



Railway and Canal Historical Society

FEBRUARY Bulletin 2020 – No 483

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Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Society

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SOCIETY MATTERS

Bulletin copy dates

PUBLICATION	No	Copy to Editor DEADLINE	Anticipated Despatch Dates	Announcements and Enclosures
MARCH 2020	484	31 st January 2020	28 th February 2020	Journal. AGM Papers
MAY 2020	485	14 th March 2020	08 th April 2020	Annual Report & Accounts
JULY 2020	486	22 nd May 2020	24 th June 2020	Journal
SEPTEMBER 2020	487	24 th July 2020	28 th August 2020	_____
NOVEMBER 2020	488	25 th September 2020	28 th October 2020	Journal; Subscription renewal form
FEBRUARY 2021	489	27 th November 2020	15 th January 2021	2021 AGM Weekend booking
MARCH 2021	490	31 st January 2022	28 th February 2022	Journal. AGM Papers

INVICTA again

The picture of Transport Trust's *INVICTA* on the front page of Bulletin 482 has provoked a very welcome letter from Andrew Overton:

Rob, the reproduction of the painting of *INVICTA* on the cover of *Bulletin 482* is interesting in that the locomotive appears to be propelling the train. I am sure that this is not just a mistake on the part of the artist as all the details fit – the smoke is going the right way and the flags are flying towards the locomotive, which has its tender trailing for a propelling movement.

Propelling of passenger trains in normal circumstances was banned in later years by the BoT but in 1830 no such legislation had been passed. I at first wondered whether the train was being propelled to avoid coals and smut falling onto the passengers in the open wagons but I now think the explanation is the gradient. In those days the wagons would have only hand brakes operable from the ground, if any, so if a coupling broke they would run away down the gradient to destruction. Having the locomotive on the lower end of the train would prevent such an accident occurring.

I wonder whether this was a special procedure adopted only for opening day dignitaries or whether it was subsequently normal operating practice in the early years?

Regards, *Andy*

Thank you Andy. I do not know whether propelling this train was a special procedure for the Opening Day but it is possible that other R&CHS members reading this will have views that I hope can be shared in subsequent Bulletins.

Member responses to Bulletins have encouraged me, as Editor, to sustain them for specific topics – like *INVICTA* and in the Letters to Editor section. I introduced that Section, fearing no responses, but have been reassured because shared knowledge is an aspect of R&CHS business which I value.

AGM WEEKEND, Bradford
Thursday 30th April – Monday 4th May 2020

PROGRAMME

The weekend will be based at the Midland Hotel, Forster Square, Bradford BD1 4HU. The hotel is adjacent to Bradford Forster Square station and approximately half a mile from Bradford Interchange station.

Hotel telephone: 01274 735735, website:

[<www.peelhotels.co.uk/midland-hotel/>](http://www.peelhotels.co.uk/midland-hotel/)

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME IS PLANNED, BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO SOME CHANGES

Thursday 30th April: A walk around the Fall Ings area of Wakefield

A 2½ mile walk to view the extant infrastructure relating to the Aire & Calder and Calder & Hebble Navigations. Meet, after lunch (not included), in the hotel reception at 13:45 for rail travel to, and return from, Wakefield Kirkgate. Tickets are to be purchased by participants on the day. The walk is on paved / gravel paths and canal towpaths but does involve sets of steps. Participants must be confident they can walk the distance without assistance. The number of participants will be limited by the need to walk in a group in a safe manner.

Dinner at the Hotel (French Ballroom).

Friday 1st May: Coach Tour – The Yorkshire Dales

Coach(es) will depart from the hotel for Embsay to travel on the 1903 NER Electric Autocar (subject to availability). The visit will also include a guided tour of the Stately Trains workshops. In the afternoon, visits will be made to Threshfield Quarry, the Springs Branch Canal and Eller Beck in Skipton. Lunch is included.

Dinner at the Hotel (French Ballroom) followed by the Transport History Book of the Year awards.

Saturday 2nd May: Society AGM & Coach Tour – Shipley Glen & Apperley Bridge

09.30 Special Interest Groups meetings

10.45 Coffee & Tea.

11.00 AGM in the 3rd Floor Conference Centre, Midland Hotel.

12.15 Lunch: buffet available following AGM (if pre-booked).

After lunch, the coach(es) will depart from the hotel to ride on the Shipley Glen Tramway and visit the Leeds & Liverpool Canal locks and workshops at Apperley Bridge.

Dinner at the Hotel (French Ballroom) followed by a RCHS book launch -

Yorkshire's First Main Line: The Leeds & Selby Railway by Anthony Dawson

Sunday 3rd May: Coach Tour – Rails in the West Riding "Alps"

Coach(es) will depart from the hotel for a journey showing the terrain the Great Northern Railway had to conquer to build the lines between Bradford, Halifax and Keighley. Viaducts and tunnels characterise the lines but only viaducts will be visited along with a foray into the Calder Valley. Lunch is included.

Dinner at the Hotel (French Ballroom).

Monday 4th May: Coach Tour – Dewsbury and the Calder & Hebble Navigation

Coach(es) will depart from the hotel for railway and canal sites in and around Dewsbury (LNWR, L&YR & GNR passenger stations & MR goods station) and the Calder & Hebble Navigation. Lunch is included.

The coach(es) are planned to return to the Midland Hotel by 16.00.

For those not wishing to return to Bradford the coach(es) are planned to stop at Dewsbury station at approximately 15.00 from where there are frequent trains to Leeds and Manchester for onward connections.

Dinner at the Hotel in the Midland Restaurant.

The booking form accompanies this Bulletin – R&CHS *Bulletin* No. 483.

