



British Section

Newsletter

Vol.12 No.2

Winter 2007/8

European Association of Railway Personnel

International Association (A.R. 28.12.2005)

**International Non-governmental Organisation with permanent advisory
status to the Council of Europe**

**European World Association with a consultative relationship with the
UN (decision E/ 2002/222/) and member of ECOSOC**

**A.E.C. BRITISH SECTION NEWSLETTER, Vol. 12 No. 2
WINTER 2007/8**

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy
Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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**A separate membership application form
is enclosed.**

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

AEC France is at www.aecfrance.eu/)

AEC Italy is at www.aecitalia.org

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

AEC Spain is at www.aec-es.org

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

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

AEC in Romania is at www.aecaferom.xhost.ro

The **British Section Website** is at <http://www.aec-europe.org.uk>. You can also find the British Section Newsletter on line at the French and European websites by clicking on to the labelled link, and also at the ASLEF District 5 website at <http://www.aslef-dc5.org.uk/Members/europa.htm>

Editorial: A note from the President.

The proposed visit to St Pancras International as a group proved to be a washout. Firstly the proposed social event was cancelled by Eurostar to ensure that the facilities would be ready for opening on 14th November, and then, as a group, we were asked to assemble at an hour which proved impossible for many members. Individual invitations were issued to members with e-mail addresses – in English only – meaning that a number of non-English speaking friends from Europe were excluded. In the end, a few members did take part in the tests on an individual basis or in small groups. Since the tests, some of us, including your editor, have experienced St Pancras International for real. Some of you may have seen recent television programmes on the building of the High Speed line and the International station, which were hardly complimentary. Comments in a recent 'Evening Standard' (London's evening newspaper) indicate that there is still a lot to finish and that London and Continental Railways will need to move fast to maintain the goodwill engendered by the opening events. They – and Transport for London – might also like to consider some of the suggestions our members have made. Briefly, for the long distance traveller from the provinces, with luggage, connections into St Pancras are poor (except for Midland Mainline starting points). No improvements have been made to ease the journey on the Underground – particularly on sub-surface lines like the Circle line, which remains the least reliable and least user-friendly of all the Underground services. Despite the massive investment at Kings Cross-St Pancras Underground station, the access to St Pancras International is barely adequate, and if one lift fails – assuming they can find it – impossible for the disabled. Inside the International terminal, the inconveniences of Waterloo (compared with Brussels and Paris), have not been addressed. The high (even higher?) lifting required to get your luggage onto the conveyor belt of the X-ray machine contrasts greatly with the simple tipping required to achieve the same result in Brussels or Paris. The available space for passengers entering and leaving this area is greater at St Pancras but one must ask if it is great enough for comfort and the avoidance of panic in crowded conditions. Once past this hurdle, the waiting facilities are inadequate. In crowded conditions some of the sparse seating could prove hazardous. One of those who could not make the test was Linda Travis from America. Fortunately she was able to postpone her trip and your President and Hon. President had the pleasure of meeting her later in November, of which there is more inside this issue. You will find with this issue, details about REPTA and the opportunity to become a member or renew your membership for 2008. AEC has an advertisement in the 2008 REPTA Handbook.

Philip Worsfold and the production team.

Recruitment

Bright ideas should be discussed with Bob Clark. Enquiries about membership should be addressed to **Bill Andrews**. Their addresses and phone numbers are given below.

There is a separate membership application form with this edition of the newsletter. Please use it if you are able to recruit a new member. Recruit seven members and get your next year's subscription free!

COMMITTEE

The committee is as follows:

Honorary President:

Theo Steel (Retiring Project Director ONE Railway)

Past Honorary President:

Malcolm Southgate OBE (formerly Deputy Director, Eurostar)

Honorary Vice-president:

Colin Charman, MCIT, Eurostar (UK) Ltd,

President:

Philip Worsfold, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E.

Vice-president:

Patrick Rigby,

Secretary:

Gerry Atkin M.I.L.T.

Assistant Secretary:

Peter Davies.

Visits Secretary (Co-opted):

At the Annual general meeting, this post was left vacant on a temporary basis.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary:

Bill Andrews.

