. Henry had been a long standing member of AEC and an occasional visitor to our London Reunions. He was very active in the field of Narrow Gauge Railway Preservation in Derbyshire and was the owner of the Derbyshire Dales Light Railway at South Roseley.

He was also active in the pressure group 'Rail Future', which he wanted to get involved with AEC./ The assets of his railway are now in the hands of the Ashover Light Railway Society, who aim to recreate the 'Ashover Triangle' on the Roseley site.

Henry leaves a widow to whom we offer our condolences.

TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL NEWS

Rail Development Corporation's German rail ferry inaugurates new locomotive. By Keith Fender; June 27, 2018

HAMBURG, Germany — Pittsburgh-based Railroad Development Corp. unveiled a brand new diesel locomotive to be used for its car carrying service in northern Germany at a ceremony in the German city of Kiel on June 25. RDC President Henry Posner III was present along with ministers from the regional government to name the locomotive "Anne" after Mr Posner's wife Anne Molloy, who was also present along with their daughter, Ida, to celebrate the naming.

RDC's German subsidiary RDC Deutschland now has two new Siemens built Vectron DE diesel electric locomotives to use operating the car carrying service between Niebüll on the north German mainland and Westerland on the off shore island of Sylt.

RDC Deutschland began operation of their new service, branded AUTOZUG Sylt, on the 25-mile-long route from Niebüll to Westerland in 2016. Services were initially operated using a specially leased string of flat cars. These initially ran as short train capable of carrying about 30 automobiles hauled by leased diesel locos. The new Siemens locos have replaced the leased units.

The service competes with a long-standing vehicle carrying service operated by German national rail operator DB. This has operated since the early 1930s when the line over a causeway through the sea — the 7-mile-long Hindenburgdamm — was opened connecting the island of Sylt with mainland Germany for the first time. There is still no direct road connection between Sylt and the rest of Germany, with the only alternative to the railway being a ferry from neighboring Denmark.

RDC spent several years developing its plans and overcoming operational problems before being able to launch the service. Following previous legal action RDC has access to the same terminals used by DB for its car carrying service.

Emirates Airlines to co-ordinate with Italy's Trenitalia. Rob Finlayson

Emirates Airline plans to code share with Trenitalia, Italy's national railway company, which plans to add 27 train stations to the Dubai-based carrier's network.

Emirates divisional SVP-commercial operations, West, Hubert Frach said, "Emirates already flies more than 1.6 million passengers to and from Italy every year. With this code share agreement, we're connecting Italian regions to our global network, significantly boosting the Italian tourism industry."

Emirates operates from Dubai to Bologna, Milan Malpensa, Rome Fiumicino and Venice. It also uses fifth freedom services from Milan to New York JFK.

"The agreement signed by Trenitalia and Emirates is a pivotal step towards the increase of effective and comfortable integration between train and plane," Trenitalia director-long-haul passenger division Gianpiero Strisciuglio said.

Emirates customers will be able to board Trenitalia trains directly without exchanging boarding pass for a separate ticket. As in an aircraft, passengers will be assigned a seat number and coach number, which will be displayed on their e-ticket.

Belfast – Looking to the future of city transit.

On a recent visit to Belfast with the Communications Worker's Union (CWU) I observed the railway which seems to hide away from view. Gt. Victoria Street station tucked in up a side street at the far corner of the Europa Bus centre. I did see trains in the distance as I walked through the streets though never had a chance to get close. Old and new stand side by side in this friendly welcoming city as it finds its vision of the future by remembering its past industrial glory. Presently the testing of a new bus service called Glider is underway pending introduction in September. The buses are made by Van Hool and look like trams!* The route will run cross city from Dunmurry to Dundonald with a spur to the Titanic quarter. It is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund. More details can be found at:

Web: <http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/transport-initiatives/glider>

e-mail: glider@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

For Northern Ireland Railways/Ulsterbus/Metrobus, see:

www.translink.co.uk

[- There is a similar system already in operation in Metz (F). In some parts of the city, these buses run on streets reserved specifically for them. - Ed.]*

EUROPEAN EVENTS

The proposal for European Days in September 2019 was approved at the recent meeting of the Administrative Council. The Romanian proposal for European Days is now to take place in 2020, based in Sofia in Bulgaria, with the help of friends interested in re-forming a Bulgarian section.

