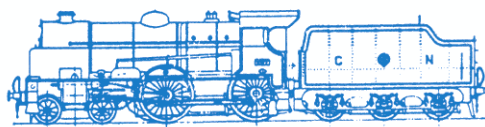


IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

LONDON AREA



www.irrslondon.com

irrslondon@hotmail.com

PROGRAMME 2022/23 (updated January 2023)

The London Area of the IRRS provides a forum in SE England for those interested in Irish transport, particularly railways. We hold monthly speaker meetings from **October – April**. Some are via Zoom only; others are held live but are also available by Zoom. At live meetings, Irish transport books are usually on sale and

- Entry is £3 for IRRS members, £5 for non-members
- The non-member entry fee is refunded if you join the IRRS on the night

Those on the London Area e-mail list will be sent further details of all meetings, including links to join via Zoom. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please apply to irrslondon@hotmail.com. Please also check our website www.irrslondon.com for updates.

ZOOM – 19.00 Thursday 20 October 2022 “Dundalk Works 1880 to 1959 Revisited” by Charles Friel

Irish railway preservationist, photographer, and author, Charles Friel, brings us an updated and lavishly-illustrated talk on the GNR's Dundalk Works, opened in 1880. The Works maintained steam locomotives (including 47 built there) and built and maintained hundreds of carriages, wagons, railbuses, railcars and road vehicles. The pictures will include the workshops and the people who made them tick as well as stories from behind the scenes. Some pictures date from the 1890s, many having been rarely seen in public, if ever! The talk will explain what happened after the Works became privately-owned in 1959 and what remains of the once-great institution today.

LIVE - 12.00 Saturday 5th Nov 2022 - IRRS (London Area) 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

bar : lunch : presentation by Jim Meade (CEO Irish Rail) : Q&A : bar until 18.00

See our website or the separate Flyer for details.

LIVE (Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road WC1X 8JR) & ZOOM – 19.00 Thursday 17 November 2022

“Recording Irish Railways Line by Line” by Jim Edgar

Author and photographer, Jim Edgar, is producing a series of books illustrating a 35-year period of change on CIE and Irish Rail, from 1974 to 2008, a period dominated by diesel locomotives between the “end of railcars and the arrival of railcars”. As well as passenger trains, we will also see many long closed lines and the transition from loose coupled goods trains to mechanical handling and eventually to the present day block freight operation. During this period virtually everything on our railways, from the rails and sleepers to the tickets and signals, changed completely.

ZOOM – 19.00 Thursday 8 December 2022

“Reflections on being CEO of Irish Rail” by Dick Fearn + London Area AGM

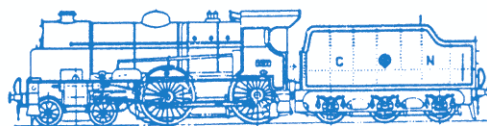
Dick will reflect on his time with Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, initially as Chief Operating Officer from 2003 to 2005, but more particularly as Chief Executive from 2006 until his retirement in 2013. Having previously spent 30 years with the railways in Britain before moving to Ireland, Dick recalls the very strong political support he found for the railways in Ireland, compared with the post-privatisation fragmentation of the rail industry in Britain. He will look back on the job satisfaction he gained from overseeing Irish Rail's major growth and modernisation programme of the time, including the reopening of closed lines and greatly increasing the frequency and quality of service on others.

followed by the London Area AGM at 21.00

continued overleaf

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PROGRAMME 2022/23 (continued)

Zoom – only meetings are from 19.00 – 21.45. **Live meetings** (March & April) are from 18.00 – 20.45 at The Gallery at Alan Baxter, 77 Cowcross Street, Farringdon LONDON EC1M 6EL
See our website www.irrslondon.com for further details of all meetings, including possible updates

ZOOM only – 19.00 Thursday 19 January 2023

Digitising the IRRS Archives + GNR(I) carriage design” by Richard McLachlan

Richard spearheads the photographic digitisation of IRRS archives. He will explain the technical challenges and the use of modern camera technology to produce top-quality readable images, particularly of text and dimensions on old drawings when graphical standards were variable. He will then use internal papers passed between the General Manager and the Locomotive Superintendent to illustrate the design process for new carriages, followed by Diagrams and photographs of the resulting vehicles, including innovative internal features and the introduction of bogie coaches.

ZOOM only – 19.00 Thursday 16 February 2023

“From Derry to Kerry : the photos of AE Bennett” by Ciaran Cooney

IRRS Photographic Archivist, Ciarán Cooney, has skilfully restored the classic photos of AE Bennett. Bennett made three visits to Ireland during 1955-58 recording railways throughout the island, including the GNR lines in the north, the narrow gauge Cavan & Leitrim and the erstwhile CIE branch lines in the south and west of the country, such as Ballinrobe, Loughrea, Valentia and Kenmare - to name but a few locations. Bennett’s extensive travels document the wide variety of Irish steam locomotives then still operating but which were slowly giving way to diesel traction.

LIVE & ZOOM – 18.00 Friday 17 March 2023 “On Tour with Lance King 1961-70” by Leslie McAllister

Lance King left a collection of quality images. To-night, Leslie bases his presentation on Lance’s coverage of railtours starting with the 1961 Joint Tour, then the 1964 tour, plus IRRS tours and the RBAIRS tour to Ballylinan. After 1964, Lance covered the early RPSI tours extensively, especially after 1968 when there was little or no main line steam in Great Britain. En route, Lance also photographed the modern railway evolving, turned his camera away from steam on many occasions. The usual mix of steam, diesel and remarkable photography by the revered Founder of the London Area.

LIVE & ZOOM – 18.00 Fri 21 April 2023 “Rails through Connemara” by Jon Beaumont

Lifetime enthusiast, preservationist and author, Jon Beaumont, draws from his recent book about the life and times of the shortlived Galway-Clifden line, open from 1895-1935, setting it in the economic and social circumstances of the time. The line was opened to support (abortive) plans for a major fishing industry and a transatlantic shipping terminal at Clifden. Compounded by the burning down of the railway hotel at Recess in the ‘Troubles’, the line struggled to an early demise, even though it had stimulated early development of a local tourist industry. Jon will show many rare photos.

IRRS (LONDON AREA) SALES STANDS featuring digitised Irish railway drawings
SCALEFORUM (Cressex Community School, Holmers Lane, High Wycombe HP12 4QA)
Sat 24 Sept (10.30 – 17.30) and Sun 25 Sept 2022 (10.00 – 16.30)
Warley National Model Railway Exhibition (NEC, Birmingham)
Sat 26 Nov (09.45 – 18.00) and Sun 27 Nov 2022 (09.45 – 17.00)

TRANSPORT COLLECTORS’ MARKET (TCM) organised by the IRRS (London Area)
Our proposed March 2023 Market has been cancelled. Our next Market should be in March 2024.