

H.R.R. NEWS

Easter 88.

CHILDRENS PAINTING COMPETITION

We could do with some more entries for the Childrens Painting Competition which is being run as part of our Open Day. Please try to get the children in your family or neighbourhood interested (be like Gaye and give forms out to all the children in your road!). There are three age groups.

Epsom Coaches

Children's Painting Competition

Welcome to our Painting Competition and we wish you every success! The theme is 'A Day Out on an Epsom Coach' and there are three age groups: up to 8, 9-12 and 13-16. Measuring no more than 42cm x 30cm (A3), the paintings must reach us by 9 April - only one entry per child. They will be judged independently and the three winners in each category will go on a surprise day out with their families. A selection of paintings will be exhibited at our Open Day on 16 April where The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell will present the certificates. Paintings may be collected the week commencing 18 April - although every effort will be made to ensure their safekeeping, we cannot accept any responsibility for their loss or damage.

Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

School _____

Age on 9 April 1988 _____

Title of painting _____

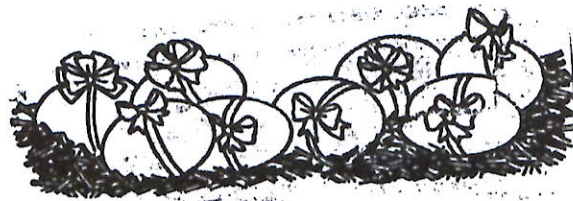
Please attach this form to the back of your painting and forward to:-

Epsom Coaches, Blenheim Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9AF
Telephone Epsom (03727) 27821

H.R. RICHMOND LIMITED – Coach Operators & Travel Agents

Blenheim Road
Longmead Estate
Epsom · Surrey · KT19 9AF

Telephone: Epsom (STD code 03727) 25252
Telex: 928493



Dear All,

A breath of Spring air brings with it fresh ideas and challenges, although most of the preparation has been done in the long dark days of winter.

1987 made us realise how difficult 1986 had been for coaching and it took us all our time to keep abreast of developments and prepare for a better future.

The travel vogue has changed in lesser packages being sold and long haul journeys more commonplace – needless to say, the old faithfuls in rail and coach tickets keep coming. The multiples look for a larger share of the market, but the holiday shops of this world are down and the public will continue to look beyond the 'cheapies' that has influenced the public in their annoying approach to special offers which just do not pay.

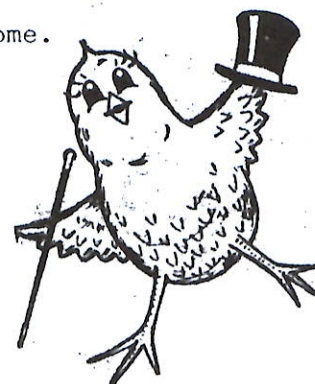
Our own holidays programme is holding its own and has stabilised after a flying start. The summer day and afternoon programme starting in May is out in time for Easter and copies are in the process of being circulated.

Coach hire has fully recovered and is showing signs of growing pains. Having recently visited our new manufacturer in Belgium, there is no doubt of the quality and interest by the Van Hool team of workers. Plaxton is trying hard but we could not wait another year for action. With a coach fleet mainly made up of Volvos and Mercedes we are confident of our future.

Buses and contracts are now working as one unit and with a greater emphasis on purpose built buses. Our faith is for a future and make for a broader based operation. Privately run businesses do not rely on the 'big brother' and need to be kept to size to run efficiently. That is our reasoning in order to remain fit.

Best wishes to all staff this Easter and in the year to come.

Ray Richmond



DIRECTORS: R B RICHMOND Mrs D M RICHMOND C RICHMOND A J RICHMOND Mrs R A LEVER
REG NO: 281992 ENGLAND. PROPRIETORS: H R RICHMOND LTD
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Educational and Specialist Coach Charter by the experts . . .



Epsom Coaches

Coach Hire Department Blenheim Road,
Longmead Estate, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9AF
Telephone: Epsom (03727) 25252

Operations

Driver Training

18 drivers have or will be taking their PSV tests, our largest ever number of trainees. Les Wernham and Andy Palmer have been kept busy training since October '87.

Successes so far include:- Mike Aaton, Gary Bishop, Phil Allport, Mark Walsh, Clive Dunsford, Ray Hayter (upgrade), Dave Feihn (upgrade), Bill Driver (upgrade), Steve Neale (upgrade), Maurice Golledge (upgrade) and Christine McGuire (upgrade).

More PSV tests will follow during April.

All full and part time drivers have had re-assessment driving tests.

We welcome the following new members to the driving staff:- Arthur Beach (full time), Tony Lewis (part time) and Richard Perrin (part time); also Keith Garner (buses). Returning after a period of absence are John Bidwell, Dave Kirkby and Laurie Norton.

The following have transferred to the coach operation from buses - Maurice Golledge, Steve Neale, Doug Streeter, Chris Harding and Dave Andrews.

We bid farewell to Peter Cooper who leaves on 3rd April, but will still be working part time. Good luck in your new venture.

Also to Ron Chandler who has lost his PSV and is still recovering from a minor heart attack.