AEC European Days in Austria (Linz) 22nd – 28th September 2019 - see below.

FEANDC General Meeting in Lübeck (D), 13th -16th September 2018.
The FEANDC Congress for 2019 will still take place in Glasgow as planned from 5th- 9th September 2019. See details below.

AEC European Days in Bulgaria – May 2020. The Romanian section has prepared a programme for European Days in Bulgaria (Sofia) hopefully to re-establish a section there. The programme has just been received and is presented below.

The Spanish section is proposing European Days in Madrid/Toledo for 2021.

ITEMS FROM THE GERMAN SECTION CALENDAR:

12.09.2019 RV Rostock: 800 Jahre Hansastadt & 600 Jahre Universität
Rostock: H. Spielmann
29.09. - 04.10.2018 RV Hagen: 6-tägige Busreise an den Bodensee
10.10.2018 RV Rostock: Kegeln in Broderstorf, H. Jaschewski
14.11.2018 RV Rostock: Neuerungen zur Pflegeversicherung,
Pflegestützpunkt HRO
05.12.2018 RV Rostock: Adventsfeier, M. Köster
05.12.2018 RV Hamburg: Weihnachtsfeier im Hotel Hamburg Hafen
08.12.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Weihnachtsfeier
22.12.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Tannenbaum schlagen

Europäische Treffen

**22.09. - 28. 09.2019 Europäische Tage 2019 der Sektion Österreich
in Linz in Oberösterreich.**

EUROPEAN DAYS IN LINZ (A) 2019 Proposed Programme:

**Sunday, 22. September 2019 *Arrival of members of the Administrative Council
in Linz Transfer to Park Inn Hotel. 19h00-Dinner in the hotel restaurant.***

Monday, 23. September 2019 *Arrival of other members in Linz*
09h00 – 13h00 Linz – Administrative Council
18h30 Welcome in the hotel Restaurant.
19h00 Gala Opening of European Days. Opening of European Days

Tuesday, 24. September 2019 *City tour Linz*
09h00 Departure by „Linz City Express“ for visiting the city of Linz plus the visit of the
“Mariendom”
10h00 Visiting „Ars Electronica Center“
11h00 Departure by train with the „Pöstlingbergbahn“ to the top of the Pöstlingberg –
leisure time
13h00 Return to the centre of Linz with the Pöstlingbergbahn
13h30 Lunch in the brewery restaurant „Stieglkeller“, afterwards leisure time
19h00 Boattrip on the Danube & dinner on board

Wednesday, 25. September 2019 *Trip to Traunsee in the Salzkammergut*
09h00 Departure by bus to Vorchdorf
10h05 Departure by historic train to Gmunden
10h32 Arrival at Gmunden “Seebahnhof”
10h45 Departure by ship – „Schlösserrundfahrt“
11h45 Lunch at the Restaurant „Hoiswirt“
13h00 Departure by ship to Gmunden

14h00 Visit the famous ceramic factory "Gmundener Keramikmanufaktur"
15h30pm Departure by bus to Ampflwang
16h30 Visit the Railway museum
18h30 Departure by bus to Linz
19h.30pm Dinner in the Restaurant "Josef" in Linz

Thursday, 26. September 2019 A day in Freistadt (including Brewery)

08.30am Visit to the works of Plasser und Theurer in Linz (track maintenance & construction company).
10h30 Freistadt (city tour & visiting the brewery)
12.30 Lunch in the "Brewery Freistadt"
14.30 Visiting and ride with the famous Pferdeisenbahn (Horse tramway)
16h00 Return to Linz
18h30 Dinner in Restaurant „Josef“ in Linz with Music and Folklore.

