

CROOKHAM TRAVEL

11 Attlee Gardens, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire GU52 6PH
Telephone: 01252 628647 E-mail: crookhamtravel@talktalk.net
www.crookhamtravel.co.uk

RAIL ALE RAMBLE No. 150 "THE WATERCRESS WANDERER" Saturday 10th March 2012

Since 1977, Crookham Travel has run one hundred and forty nine Rail Ale Rambles (not to mention all the weekend and longer trips we have also arranged) and in that time we have carried 35,000 people and visited 700 breweries! How many of these trips have you been on? Well, the next Rail Ale Ramble (RAR) will be number One Hundred And Fifty! Naturally, we will be putting on something special to mark this milestone.

The ideal Crookham Travel trip should include several brewery visits, fine pubs serving excellent ale and ideally a steam train journey – RAR 150 not only has all these elements but also, for the transfers, throws in a preserved Routemaster for good measure! So, here are the details of this special day...

For those joining at Waterloo, we will be taking the 09:23 SWT train to Alton where we will be joining the marvellous [Watercress Line](#) for the 10:50 steam-hauled service to Alresford, arriving at 11:24. Here you will join our private vintage bus for the short journey to the [Itchen Valley Brewery](#) in New Alresford. After an interesting return visit (we were last there in 2001), now relocated and under new management, we will be taking our bus to the excellent [Flowerpots Inn](#) and brewery in Cheriton where we will be having (at least) a pint and an included ploughman's lunch. After a relaxed stop here we will rejoin our vintage bus to return to Alresford railway station for the 15:00 train up the hill by steam using Real Ale Train ("RAT") stock where, with an included pint, you can enjoy the climb up hill as the attractive Hampshire scenery gently unfolds. However, the day is by no means over as we will be getting out 27 minutes later at Medstead & Four Marks station for an extended tour round the [Triple fff](#) brewery which has been greatly extended since our first visit in 2001. During our stay we shall enjoy one of their infamous open-fired paella-style meals. We depart for the short walk back to the station and our special stop at 1800 on the RAT empty stock steam train back to Alton, arriving at 18:13. The final visit today is the Railwayman's Arms, or other pubs, before taking the train home at 19:44, arriving back at Waterloo at 20:57. Alternative trains are available to those of you not using the group ticket.

The cost of this special day will be £57.00 from Alton. This will include return steam train travel on the Watercress Line, vintage bus transfer to three brewery visits, lunch, evening food and drinks at all these stops. It will also include time in Alton. If you wish to use our group rail ticket, we can offer a GroupSave4 from London Waterloo at an inclusive cost of £66.00 (although you must travel with the group if you take this option). Places are initially limited to 64 so please send the form below as soon as possible together with your cheque, payable to Crookham Travel (plus a 9x4" stamped addressed envelope if you want a paper copy of the joining instructions) to **Tony Fox-Griffith, 72 Station Road, Wraysbury TW19 5NH**, telephone **01784 482186**. Alternatively, payments to our bank account can be made electronically via Santander, to Crookham Travel a/c 87825884, sort code 09-01-27 quoting ref RAR150 – please also return the booking form below by e-mail to tony.foxgriffith@btinternet.com. Please note that whilst bookings notionally close on **Monday 27th February** the previous three RARs sold out well before the closure date. Should bookings significantly exceed this number there may need to be a small surcharge to these later requests to cover the additional cost of a second vehicle? The visits at Itchen Valley and Flowerpots may be taken in reverse order by some members.

RAIL ALE RAMBLE No. 150 "THE WATERCRESS WANDERER" SATURDAY 10th MARCH 2012

To: CROOKHAM TRAVEL (TFG) From: _____
Address: _____
Postcode _____
Telephone Number: _____ e-mail: (if used) _____

Please book ___ place/s on this tour at £57.00 per person, using my own rail tickets

Please book ___ place/s on this tour from London at £66.00 per person (using GroupSave4 tickets)

I enclose a cheque for £_____, payable to Crookham Travel, **plus 9"x4" SAE if requiring the ticket letter by post** (Note that if no SAE is enclosed, we will send the joining details by e-mail only).

I have paid via bank transfer _____. Tick one as appropriate

I accept that if my bookings after the trip is initially full a small surcharge may be incurred _____

Signed _____