Bookings will only be accepted by post.

Payment should be made by cheque enclosed with the booking form, or by bank transfer to the NE Group's bank account – details on the booking form. In all cases, please post your booking form to:

RCHS c/o Douglas Robinson,
40 Elmete Avenue, Sherburn in Elmet, Leeds, LS25 6EH

An e-mail acknowledgement will be sent to those providing an e-mail address. Others wanting an acknowledgement should enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

You are advised to keep a copy of the completed form.

- For booking enquiries contact Douglas Robinson, telephone 0774 1499967;
email: 2020agmbookingenquiries@rchs.org.uk
- For all other enquiries contact Bill Jagger, telephone 0113 2503581;
email: 2020agmweekend@rchs.org.uk
- Or, for further information, including updates on the weekend, visit the society's website:
<https://rchs.org.uk/events/2020-agm-weekend/>

Suitable clothing and footwear for footpaths in the Pennine area will be needed.

Important Note: Should numbers wishing to attend the weekend exceed the capacities of the hotel or coach(es), acceptances will be on a "first come, first served" basis.

Refund Policy: As the hotel requires confirmation of final numbers six weeks prior to the event, requests for refunds made after 15th March can be considered only in exceptional circumstances and an administrative charge may apply.

**** LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BOOKINGS IS SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY ****

TRANSPORT HISTORY BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019

The sixteenth annual RCHS Book Award prize-winners were announced on the evening of Friday 26th April in front of an audience of over 80 members and guests at the Abbey House Hotel, Barrow in Furness.

Four railway history titles were short-listed:

Gilbert Szlumper and Leo Amery of the Southern Railway by John King, published by Pen & Sword
Transport

Scottish Railways 1923-2016 – a history by David Ross, published by Stenlake Publishing

The Changing Face of British Railways by Bruce Peter, published by Lily Publications

A history of the Metropolitan Railway & Metro-land by Irene Hawkes, published by Crecy Publishing

This was a very strong field in the opinion of the judges. They decided that the 2019 Railway History Book of the Year would be *The Changing Face of British Railways*. The Society's President, Grahame Boyes, presented its author, Professor Bruce Peter, with the Society's framed certificate and cheque.

Canal and waterway history books were once again scarce and neither were there any outstanding works on other forms of transport. There were, however, several archaeological studies on transport themes this year so the panel decided to award a Transport Archaeology prize. Two books were short-listed:

An Immense & Exceedingly Commodious Goods Station by Rebecca Haslam and Guy Thompson,
published by Pre-Construct Archaeology

Setting the Standard: research reports on the Willington Waggonway of 1785, the earliest standard gauge railway yet discovered edited by Dominique Bell, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

The winner was *An Immense & Exceedingly Commodious Goods Station*, and the President duly presented Rebecca Haslam and Guy Thompson with the Society's certificate and cheque. Grahame mentioned that the

subject of this study, Kings Cross goods yard, had once been his responsibility as BR's Area Manager, Kings Cross.

The evening's third award was in the Popular category and four books were short-listed. These were:

200 Years of the Lancaster Canal: an illustrated history by Gordon Biddle, Pen & Sword Transport

Cambridge Station: its development & operation as a rail centre by Rob Shorland-Ball, Pen & Sword Transport

An Illustrated History of the Port of Hull and its Railways by Mike G Fell OBE, Irwell Press

The First Railways – Atlas of Early Railways by Derek Hayes, published by Times Books, an imprint of Harper Collins

An Illustrated History of the Port of Hull and its Railways was the judges' choice and Grahame Boyes accordingly presented the certificate and cheque to Mike Fell.

The final business of the evening was to announce which of the three category winners was to be the overall 2019 Transport History Book of the Year and winner of the David St John Thomas silver trophy plus further monetary prize. This year's judging panel (Mike Clarke, Peter Filcek and myself) decided in favour of *The Changing Face of British Railways*. Once again our President, Grahame Boyes, made the presentation to Professor Bruce Peter (picture below).

The full 2019 judges' report may be read on the Society's website.

Philip Brown, Book Awards Administrator



BOOKS FOR SALE

The Second Railway King – The Life and Times of Sir Edward Watkin, 1819-1901 by David Hodgkins

The RCHS have acquired the remaining stock of this book (published 2002) book from the publisher, Merton Priory Press. All copies are in perfect condition. A review of this substantial 734 page biography can be found in the November 2003 issue of our *Journal* or accessed via our web site.

The book is available at £15 post free for UK orders. The original published price was £40.

For details please visit the online shop <<https://rchs.org.uk/book-sale/>> or contact our Publications Sales Officer directly.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2019

Membership Changes

After accounting for the changes noted below, the Society has 790 memberships (was 792) including 61 joint and 20 student memberships making a total of 851 members.

We have e-mail addresses for 75% of the membership. The Society holds postal addresses for all members. If you wish to make contact with a member via e-mail, your e-mail address will be passed to that member who can then respond. If you wish to contact a member by post or telephone please ask the Membership Secretary who will do his best to put you in contact.

Notification of address changes, gift aid status, missing or damaged mailings etc, should be sent by post to: Membership Secretary, Andrew Wager, Hollow Croft, Church Lane, Thorpe, Ashbourne, DE6 2AW; by e-mail to membership@rchs.org.uk or by telephone landline: 01335-350239 or mobile: 07775-964-095.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members. Contact details have been included where members asked for this when they applied for membership.

