



**“Quality Tours with Taste!”**

# The Crookham Traveller

An occasional newsletter from the RAIL ALE RAMBLE people

**February 2007**

## SOFIA SORTED - IN JULY

In line with our popular policy of "ticking" former Communist states before they become main-stream destinations, this year's tour will be to our furthest east European destination, Sofia, Bulgaria, with the UNESCO-rated city of Plovdiv also in the programme.

The dates of 5th to 10th July have been chosen for the extremely reasonable hotel rates on offer and to avoid the really hot weather in August. On our research trip last October we were hosted by an incoming operator whose

sales lady really went the extra kilometre to meet our requests. Friday was her mother's birthday and she would be going home in the evening (300 kms) but she didn't leave until she had located a particular brewpub for us! Seven hotels were shortlisted; four were inspected and eventually a smallish 4 star property in a pedestrianised shopping street was chosen. Not only so convenient for the still-cheap shopping opportunities, but nicely modernised.

*(continued on page 2)*

Top left: a scenic photo stop en-route to the Wasdale Head Inn and Great Gable Brewery, 9th April 2006 (Cumbria and West Lakes Explorer - see page 2)

Below: two happy Travellers serve themselves a sample at the Warwick Beer Company's brewery in Cubbington (RAR120, The Warwick Wanderer, 4th November).



**A DOUBLE-DECKER  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION  
THE BIG 3-0 EVENT  
SATURDAY 29TH  
SEPTEMBER 2007**



Above: Routemasters will take to London's streets again in 2007 as part of Crookham Travel's 30th anniversary celebrations

Above, right: MV Maid of Ashton in service in the 1950s

We make no apologies for "banging the drum" for this momentous occasion in the history of Crookham Travel - and the life of Gerald Daniels. 30 years of largely one man management and organisation of the myriad of events surely needs a worthy recognition and the programme for this day intends to do just that. Hopefully there is something for everyone in the itinerary - private mini beer festival, rides on Routemaster and probably RT buses, brewery visit, River Thames, all topped off with a silver-service dinner aboard a former BR Caledonian Steam Packet Company ship. PLUS our specially-brewed beer for the occasion. The ship has a function capacity of 130 and it is hoped that every seat will be filled. With our constantly keen tour prices it is difficult to cut them further, but for

today's event come along and enjoy a subsidy of £16 per head on the day's prices.



### Forthcoming Tours

16th - 19th February 2007

**Sheffield & South  
Yorkshire Explorer**

Including Rotherham Beer Festival, pub tour by tram and GBG pubs.

Saturday 24th February 2007

**Rail Ale Ramble 122  
The North Downs Nibbler**

Westerham Brewery and Surrey Hills have confirmed their interest in seeing you. Added to these will be two classic GBG pubs to make a convenient tour for the winter season.

### Forthcoming Tours

*(continued from column 3)*

08 - 25 March 2007

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Our two-week holiday in South Africa is now

**FULLY BOOKED**

14th April 2007

**Real Ale Ramble 123  
Norwich**

Fat Cat and Chalk Hill Breweries, plus a visit to the Berney Arms,

England's most isolated pub & time for drinking at the fab real ale pubs in the city. An overnight B&B stay will be an option

19th - 21st May 2007

**Kent & East Sussex  
Explorer**

For KESR and RHDR railways, brewpubs, and GBG pubs is now

**FULLY BOOKED**

**Continued on page 2**