Recruitment Secretary:

Bob Clark.

Auditor:

Mike Hill

PEOPLE

Linda Travis (Continued)

Linda finally made it to London on Saturday 17th November and I met her at Paddington Station at about 10h30. We drank coffee and chatted about the exciting St Pancras International project and the details she was seeking for the paper she is writing. Suitably rested but with Linda a bit jet lagged, I accompanied her to her hotel before going for lunch in a pub in Camden. More discussions on wide ranging subjects and it was getting dark before we emerged from the warm atmosphere into the damp drizzle. Nonetheless we walked back to the hotel because Linda was fascinated by the architecture and atmosphere of 'Village London'. We parted company and I returned to Devon. We would meet again the following Monday. On 19th November I arrived at St Pancras early to do a bit of reconnaissance before meeting up with Linda and Theo Steel. Linda was early too and had also had a look round the previous evening, so we had a coffee and chatted while we waited for our rendezvous with Theo Steel at 14h00. We met him and had a good look round. What we saw was very impressive. We also visited the exhibition at the 'German Gym', which put the whole project into perspective, including the proposed development of the 'Kings Cross' lands. We celebrated our visit in the Champagne bar before going our individual ways. By the way, if you are thinking of enjoying the champagne experience, be warned that it does not come cheap! We achieved two thirds of what we had hoped. Unfortunately diary clashes and the strikes in France prevented our European President from joining us in London. But Linda found the visit well worthwhile and is hoping to get to European Days in Lyon, next August.

Philip Worsfold.

Chloe Annabel Cheesebrough

...was born on 15th September 2007. Congratulations to Zena and Phil on the birth of their daughter, and to Chloe for choosing such wonderful parents. She weighed in at 6lb 5 oz.

TRAVEL NEWS

Rail Europe is moving with effect from 1st January 2008 from Piccadilly to No.1 Regent St, London SW1Y 1NR

(The Postcode shown is the general code for this address; this could become a specific one for Rail Europe, once the move has taken place.)

From 11th November, former Virgin Cross Country services and Central Trains East-West services have been taken over by Arriva Group's 'Cross Country Trains'. New pocket timetables have been published for the period up to 9th December, after which the Winter timetable commences.

EUROPEAN DAYS and OTHER EUROPEAN EVENTS

The current position is as follows:

25 th – 31 st May 2008	European Days in Antwerp, Belgium.
Autumn 2008	European Days and Congress in Lyon, France.
24 th – 30 th May 2009	European Days in Lüneburg, Germany
20 th – 29 th Sept 2009	European Days in York, England.
Spring 2010	European Days in Santiago di Compostella, Spain.
Autumn 2010	European Days in Poland

Forthcoming events in the German Programmes are;

10.11.2007 RV Frankfurt: Martinsgans-Essen
14.11.2007 RV Rostock: Vortrag "Gesunde Ernährung"
16.11.2007 RV Rostock: Theaterbesuch
01.12.2007 RV Frankfurt: Weihnachtsfeier
02.12.2007 RV Wittenberge: Adventskaffee "Am Hafen"
02-03.12.07 RV Hagen: Fahrt zum Weihnachtsmarkt in Eisenach
07.12.2007 QV Berlin: Weihnachtsfeier
08.12.2007 RV Hamburg: "Adventsklönnschnack"
12.12.2007 RV Rostock: Weihnachtsfeier
15.12.2007 RV Buchholz: "Julfest"

EUROPÄISCHE TREFFEN

25.05.- 31.05.2008 Europ. Tage in Antwerpen, Belgien
18.08.- 23.08.2008 Europ. Tage und Hauptversammlung
in Lyon, Frankreich
24.05.- 30.05.2009 Europ. Tage in Lüneburg, Deutschland
Sept/Okt. 2009 Europ. Tage in York, Großbritannien
Frühjahr 2010 Europ. Tage in Santiago de Compostella,
Spanien

EUROPEAN DAYS IN YORK, 20th – 26th SEPTEMBER 2009

Hotel: Ramada Encore Hotel, York

Your Hotel is very centrally situated, a short walk from the railway station. Perhaps after arrival, if time permits, a walk to the famous "Shambles" or a visit to York Minster. Discount tickets will be available on the day from AEC UK for a sightseeing bus with commentary around York at £7 each.