During the winter season a team consisting of Peter Cooper, Dave Shearring, Mervyn Tonkin, Melvin Ludlow, Bob Crafter and John Bidwell have been busy repairing and re-decorating the Blenheim Road complex. The same team have also been responsible for upgrading the appearance of the coach fleet over the last few months.

Our bus operation continues to run well with the introduction of Route 3 (Epsom to Worcester Park). The two new mini-buses will be arriving soon.

Our new 2-way radio is now fitted and working. It has considerably improved our ability to communicate with both the Bus and Coach fleet. Also drivers can now communicate directly coach to coach. The system is based on Band III using 405 lines to wavelengths.

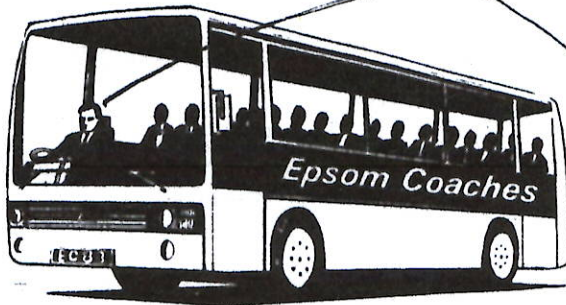
BUSMANS POEM REGARDING PASSENGERS

If you're late, you're wrong
If you're early, you're wrong
If you're on time, they're not there



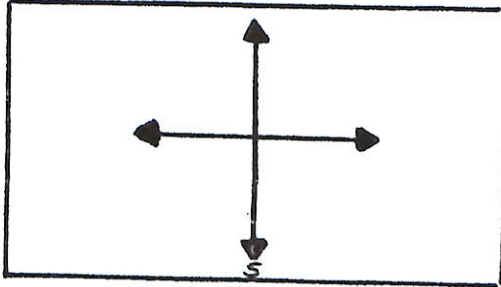
OVERHEARD

Man in bus queue
to driver of
already full bus:
"How long will the
next bus be?"
Driver: "About 36
feet, same as this."

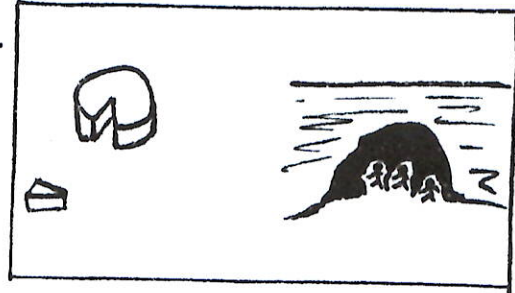


WHERE TO
GUV?

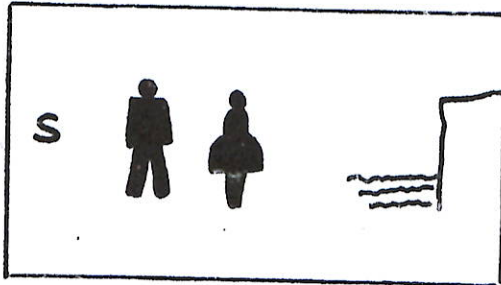
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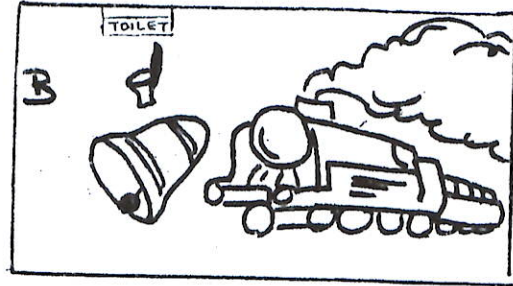
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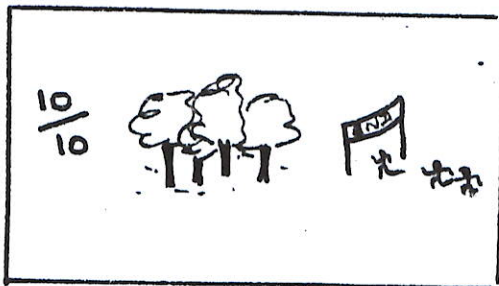
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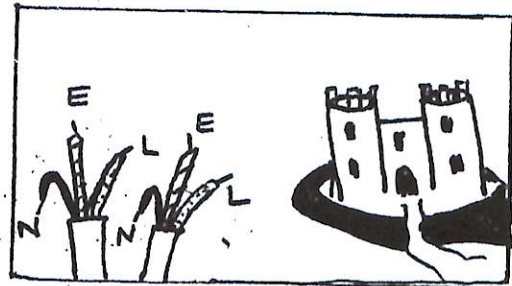
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5.



6.

