

THE BOND

November 2004 Volume 9 Issue 9

Dave Taylor is away so this Month's Bond is just around up of interesting item I've picked up from Newsletters., and details of some of the CERSA programmes for the rest of the year. Normal service should be resumed in December 2004. Paul Houghton (Temp Ed)

Extracts from Peter Trevett's Perth – to Sydney Train Journey 2004

I arrived in Perth at Midnight on a Tuesday and had four full days ahead of me before catching the train for Sydney on Sunday morning. The whole of the time I was there the weather was brilliant, a pleasant relief after Hong Kong. My first pleasant surprise was to learn that all the city buses were free, what a splendid idea! The city itself is on the Swan River and the centre is complete with the usual high rise buildings and on the river frontage, away from the centre, parks and river walks.

I took two river trips, the first a wine cruise a very enjoyable and alcoholic day with many happy passengers disembarking in Perth. The second trip was downstream to Freemantle.I found a motor museum and on walking round to my surprise I discovered an example of the car I had bought my wife before our marriage. This was a 1935 MG PA Tickford coupe of which only 35 had been made. The one I bought in 1963 cost me £50 and three years later I sold it for £25. The one in the museum was in mint condition and I suspect would fetch in excess of £20,000.

On Sunday morning I caught the Indian Pacific for Sydney a 68 1/2 hour transcontinental trip, of 4348 km, the longest in Australia with three nights on the train. I traveled in the "Gold Kangaroo" section — first class sleeper There were four stops where passengers could take a short conducted tour. The first on the first evening was at Kalgoorlie. .. famous for having more gold mined there than anywhere else on earth.The next stop where we could get out was at Cook, which is in the middle of the Nullarbor - from the Latin null arbor, the plain without trees — a flat semi desert land covered in scrub with barely a tree. The Nullarbor is not without life and from the train you see the odd Kangaroo and Eagle..., Cook was once a small railway town, but now is very small with a total population of three, who must welcome the four trains a week. After Cook our next stop where we had a tour was Adelaide.Onward to Sydney and our next stop at Broken Hill which is famous for silver, lead and zinc and has the largest slag heap I have ever seen.Onwards from Broken Hill one approaches Sydney through the Blue Mountains..... From the hotel and my room on the 33rd floor I looked down on Sydney Bridge and the breakfast room on the 36th floor looked down on the Opera House. ...my room turned out to be an executive suite and I could avail myself of "free" breakfast and a "free" drink in the evening. I was in Sydney for three days, two nights before catching the night train (yes another train) to Brisbane.

(Peter's (Secretary of Surrey/Hants Cersa) Journey was around the world in 36 days!)

KNELLAR HALL. SUMMER CONCERT. Wednesday 21st July 2004:

Nearly 60 members from Heathrow and London HQ CERSAs made the trip to Kneller Hall on 21 July hoping for a military music concert uninterrupted by the weather. The previous two concerts had been cancelled due to the atrocious summer weather but all who arrived at Kneller Hall enjoyed a concert with a difference on a balmy summer evening.

The concert started with Bach's Toccata in D unusually featuring as a solo item, a duet for two Xylophonists; the theme for this concert was Song and Dance and included two vocalists with tunes from Oklahoma, My Fair Lady and Phantom of the Opera. There was also a trumpet solo from a young musician of the year, Verdi's Nabucco, Champions Theme – a Saxophone solo and the favourite, High on a Hill. There were also two-student bandmasters marches, the Hammersmith Morris Men and a Ceilidh group from the Highland Band of the Scottish Division who played a Celtic Collection. The finale was Orpheus in the Underworld accompanied by the usual extravaganza of fireworks which thankfully were a little quieter this year

Ed: Our thanks once again to Stuart Stredwick for a very memorable evening. Members from other CERSAs joined us. (*Extract from Ernest Grayson's Heathrow Newsletter.*)

A Selection of Cersa Programmes.

Dorset (Contact:- Les Ashplant 01202 849827 lesashplant@ntlworld.com)

Monday 8th November The Scott Arms @ Kingston. Walk followed by lunch.

Wednesday 10th November Annual Quiz followed by buffet @ Hinton Firs Hotel.

Tuesday 7th December Christmas Lunch @ Hinton Firs Hotel.

Monday 13th December Fox and Hounds @ Little Canford. Walk followed by lunch.

East Midlands (Contact...Alex Walker at _walker@hotmail.com Tel:- 01522 595157)

November - Xmas Lunch – Tuesday 23rd November – Palm Court Restaurant, Allestree

Menu now in circulation

December- Collector's Nibbles

January 2005 – AGM Monday 17th January

Liverpool (Contact Mrs Margaret Clark. Tel:- 01704 874424 E-mail:- margaret@ravenmeols.fsnet.co.uk)

30th November Annual Xmas Buffet Queen's Dock

Leeds

4th November Walk with Anne & Dave Watson ..Leeds Liverpool Canal.