Sunday 20th September 2009

Arrival of some delegates (Executive Committee) at Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Executive Committee Meeting in the Conference room at the Ramada Encore Hotel.

Monday 21st September 2009

Continental Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Other delegates arriving by rail or air.

Opening Ceremony at Priory Centre 16.30 hrs

Evening Meal at local Italian Restaurant. (Possible Two Sittings) (one drink included)

Tuesday 22nd September 2009

Continental Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Whitby and the local Countryside to include a Fish & Chips lunch with a cup of tea.
Evening Meal at Russells Carvery with one drink per person.

Wednesday 23rd September 2009

Continental Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

We visit Castle Howard with a 2 course buffet lunch (water on the tables)
Medieval Banquet Evening Meal and Entertainment.

Thursday 24th September 2009

Continental Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

A trip on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway from Grosmont to Pickering.

We will be having a traditional English Ploughman's lunch and a Pint of beer at local Hotel

Evening Meal will be at Russells Carvery with one drink per person

Friday 25th September 2009

Continental Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

We have the morning free for shopping.

Bettys, is your destination for lunch time (you will have a £10 voucher)

Early afternoon we visit the famous **Jorvik Centre**

Tonight we have the **Lord Mayors Reception in the Great Hall of the National Railway Museum, York**, followed by our **Gala Dinner** in the NRM, including the closing ceremony followed by music for dancing.

Saturday 26th September 2009

After a Continental Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel it's Homeward Bound.

NOTE EXTRA DAYS MAY BE ADDED SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT £80 DOUBLE/TWIN & £70 SINGLE PROVIDED REQUESTED ON INITIAL BOOKING FORM.

- THIS PROGRAMME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE -

Special dietary requirements will be accommodated wherever possible.

Due to restraints on accommodation, the total number of delegates is limited to a maximum of 140 persons, including members of the executive committee. It may become necessary to limit the size of individual national delegations.

EUROPEAN DAYS IN BELGIUM - 25th to 31st MAY 2008
ANTWERP, BRUSSELS, LEUVEN, MECHELEN (BRUGES optional)

Sunday 25th May 2008:

Arrival of the Members of the Executive Council in Antwerp.

15.00 Meeting of the Executive Council

19.00 Dinner

Monday 26th May 2008:

Arrival of other participants in Antwerp

For the Executive Council:

07.30 Breakfast

09.00 Continuation of the Executive Council meeting

- 12.00 Departure by 'bus of the Executive Council to Brussels
- 13.00 Lunch in the European Parliament restaurant
- 14.30 Visit of the Executive Council to the European Parliament
- 16.30 Return to hotel
- 19.00 Official opening of the Belgium European Days May 2008
Dinner followed by Folk dancing

Tuesday 27th May 2008:

IN THE CITY OF ANTWERP - the HARBOUR

- 08.00 Breakfast
- 09.00 Tour of Antwerp harbour by 'bus
- 13.00 Boat excursion on the Scheldt with lunch on board
- 18.00 Return to hotel
- 19.00 Dinner followed by a Musical evening

Wednesday 28th May 2008:

VISIT TO LEUVEN (University) and the Arch-diocese of MECHELEN

- 07.30 Breakfast
- 08.45 Departure to LEUVEN
- 10.00 Walk in the centre city
- 11.00 Tour of Leuven by 'bus
- 12.00 Lunch in Leuven at the 'Waaiberg' restaurant
- 14.00 Reception in Leuven Town hall
- 15.30 Departure to MECHELEN
- 16.30 Visit to the brewery "Het Anker" (The Anchor)
Beer tasting – Walk in the centre city
- 19.00 Dinner in Mechelen at 'The Atrium' restaurant'
- 21.00 Return to Antwerp

