

THE RAILWAY OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2024

VOLUME 94

NUMBER 1149



THE RAILWAY CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL SOCIETY



BRITAIN'S LEADING RAILWAY SOCIETY
OBSERVING RAILWAYS SINCE 1928

rcts.org.uk

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT

St. Teresa's Church Hall, 71 Gloucester Road North, Filton BS34 7PL (next to Esso Tesco) at 19.30. &
8th Nov. (Fri.) "That was the year that was 1965" by Geoff Plumb.
6th Dec. (Fri.) "The Widows Frontier Railway" (India) by Richard Pelham.

CAMBRIDGE

The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5HD at 19.30. &
12th Nov. (Tue.) "Industrial locomotives" by Dave Goodyear.
10th Dec. (Tue.) Branch AGM and members' pictures.

CHELTENHAM

The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL50 2SY at 19.30. &
21st Nov. (Thu.) "Preservation Western style" (Cl.52s) by Paul Finch.

CHICHESTER

Bassil Shippam Centre, Tozer Way, St. Pancras, Chichester PO19 7LG at 19.15. &
27th Nov. (Wed.) Branch AGM followed by "Bournemouth West to Gloucester via London part 2" by Brian Arman, Society President.

CROYDON AND SOUTH LONDON

Small Hall (enter by door to the left of building), United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP (three minute walk from East Croydon station) at 19.30. &
12th Nov. (Tue.) Speaker to be confirmed.
10th Dec. (Tue.) Speaker to be confirmed.

EAST MIDLANDS

Nottingham Mechanics, Ground Floor, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham NG1 4EZ at 19.00. &
12th Nov. (Tue.) "Midland Railway sheet stored" by Ian Mitchell at 14.00.
26th Nov. (Tue.) "East Coast Main Line part 2 – north from York" by Stephen Gay at 14.00.
10th Dec. (Tue.) Social evening of mince pies and members' contributions.

FURNESS, LAKES AND LUNE

Royal Station Hotel, Carnforth LA5 9BT (opposite station) at 19.30.
6th Nov. (Wed.) "Flying Scotsman in America and beyond" by Richard Hinchcliffe.
4th Dec. (Wed.) Branch AGM and "Years of steam in the north west" by David Fowler.

HITCHIN AND WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Tilehouse Street Baptist Church, Upper Tilehouse Street, Hitchin SG5 2EE at 19.30 & and Digswell Village Church Hall, Warren Way, Digswell, Welwyn AL6 0DH at 14.00.
12th Nov. (Tue.) Hitchin: "The 11th Colour-Rail journey" by Paul Chancellor.
26th Nov. (Tue.) Digswell: "Colchester in the age of steam" by Dave Goodyear.
10th Dec. (Tue.) Hitchin: "Five go to Swansea part 2" by Chris Jones.

HUMBERSIDE

Black Beauty public house, Keddington Road, Scunthorpe DN17 2QU & and Upstairs, The Highway public house, Willerby Road, Hull HU5 5LH at 19.30.

19th Nov. (Tue.) Hull: "Railways east of Wakefield, including our area" by Roger Hepworth.
10th Dec. (Tue.) Scunthorpe: "The highlights so far and more" by Dan Longbottom at 13.30.

IPSWICH AND DISTRICT

Greenfinch Church Hall, Greenfinch Avenue, Ipswich IP2 0SQ at 14.15. &
11th Nov. (Mon.) "Railway scenes around Germany - Berlin/ Brandenburg" by Steve Ollive.
9th Dec. (Mon.) Branch AGM followed by "Southern steam in the 1960s" by Graham Ford.

LANCASHIRE AND NORTH WEST

Fulwood Lawn Tennis Club, Highgate Avenue (off A6 Garstang Road), Preston PR2 8DY at 19.30. &
12th Nov. (Tue.) Members' digital images at 13.00.
29th Nov. (Fri.) Branch AGM followed by "Six states, three gauges, my Australian rail travels summer 2022/3" by Russell Moorhouse.

MERSEYSIDE, CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES

The Bromborough Suite, The Merebrook, Greenfields Avenue, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 6DD at 19.30 & and Haig House Social Club, Woolton Road, Garston, Liverpool L19 5NQ (100 metres from South Parkway station) at 13.30. &
18th Nov. (Wed.) Bromborough: "Navigation Road and all that" by Ted Buckley.
4th Dec. (Wed.) Liverpool: "Merseyside area connections in the 1970s" by Brian Roberts.

MILTON KEYNES

The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1EN (Network Rail building) at 19.30. &
7th Nov. (Thu.) "The Liberation Line, the last untold story of the Normandy Landings" by Christian Wolmar.
5th Dec. (Thu.) Branch AGM followed by members' presentations.

NORTH EAST

Darlington Cricket Club, South Terrace, Feethams, Darlington DL1 5JD at 19.00. &
21st Nov. (Thu.) "Middlesbrough's industrial locomotives" by John Midcalfe plus free buffet to celebrate Jim's 90th birthday.

NORTHAMPTON

Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 3EP at 14.00. &
25th Nov. (Mon.) "The Tommy Tomalin collection part 2" by Brian Sullivan.

PETERBOROUGH

St. Luke's Church, Mayors Walk, Peterborough PE3 6EZ at 19.00. &
14th Nov. (Thu.) "Building a new Gresley P2" by Liz Gibson, A1SLT.
12th Dec. (Thu.) "From Addlestone to Beijing by rail" by Andy Davies and Irene Rabbitts.

