

## The Red Rover Stagecoach

**Surrey History Centre ref. 4414/2/19**      Material relating to Ventham Coachbuilders of Leatherhead and Dorking.

1962 Timetable, The Red Rover, London to Southampton, August 27 - 30. (Photocopy)

Leaves the Bull at East Sheen 7:15 am Monday and Wednesday,  
and the Red Lion Southampton 8 am Tuesday and Thursday.  
Watney Combe Reid & Co Ltd, proprietor, H E Sanders, guard.

Plan of the seating - Coachman, adjacent seat, 11 passengers and Guard.

London to Southampton, Mon and Weds Leaves	Southampton to London, Tues and Thurs Leaves
7:15 East Sheen, the Bull	8:00 Southampton, Red Lion
8:50 Esher, the Wheatsheaf (15 mins breakfast)	9:15 Ampfield, White Horse
10:10 Ripley, Jovial Sailor	10:25 Winchester, India Arms
11:30 Normandy, the Anchor (29½miles)	11:50 Alresford, the Bell
1:00 Farnham, Marlborough Head (30 mins lunch)	1:30 Alton, the Swan (30 mins for lunch)
2:20 Alton, the Swan	2:50 Farnham, Marlborough Head
3:45 Alresford, the Bell	3:55 Normandy, the Anchor
5:10 Winchester, India Arms	5:25 Ripley, Jovial Sailor (15 mins for tea)
6:20 Ampfield, White Horse	6:45 Esher, the Wheatsheaf
7:30 Southampton, Red Lion (83 miles)	8:15 East Sheen, the Bull

Change of horses at each stop.

1956 Timetable, The Red Rover, London to Southampton, August 13 - 16. (Photocopy)

Leaves the Stag Brewery at Pimlico, Victoria, 7 am Monday and Wednesday,  
and the Red Lion Southampton 8 am Tuesday and Thursday.  
Watney Combe Reid & Co Ltd, proprietor, D Sanders, guard.  
Seating plan as for 1962.

London to Southampton, Mon and Weds	Southampton to London, Tues and Thurs
7:00 Stag Brewery, Victoria	8:00 Southampton, Red Lion
7:55 Barnes, the Red Rover	9:30 Shawford, the Bridge
9:35 Esher, the Wheatsheaf (15 mins breakfast)	11:05 Alresford, the Bell
10:55 Ripley, Jovial Sailor	12:55 Alton, the Swan (30 mins for lunch)
12:15 Normandy, the Anchor (36½miles)	2:15 Farnham, Marlborough Head
1:40 Farnham, Marlborough Head (30 min lunch)	3:15 Normandy, the Anchor
Alton, Alresford (as in 1962)	Ripley, Esher (as in 1962)
6:00 Shawford, the Bridge	7:35 Barnes, the Red Rover
7:30 Southampton, Red Lion (86½miles)	8:30 London Victoria, Stag Brewery

Change of horses at each stop.

1952 Timetable, The Red Rover, London to Southampton, August 11 - 14. (Photocopy)

Leaves the Stag Brewery at Pimlico, Victoria, 7:15 am Monday and Wednesday,  
and the Red Lion Southampton 8:15 am Tuesday and Thursday.  
Watney Combe Reid & Co Ltd, proprietor, H Love, guard.  
Seating plan as for 1962.

London to Southampton, Mon and Weds	Southampton to London, Tues and Thurs
7:15 Stag Brewery, Victoria	8:15 Southampton, Red Lion
8:25 East Sheen, the Bull	Compton, end of the bypass
10:00 Esher, the Wheatsheaf (15 mins breakfast)	Alresford, the Bell
11:15 Ripley, Jovial Sailor	Alton, the Swan (30 mins for lunch)
12:40 Normandy, the Anchor	Farnham, Marlborough Head
2:05 Farnham, Marlborough Head (30 min lunch)	Normandy, the Anchor
3:20 Alton, the Swan	Ripley, Jovial Sailor (15 mins for tea)
4:50 Alresford, the Bell	Esher, the Wheatsheaf
6:15 Compton, end of the bypass	East Sheen, the Bull
7:30 Southampton, Red Lion	8:30 London Victoria, Stag Brewery

Change of horses at each stop.

Article about Ventham of Leatherhead and Dorking, coachbuilders (photocopy)

In 1862 the last of the old regular stagecoaches, the London to Brighton 'Age' ceased to run, superseded by the railways. [but see below]  
Illustration of the elegant 'Park Drag' coach, very similar to the illustration on the Red Rover timetables.

**Surrey History Centre ref. PC/139/14** Postcard of the Red Rover London to Southampton stagecoach

Produced by Breamore Carriage Museum c.1970.

Red and black stagecoach, as described above. Logo 'The Bull East Sheen' on the door.

Wording 'London, Kingston, Ripley, Southampton' on the bodywork.