Thursday 29th May 2008: Visit to BRUSSELS Capital of Belgium and Europe

- 07.45 Breakfast
- 08.45 Departure to BRUSSELS
- 10.00 Visit of the Heysel site + Atomium
- 12.00 Walk in the centre city
- 13.15 Lunch at the 'Manneken' restaurant
- 16.00 Reception in Brussels Town Hall
- 18.00 Departure by 'bus to GRIMBERGEN
- 19.00 Dinner at the 'Fenikshof' restaurant Grimbergen
- 21.00 Return to Antwerp

Friday 30th May 2008 : ANTWERP City

- 08.00 Breakfast
- 09.00 Free morning
- 10.00 Optional visit to 'Diamond' Land
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.30 Visit to St. Paul's Church (more than 50 paintings by
famous Antwerp masters such as Rubens, Van Dyck
and Jordaens
– over 200 sculptures, and splendid baroque altars)
- 16.00 Reception in Antwerp Town Hall
- 19.30 Official closing of the Belgium European Days May 2008
Dinner

Saturday 31th May 2008 : END

07.00 Breakfast
Departure of all the participants

OPTIONAL

Saturday 31th May 2008 : BRUGES 'The Venice of The North'

07.00 Breakfast
08.00 Departure to BRUGES by 'bus
10.00 Arrival in Bruges
Walk along the Rijen - Minnewater canals, Beguinage
(Community houses for a sisterhood of women not bound by vows, first
established in Holland by Lambert le Bègue in the late 12th Century) and
Lace making centre
13.00 Departure to MALDEGEM by 'bus
13.30 Lunch
15.00 Visit to the Maldegem Steam train museum and ride on the Steam train'
17.00 Return to Antwerp
19.00 Dinner

Sunday 1st June 2008

07.00 Breakfast
08.00 Departure of all the participants

THIS PROGRAMME MAY CHANGE

TO TAKE PART IN EUROPEAN DAYS IN BELGIUM

- The price for the days from dinner 26th May to after breakfast 31st May 2008:
€530(per person sharing double room)
- Supplement for additional day: **€75**
- Supplement for single room per night: **€20**

- **Members of the Executive Committee:**
- The price for the days from dinner 25th May to after breakfast on 31st May 2008,
plus 'bus to the European Parliament:
€630(per person sharing double room)
- The price for the days from dinner 25th May to after breakfast on 27th May 2008:
€150(per person sharing double room)

- Optional outing to Bruges and Maldegem on 31st May 2008:
€125

The price includes:

- All meals with one drink
- All outings with guide
- Hotel accommodation (all rooms have bath/shower and toilet)
- The official opening and closing evenings with music

Registration for the days and deposit to be paid on or before 15th January 2008
The deposit is €250 per person

The balance of €280 to be paid at the latest on or before **15th MARCH 2008**.

We would like each section to send a list of their participants with the following information:

- Surname, first name and address
- Single or double room
- Date and time of arrival
- Date and time of departure

Booking through the British section:

Bookings can be arranged through the British section, as for previous European Days. To be included, you should send a **deposit of £200** per person to Philip Worsfold by **Friday 28th December 2007 at the very latest. Cheques should be made payable to Philip Worsfold.** The deposit includes an allowance for bank transfer costs. Any excess will be credited towards the final payment.

The event is arranged by the Belgian section of AEC, which is the responsible organiser. Payment through the British section is offered purely to minimise the cost of money transfer. It is not acting as a travel agency and does not make travel arrangements. Neither the British section of AEC, nor any individual officer thereof can accept responsibility for any problems arising. You will be responsible personally for your payments and for any losses that may be incurred. You are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover.

If you wish to book individually, registration and deposit should be sent on or before 15th JANUARY 2008 to:

ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES CHEMINOTS - Afdeling België
Josée WILLEMS
Kardinaal Mercierlaan 33/31
B-3001 HEVERLE
Email: josee1.willems@skynet.be + FAX + 32 16 22 94 98

Payments to be made to:

FORTIS BANK, 1950 – KRAAINEM – Belgique
ASS EUROPEENNE DES CHEMINOTS, SECTION BELGE

NB: All necessary costs will be added for any cancellations after 10th April 2008

PROGRAMME for

EUROPEAN DAYS, 2008 in LYON

The French section is organising European days in Lyon and surrounding area in 2008, **from Sunday 17 August to Saturday 23 August 2008.**

The accommodation is to be in a two star hotel (French standards) situated in the centre of Lyon, 400 metres from the railway station and 150 metres from a tram stop.