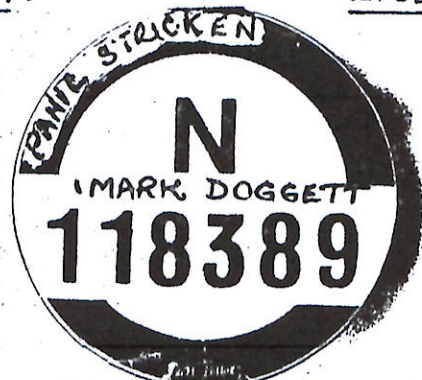


A DITTY FOR DOGGETT

Just think of the fuss
you'll cause with that bus
when going over the Downs.
Excuse me mate, but you're running quite late
and I want to get to Epsom Town.
Sorry not me, I'm off to the Eiger
and you can come too, on my Leyland Tiger.
So you we'll all miss and no more "gallivanty"
no passengers do kiss and teasing of "Aunty".
Remember don't "ogle" at ladies in May,
'cos we will come checking on YOUR bus one day!!!

D.O.T.

LICENCE



PREVIOUS HOLDER OF SPECIAL
DISHING OUT TOWELS LICENCE

KNOW YOUR COUNTRIES

Aunty Heather has set us a quiz to check your knowledge of countries. Write the solution to each one and hand to Heather Mount by Friday 15th April. A prize will be awarded to the first correct entry drawn.

1. Home of the Cedar tree.
2. Needs a good meal.
3. A straw for the summer.
4. Where the precipitation descends usually on flat land.
5. Gobbled up for Christmas.
6. The first letter after the young fox.
7. Used to be a little more than a pound.
8. Breakable crockery.
9. Is the girl able to?
10. Cold, but not when eaten.
11. EBI GLUM
12. ASITRUMIU
13. SPRUCY
14. NEWEDS
15. PLUGTROA
16. BROADBAS
17. KNEDRAM
18. ASITINU
19. ENGRATANI
20. YANGAU

Name _____

For those of you who can cast their minds back to September 1985 you may remember that we ran a competition asking you to complete such sentences as 54 C in a P (with J's) and 32 D F at which W F. 54 cards in a pack (with jokers) and 32 degrees fahrenheit at which water freezes, for the uninitiated!

Anyway, Trevor Foale (Chris' son) has kindly come up with a few more for you to peruse over.....

15 M on a D M C (Y H H and a B O R)

4 W on M W

10 G B H on the W

40 P in the U K and E B (1988)

Answers below.

PAIRS (by Keith Payne)

Pair the correct nickname off with the driver's name.

Dave Gettings	Dulux
Keith Payne	Little Geezer
Bob Crafter	Arkwright
Grahame Bath	Rodney
Ray Houlton	Mitchy
Alan Graham	Whiskers
Lawrie Norton	Winkie
Dave Andrews	Biggles
Chris Andrews	Billabong
Les Wernham	Arkwright
	Big Geezer
	Bubbles

If you don't know,
ask Keith!

Grahame Bath is also known as the
Eddy Edwards of Epsom Coaches - what
will he do next?

15 Men on a Dead Man's Chest
(Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum).
4 Wheels on My Wagon
10 Green Bottles Hanging on the Wall
40 Pages in the U.K. and Europe Brochure
(1986)

WORD SEARCH WORD SEARCH

Hidden in this box of letters are the names of six countries. Each name is over six letters long, and may be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally either forwards or backwards, but always in a straight line. Just to make things a little harder, we're not saying which six countries we've chosen!



A A B U G R L I A T A L Y N O R W S L A W
R U A F I L O Q B M Z M F X C C R O M L A
G N S C A M A L L G A M B O O T I S Y S P
B I H T C R A M I L U Z N V E C W N A R F
A L G R J I K R A M N E D I V I N L A D O
D N E W S R A N D I N L A H T U J T N E G
E A R N G A L A N D O R I Z R A C H A M B
M I L C S A R M U D N O E H W O J I G L O
T H G A R E T O H O P R I A N M I G L O B
P X A H G A N O D I L B O I L A R A P S A
A L I G E I T R O A L I A D I B J A I L D
R I V R S W E L N B U M N R C A M M C I F
A C A F S P R D A Y G C B T I T R C L N G
U M L U F P L E W S M P E R L D N A H T E
G A S J U G L S V I O N A N D H O L V E D
Y F O V A Z A B C L N G O I S U T U A R M
O L G L E N Y C D U L M I N N C D O Z A W
P W U N A N D G L U R I T J P O R T G U A
O I Y D G F I N B M O I O V H C I Z A L R
L D C I H W O D U E K N D N A L I A H T N
A Y U F D H R I C Y M A E Z U E L A N D Y

Travel Offices

News from the travel offices has been rather scarce (seasonal pressures?). We do know that Margaret Yorke recently enjoyed an educational visit to Devon with Trust House Forte and that Maria Clark, also from the Epsom office, has won an educational to Iceland - see picture below.



Iceland kicks off with a song

TWICKENHAM Travel's campaign to boost agent awareness of Iceland kicked off recently with trade events in Winchester, Croydon and Bristol when agents were entertained by Bergpora Arnadottir, Iceland's top pop singer, and a name a little more familiar, Capital Radio's David Jensen. Twickenham is offering 20 agents the chance of an Iceland educational in April. Pictured getting the facts on Iceland are, from left, Fiona Farnes, Thomas Cook; Maria Clark, Epsom Travel; Geoff Sammons, Twickenham Travel; and Juliet Roberts, Pickfords Travel.