Regional Group	Name and Location	Interests
London	Richard Bradley, 20 Athelstan Way, Horsham, RH13 6HA [richardjbradley@btinternet.com]	His main interest lies in early railway history particularly of the Northern, Eastern and Eastern Counties railways. He is a member of the Great Eastern Railway Society and has had a number of articles published in the Society's Journal over the last few years. His initial efforts were devoted to recording the history of the railway at Harlow and in the Stort Valley, together with its effect on the wider community. More recently he has written detailed histories of major ECR stations in London and metropolitan Essex: Shoreditch, Brick Lane, Stratford and Devonshire Street.
	Mehmet Kani of London	Railway chronology; Early railways; Waterways history research; Railway history research
	Paul Bush of Milton Keynes [paulnicholasbush@hotmail.com]	Canals
Midlands East	Tony Burley, <i>Prinses</i> Juliana Robertson's Boatyard, Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge, IP12 1BD [Tony-Burley@hotmail.com]	Inland Waterways - Rivers & Canals; Sailing Barges
North East	William Ramsden of Ilkley	York University's Railway Studies MA Course
North East	Martin Firth of Hebden Bridge	He is currently developing a website " <i>Register of Closed Railways</i> ".
North West	Ian Warwick of Rossendale	East Lancashire Railway, especially the closed section between Rawtenstall and Bacup.

Regional Group	Name and Location	Interests
Australia	Clifton Baker of New South Wales [cliffbak61@gmail.com]	Railway chronology; Docks & Coastal Shipping; Early railways; Waterways history research

Resigned Members

As usual at this time of the year a number of members have decided not to renew their membership:

Name	Year Joined	Regional Group
Ian Bradley of Reading	2018	London
J Lace of Eastbourne	2015	London
Mrs A W Rogers of Sevenoaks	1976	London
Paul Burke of Matlock	2018	Midlands East
J S Hogg of Peterborough	1999	Midlands East
P G Waldron of Cirencester	2013	Midlands West
Bob Whitehouse of Darlington	2018	North East
Dr Lynn Pearson of Newcastle Upon Tyne	2017	North East
A Crawford of Workington	2015	North West
P Lingard of Oldham	2015	North West
Edward J Owen of Fleetwood	2007	North West
R J Arden of Inverness	1998	Scotland

Lost Contact

The Society has lost contact with Jeremy Fox of Dover who joined in 2006. Any information would be helpful.

Deceased Members

We are saddened to record the deaths of the following member:

Name	Year Joined	Regional Group
Robert Sim of Walsall	2012	Midlands West

Changes of e-mail address

The following members have changed their contact details. The Membership Secretary has full information. If you have lost contact with a member or wish to contact them, we may be able to help.

When you tell me your changed details, please let me know if you would like the changes included in the Bulletin, otherwise the default is privacy.

Group	Name
North East	R. Vickers of Huddersfield
London	B.M. Janes of Cranbrook
North East	R. Vickers of Huddersfield
North West	D.A. Budgett of Macclesfield (lost contact via email)
Scotland	David R Pedley of Newton Stewart



Train crosses Bee Viaduct south of Ruabon with northbound train – 28 November 1964 (courtesy OTA)

R&CHS OFFICERS AND CONTACTS 2019 – 2020

Office	Name	*	Contact
President	Graham Boyes		<g.boyes1@btinternet.com>
Acting Assistant Secretary	Phil Lloyd	*	<secretary@rchs.org.uk> Tel: (07967) 469574 or (0151) 336 7609
Treasurer	David C Smith	*	<dcsmithco@aol.com> [Work e-address]
Managing Committee Chairman	Patrick Moss	*	<lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk>
Membership Secretary	Andrew Wager	*	<membership@rchs.org.uk> Tel: 01335 350239
Publications Committee Secretary	Stephen Rowson		<publications@rchs.org.uk>
<i>Journal</i> Editor	Paul Reynolds	*	<journal@rchs.org.uk>
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Rob Shorland-Ball		<robsb@wfmymyork.demon.co.uk> Tel: 01904 632751
Reviews Editor	Matthew Searle		<matthew904@btinternet.com>
Publications Sales	Martin Lander		<sales@rchs.org.uk>
Photographic Collections	Steve Martin		<steve.a.martin@talk21.com>
Web Master	Roger Brice		<webmaster@rchs.org.uk>
REGIONAL GROUP SECRETARIES			
London	Andy Brown	*	<apbrown35@yahoo.co.uk> Tel: 020 8424 8272
Midlands East	Bob Bramson	*	<bob.bramson@btinternet.com> Tel: 01773 825991
Midlands West	Ted Cheers	*	<Tedcheers@aol.com> Tel: 01902 782641
North East	Brian Freeborn	*	<freeborn@globalnet.co.uk> Tel: 01904 637009
North West	Roger Brice	*	<nwgroupsec@rchs.org.uk> Tel: 01625 533959
CO-ORDINATORS of SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS			
Air Transport; Road Transport & Material Handling	Philip Scowcroft	*	8 Rowan Mount, Doncaster DN2 5PJ
Early Railways	Andy Guy	*	<early.railway.group@gmail.com>
Modern Transport	Ray Shill	*	< rayshill25@gmail.com >
Railway Chronology	Ted Cheers	*	< Tedcheers@aol.com >
Railway History Research	Andrew Jones	*	<andrew59jones@gmail.com>
Waterways History Research	Peter Cross-Rudkin	*	< whrg@rchs.org.uk >
<i>* postal addresses of these Officers are on inside front cover of R&CHS Journal</i>			

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Railway handbells again

William Feartherstone wrote to me in October: I am working on an article for the French Railway Society Journal relating to the long battle to allow French passengers to access platforms in advance of the arrival of their train. Handbells were used to announce the opening of the platform doors was imminent. The English practice of allowing free access to the platforms was often cited to the disadvantage of the French railway companies.