This situation gives simple access from both the Lyon-Part-Dieu-TGV station and from Lyon-Perrache station.

From the hotel it is simple to reach the tourist centres (Gallo-romaine, medieval, renaissance or classic) on pedestrianised streets or by public transport (metro, bus, funiculars).

The stay will allow you to discover Lyon and the Rhône-Alpes region.

We expect the members of the Administrative Council on Sunday 16 August and the participants to the European Days on Monday 17 August.

Sunday 17 August Arrival of members of the Administrative Council
by train to Lyon-Perrache station.
Check into hotel and dinner.

Monday 18 August Arrival of participants to the European days
Welcome at Lyon-Perrache station
9h00-12h00 Administrative Council
12h30 lunch
14h 30-19h00 General Assembly
19h30 Opening of European Days, welcome at hotel Kyriad
20h30 Dinner at hotel Kyriad

Tuesday 19 August **DISCOVERING LYON**
7h30 to 8h30 breakfast
9h00 discover Lyon (on foot and by public transport)
12h45 meal at hotel Kyriad
14h30 visit to Fourvière (Gallo-romaine site, Byzantine basilica
and view of the town)
19h30 dinner at hotel Kyriad

Wednesday 20 August **THE RHONE VALLEY AND THE STEAM TRAIN**
7h30-8h15 breakfast
8h45 depart by bus for Tournon
10h00 depart by steam train to Lamastre (33 Km in narrow
gauge train – the carriages and engines are classed as historic
monuments)
12h30 lunch at Lamastre
15h00 depart from Lamastre to Tournon
17h00 return by bus to Lyon following the Rhône valley
19h30 dinner at hotel Kyriad
bus round trip 140 km

Thursday 21 August **MEDIEVAL VILLAGE AND THE BEAUJOLAIS**
7h00 to 9h00 breakfast
9h00 depart by bus
10h00 visit to the wine museum
12h30 lunch at Romanèche-Thorins
16h00 visit to the medieval village of Oingt
18h00 return to Lyon via the Beaujolais
19h30 dinner at hotel Kyriad
bus round trip 100 km

Friday 22 August **VISIT AROUND LYON BY COACH**
7h30 to 8h30 breakfast

9h30 Visit around Lyon
12h30 lunch at hotel Kyriad

Afternoon free

19h30 gala evening

Saturday 23 August DEPARTURE

7h00 to 9h30 breakfast
Depart from Lyon-Perrache station

The Programme is liable to modification

COST OF EVENT

**From dinner on Monday 18.08.2008 to Saturday 23.08.2008 after breakfast
590Euros**

This price includes:

Transfers from station to hotel-station-hotel.
Accommodation (twin, double or single).
Full pension.
Guided visits
All rooms are air conditioned, with shower and w.c.

Special conditions

Arrival on Sunday 17.08.2008 supplement per person of: **75 €**
Extension of stay per day per person: **75 €**
Single room supplement: per night and per person: **21 €**

A few 3 bedded rooms are available ; small reduction of price: **10 €**

Transfer from the airport is at the cost of participants

For groups wishing to use a coach, please consult the organisers.

Insurance to cover repatriation is not included in the cost of the event

DEPOSIT: **285€ to pay before 15.03.2008**
BALANCE: **to pay before 15.07.2008**

CANCELLATION:

Cancellations **after 15 May 2008** will involve the forfeiture of: **50 €**

BOOKINGS:

Bookings accompanied by the deposit, by cheque or bankers order (virement - Relay) are to be sent to:

Claudius RIVEL 11, Impasse de la Tarentaise 69300 CALUIRE (France)
Tel : 00 33 (0) 4 78 29 13 15
E-mail : Rivelclaudius@aol.com

They must arrive by **15 March 2008** at the latest and mention:

- family names, first name and address.
- type of room required (double, single or twin)
- date and time of arrival.
- date and time of departure.

Attention :

The number of places offered is limited to 240

Reservations will be closed when this number is reached.