IN CIRCLES

Can you tell which of the circled sections A-D has been taken from this picture?



IN CIRCLES
Section A is the matching one.

TOURY PARTIES

Test your logic. Put a tick in the appropriate box for any statement that is true, a cross if it's wrong and work it out from there. See how you go!

One sunny bank-holiday, five long-suffering but enthusiastic tour guides led parties of sightseers on expeditions to different places of interest. From the clues given below, can you say where each guide's group was from, how many sightseers were in each party, and where they went?

Clues

1 The Croydon group's guide led a smaller party than did her counterpart in charge of the Chatham group, which was taken by her to the Tower of London.

2 Mr Hall's party was seventeen strong; they did not visit the Bluebell Railway.

3 Miss Kane took her group to the Science Museum.

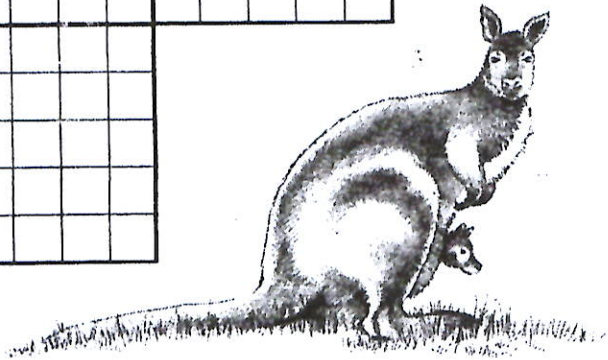
4 Twenty sightseers were taken to the London Zoo.

5 Mr Thompson's party was from Redhill, but did not consist of fourteen sightseers.

6 The smallest party was from Guildford.

7 Mrs Stead did not lead the largest or the smallest group.

	Chatham	Croydon	Guildford	Redhill	Staines	Eleven	Fourteen	Seventeen	Twenty	Twenty-three	Bluebell Railway	London Zoo	Madame Tussaud's	Science Museum	Tower of London
Miss Chalker															
Mr Hall															
Miss Kane															
Mrs Stead															
Mr Thompson															
Bluebell Railway															
London Zoo															
Madame Tussaud's															
Science Museum															
Tower of London															
Eleven															
Fourteen															
Seventeen															
Twenty															
Twenty-three															



Guide	Home-town	Group size	Attraction

Tour parties? Mr Thompson's party was from Redhill (clue 5), and the smallest party of eleven was from Guildford (clue 6). Mr Hall's party of seventeen (clue 2) cannot have been from Croydon or Chatham, as the parties from both of those towns were led by women (clue 1), so he must have been from Staines. The Chatham party which went to the Tower of London was larger than that from Croydon (clue 1). Since the Guildford group comprised eleven sightseers, this rules out eleven or fourteen for the party from Chatham. We know that the party of seventeen was from Staines and that the group of twenty visited the Zoo (clue 4), so the Chatham group must have been twenty-three strong. Their female guide was therefore not Mrs Stead (clue 7), and Miss Kane went to the Science Museum (clue 3), so Miss Chalker must have led the Chatham party. Mrs Stead's was not the smallest group (clue 7), so Miss Kane must have looked after the eleven sightseers from Guildford, and, by elimination, Mrs Stead's party must have been from Croydon. Mr Thompson did not lead the party of fourteen (clue 5), so he must have led the party of twenty who went to London Zoo, leaving the size of Mrs Stead's party as fourteen. From clue 2, Mr Hall's seventeen sightseers did not visit the Bluebell Railway, so they must have gone to Madame Tussaud's, and the Bluebell Railway was visited by Mrs Stead's group from Croydon.

In summary:
Miss Chalker, Chatham, twenty-three, Tower of London.
Mr Hall, Staines, seventeen, Madame Tussaud's.
Miss Kane, Guildford, eleven, Science Museum.
Mrs Stead, Croydon, fourteen, Bluebell Railway.
Mr Thompson, Redhill, twenty, London Zoo.

Mystery Drive-Queue Here!

As usual, we promoted the Free Mystery Drive for 25th November for the clientele that wished to avail themselves of the offer.

The day was scheduled to be hosted by the ever glamorous Gaye from our very own charts department. Well Gaye took time off from her part-time job as model for the 'Pretty Polly' advert and came in to Epsom for the day. She was hoping all would go well in order that she could pursue the 'sell the G.T.6 campaign' - a long running debate trying to persuade husband Alex, to part with his much loved sportscar. (Any offers?)

All the passengers turned up at 0900-ready and eager for the off and Tony Hallet had the coach parked on the forecourt, before the workshop had, had a chance to get anything out. So all was set. Departure time came rapidly-all were seated and ready-splendid-start the coach and away.

Gaye then emerged from the 'Ladies' and went to get on the coach, only to find that IT HAD GONE WITHOUT HER, a short jog ensued up the corridor to detail and the question posed-"That Tony Hallet has gone without me!" -the two way radio burst into life (well more like sparked actually, it was the old system) "Epsom base to Tony Hallet-you've gone without Gaye, please wait at Waterloo Road"- "Oh Dear" or words to that effect, came the reply.