Friday, 27. September 2019 A wonderful trip to the monastery St Florian and a "flight to the mountains"

08h45 Departure by bus to the monastery St. Florian, where composer Anton Bruckner was organist
09h30 Organ concert in the monastery St. Florian
10h00 Leisure time
11h.00 Departure by bus to the Wurzeralm
12h00m cable car ride
12y30 Lunch on the mountain, leisure time
15h00 Ccable car ride and afterwards back to Linz by bus
18h30 Conclusion of the European Days in Linz
19h00 Dinner in the hotel restaurant „Park Inn“with music

Saturday, September 28, 2019 Departure of the participants

From 7am Breakfast
Transfer to the railway station Linz

Estimated pricing: (Based on information from 1st June 2018)

Price per person in double or twin room.

660 euro from September 23, 2019 as of dinner till September 28, 2019 breakfast

740 euro from Dinner on September 22, 2019 till September 28, 2019 breakfast

Single room supplement: **47 euro perr night**

Included benefits: 4star Hotel in Linz. Full accommodation, all transfers , cable car ride, Entrance in various museums and the monastery St Florian

Registration and Pre payment of 300 euro per until 28th February 2019

Final payment (360 or 440 euro) before 1st August 2019

We hope you like the programme and look forward to your visit.

Details of booking through the British section will follow later.

EUROPEAN DAYS IN BULGARIA 19th – 24th May 2020.

Organised by the Romanian section of AEC, helped by Bulgarian colleagues who, we hope, will form a new Bulgarian section. Here is the provisional programme.

Sunday: 18th May 2020

08h.00-24h00 – Arrival of participants at the European days of the AEC. Transfer from the railway station and from international airport of **Sofia**. Accommodation at the 'Earth and People Hotel * * * *' (restaurant, terrace, conference room, bar, gym, sauna, swimming pool, etc.)

19h.00-23h00 – Dinner at the restaurant.

Monday: 19th May 2020

07h00-09h00 – Breakfast

09h00-13h00 – Administrative Council meeting in the conference room of the hotel.

13h00-15h00 – Lunch in the hotel's restaurant.

15h30-18h00 – Meeting of General Assembly and election of the new European Bureau AEC.

- For other participants, relax by the pool or stroll through the historic centre.

18h30-22h00 - Official opening of the European Days of the AEC. Festive dinner with music, dancing and a Bulgarian folk programme at the Earth and People's restaurant.

Tuesday: 20th May 2020

07h00-09h30 – Breakfast

10h00-13h00 – Tour of the city of Sofia with a visit to the Cathedral Alexander Nevski, St. Sophia Church, Sfantu Gheorghe Church, the Royal Palace and the National Theatre Ivan Vazov.

13h30-15h30 – Lunch at a restaurant in the city.

16h00-19h00 – Continue to the city and visit the National Park Mount Vitosha, the oldest natural park on the Balkan Peninsula, visible from almost all parts of Sofia.

19h30-21h30 – Dinner with music at the Earth and People Hotel Restaurant,

Wednesday: 21st May 2020

07h00-09h00 – Breakfast at the hotel.

09h30-12h30 – Visit to Rila Monastery, the largest Orthodox monastery in the Balkans -about 100 km

13h00-15h00 – Lunch at a restaurant in the area

15h30-19h00 – Visit to Rila National Park Return to Sofia.

19.30-21.30 - Dinner at the Earth and People Restaurant.

Thursday: 22nd May 2020

07h00 - Packed breakfast. Bus departure to the centre of Bulgaria –a about 200 km.

10h30-12h00 – Travelling to Arbanasi - the oldest village in Bulgaria; in fact an architectural miniature jewel.

12h30-14.00 – Lunch at a Bulgarian restaurant.

14h30-17h30 — visiting Veliko Tarnovo - the former medieval capital of Bulgaria

19h00-20h00 – Dinner at a restaurant en route

22h00 - Arrival in Sofia

Friday: 23rd May 2020

07h.00-09h00 – Breakfast at the hotel.

09h30-12h00 – Visit to the City Hall in Sofia and the Headquarters of the Bulgarian Railways.

12h30-14h30 – Lunch at a restaurant in Sofia.

15h00-18h00 - Free time for shopping and relaxation.

18h30-22h00 - The official closing of the European Days of AEC, with music and dancing and a special artistic program at the Earth and People Restaurant.

Saturday: 24th May 2020

07h00-09h00 – Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure of participants. Transfer to the railway station or the airport.