PAYMENT :

by bank draft (virement, Relay etc) addressed to:

Name of account: A.E.C. Journées Européennes LYON 2008

Bank: La banque postale centre de Lyon 69900 Lyon Cedex 20

IBAN: FR 16 20041 01007 1544979Y038 82

SWIFT (BIC): PSSTFRPLYO

Contacts :

Jacques MATTER -Tel. 0033 (0)4 67 81 14 14

E-Mail : jack.matter@cegetel.net

Max PONTET -Tel. 00 33 (0) 4 66 29 69 10

**EUROPEAN DAYS IN BURGENLAND, AUSTRIA, SEPTEMBER 2007.
A REPORT**

Six members from the UK enjoyed European Days in this far south-eastern corner of Austria. The delightful small town of Eisenstadt is close to both the Hungarian and Slovak borders and was for many years home to the composer Josef Haydn, whose mausoleum can be visited there.

We were met by members of the Austrian committee at the West railway station in Vienna and bussed to Eisenstadt where we joined the other European members staying in several hotels throughout the town and were made very welcome everywhere.

On Monday, while the committee members were closeted indoors, the rest of us were free to explore the town or take advantage of a guided tour (only in German but very interesting notwithstanding the 50% I didn't get). In the evening we had the Opening Dinner and official Welcome, complete with the national anthems (extracts) of all participating countries, ending with the European anthem!

Tuesday was the day they proved to us that Austria can do rain as well as the British. After visiting the Vorau Monastery and Schlaining Castle, we enjoyed a wonderful medieval lunch in Lockenhaus Castle. (A lot of very non-medieval umbrellas in evidence.) Then we moved on to Pottelsdorf for a wine-tasting and refreshments. Even the heartiest appetites failed to do justice to the latter, following our very substantial lunch.

Wednesday was our day in Vienna when we visited the gardens of Schönbrunn and Belvedere Castles, did a city tour in the bus and had a ride on the Lilliput Railway in the Prater, all before lunch. The afternoon was free time for cultural activities (like visiting Stephansdom) or less cultural activities (like research for a thesis on the Viennese Coffee Houses). After evening dinner in the Prater we used our tickets for the famous Vienna Ferris Wheel. Not quite so elegant as the London Eye but wonderful to go up there as it got dark and the lights all came on below us.

Thursday was our mountain climbing day. No trekking poles or ice-axe necessary, as we went up the Schneeberg on the "Salamander Line" rack railway. Only those of us with excess energy climbed the last few metres to the summit. Lunch was in an enormous hunting lodge at the top, whence marvellous views could be had. We then travelled to Morbisch where evening dinner was served on board several boats on the Neusiedlersee. A short cruise on the lake in the moonlight, with on-board entertainment, helped to make this a very memorable day.

Friday we returned to Morbisch and embarked on several boats for a much longer crossing of this huge lake – and this time we could see where we were going in daylight. We disembarked in the Lange Lacke National Park and drove through the

Nature Reserve in large horse-drawn coaches, before continuing by coach to our lunch venues. On the way back to Eisenstadt we stopped at the Loretto Chapel, a place of pilgrimage, where those who wished could take part in a short act of devotion.

Finally, European Days closed with the customary Gala dinner and dancing (the conga a speciality) and we had to say "goodbye" to all our friends until next time. Special thanks are due to the Austrian section for organising everything so well, especially with a larger than usual number of participants.

Jenny Worsfold

RECENT EVENTS...

We have continued to meet at the 'Lord Moon of the Mall' once a month but have enjoyed only one 'Last Wednesday' visit, hastily arranged, to Southend, via Grays on 28th November. Unfortunately the pier railway was closed for maintenance. On Friday 19th October, a group of us intended to meet up with Mike Atkin, who has been unwell for some time. Sadly there was a mix up over the meeting point and we didn't manage to see him, but Patrick Rigby kindly volunteered to go to his house, where they spent a short time together. We intend to go again early in the New Year, on a date convenient to Mike. Please let John Woods know if you wish to join us – see below.