11th November Theatre visit The Grand Leeds. "The Play what I wrote".

10th December The Annual FREE Christmas Buffet at Bramhope.

17th December The Lord Mayor's Carol Concert at St Anne's Cathedral Leeds 7pm

19th Theatre Visit The Grand Leeds for "Peter Pan".

London (Contact Barry Atkinson Tel:- 020 8349 1849 e-mail:- atko@globalnet.co.uk)

Bruges 2005 Roy Thompson is seeking indications of interest in a 3-day trip in late April/early May 2005. Travel by car or Eurostar. Recommended hotel 15 mins walk from centre. B&B from 95-120 Euro per room per night. Several extras (e.g. free parking). Contact Roy for more details on 01892 535954 or roy.thompson@ukgateway.uk.net

CEMARS (Contact Norman Aspey Telephone 01257 267798)

WHEN: Thursday 9th December 2004

WHERE: Eaves Hall Country Club .

WHAT'S ON: Christmas Lunch. Hopefully we will have the menu available in time for the AGM in October . APPROXIMATE COST: £ 17.95 a head, coffee extra . DIRECTIONS: M6 to junction 31 then A59 towards Skipton . Follow A59 to sign for Clitheroe North, turn left follow road through village of West Bradford, turn left at T junction , proceed uphill for 1/4 mile, sign for Eaves Hall on right, turn and follow road for a few hundred yards, Eaves Hall is on the left .
REPLY SLIP. Christmas Lunch. To. Duncan Lowe ,63 Walter Scott Avenue. Wigan .WN12RH. (Tel. 01942246699.)

REPLY REQUIRED BY; 9th November 2004.

WHEN: Wednesday 2nd March 2005

WHERE: Library Theatre, Manchester

WHAT'S ON: (1) Meet at 12.15 at the theatre for a 'behind the stage tour' (2) Lunch at Theatre (3) See play "Real Thing" by Tom Stoppard COST: £10 including theatre ticket (but not lunch)
DIRECTIONS: Library Theatre is in St Peter's Square, Manchester. It is part of Manchester's Library-

REPLY TO: Peter Elliott, 138 Church Lane, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7LA (Tel: 0161 4276012)

NERO (Contact Dan Inglis Tel:-0191 2611105)

Christmas Lunch Tuesday 14th December. Book by 24th September to Mr E Mcmillan 14 Crofts Avenue Corbridge NE45 5LY (Tel 01434 632453) Cost £16.00 per person

Coffee Mornings. Usually FIRST THURSDAY of March June September December. Next one 4th November 2004@ Yates Wine Lodge Grainger Street Nctle-on-Tyne.

Pub Lunches. Are being considered

Walks. On the last Wednesday of each month except December. Classed as "EASY" of about 7/8 miles. Contact Alan Storey,29 Wellridge Close, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 9PN 01912535748

Surrey/Hants (Contact Peter Trevett, Secretary: p.trevett@btinternet.com Tel 01483 233027)

Wednesday 10th November a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace. Fishbourne Roman Palace was discovered by accident during the digging of a water main trench in 1960. The discovery led to nine seasons of excavations that showed the site had developed from a military base at the time of the Roman invasion in AD43 to a sumptuous Palace by the end of the first century. Over the last five years, new excavations by the Sussex Archaeological Society have revealed exciting new insights into this development.This story is told in an entertaining audio-visual programme and also in the site museum, with the addition of fascinating artefacts from the excavations along with plans, reconstruction drawings and models. The remains of the North Wing of the Palace are enclosed within a cover building for their protection and for the comfort of the visitors. Here can be seen the largest collection of in-situ mosaics in Britain including the famous Cupid on a Dolphin mosaic. Outside, the northern half of the formal garden has been replanted to it's original plan as recovered by excavation. An attractive plant display area contains a range of plants known to have been cultivated by the Romans. Adjacent to it is a Roman Garden Museum which includes a reconstructed Roman potting shed with a selection of horticultural tools. It is suggested that we all meet in the restaurant at 10.30 after having paid our £4.50 admission. After the Museum we go on to the Bulls Head, Fishbourne Road West for a Pub Lunch at about 1 o'clock.

Wednesday 15th December a visit to the Surrey History Museum, Goldsworthy Road, Woking - "The Surrey History Service collects and preserves archives and printed material relating to all aspects of the history of Surrey, and makes them available for reference. We can help you learn

about famous Surrey people, buildings, businesses and organisations; , street, town or community; or research a school or university project. "We are based at the Surrey History Centre at Woking, where you can consult original documents which date from the 12th century to the present day and refer to our collections of printed books, local newspapers, directories, maps, ephemera and illustrations. It is suggested we meet at Safeway's for coffee at 10.00 and then walk up to the Museum. After our visit to the Museum we then propose to drive to the Royal Oak, Aldershot Road, Pirbright for lunch at about 1.00.