Estimated costs:

1. From May 19 (festive dinner) until May24 (breakfast) - **490 euro.**
2. From May 18 (dinner) until May 24 (breakfast) – **560 euro..**
3. From May 18 (dinner) until May 20 (breakfast) – **160 euro.**
4. Single room supplement - **1 11 euro / night.**

Prices are calculated for minimum. 100 persons and include accommodation in Earth and People Hotel **** - full board, including lunch and dinner, coach transport, guided tour programme, entrance to objectives and transfers from the railway station or airport.

PROGRAMME FOR FEANDC CONGRESS 2019: GLASGOW, DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL (CENTRAL)-

Thursday 5th Sept. to Monday 9th Sept. 2019

Thursday 5th September 2019.

Delegates arrive at Glasgow Central Station or Airport (see last page) & transfer to DoubleTree By Hilton Hotel, Glasgow Central - Either walk approx. 13 mins or by Taxi.

13.00hrs-17.30hrs. Meet & Greet desk at the Hotel – distribution of our weekend programme of events/timings/delegates list/gifts. Give out of the Glasgow City Sightseeing 2 Day Bus Pass + Maps (Multi language commentary) for individual visit of the town. Hop on/hop off wherever you want.

Evening Meal in Hotel at 19.30 (one drink inc.).

Friday 6th September 2019.

Breakfast in Hotel restaurant for delegates from 06.30 to 10.30hrs.

Individual visit of Glasgow with the Glasgow City Sightseeing 2 Day Bus Pass + Maps (Multi language commentary); hop on/hop off wherever you want. We suggest a tour should include a visit to Glasgow Transport Museum. There is a stop on the City Sightseeing bus to cater for this.

17.00 – 19.00hrs. FEANDC Meeting for Country Representatives in Hotel.

19.30 Evening meal in Hotel (one drink Inc.)

Saturday 7th September 2019.

07.00 Breakfast in Hotel

07.45 prompt walk from Hotel to Glasgow Queen St Rail Station to catch 08.21hrs service to Fort

William. Reserved seating. Arr. Circ. 12.05hrs.

Our rail journey from Glasgow to Fort William goes beside Loch Lomond and through The Trossachs National Park. Look out for the spectacular views, and the wild animals.

12.15. 2 course lunch at Brewers Fayre, Fort William, just across the road from rail station.

14.15. Depart by Doigs Coaches for the road journey to Glasgow (with a break at The Green Welly shop/complex on the way).

Arr 17.15 approx. Glasgow Hotel.

19.00. FEANDC Gala Banquet-Speeches/Presentations /Hand over to FEANDC Switzerland 2020. One drink included.

23.00 finish. Includes Bagpiper & Music.

Sunday 8th September 2019.

07.00 To 09.00hrs Breakfast in the Hotel.

09.15 depart Hotel by coach to Edinburgh for sightseeing coach/walking tour. (With French & German guides). On the way, visit to Kelpie Horses Falkirk. Come and see the world's largest equine sculptures up close - and even go inside to marvel at the complexity and the engineering which created these fantastic pieces of art.

Free Time in Edinburgh to visit Holyrood House, Edinburgh Castle, Princes Street shops, or The Royal Mile which stretches from Holyrood Palace & Parliament to the Castle, downhill from the castle, uphill from Holyrood Palace and Parliament, with plenty of shopping opportunities.

16:00 Depart Edinburgh back to Hotel arrive approx. 18:00

19.30 Evening meal in Hotel. (One drink included.)

Monday 9th September 2019.
06.30 to 10.30 Breakfast in Hotel.
All delegates depart for home.

THOMAS COOK VACATIONS

from Tony Fitzherbert

[I've a funny feeling that we may have published some of this before – but since these things keep rolling in, I thought it worthwhile giving it another go. I don't know the origin of the individual complaints; but, Thomas Cook operate in Great Britain and the United States. Does this tell us something about the current state of the 'Anglo-Saxon' psyche? Say no more! - Ed.]

These are actual complaints received by "Thomas Cook Vacations" from dissatisfied customers:

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."
19. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

RECENT EVENTS...

EUROPEAN DAYS IN SICILY – 13th – 19th May 2018.

You should have been there! Or perhaps you were one of the eight members of the British section who enjoyed one of the best AEC visits ever.