'Where's the Carlton, Adam come here, I've got A little job for you (as the catch phrase in the detail office goes) run Gaye to Epsom and catch up with Tony Hallet will you'. So the day continued without further event and the question asked-did the expression 'What A Gaye Day' originate in charts, or is Pretty Polly a hosiery manufacturer or a statement made 'Parrot fashion'. Will the G.T.6 be sold by the time you read this newsletter. These and many other questions will remain unanswered until next time- WATCH THIS SPACE.

Telling some tall storeys to music

Cars parked in a multi-storey garage in Chicago are going for a song - literally. Whenever owners get confused about which floor they parked on, all they have to do is listen to the music. Each level of the car park is identified by familiar tunes from famous musicals: one has music from *Cabaret*, another plays *Hello Dolly* - and, presumably, for the top floor, there's *Fiddler on the Roof*. Lifts in the newly refurbished Chicago Theatre next door also have the same musical guide, for each of the seven floors, and the tunes are changed from time to time to avoid repetition. It's unlikely we'll see the idea catch on here just yet. But maybe Max Bygraves could do a special recording. After all, he's always saying, "I wanna tell you a storey..."

Best buses in the business



EPSOM Buses are the Best Bus Company of 1987.

In a competition run by the Bus and Coach Council and the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, Epsom was voted the best small operator.

The Townswomen did the leg work, disguising themselves as regular passengers to assess the service, comfort and efficiency of buses all round the country.

Managing Director Roy Richmond was presented with a plaque. Interviewed in Radio Four's *Going Places*, he said modestly they were just doing their job.

We were to have four hours in Denmark (difficult to know what to do with all that time). I made sure the Immigration officer stamped my passport (it's a pity the Moulin Rouge doesn't do the same, then I would know for sure that I had been there three years ago!). Blue cars were there to meet us (no blue videos though) and with "Victor's Twistfart" on the side of the vehicle we were assured of an interesting time.

We arrived at the Fisheries Museum just in time to see the seals putting their knives and forks away - feeding time is at 2.30 and it was now 2.40. Fortunately, feeding time for us mere mortals lasts a little longer and the chips went down a treat. Some of our party had ordered chips thinking they were the roulette type but they should have known better - there is NO gambling in Denmark. Slot machines are for fun only - some more fun than others. When we reached Ribe we looked for Wilmot-Brown in the Hotel Dagmar but to no avail so settled for the bar next door instead.

Back on the coach we were shown Denmark's highest mountain (5' high) and only passed one other vehicle - a tanker belonging to H.P. Bang. Once on board ship we made a beeline for Able Seaman Timothy who held the key to the treasure - a complimentary drink in the bar.

The evening was much the same as the night before except 4 a.m. became 5 a.m. just like that (British Summer Time), which reminds me, if you want to know the time, DON'T ask TIM. Coming back it was a Force 8 and for the first time in my life I understood the term RollerDisco. Another tip for you wives - if you don't want your husband to have a good time, hold on to his money and retire to the cabin early!

The following day the winner of the Ship's Quiz was announced - Rosemary Leathers (hmm).

It was time to get my gear together. I made sure my shoes were packed (mustn't leave them behind again). I emptied out my pockets and found the unused cinema ticket (I had fallen asleep and missed the performance of 'Nuts'). I also found the address of Ingrid, the barmaid - drat, I forgot to get her zip code.

One more game of tennis table and we should be in dock. Really I don't think I can stand this pace much longer - perhaps I'll move to Wiltshire for the quiet life.

(It's funny how they always know WHO to stop in Customs).

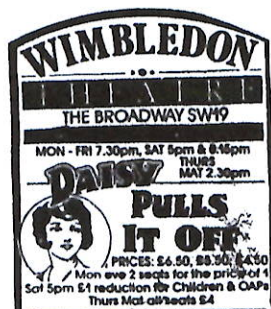
FILMS

WIMBLEDON 542 2277
1 Diane Keaton, Sam Shepard
BABY BOOM (PG)
Sep progs Fri-Sat 2.00, 4.15, 6.55, 9.05
Sun-Thurs 1.30 (not Sun) 3.45, 6.05, 8.35
Late night Fri & Sat 11.30 pm

2 *No Smoking Cinema*
NUTS (18)
Progs 2.00, 4.55, 7.55

3 **WISH**
YOU WERE HERE (15)
Sep progs 2.30 (not Sun), 5.30, 8.30
Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11pm

Week beginning 28 March
PRIOR TO WEST END
KINDLY KEEP IT COVERED
Terry Scott stars in this new comedy
— furiously paced action and non-stop laughs until the final curtain.
Eves 7.45pm Wed Mat 2.30pm
Sat 5 & 8.15pm



Wimbledon Stadium
GAYE BRIEF STAKES
(412m open)
STADIUM SQUASH

Talking of Wimbledon, we wish the Dons luck in their Semi Final fight against Luton Town at White Hart Lane on April 9th. It would be nice to take the team and its supporters to Wembley.

The Backward Clock!

With anticlockwise hands and numbers you can still tell the time, but you have to think!