And Tom Foxton in November: When I retired from Worcester Foregate Street Station in 1996, platform bells were in use. There are two bi-directional platforms, Platform One on the line between Worcester Shrub Hill and Henwick and Platform Two on the line between Worcester Tunnel Junction and Henwick.

Each platform had a separate bell which rang when a train was approaching. A plunger was installed and operated on the departure of each train. Although strictly forbidden, it was not unknown for the platform staff to send the 'Stop and Examine' bell signal on these plungers. There was still a lot of slam door stock around in those days and sometimes a door was not completely latched.

To which I responded in drawing on my own memories from Cambridge Station: Thank you Tom, this is a fascinating sidelight on the practical operation of the 'traditional' railway. Some of the Goods Porters from whom I learned a lot when I was working on the railway at Cambridge Station told me how to ensure slam-door stock did not get far if I had seen an unlatched door as the train pulled away. They always added – of course – 'And remember, Bob, we did not tell you this because it is absolutely forbidden.'

And Ralph Potter introduces another interesting element to this story – although the purists amongst Bulletin readers may tell me that we are moving the topic towards signalmen's bell codes: On the subject of ground frames worked by bell communication, I remember that at Hoylake in the early 1970's, the connection to the Down Siding, which was used daily, was worked by a ground frame using bell code communication with the signal box, there being no telephone available for this purpose.

And from my own 'archives' the message (below) for Copmanthorpe (York) is one of the most surprising. Very briefly a Fogman would have been required when fog had reduced visibility to less than 200 yards and it was necessary to introduce Fog Working. Without a Fogman on duty, the signalling of trains was required to be more restrictive with the possibility of consequent delays occurring –

M.54/219A	BR.29659
<u>BRITISH RAILWAYS</u> <u>Eastern Region</u>	
<u>BELL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COPMANTHORPE</u> <u>BOX AND THE GANGER'S HOUSE, COPMANTHORPE</u>	
When, in emergency etc., the Ganger is required outside the normal hours of duty at Bolton Percy or Copmanthorpe Signal boxes, the Signaller at Copmanthorpe box will give one long ring on the special bell.	
When the bell signal has been acknowledged by repetition, the Signaller will use the following code of bells signals as appropriate, which must be acknowledged by repetition :-	
<u>No. of Rings on Bell</u>	<u>Code</u>
2 consecutively	Copmanthorpe Fogman required
4 consecutively	Bolton Percy Fogman required
<hr/> G. GRAHAM <hr/>	
for MOVEMENTS OPERATIONS MANAGER	
Y O R K	
8th January, 1967	

Thank you gentlemen and I hope these memories may provoke more practical knowledge of railway working. Alas no-one has yet contributed any ideas (from *Bulletin 482*) on the exact musical pitch of an A4 chime whistle. Someone must know . . . ?

R&CHS GROUP EVENTS

❖ **London Group 2020 Programme** – contributed by Andy Brown

Events 2020

- Monday 20th January: Talk by Kirk Martin – *Ferries across the Humber*
- Monday 24th February: Talk by Richard Evans - *Where my Great Grandmother got off the train: An American Railway mystery*
- Monday 30th March: London Group AGM. Presidential address by Grahame Boyes – *From BOTTOMS to TOPS: 40 years of computer development on British Railways*
- Monday 20th April: Talk by Terry McCarthy – *Railways of South Wales during World War II*

All Speaker meetings at the Rugby Tavern, Rugby Street (off Lamb's Conduit Street), London WC1N 3ES. Talks start at 18.30; food available from 17.30.

Contact: Andy Brown <apbrown35@yahoo.co.uk> or 07960 479014 for more information.

❖ **Midlands East Group** – contributed by Bob Bramson

Walks 2020

- ◆ Thursday 9th January 2020: – Rail and bus tour – Views of Dinting Viaduct, Huddersfield and Peak Forest canals. Meet Derby Station at 09:00 for 09:15 train to Sheffield, going forward at 10:14 to New Mills. Bus journey to Glossop, Ashton under Lyne and Bredbury. Lunch at the Ashton under Lyne Wetherspoon at 13:30. Return by train 16:04 from Bredbury to Sheffield. Suggest members from Derby book Derbyshire Wayfarer and single from Bredbury to New Mills. Members from Sheffield book return to Bredbury.
- ◆ Thursday 12th March 2020: – Charnwood Canal – Walk tracing the Charnwood Forest Canal and LNWR line towards Coalville (5 miles). Further details to be advised.

Winter Lecture Programme 2019 - 2020

- Friday 6th December 2019: – *The Panama Canal* – talk by Roger Squires
- Friday 3rd January 2020: - Mail by Rail – talk by Rev. Peter Barham
- Friday 7th February: – *Bradshaw and a railway Excursion* – talk by Robert Mee
- Friday 6th March: AGM followed by - *Derby and Nottingham Miscellany* – talk by Richard Bindings
- Friday 3rd April: - *The Leicester Line Canal* – talk by Mary Matts

❖ **Midlands West Group** – contributed by Ted Cheers

Talks 2020:

- Saturday 14th December 2019: Talk by Trevor Griffin – “*The Butterley Gangroad.*” The Butterley Gangroad, or Crich Rail Way, was one of the first railways engineered by Benjamin Outram. He went on to construct similar horse worked plateways all over the country and he also founded the Butterley Company. Although the infrastructure of this early mineral railway survives largely intact it had been badly understood until a Heritage Lottery funded project unearthed its secrets. The railway used a steam locomotive as early as 1813 and its claim to have the world’s oldest railway tunnel has now been accepted.
Starts at 14.00 in the Conference Room of the Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.
- Saturday 18th January 2020: Talk by Roger Squires – “*The Crinan and Caledonian Canals.*” The Crinan Canal starts at Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne, and ends 9-miles away at Crinan on the Sound of Jura. It was designed to provide a quick link between the west coast and islands at one end and the Clyde Estuary at the other, and so avoid the long voyage around the south end of the Kintyre peninsula. The Caledonian Canal extends for 60-miles along the Great Glen from Corpach near Fort William in the South West to Inverness in the North East. The canal was started in 1803 to plans produced by Thomas Telford following survey work by James Watt 30-years earlier. It was the biggest of the building schemes undertaken by the Government to provide work and stem the flood of emigration from the Highlands. Additional information can be found on the West Midland group Events page on the RCHS web site.
Starts at 14.00 in the Conference Room of the Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.