It is always a delight to meet up with friends from so many European countries, to find we have so much in common, and to learn more about the differences. I always find the Opening Dinner, with the playing of the European anthem, quite an inspiring event. (The meal's always good too!)

This year we paid interesting and well organised visits to Syracuse, Mount Etna, Catania, and Messina. We had a civic reception in Taormina, our nearest town, and a less formal civic reception in Castelmola, the village perched above Taormina, where it was drinks in the village square.

But I think, for me, my most outstanding memories will be of the magnificent flowers and views from our hotel at Capo de Greci, the weeklong gourmet food – Sicilian cuisine at its best – and the almost overwhelming welcome and friendship offered by the newly re-born Italian section.

Thank you and well done Italy!

Jenny.

THE VISIT TO AMIENS, organised by the French section; 15th – 18th July 2018 (plus one day).

Once again this summer, the French section arranged a long weekend for their members and for visitors from other sections. The numbers from other sections seems to be increasing as the word gets round about how enjoyable these weekends are.

Amiens is certainly a town worth visiting and, as well as the usual tourist sites, we were there for the one night of the year when there is a magnificent “son et lumière” show outside the cathedral.

We were also there for the annual ‘fête des hortillonnages’. Hortillonnage is the intensive cultivation of vegetables, in small fields beside a network of small canals, in the Picardy fen. In days gone by, when it was a huge industry, vegetables were taken to market by boat on the river. These days they are normally transported in white vans. However, for the fête, it was back to traditional costumes and little boats loaded with veg – a lovely sight.

On the Saturday we travelled to St Valéry sur Somme where, after visiting the town, we took a ride to Le Crotoy on the Chemin de Fer de la Baie de Somme. All those railway workers who don't, or didn't, get enough of trains at work, had a field day with their cameras. Well, OK, we all did, but I'm afraid you will have to ask someone else if you want full technical details.

Nobody wants to go home when they are having a good time, so we weren't too upset when, on Monday, the French railways were having a strike day. Had to stay until Tuesday, when we visited the canals of the ‘hortillonnages’ – what a shame we had to stay that extra day!

The Visit To Sheffield – 16th July 2018.

Several members made it to Sheffield in the heat, although John Woods had to retire (gracefully?) after directing the team to the ‘Rawson Spring’ John Hayward takes up the story of the pub.

The former swimming baths were completed in 1926 to designs by the Sheffield City architect F.E.P. Edwards and were built on open fields belonging to Rawson Springs Farm. Rawson Spring itself provided the water supply for Hillsborough Barracks on the other side of road. The barracks buildings are still there although they don't appear to be still occupied by the army.

The baths closed in 1991 having been replaced by the Hillsborough Leisure Centre which opened during the same year. Eventually the old building converted into The Deep End pub which became one of the most popular music venues in Sheffield. The Arctic Monkeys played one of their first gigs there.

The pub closed suddenly in October, 2005 apparently after manager(s) did a runner! The pub was re-opened by Wetherspoons in July, 2007 as The Rawson Spring. The entrance to the pub is right next to the Hillsborough tram stop (two yards across the pavement!) and is served by the Supertram Blue route via Sheffield Midland station, as well as the Yellow route from Meadowhall.

Of course the members used this opportunity to take a ride on the trams English National Concessionary Bus Passes are valid on the trams and ticket checking is very thorough with revenue protection staff on every tram that we travelled on. One of them told us that the tram train route to Rotherham is due to open in October.2018.

JH & JW

Other things.

For our London reunions, the transfer to the Royal Oak in Tabard Street, went smoothly although there has been no increase in the number of members attending.

John Woods' visits went off on the dates stated, but the visit to the Middleton Railway could not take place and Sheffield was visited the following Monday as described above. The visit to Swindon Steam Museum on 6th August was a great success. The visit to the Middleton Railway was re-arranged for 29th August John continues to arrange visits at short notice. If you wish to receive details and to book a place, he should be contacted by phone: - **07 380 388 874**

...AND THINGS TO COME

London reunions.