Wednesday 19th January lunch at the Refectory, Milford, 12.30 for 1.00.

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Liverpool have regular monthly walks ...with sparkling weather: Contacts vary so ask Margaret Clark see page 2

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Extracts from a recent SOUTHEND CERSA NEWSLETTER (Contact Daphne Amos-Pugh Tel:- 01702 711492 E-mail:- nick.pugh2@btopenworld.com)

Year 2003 Social Activities

In June we went by coach to Saffron Walden, and enjoyed a picturesque ride through North Essex villages with a guide who showed us some interesting ancient churches.

In July we went by coach to Tiptree Conserves Factory where because of hygiene rules they dressed us up from head to tail (white wellies to moustache covers and hats) until no-one was recognisable. They were making mostly marmalade, as jam was made earlier , they were also preparing their Xmas puddings. We all came out with lovely jars of jam from the shop, no one could resist!

In September we had a very interesting visit to the Queen Mother's home of Clarence House, now the home of Prince Charles. A beautiful home!

Year 2004 Social Activities

A visit in March to the London Museum in the Docklands proved most interesting, with the history of the use of the river Thames for trade and commerce from Roman times through to W. W .2 and the subsequent decline of sea traffic. This museum is set right in the heart of the skyscrapers that are now Docklands and we enjoyed lunch at the Cat & the Fiddle Pub.

In May we visited Chartwell House, Kent. This was the home of Winston and Lady Churchill before the war and showed how they lived during that period. Beautiful gardens and house showing many of his paintings.

In June we visited the RHS gardens at Wisley. It was such a lovely time of year to go, sweet peas in abundance, delphinillffis so tall and majestic, roses in their prime and lots of trial gardens showing results.

In August we had a coach trip to St Albans for market day and to visit the Cathedral and Roman Museum.

In Sept.: 10 pin bowling at the Kursaal followed by lunch (TBA). 10.30 start.

In Oct: The Waverley Paddlesteamer

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AYR Nineteen members and friends of Ayr CERSA took a trip on Dodds coach to the Falkirk Wheel on Thursday 26th August. We were joined by members of the general public, including two French speaking ladies, who did remarkably well considering the driver spoke with a strong Glasgow accent. It took an hour to collect everybody from various locations. The weather was overcast but this did not dampen our high spirits. To explain why we decided to visit the Falkirk Wheel, this is a small extract from the leaflet; " The project called The Millennium Link , offers not only a direct waterway route between Edinburgh and Glasgow, but also a coast to coast connection linking the rivers Forth and Clyde. The Forth & Clyde Canal and the Union Canal are connected by the Falkirk Wheel.

As the vast 1800 tonne Wheel turns, water and boats-contained in its two large gondolas-are transferred between an aqueduct linked to the upper Union Canal and a basin feeding to the adjacent Forth & Clyde Canal, 25 metres below." The visit to the Wheel lasted approx. two hours thirty and the consensus was that it was an exciting example of engineering and had been an extremely interesting experience. We spent another one hour and thirty minutes at Stirling before our return journey home. While in Stirling some decided to eat whilst others shopped.. A yr CERSA appreciated the financial support for the retired members of the Customs & Excise Sports Club. This was the first outing by Ayr CERSA in a long time.

Transfers. Ayr Cersa wish to express their good wishes to Jim and Pat Wiseman who bought a house in Morpeth to be closer to their grandchildren. Jim worked at Prestwick Airport as a Chief Preventive Officer before retiring in 1989. Ayr's loss is NERO's gain.

Retired Members Branch of C&E Social Club

Chairman :- Alan Hollingsworth 10 Heather Rise, Beeston, Nottingham. NG9 3AG
Tel:- 0115 925614 E-mail:-alanholli@ic24.net

Secretary:- Paul Houghton
1 Lawn Avenue, Derby. DE22 2PE
Tel:- 01332 552293 E-mail:-paul@focersa.org.uk

Treasurer:- Peter Caswell
Ash Cottage, Brick Spring Lane, Gt Totham, Maldon. CM9 8DN
Tel:-01621 892832 E-mail:-p.caswell@rya-online.net

Federation Of Retired C&E Staff Associations

Chairman :- Vacant

Secretary:- Paul Houghton
1 Lawn Avenue, Derby. DE22 2PE
Tel:- 01332 552293 E-mail:-paul@focersa.org.uk

Treasurer:-
Tony Cross-Rudkin
25 Bertram Drive, North Meols, M'side CH47 0LN
Tel:-0151 632 5612