- Saturday 15th February 2020: Group AGM then Talk by Ray Shill – “*The development of internal combustion engines as motive power for narrow boats.*” The talk will be a prelude to a later Canal History Workshop at the Titford Pump House in 2020. Powered canal boats had been limited to steam engines driving stern wheels and later propeller-driven craft. After the development of the internal combustion engine, certain oil engines were adapted to drive narrow boats.

Starts at 14.00 in the Conference Room of the Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE BELOW

- Saturday 21st March 2020: Presidential address by Grahame Boyes – “*From BOTTOMS to TOPS.*” Grahame's talk describes 40-years of computer development on British Railways.

Starts at 14.00 in the Conference Room of the Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.

❖ **North East Group** – contributed by Brian Freeborn

Talks 2020:

All meetings will be held in the Council Room of the York Railway Institute, Queen Street York at 14:00 hours.

- Saturday February 1st 2020. Talk by David Joy on *Rails in the Dales* in a lead up to our national AGM in Bradford.
- Saturday March 7th 2020. Our branch Annual General Meeting will be followed by member's contributions.

Walks 2020:

- ◆ Thursday 20th February 2020 – **Walk from Bottomboat to Stanley Ferry**. Please note that this is one week later than the usual date. The walk will follow parts of the River Calder and also feature canals and early railways. We will finish at the impressive iron aqueduct near the Canal & River Trust workshops on the Aire and Calder Navigation at Stanley Ferry. There will be an opportunity for a late pub lunch at the end of the walk before a bus return (three per hour) to Wakefield. Meet at the ticket barriers at Wakefield Westgate station at 10:50 to walk to the bus station for the Arriva Yorkshire service, route 174A, at 11.15 to Bottomboat. Distance: approximately 4 miles.
 - ◆ Walk leader: Graham Hague, contact telephone 0114 2686729.
 - ◆ Thursday 9th April 2020 – **Brian Slater Memorial walk, Riccall to Bishopthorpe**. This walk will be on a section of ‘The Solar System Greenway’ which was part of the East Coast Main Line until the route was diverted in 1983. *En route* we will view the Brian Slater Memorial on the site of Escrick station. There will be a lunch stop at the Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn at about 13.45. After lunch the walk will continue on the Greenway to Bishopthorpe for a bus back to York. There is an option to return by bus to York from Naburn. Distance: 6.5 miles to Bishopthorpe or 5.25 miles to Naburn. Meet at the entrance to York Station from where we will leave at 09.50 prompt to walk to Clifford Street and catch the Selby bus (route 415) to Riccall from stop TG at 10.10.
- Please contact walk leader Jane Ellis (telephone 07787-311913 or e-mail <janerway@gmail.com>) by Sunday 5th April if you intend to come so that we can advise the pub of our group size. Meals will be ordered by phone at the start of the walk; menu available online at <https://blacksmithsarmsnaburn.com/>

North West Group – contributed by Roger Brice

Talks & Other Indoor Meetings

All NW Group indoor meetings and talks take place in The Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS at 14.00. For further information please consult the website or contact Roger Brice (07702 303242; nwgroupsec@rchs.org.uk).

- Saturday 8th February 2020. Speaker: Ian Mainprize – *Political Background to Traction Development on German Railways*
- Saturday 14th March 2020. Speaker: Peter Cross-Rudkin – *Thomas Brassey & Company, railway contractors*
- Saturday 4th April 2020 – Speaker: Tom Heavyside – *Steam in Lancashire*. Tom is the author of many illustrated railway books many on 'colliery steam'

Walks & Other Events

- ◆ Thursday 30th January 2020 – **Ashton Canal Walk**: A walk led by Gerald Leach (distance 5 miles) along the towpath of the Ashton Canal from Guide Bridge to Bradford (distance 5 miles). Walk will

start outside Guide Bridge Station at 10.45 after arrival at 10.38 of 10.29 train departure from Manchester Piccadilly (Northern service to Hadfield). There will be an opportunity for lunch at the Lazy Toad pub in Droylsden, although the manager landlord requires our meal choices to be block booked in advance. Members wishing to order a lunch in advance please access the pub's menu via the link [Lazy Toad Menu \(www.lazytoaddroylsden.co.uk/food-drink/\)](http://www.lazytoaddroylsden.co.uk/food-drink/) that is also provided in the "Events" section of the RCHS website or, alternatively, by sending an email to Gerald Leach requesting a copy of the pub's menu be sent to them as an e-mail attachment. The closing date for submitting meal selections to Gerald Leach (by e-mail or phone – see below) is Monday 27th January. Return will be by bus or Metrolink Tram from Etihad Campus to Manchester Piccadilly for onward connections. Or follow the canal towpath (1.3 miles) around Sports City and into Ancoats and Piccadilly. For additional information contact Gerald Leach – e-mail: <gerald.leach@btinternet.com> telephone: 01565 65434