London reunions will continue on the **third** Thursday the month at the **Royal Oak** in Tabard Street nominally from **16h00 onwards** until about 19h00 until the end of the year. Sadly, we now hear that the present tenants have been given notice to quit and that the Brewery will be installing a manager in their place. This does not bode well for the future. One problem will be the loss of the room we use for the January film show, since it is unlikely to be available free of charge. Other establishments in the area make a charge of £50. So as a precautionary measure, the film show on **Thursday 17th January 2019** will take place at the Secretary's home address.(see page 2). Transport will be provided to and from Tiverton Parkway station and lunch will be provided for those who book in advance.

The meetings to come are on **20th September, 18th October, 15th November and 20th December 2018**; followed by the film show in January as detailed above.

Details of the venue for Third Thursday reunions from February 2019 onwards will be published in the next edition.

Please note that the September and October London reunions are the day following an excursion organised by Nigel Hyde – so you can make a .mid-week 'weekend' of it!

Wednesday 19 September

A trip to the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**, followed by a look at the Bronte Museum in Haworth . Possibly a pub lunch in Haworth .

The yellow timetable will be in operation, with the first train leaving Keighley (a class 101 Diesel Multiple Unit) at 10h25 or 11h25.

Meet at Keighley Station at 10.00

We have the option of coming back on the same DMU or in the case of the 10.25 departure we would be able to get to Oxenhope at 1045 look round the Exhibition Shed have a coffee at the buffet . Then travel on the 12.00 to Haworth get off there walk to the Main Village and have a meal in one of the pubs before going to the Bronte museum to have a quick look round then back to the Station for the last train at 15.35 to Keighley

The Fares are £11 round trip if you have a HRA Card then it is different .They do not except BR Passes .

If we went for the 11.25 we would then have something to eat at Oxenhope Station then go back to Ingrow where is the Vintage Carriage Trust Museum. Also there is the Bahamas Trust support group Museum as well. To do that it would be £15 basically a Rover . If any members are Volunteers on other Railways then there could be a discount via the agreement the Railways have between themselves

Wednesday 17 October

A return visit to the **Grainstore Brewery at Oakham Station**, with lunch at the Brewery, followed by a look at the Town Museum

Arriving at 11.00 we can go to look round; but we need 10 to pre book .Otherwise we can have a few Beers in there and then have a meal there. Then there is the Town Museum showing the History of Oakham .

Nigel is also researching a visit to the South Yorkshire Air Museum at Doncaster. This will take about 3 hours to look round properly.

ASSOCIATION TIES AND BADGES.

In common with other sections, the British section of the Association has a necktie and a badge. Our particular items are common to both the British and Belgian sections. We have produced the ties and the Belgian section, the badges. I am sorry that we do not have a specific item for ladies.

Ties are available, at £4.50 plus postage, and badges are in stock in small numbers, at £1.50 each, including UK inland postage. These items are available from **Philip Worsfold**. Please contact him first by e-mail or phone to check availability (details at the top of page 2.)

EUROPEAN RAIL TIMETABLE

You may need a magnifying glass to read the smallest print in the European Rail Timetable, now published three-monthly' with a monthly on-line edition, to keep you up to date. It includes the majority of the British internal services as well as principal services throughout Europe. It can be ordered on line from:
<http://www.europeanrailtimetable.eu/european-rail-timetable.html> for delivery by post and purchased over the counter at:

- Oundle News, Oundle Northamptonshire, UK.
- Stanfords, Long Acre London and Corn Street Bristol, UK (www.stanfords.co.uk).
- GVE-Verlag/BahnBuchShop, Bahnhof Berlin-Lichtenberg (www.bahnbuchshop.de).
- Fahrplancenter, Winterthur Switzerland (www.fahrplancenter.com).
- Blackwell's Bookshop, Broad Street Oxford UK.

Philip Worsfold holds a reasonably up to date copy. Most European services can also be accessed on the Deutsche Bahn and other European railways' websites. Be aware that Deutsche Bahn and SNCF French Railways no longer publish printed timetables.

YOUNG BUFFERS ASSOCIATION.

RAILWAY STUDY ASSOCIATION.