SCOTTISH

Function Room, The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5DR opp. Haymarket station at 14.30. &
14th Nov. (Thu.) "1960s nostalgia – Scotland and north west England" by Keith Jones.
12th Dec. (Thu.) Branch AGM followed by members'

MEETINGS

slides and digital presentations.

SHEFFIELD

Farm Road Sports & Social Club, Farm Road,
Sheffield S2 2TP at 19.00. &

12th Nov. (Tue.) "Railway photography through the decades, 1947-79" by Colin Boocock at 14.00.

10th Dec. (Tue.) "Something for everyone, 1964 to 2024" by Anthony Hicks.

SOLENT

Joint with the Mid-Hants RPS at the Junction Church (formerly the Railway Institute), Romsey Road, Eastleigh SO50 9FE at 19.30. &

20th Nov. (Wed.) "Railways in the UK" (video presentation) by Philip Haines.

SOUTH ESSEX

Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield CM15 8LB (300 yards from station) at 19.30. &

18th Nov. (Mon.) "And now for something completely different – from Austria to Zimbabwe" by Peter Robins. **Hybrid meeting.**

SOUTH WALES/DE CYMRU

Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr CF15 8DF adjacent to its junction with the main road through Radyr at 19.00. &

13th Nov. (Mon.) "On and off the beaten track!" by Geoff Atkins.

11th Dec. (Mon.) "UK steam hauled goods trains since 1980" by Tony Wardrobe.

SURREY

United Reformed Church, White Rose Lane, Woking GU22 7HA (five minutes from platform 5 exit from station) at 19.15. &

21st Nov. (Thu.) "Railway bridge disasters and mishaps" by Alan Hayward.

THAMES VALLEY

Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot OX11 7JN (ten minute walk from Parkway station) at 19.00. & 19th Nov. (Tue.) "The railways of northern Ontario, Canada in the 1980s" by Andrew Kaye.

WATFORD

First Floor Lecture Hall, Beechen Grove Baptist Church, Clarendon Road, Watford WD17 1JJ at 19.00. &

5th Nov. (Tue.) "Funeral trains and final journeys" by Nicholas Wheatley.

3rd Dec. (Tue.) Members' presentations and seasonal refreshments.

WEST MIDLANDS

Cheylesmore Community Centre. Poitiers Road, Coventry CV3 5JX at 14.00. &

18th Nov. (Mon.) "Nostalgic 16mm cine from the 1920s to 2003" by Chris Pratt.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT at 19.00. &

16th Nov. (Sat.) "A Ray Shin retrospective" by Bob Bradley.

14th Dec. (Sat.) Speaker to be confirmed.

WEST RIDING

Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Road, Shipley BD18 3HH at 19.30. &

21st Nov. (Thu.) "Saltburn to Scarborough" by Austin Hughes.

WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD

Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green, Maidenhead SL6 3AX at 19.30. &

25th Nov. (Mon.) "Severn Valley Railway – history and operation" by Richard Morris. **Hybrid meeting.**

SOCIETY ONLINE VIDEO (ZOOM) PRESENTATIONS see rcts.org.uk/#events

11th Nov. (Mon.) **NATIONAL 19.30.** "Keeping a heritage railway going in the 2020s" by David Layland, ELR.
Contact David Jackman/Jeremy Harrison, e-mail: zoom@rcts.org.uk

18th Nov. (Mon.) **SOUTH ESSEX 19.30.** "And now for something completely different – from Austria to Zimbabwe" by Peter Robins. Contact David Cope, e-mail: southessex@rcts.org.uk **Hybrid meeting.**

25th Nov. (Mon.) **WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD 19.30.** "Severn Valley Railway – history and operation" by Richard Morris.
Contact Sally Goddard, e-mail: maidenhead@rcts.org.uk **Hybrid meeting.**

28th Nov. (Thu.) **NATIONAL 19.30.** Speaker to be confirmed.

Contact David Jackman/Jeremy Harrison, e-mail: zoom@rcts.org.uk

9th Dec. (Mon.) **NATIONAL 19.30.** "Testing and commissioning of the IC225s" by Dave Coxon.
Contact David Jackman/Jeremy Harrison, e-mail: zoom@rcts.org.uk

SOCIETY OUTDOOR EVENTS

12th Nov. (Tue.) **MCNW Branch:** Day out using West Yorkshire Day Ranger. Contact Alan Turton, tel: 01606 854227, e-mail: merseysidefixtures@rcts.org.uk for further details.

10th Dec. (Tue.) **MCNW Branch:** Observation at Stafford station. Details from Alan Turton, *see above*.

BRANCH SALES STANDS

The **Surrey Branch** will be attending Tolworth Showtrain at Tolworth Recreation Centre, Fullers Way North, Tolworth KT6 7LQ from 10.00 to 17.00 on 9th and 10.00 to 16.00 on 10th November.

RCTS ARCHIVE AND LIBRARY

Stationmaster's House, Station Approach, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7SQ

Current Planned Openings –9th Nov. (Sat.), 14th Nov. (Thu.), 20th Nov. (Wed.), 26th Nov. (Tue.), 7th Dec. (Sat.), 12th Dec. (Thu.) from 11.00 to 16.00. However, please confirm first by checking the website, calling tel: 01932 855015 or e-mail:

archive@rcts.org.uk