- ◆ Thursday 27th February 2020 – **Metrolink Tram Ride & Walk:** Meet at Manchester (Victoria) Metrolink station at 11.00 for a tram to Crumpsall to see the reconstructed station there which will be the terminal point for the new Trafford Centre service. Return by tram to Cornbrook where the walk, of not more than 5 miles, following the new Trafford Centre line will start. It will be mostly walking along (sometimes very busy) roads so we will have to take safety considerations into account. There might be the possibility of seeing some of what little remains of the very extensive railway system that served Trafford Park. It seems unlikely that the Trafford Line will be open but test trams may be running.
- ◆ The walk will pass near to the Lowry Centre which will be a convenient toilet stop. There are various eating places at the Lowry and in the Lowry Outlet Centre and an outdoor area for those that bring sandwiches. We should be at the Trafford Centre by 16.00 at the latest where buses are available to 'all parts' but there are various escape points for those that need to get away earlier.
- ◆ Ticketing: Greater Manchester Pass holders will not need a ticket for the tram journeys. Others should buy an 'Adult One-day Off-peak Travelcard' which is currently £4.80. Contactless debit cards can also be used. (The bus journey from Trafford Centre is chargeable if you don't have an English bus pass – tram tickets are not valid for the buses.) For additional information contact Richard Coulthurst (<richard.coulthurst@btinternet.com>).
- ◆ Thursday 26th March 2020 – **Rail Tour: Blackpool & The Fylde:** The 2020 NW Group rail tour will feature all current lines on the Fylde Peninsula and the full length of the Blackpool tram route from Starr Gate to Fleetwood. We will also look at progress with the short extension to Blackpool North. A buffet lunch will be available at the North Euston Hotel in Fleetwood. Tides permitting there may be time to view, or even travel on, the ferry to Knott End. Fleetwood and the North Euston Hotel were formerly important points on the Euston to Glasgow train route. Trams have been running in Blackpool since 1885. An early example of a partnership between private enterprise and a local authority, the tramway played a crucial role in the development of Blackpool as a major holiday resort.

Meet at Manchester Piccadilly (platform 14) for the 10:30 departure to Preston (arriving 11:32). From Preston we will take the 11:35 departure to Squires Gate (train for Blackpool South) passing through Lytham and St Annes. After a short walk to the tram terminus at Starr Gate we will travel by tram to Fleetwood. Return will be by tram to North Pier and, after a short walk to Blackpool North, we will take the 15:27 departure to Manchester. This train passes through Poulton-le-Fylde and Preston. (Note: both outward and return trains pass through Stockport). An alternative return route is to travel from Preston to Manchester via Blackburn.

For those travelling from Crewe, the 10:09 departure arrives Preston at 10:51 (10:27 from Warrington BQ & 10:37 from Wigan NW). The 9:18 departure from Leeds (to Manchester Airport) connects with the 10:30 train from Piccadilly to Preston. The 10:57 departure from Lancaster arrives Preston at 11:15.

Suggested ticket for those travelling from Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster or intermediate stations is the Lancashire Day Ranger (£24.50; £16:15 with railcard). There is a Northern Explorer ticket (£15.00; over 55's only) but this is valid on Northern services only. Alternatively a return ticket to Blackpool Stations offers full flexibility.

All times and prices were valid in November 2019. Please check the Society's website for updates. For additional information contact Roger Brice – e-mail: <nwgroupsec@rchs.org.uk>; telephone landline 07702 303242 or mobile 01625 533959.

- ◆ Thursday 23rd April 2020 – **L&Y North Lancashire Loop Line Walk**: (Note that this event is arranged for the third Thursday in April) - *Advance notice* of a walk in the Burnley area (distance 6 miles) led by Bernard Parkinson and Gerald Leach, to follow as far as possible the route northern section of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railways former North Lancashire Loop line between Simonstone, Padiham and Rose Grove (Burnley). This will be a continuation of the Group's previous walk on 30th May 2019 between Rishton, Great Harwood and Martholme.

Meet outside Blackburn railway station at 10.30 a.m. following arrival of the 09.41 train from Manchester Victoria (Clitheroe train), the 07.12 train from York and the 08.56 from Preston. Then transfer to Blackburn bus station to board Burnley bus service No. 152 (half hourly) from stand 9 and alight at Altham Church. Return by trains in both north and south directions will be from Rose Grove railway station.

Full details and information regarding lunch arrangements will be given in the April issue of the Bulletin. For additional information contact Gerald Leach - e-mail: <gerald.leach@btinternet.com> - telephone landline 01565 654342.

Please note that any updates for NW Group meetings and outdoor events will be posted on the Society's website: www.rchs.org.uk

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Bulletins on the Website are available, *well in advance of receipt of the printed Bulletins*, as downloadable and printable PDFs for all R&CHS members only.

An especial benefit for those who have raised concerns about type-size and the A5 format of the Bulletin is that the PDF can be printed at A4 size so both text and pictures are bigger – and better!

Air Transport Group – contributions from Philip Scowcroft via Graham Wild

The mailing of this special interest group, Newsletter No. 49, comes from its co-ordinator, Philip L Scowcroft (8 Rowan Mount, DONCASTER, DN2 5PJ) and includes the following Occasional Papers.

Anyone requiring copies may contact Philip by post or Graham by e-mail: <wild141@talktalk.net>. There may be a charge.