This 9" Dia. 'Backward' clock has a precision quartz movement, and is white with a choice of face colours: BLACK, RED, & BROWN.

Available direct from us at **£18.45** plus £1.50 post and packing. Visa or Access telephone orders welcome.



**PUTTING
YOUR FOOT DOWN**
by Denis Thatcher

**NOT PUTTING
YOUR FOOT DOWN**
by Captain Mark Phillips

**LOST
FOR WORDS**
by Brian Clough

A Busman's Holiday in Denmark

When I was at school I was never really sure what I wanted to be - a sailor or a coach driver. Was it to be "a girl in every port" or "a port in every girl". Anyway the rest is history and it wasn't long before I became a fully fledged member of the Red and Cream fraternity - and I haven't looked back since (sorry, Mick - I didn't mean to keep you SO busy!).

So when the opportunity arose to join in a mini cruise to Denmark, my mind was soon made up and I duly set about saving up for the trip. It's not a good time for the Farmers but fortunately another lob job came along and the £29 was saved.

The date of departure soon arrived, even if the coach didn't (only joking Adam - you were very punctual). Whiskas, I mean Alan, had invited us all upstairs for breakfast and despite the fact that Dave had already had breakfast from the caravan outside he managed to put away a couple more.

When I got on the coach I managed to secure a seat in the Smoking section (seat 5 backwards). I sat next to a charming lady by the name of Daphne and although she was MY neighbour she wasn't THE neighbour.

The journey to Harwich was reasonably uneventful, except the hostesses serving the in-flight menu turned out to be male! Of course, with no alcohol being allowed on Epsom Coaches we were a sober lot. The toilet was in constant demand though, some suggesting it was the after effects of that Indian meal after the Darts match. Some of the lads played cards up the back of the coach and Peter Cooper managed a straight flush.

The Stewardess showed me to the cabin. I was sharing with three others. Mervyn was no longer "Merve the Swerve" but "Muff the Buff" - a fine figure of a man by any measure.

The Mermaid Bar was busy so we threw in the towel and took to the Sauna deep down in the bowels of the ship. It wasn't mixed but the service at the bar made up for that. Danish pastries aren't the only sweet things Denmark is noted for. A couple of Stellas went down very well, most refreshing.

Frightened that we would melt to nothing if we stayed down in the Sauna any longer, we went to make a call on the honeymooners (yes, married in January and still on their honeymoon!). After all they must be bored with their own company. Sure enough they were to be found in the cabin. A pick-me-up preceded the Danish Cold Table.

After dinner, the night was still young even if some of the discothequers didn't think the same of me. I'm not known as Superman for nothing. The message was loud and clear, the Mermaid Lounge was for MY generation and sure enough, I found the rest of the party there. Bridget and Bryan, Les and Lynn, John and Daphne were giving it all they'd got on the dance floor - even the dance band couldn't stand the pace and had to take regular intervals. I must say though the Mermaids were VERY nice (nothing like Frau Obermeister on the Hamburg boat). Being the first night away, I decided to turn in early - 2 a.m. to be precise.

The following morning I took coffee and a single decker in the Lounge Bar (no, you can't get away from the Coaches). I asked the barmaid if it was true that D.F.D.S. stood for "Danes find Drivers Sexy" but it wasn't.

Congratulations to Bill and Bernadette Driver
on the birth of their son Steven.

Best wishes to Caroline Skilton who is
expecting a baby in May and is busy
preparing for the arrival.



(all copyrights transgressed)

- o -

Our thanks to those of you concerned with the arrangements for the Staff Dinner Dance which was held in January at the Bourne Hall. The 598 Squadron cabaret was particularly good. We were even honoured with the presence of a Cardinal!

WINNERS

The winners our Trivial Pursuit quiz in the last edition of HRR News were:

Winners (joint) - Les Wernham and Chris Harding

Runner up - Martin Hook

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations too to Alan and Barbara Graham on their recent wedding. Is the honeymoon over yet? Will Barbara still be referred to as "'Er Indoors".

ODE TO A PAYNE

There's a bearded lad in Coach Hire
Whom we all greatly admire
For staff wedding, illness or retire
He will write a ditty to inspire
His saga on Bath
Gave us a good laugh
It is very plain
You all know his name
So I will now stop it
As it does not compare
with one of Payne's "Poppoets".

THE MISER

FOR SALE

Bridesmaid Dress, Size 12,
blue, £25.00.
See Lynn Richmond

- o -

Puppies for sale (cross
Collie/Spaniel)
Contact Eric Lack in the
Workshop

Congratulations to Les
Wernham on his Driver Training
Certificate awarded by the
Bus and Coach Council and
presented in January.

This article appeared in the
Epsom and Ewell Advertiser.
Worried by some of the references
to black ice and multi-vehicle
pile-ups, both Christopher
Richmond and Keith Payne
wrote to the paper in reply.

Congratulations to Rosemary Lever, Daphne
Reeves and Lynn Wernham on winning tickets
to Dublin in a recent Aer Lingus team quiz
event.

Orbital mystery tour . . .



