

Tel. Brighton 593477.

10, Oldfield Crescent,
Southwick,
West Sussex,
BN42 4FZ.

July, 1990.

Dear

Newsletter No. 5.

"Thousands of commuters faced delays of up to 60 minutes when a train broke down between Haywards Heath and Balcombe stations...". Thus spoke the Argus, but if you would like to hear the real story, and have half an hour to spare, ask one of the eight members who managed to reach the O. & M. Centre of the Docklands Light Railway on 19th June. A shorter, perhaps more eruptive version, can be obtained from the rest of the party, who never got beyond their local railway station. The visit itself was most interesting, not to say enlightening. I have a hand-out available for loan (not by post!), and hope to have a report later. Many thanks to the two Harrys who arranged this visit.

Before you fill your diary, please note that the Vice-President has confirmed the following visits for next session - International Automotive Design, Worthing (13th Nov.), Parker Pen Co., Newhaven (5th Feb.), National Power Technology and Environmental Centre, Leatherhead, (23rd April).

A bright sunny day attracted a party of 34 for our first summer outing - to the National Trust Property at Polesden Lacey. About half enjoyed a pre-lunch walk through the estate which kept cameras busy and culminated in a somewhat undignified entry to an interesting-looking path which we soon sensed was heading for the sewage works. Though the site is known to have been occupied in the fifteenth century, and Sheridan lived there, the present house is Georgian, has "comfortable" dimensions, some interesting furniture and effects (including a Tompion long-case clock) and a well high perfect setting. Well worth a visit.

Don't forget our next outing, when we meet at the Mechanical Music and Doll Collection at Chichester 2.30.p.m. on 18th July. (see N.L.4.) If numbers are sufficient, we can have a guide who will demonstrate the instruments.

Now to the CHANGE IN PROGRAMME. Instead of Arundel Castle, we shall go to the Sir George Staunton Country Park on 12th September. It lies off the B2149, north of Havant and close to Rowlands Castle. We have booked a guided tour of the Conservatory (run by Anmore Exotics) which houses "the finest collection of rain forest plants in the country." These are displayed in the Rain Forest House, the Cloud Forest House and the Ecology Section. The tour will start at 2.30.p.m. and be followed by a light tea. The charge (O.A.P's) is \$2.25. each, inclusive of tea (but cakes are extra!) and entry to Leigh Park Gardens, the Ornamental Farm, and extensive parklands. Car parking is free. The Park opens at 9.00.a.m. allowing ample scope for picnics, sight seeing or casual walks before the tour. Purchase the "combined ticket" on arrival.

I have a descriptive leaflet which contains a map. Please indicate intention to come on the attached slip, to be returned before the end of August.