Ref No	Title	Author	Pages
462	Airline Collectables	Brian A L Jones	2pp - illus
463	The Rolls-Royce Trent 7000 and the A330neo	Robin Johnson	3pp - illus
464	An Iconic Photograph	Geoff Simpson	9pp - illus
465	Day Bomber Extraordinary : The DH.4	Philip L Scowcroft	1pp - illus
466	British Torpedo Strike Aircraft 1915-1945	Philip L Scowcroft	1p
467	The Berlin Air Lift 1948-1949	Philip L Scowcroft	1p - illus
468	The Fairey Firefly	Philip L Scowcroft	1pp - illus
469	The Gloster Gladiator	Philip L Scowcroft	2pp - illus
470	The OX-Box	Philip L Scowcroft	1p - illus
471	A Tragic Photo	Geoff Simpson	5pp - illus

Early Railways Group – contributed by Andy Guy

There was a circulation in early November of the following OCCASIONAL PAPERS:

Ref No	Title	Author	Pages
250	William Rowley, engine-maker	John Liffen	11pp

Ref No	Title	Author	Pages
251	Benjamin Hall's tramroads and the promotion of Chapman's locomotive patent	Stephen Rowson & Andy Guy	9pp
252	Two significant newspaper extracts from North East England: Brunton and Trevithick	John Liffen	2pp
253	An unusual sleeper from Shropshire	Steve Dewhurst & Dr Michael Lewis	3pp
254	A lost model of a Killingworth locomotive . . . or is it?	John Liffen	5pp

CIRCULAR 37 –

7th *International Early Railways Conference*; query concerning Charnwood Forest canal tramroad; donkey-hauled railway in China; forest railway in Russia; query concerning a fish-belly rail; answer to a query about a plateway photograph; note on Thomas Gray; recent publications.

Modern Transport Group

No mailing for this Bulletin

NRM and IRS information and activities –

No mailing for this Bulletin

Pipeline & Materials Handling Group

No mailing for this Bulletin

Railway Chronology Group – contributed by Ted Cheers

Below is a list of the Contents of Railway Chronology Newsletter 100 – October 2019. The latest Chronology Newsletter index updated to October 2019 is available as a PDF from Ted Cheers

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| 1 - 7 | Amendments to “Railway Passenger Stations in Great Britain” | Michael Quick |
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NOTES, QUERIES & RESPONSES

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| 10 | Public Goods Depots Serving the Ettiley Heath Area – Rookery Bridge | Norman Hill |
| 10 | Cardiff Docks Passenger Station | Richard Maund |
| 11 | Lines & Stations Closed In World War 1 | Richard Maund |
| 11 | Oakengates for Telford | Ted Cheers |
| 12 | Wooville Road Halt | Pat McCarthy |
| 12 | Provision of Drinking Water for Livestock | Pat McCarthy |
| 12 | Railway Passenger Stations in Great Britain 5th edition | Ted Cheers |

Railway History Research Group – contribution from Andrew D Jones

Anthony Dawson has agreed to take over as Group Co-ordinator from the end of the year. Full contact details will be circulated to Group members at the appropriate time.

Road Transport Group – apology from Graham Wild

The October 2019 mailing of this special interest group, Newsletter No.85, was reported in *Bulletin 482*. It contained an error for which the compilation team wish to apologise. For paper 603 on Warburton Toll Bridge the author should be Ray Shill. Our apologies to Ray for this unfortunate error.

Waterways History Group – contributed by Peter Cross-Rudkin

The entire output of the Waterways History Research Group to the end of 2018 has now been placed on the members' pages of the R&CHS website, together with a list of what it contains. They are all PDFs and are searchable by members with the appropriate software.

The Group operates mainly by e-mail, with members sending notes or queries, occasional papers, source papers or reprints to the co-ordinator, who then circulates them to the membership. As replies to notes and queries come in they are added to the original and the revised version circulated. Any member of the Society with an interest in waterways history may join. There is no compulsion to contribute, though the results of research are always welcome. The co-ordinator is Peter Cross-Rudkin, who can be contacted at <whrg@rchs.org.uk>

ALAN GODFREY MAPS – from Tony Jervis

Over 3,000 titles have now been published in this series. The majority of maps cost £3.00 each, but **colour-printed maps**, including those of Germany and France, cost **£4.00**. However, considerable discounts are available for those subscribing in advance for all issues or for all of particular areas. For a copy of the latest catalogue of available maps send a stamped, addressed envelope to the publisher, Alan Godfrey Maps, Prospect Business Park, Leadgate, Consett, DH8 7PW, or visit the website at <www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk> where maps can be also be bought on-line.

Tony has been unable to submit a more current survey of maps published after late May 2019 but we look forward to a 'bumper' issue for the next Bulletin. Meanwhile, Happy Christmas and Hogmanay to Tony!

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! MORE NEWS FOR THIS BULLETIN

Ffestiniog Railway and Robert Fairlie Locomotive Trials 1870 – contributed by Stephen Murfitt