**'INSIDER' by
CHRIS PORTER**

TRY to do something imaginative and what happens. You get sniped at; ridiculed; made to feel a right dingbat.

Take poor Epsom Coaches whose latest day trip brochure offering excursions of "quality, value and variety" includes — wait for it — a tour of the M25.

Here's what the say about it: "Go along the full length of the London orbital motorway. Pass through the home counties with stops for coffee, lunch in Waltham Abbey and tea. Home at approximately 6 pm."

So, what's wrong with that? A trifle bizarre maybe, but it's different. And how have Epsom Coaches been rewarded for this bright new idea? By loud guffawing from all quarters and unseemly side clutching, that's how.

It even featured on Radio Four's "Thought for the Day" when some unkind cleric suggested it was the daftest excursion he had ever heard of. Perhaps he should refresh his memory about the wandering in the wilderness.

Anyway, I don't see that we should be too hard on Epsom Coaches apart from the possible exception of the approximate time for returning home.

Six o'clock must be taken with a bucket load of motorway salt. If traffic conditions are at their peak,

the coach could be stuck on the road for anything up to a fortnight.

But gosh, think of all the jolly things to see and do as you crawl along bumper to bumper.

There's the hard shoulder — said to be a stunning sight by moonlight. The squashed hedgehog in the fast lane. Bits of lorry tyre on the central reservation. The Poyte interchange.

As your luxury, high-speed coach eats up the yards, you can while away a week by counting contraflow cones.

The trip is scheduled for February so you stand an excellent chance of having a perfect view of the fog which is such a spectacular feature of the Sevenbaks to Reigate section at this time of year.

The ever-popular Dartford Tunnel is also said to be at its best round about now.

Black ice is always a possibility in February and if you are lucky you might witness a multi-vehicle pile-up.

If you get a really good crowd of passengers you could cause your own by putting a paper bag over the driver's head.

There should be plenty of time to bash out the dents in the coach before the March trip to the shopping centre at Milton Keynes.

Seat Reservations

Day Trips

Bookings for Day Trips have got off to a good start and are 26% up in the first quarter. Hopefully, the recent trend will continue although the peak months will be the real test.

To save on the cost of printing and postage, we have reduced the number of pages in our new brochure - we are offering the same choice and more departures.

Fares have gone up but our trips still offer excellent value. New destinations include Abingdon Crafts Festival, Black Country Heritage, Brighton Supersaver, Christmas Lights (afternoon), Dickens Christmas, Farnborough Air Show, Garden Centres, Granada TV Studios, Motor Show, Queen of the Cotswolds, Regent Canal and Camden Market, Royal Britain and Whitbread Hop Farm.

Holidays

After a brisk start, holiday bookings have receded over the past two months although they are still equal to last year. With 10% more departures, we are looking for growth and the position should improve with the promotion as Sutton Library, a mail-out at the beginning of next month and our Open Day.

Our new full colour Christmas and New Year programme will be published early next month: five-day Christmas tours to Bruges, Cornwall, Devon, the Cotswolds, the Lakes and York; four day New Year tours to Sidmouth and Stratford upon Avon.

Open Day

Please do everything you can to help publicise our Open Day on Saturday 16th April - especially distributing handbills and displaying posters.

This is our first Open Day for five years - there will be a lot to see and we will be promoting all sides of the business - a unique opportunity to spread the word!

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Fiona Grant to the front office. Plans are afoot to find out where Fiona is having her hen night (some of the men are interested!).



Christmas & New Year Touring Holidays

- **5-DAY CHRISTMAS TOURS**
to Bruges, Cornwall, Devon, the Cotswolds, Lake District & York.
 - **4-DAY NEW YEAR TOURS**
to Sidmouth and Stratford-upon-Avon.
 - **INCLUDING FULL BOARD**
and Seasonal Entertainment in 3 & 4 Star Hotels
- Telephone: Epsom (03727) 27821/41811**

NEWS

Les Wernham offered in excess of £3000 to leave Rosemary (Coach Hire) in Scotland. Come on chaps can't we get that figure higher?

Bob "Dulux" Crafter carries a record load of 7 on H.R.R. to see "One for the Road" - Russ Abbott soars in the popularity stakes.

Accounts Department now known as MacDonalds - the fast "Brood" joint on the basis of the maternal instincts of the female staff.

Heather said on discovering that Alan Graham had found THE spelling mistake in the Drivers' Manual - well at least I didn't go out delivering last year's brochure to the agents (viz I Stanley/A Graham on brochure delivery, but by mistake took the wrong natch!).

Dave Shearring (that well known member of the pop group "Cleaning Crew") has been spotted wearing designer paint splattered overalls. He was heard reflecting on the earnings for the winter - "I've got Plenty of Nothing".

Rumours that Keith Payne is starting a Used Car lot with a stock of Fiat Unos from H.F. Edwards is entirely untrue. The diesel has now had all the faults done - anyone want to buy it?

A reminder to all coach staff that any requisition for any item of stationery must be made in triplicate and the empty goods returned to Auntie Heather (this applies to Directors as well).