**Surrey History Centre ref. PX/72/36** Painting of 1850 on a modern Christmas greetings card.

Red Rover with passengers on the route from London to Southampton.

Picture of a coach and four in full flight.

Crown logo on the door, words 'Kingston, Guildford' on the bodywork.

**Normandy Historians' collection -**

**Photocopy of page 42 from History of Tongham by Geoffrey Birch** (typescript 1964 revised 1973) at Ash Library.

Shows a Victorian-style flyer advertising The Red Rover Coach, 'the only Coach now on the Road' [but see Venthams above]

Advertises a coach and four (illustrated) from the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet Street to the Royal Hotel, Southampton, via Kingston, Guildford, Farnham, Alton, Alresford and Winchester. Leaving London at half past 8 in the morning and leaving Southampton at 11 o'clock in the morning. Proprietor Robert Gray and Co.

According to the caption the coach 'ran across the Hog's Back during the 19th century'. There appears to be no further reference in the text.

**Richmond Local Studies Library, Old Town Hall, Richmond TW9 1TP.**

**The Red Barrel. House magazine of Watney Combe Reid & Co.** Ref. AD87, 1933-1972.

Spread across seven boxes with dates intermixed in no sequence. 1930s - larger size, white cover. 1940s and early 50s small size, sandy cover. Mid-late 1950s A5 size with a contents page, blue cover. 1960s-1972 larger again, with a glossy colour cover.

Box 1.

Aug 1952, vol 19, no. 8. pp.305-311 - The Red Rover's Drive from London to Southampton, by Mrs Sanders Watney. Four photos - Grosvenor Square, the Wheatsheaf at Esher, Farnham High Street, The Bell at Alresford.

Each team owner had a seat in the coach for the whole way and could bring a friend for the box seat during his own drive. Plus one groom and the guard accounted for 12 of the 14 outside seats. They promised to carry one member of the press or BBC each day. WA Gilbey's team of bays drove from Ripley to the Anchor at Normandy, Col Gilliam drove with the Royal Artillery and Royal Military Academy team of bays to the Marlborough Head in Farnham. In Compton there was no inn so we provided refreshments from our Container Beer Demonstration Van.

Appeared in "Sport and Country", reprinted with permission.

Nov 1952, vol 19, no. 11. No mention of Red Rover.

Nov 1953, vol 20, no. 10. No ref.

Aug 1956, vol 23, no. 8. No ref.

Sept 1956, vol 23, no. 9. No ref.

Aug 1958, vol 25, no. 8. No ref.

Oct 1958, vol 25, no.10. pp.360-362 - By Coach and Four, the Red Rover's fourth trip to Southampton. Written by Marylian Watney. Four photos - The India Arms at Winchester, The Jovial Sailor at Ripley, the Marlborough Head at Farnham and in the mist at Richmond Park.

For the first time we stopped at the Marquis of Granby in Esher. At Ripley Messrs William Gilbey's bays took us to the Anchor in Normandy. Here, the Royal Artillery Sandhurst's team of bays were

waiting and driven by Major S Eiloart to the Marlborough Head in Farnham in time for lunch. In Winchester another new stop in the city itself at the India Arms. The following day (return visit) the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, General and Mrs Pratt, were presented with an antique coaching horn.

Box 3.

Aug 1962. No ref.

Box 4.

Sept 1953, vol 20, no.8. pp.269-273 - the Red Rover's second trip to Southampton by Marylian Watney (wife of Mr Sanders Watney). Six photos - Fulham Bottling Stores, the Red Lion at Southampton, between Esher and Ripley, The Wheatsheaf at Esher, Richmond Park and The Anchor at Normandy.

Many people asked us to run again. Most of the horses in the nine teams had taken part in the Coronation procession.

Box 5.

Dec 1955, vol 22, no. 12. No ref.

Several 1960s but no volumes from 1962.

Box 6.

Oct 1956, vol 23, no. 10. pp.335-342. The Red Rover's third run to Southampton, by Marylian Watney. Nine photos - leaving Stag Brewery, the Red Rover Inn in Barnes, between Esher and Ripley, the Jovial Sailor in Ripley, The Anchor in Normandy, arriving at Alton, The Bell in Alresford, The Bridge in Shawford and The Red Lion in Southampton.

They decided to repeat the trip. At the request of the tenant Mr Churchill, the first stop was at the former Railway Arms on Barnes Common, now renamed the Red Rover. There was good stabling at Roehampton Club nearby. They took a new and prettier route from Ripley to Normandy, leaving the main road to go through Jacobs Well, but found the road now under repair. With care they got through. Major Ian Fraser with the R.A. Sandhurst team of bays drove from Normandy to Farnham. The residents of Winchester made a special request for the coach to go through the city.

John Squier  
Normandy Historians  
August 2023.