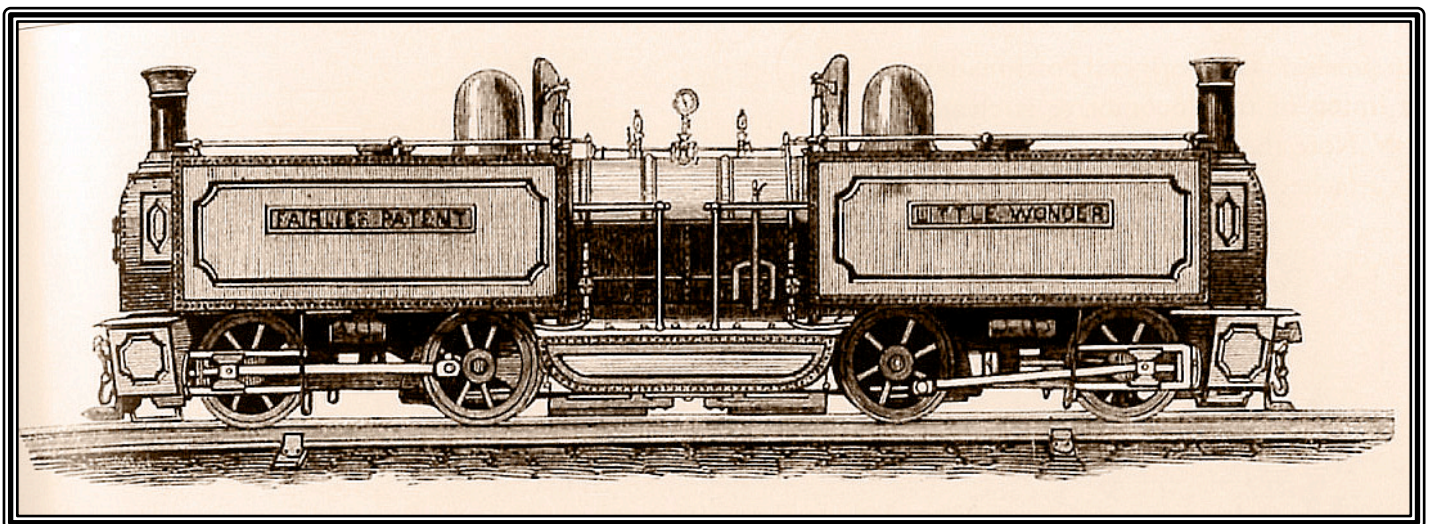
Many RCHS readers will know that in February 1870 Robert Fairlie demonstrated his new double-boiler steam locomotive *Little Wonder* on the Ffestiniog Railway in front of an international gathering.

The Duke of Sutherland was the principal guest and Russia sent an Imperial Commission to view the trials. There were representatives from Sweden, India, France, Norway, North Germany, Japan, Switzerland, and the USA to mention a few. There were many representatives from Britain.

There is substantial evidence that the trials had a profound effect on the construction of railways around the world and the motive power used. Fairlie argued his locomotive saw service in 20 countries.

The Ffestiniog Railway intends to rerun the trials to the extent possible on the 19th to 21st June 2020. We will be inviting many international and British guests representing those who attended 150 years ago in 1870.

Full details will be issued in the new year on the Ffestiniog Railway website so please make an early diary entry to attend. R&CHS members will be most welcome.



The first image of *Little Wonder* as built. The small sandpots mounted on the tank ends and the lack of bunker extensions differ from the first photographs.

Engineering 24th September 1869 from *Grace's Guide* and *Little Giants: A History of the Ffestiniog Railways Pre-Revival Locomotives, Their Mentors, Manufacture and Maintenance*. Chris Jones & Peter Dennis. Lightmoor Press. 2018

The Thomas Brassey Society – contributed by Roger Brice, R&CHS NW Group

Five members of the RCHS North West Group attended the inaugural meeting of The Thomas Brassey Society in Chester on Monday, 18th November 2019. The initial aim of the Society is to raise funds to finance two interpretation panels to be installed at Chester station in 2020, the 150th anniversary of Brassey's death. In the longer term it is proposed to erect a permanent memorial, either a statue or some other piece of public art, at Chester station to commemorate Thomas Brassey as the world's foremost builder of railways in the 19th Century. The society is intending to have a website to promote these aims.

After matters dealing with formal aspects of the Society's inauguration the meeting (which was attended by two descendants of Thomas Brassey) included a short talk focusing on Brassey's work in France and on a commemorative event in Birkenhead.

There are many notable people from the C18th and C19th whose achievements are remarkable and, in many cases, are still the backbone of our present-day economy. Undoubtedly, Thomas Brassey is one of these as many of the railways he built are still in daily use but he is not as well-known as he might be – even in his hometown of Chester. Brassey's international achievements are particularly impressive and, while our focus tends to be on the products of his endeavours, his organisational skills must have been quite exceptional for his times, given the available technology and infrastructure. The Thomas Brassey Society aims to remedy this lack of recognition through the interpretation panels and eventually a statue, but it is hoped that this is just a start.

Membership of the Society costs £10.00 per year. Further information and application forms are available from the Society's secretary, Peter Bolt, e-mail - <petergillianbolt1@btinternet.com>

It is relevant to note that the North West Group is hosting a talk by Peter Cross-Rudkin on *Thomas Brassey & Company, Railway Contractors* in the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS on Saturday 14th March 2020, starting at 14.00.

MISCELLANIA

Tapping into your members' expertise . . .

History of Pigeon Racing in Britain, 1870 to 1914.

The R&CHS Office received a research request in October which may now be a little overdue but is worth including here in case anyone can help:

From: Nic Watts <na.watts@hotmail.co.uk>

I am currently undertaking an MA in History at the University of York. My research topic is the History of Pigeon Racing in Britain 1870 to 1914, with particular reference to the role the railways played in helping the sport to develop and grow. I wondered whether any of your members had any knowledge or expertise relating to:

- pigeon traffic on the railways during this period
- commercial negotiations between pigeon clubs / associations and railway companies for the carriage of pigeons to their release points
- any other related correspondence.

I believe that the NER actually built specific Pigeon Vans for the transport of these Homing Pigeons and am wondering if any of the other Victorian / Edwardian companies did the same? I am also very interested to find out just how railway companies organised the transport of these birds over such long distances, presumably transferring them from one Company's network to another?

Any help that any of your members could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards, Nic Watts.



An RCTS Tour at Coed Talen, Flintshire on 02nd October 1955 (Courtesy Wickens from OTA)
Any faces recognised please send details known to Editor!