We recommend the support of these organisations, membership of which is open to members of AEC. There follows a little more detail about them.:

Young Buffers Association: There is no subscription provided that you have an e-mail address; and no obligation to attend their events. If you would like further details, the Secretary is Larry Fullwood, tel. 01485 541599, e-mail larry.fullwood@virgin.net.

Railway Study Association: The RSA has merged with the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). Subscription rates have changed and no longer include a subscription to 'Modern Railways'. Each annual session of lectures, in London and Birmingham, held on (different) Wednesday evenings, begins in October with the President's Address.

Full details of the changes and details of all activities can be found on the CILT website.

REPTA.

The long standing Railway Employees' and Public Transport Association offers bargain price insurance through AVIVA and concessions and discounts at stores and attractions throughout the country. The 'Yearbook' gives full details, including the invaluable guide to staff travel facilities throughout the world. Membership for individuals costs £5.75 per year including the yearbook; with family membership, including two adults and all children (up to age 18) at £10.25. **These rates are unchanged for 2018.** Our Asst Secretary, Peter Davies is also General Secretary of REPTA. Contact him (see page 2) for details, or visit: www.repta.co.uk.

FEANDC.

FEANDC has similar social aims to AEC; and like AEC has sections in a number of European countries, including some which do not have AEC sections. More details and all other information about FEANDC are available from Peter Davies (address etc on Page 2).

AND FOR THE FUTURE???

We shall endeavour to continue the production of these newsletters. I continue to use the website of the European Commission and also Rail News as sources of news of international interest and thank those members who send me information – especially John Hayward. But I still continue with my plea for more from you. I hope I shall be able to keep my promise of more articles. So please, put pen to paper. We need more than ever to build up a library of articles. Please keep in touch and let us have your information, your views and your ideas. The next issue will be published for 1st December 2018. The copy deadline is:

1st November 2018.

SUMMARY OF DATES

London reunions will continue on the **third** Thursday the month at the **Royal Oak** in Tabard Street nominally from **16h00 onwards** until about 19h00. The dates are

Thursday 20th September

Thursday 18th October.

Thursday 15th November and

Thursday 20th December 2018

2019

Thursday 17th January Film show at the Secretary's home address in Sampford Peverell near Tiverton.(see page 2). Transport will be provided to and from Tiverton Parkway station and lunch will be provided for those who book in advance.

in January as detailed above.

Details of the venue for Third Thursday reunions from February 2019 onwards will be published in the next edition.

Inquiries and bookings relating to visits organised by John Woods should be addressed to John by phone: -

07 380 388 874

Excursions arranged by Nigel Hyde:

Wednesday 19th September

a trip to the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, followed by a look at the Bronte Museum in Haworth . Possibly a pub lunch in Haworth .

Wednesday 17th October

A return visit to Oakham Station Brewery, with lunch at the Brewery, followed by a look at the Town Museum

A.E.C. BRITISH SECTION: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other*..... Surname:.....Initials:.....

Forename:.....

Job Description:.....

Work Location (optional)

ACTIVE / RETIRED *

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

I agree to the use of my postal address / e-mail address / telephone number(s)* by the secretary / treasurer* for the purposes of receiving communications from the association.

I authorise the editor of the newsletter to send it to me by post / e-mail attachment*

Home Postal Address:.....

.....

Town/City:..... Postcode:.....

Telephone:.....

Mobile:.....

(*delete as applicable)

Membership of the A.E.C. costs £10.00 per annum and is open to anyone in the railway industry without qualification. If you speak a foreign language and would like to let us know, it would be helpful to us.

I can speak the following language(s) (state how well, e.g. fluent, fair, a little)

.....

I should like to join the Association Européenne des Cheminots.

Signature.....

Data supplied will be kept on secure computer databases held individually by the secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor as authorised above; and will be used only for the purposes authorised above. No information will be divulged to any person – including other members – without your express permission. A copy of your GDPR declaration will be kept by each of the officers concerned.

Please make cheques/PO's for £10.00 payable to: "Association Européenne des Cheminots"

Send this application to:

Nigel Hyde,

66 Halifax Road,

Brighouse, W. Yorkshire. HD6 2EP

Tel: +44(0)1484 400 646;

Mobile: +44(0)7484 810 735

E-mail: nigel.hyde6@btinternet.com