(This space was left for a report on what members of staff had given up for Lent)

WARNING TO ALL H.R.R. DRIVERS

Beware of passenger travelling on day trips and extended tours known as "Seat 3 Lil" masquerading as a company employee working in Coach Hire - code name "Bertie the Budgie".



STAFF NOTICE

Barry Harding is now our appointed First Aid man - he is waiting to get his hands on someone. Who should be so lucky?

CALCULATING VAT by Lester Piggott

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF STEREO by Vincent Van Gogh

In preparing this newsletter a circular was sent to all departments asking for up-to-date news. The Coach Hire department has been especially prolific and we are grateful to all who have contributed. The next newsletter will be published at the end of June so please hand your contributions for this to either Roy Richmond or Andrew Richmond.

News from around the offices.....

Coach Hire

Fortunately, 1987 was a big improvement on 1986 - the year when many American groups cancelled at short notice. The start to 1988 is promising, in that there is a slight increase in turnover for January and February compared with last year. On paper the outlook for the rest of the year is good, but as many are American parties there is a danger that some groups may cancel or reduce in number due to bad exchange rates for the Americans.

We have just received four new coaches from Belgium. Quite a turning point in the history of Epsom Coaches as this will be the first time that the complete coach has been manufactured abroad. In recent years we have purchased Volvo chassis (from Sweden) and the bodywork has been carried out by Plaxtons of Scarborough. Unfortunately, the cost and quality of the bodywork produced by Plaxtons is no longer considered competitive.

The new coaches are Van Hool bodywork on Volvo chassis. Each coach has 49 seats, toilet, tea and coffee making facilities, full air-conditioning and plenty of luggage space. At a cost of £105,000 each the coaches represent a very large investment. With the new vehicles, the fleet will consist of 31 coaches ranging from 20 to 50 seats.

Recently, two new Coach Hire leaflets have been produced to circulate to Group Organisers. One gives ideas for places to visit and the other promotes visits to France for the day. In addition to recommending Boulogne and Calais we are now also including Dunkirk. This is in some ways an experiment, inasmuch as the crossing time is about an hour longer each way. It will be interesting to see if groups are put off by the idea of a longer crossing or encouraged by the opportunity to have more time to relax on board ship.

Workshops

We welcome two new members of staff - Oli (Oliver) Soroghan in the Paintshop and Shaun McCann in the Workshop.

Our thanks to Sid Cannon for his help over winter in the Paintshop.(7 months). Sid is known as 'The Manager' or 'Popeye'.

Bob Shaw has been doing early morning checks and yard work which is a big help to Workshops.

503 is going for M.O.T. test on 25th March -the last of the winter.

ASSESSMENT - YOUR FLEXIBLE BEND

On one sunny day in February, I fell victim to Les (I've got so many initials after my name) Wernham's assault course on Epsom roads and inhabitants.

Well if you ignore the fact that I had a fashion problem, i.e. I couldn't change gear, things went moderately badly. Despite the fact that I did pass a test six years ago and the paint is dry on the badge, contrary to popular belief.

In six years of coach driving (actually nearer ten with practice on private ground), I have driven Bedfords (very elderly ones), Ford turbos with Chinese gearboxes, AECs Leyland Leopards, hundreds of miles across Austria in a Tiger (wasn't it Hannibal Brooks who did a similar thing across the Alps with an elephant?) and even driven "345" here and survived, but piloting 507 seemed to prove without success under the conditions of "Test". Did Payne just lose his bottle a wee bit - yep!

I got round the course having done nearly everything wrong that it was possible to do wrong with the exception of one thing - I didn't go over the kerb, then I got to the roundabout in Epsom, was too busy watching the bloke on the nearside trying to go around before me that I clipped (didn't go over) the edge of the roundabout, then to be followed by the same thing at that blasted mini roundabout at the top of Chase Road.

Suffice to say, things have changed a little since I took my test. I always changed down the box to stop the coach, but now you slow down on the telma and then change into 2nd when at walking pace and into 1st to be ready to move off again so I had to try and rethink the entire pattern of driving. This didn't work terribly well, or as they say "No Telma - no comment!".

So I parked at the bus stop at Longmead, having made a hash of the whole thing and got a few dividends and score draws on the sheet. But fear not, I shall return refreshed to prove once more to the world that I can drive a Volvo properly (and have done on more than one occasion) and earn tips from the riders, that is other than - No thank you very much driver.

Remind me to tell you about the Volvo locked in the National Maritime Museum sometime!

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FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!

If there is one thing you can be sure of, it is a real National Trust tea with home made cakes. Now we plan to extend the goodies on offer, and there will be light lunches served at three properties for the first time, namely Standen, Petworth and the Vyne.

But that's not all. Box Hill restaurant is now under Trust management and is open from 10.30am to 10.30pm daily (except Mondays) serving coffee, lunch, tea and dinner. There is also a kiosk service from 10.30am - 5.30pm.

AND now for something completely different - a picture of 900 plastic ducks arriving at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel at Lyndhurst in the New Forest.

It seems that general manager Derek Laing thought it would be a good idea to furnish each of the hotel's bathrooms with its own plastic duck - and then he threw a party to welcome them.

Quackers if you ask me!