... AND THINGS TO COME

- Reunions in London continue to take place at the '**Lord Moon of the Mall**' on the **second Thursday of each month**, so the dates from now on are, **13th December 2007, 10th January, 14th February and 13th March** (2008 is a leap year) **and 10th April 2008**. On Thursday 13th December, we intend to meet at 12h30 to 13h00 at the Champagne Bar at St. Pancras International, prior to our usual Reunion. And on Thursday 10th January we shall meet from 12h00 onwards at the Royal Oak, 44 Tabard Street for a bar lunch and "films" (John Batts has offered a programme) - until 15h30 when we shall move on to the 'Lord Moon of the Mall'. **Please remember that, generally, the last Wednesday of the month is earmarked for possible lunchtime talks and visits. Forthcoming 'last Wednesday' dates are 30th January, 27th February, 26th March and 30th April 2008.** There will be no December 2007 visit during the Christmas break. And of course we hope to see Mike Atkin as mentioned above. Further details are available from John Woods by e-mail to jauwoods@googlemail.com.

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 now available, at £4.50 plus postage, and badges are again in stock in small numbers, at £1.50 each, including postage. These items are available from **the President, Philip Worsfold**. Please contact him first by e-mail to check availability.

GREAT BRITAIN ALL LINE TIMETABLE THOMAS COOK EUROPEAN TIMETABLE

John Woods holds a copy of the last official Great Britain All Line Timetable, which will become a historic document on 10th December, when the new winter timetable starts. Details are now available on line, and on CD-Rom (Platform 5 Publications, Sheffield). An all-line timetable will be produced by Middleton Press, price about £7 or £8. Train operators produce their own pocket timetables. Remember that cross country services are now operated by Cross Country Trains amongst other franchise reallocations.

Philip Worsfold has a recent Cooks European Rail and Shipping Services timetable, publication of which is set to continue. This timetable also contains the majority of British services in a succinct, abbreviated form.

AND FOR THE FUTURE?

We shall endeavour to continue the production of these three-monthly newsletters to get information to you. They will still be mostly information with just the occasional article. So please, put pen to paper. We need to build up a library of articles. Please keep in touch and let us have your information, your views and your ideas. Next copy deadline is **16th February 2008**.

DATES FOR LONDON MEETINGS – SURVEY

We have had only a small response to our survey, with all but one happy with the existing arrangements; but there are a lot more of you out there, so please give the matter some thought and let us know what you want. Maybe we also need to change the format to encourage you away from your TV or computer screen!

SUMMARY OF DATES

London Reunions on the second Thursday of the month at the “Lord Moon of the Mall”, Whitehall, London:

13th December 2007 (with 12h30 visit to Champagne Bar at St Pancras to start the day’s festivities)

10th January 2008 (with lunch and films at ‘Royal Oak’, Tabard Street from 12h00 before the usual reunion at the ‘Lord Moon of the Mall’).

14th February 2008.

13th March 2008.

10th April 2008.

8th May 2008.

etc.

Dates reserved for talks or visits on the last Wednesday of the month:
(No Wednesday meeting in December 2007)

30th January 2008.

27th February 2008.

26th March 2008.

30th April 2008.

28th May 2008.

etc.

A.E.C. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Forename:.....

Job Description:.....

Work Address:.....

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

Internal Phone:..... Fax:.....

External Phone:..... Fax:.....

Micromail Box No:..... E-mail Address:.....

ACTIVE / RETIRED *

Home Address:.....

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

Telephone:..... Include in Directory?: YES/NO *

Mobile:..... Include in Directory?: YES/NO *
(*delete as applicable)

Membership of the A.E.C. costs only £5.00 per annum and is open to anyone in the railway industry without qualification. However, if you would like to complete the following statement, please do so. It would be helpful for us to know.

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 a computer database. Home, **where authorised above** and Work telephone and Fax numbers and electronic mail addresses can be divulged to other members **only**.

Please make cheques/PO's for £5.00 payable to: "A.E.C."

Send this application to:

Mr W. Andrews, Hon. Treasurer, A.E.C.

32, Greet Road,

LANCING. BN15 9NS

E-mail: fam.andrews@ntlworld.com

*If you encourage 7 people to join within your subscription year, the next year's subscription is **free!***