

The Bassil Shippam Centre
Tozer Way, St Pancras, Chichester, PO19 7LG

Wednesday 13 December
At 19:15

The Railways of
Lt-Colonel Holman Stephens



**Image left of the Opening
of the Rother Valley
Railway 1900, courtesy of
our guest speaker.**

**Chris
Jackson**

While the 'Colonel Stephens Railways' have gained a reputation for being somewhat esoteric, down at heel and decrepit, this caricature is perhaps a bit unfair. The Victorian entrepreneur Lt-Colonel Holman Fred Stephens (1868-1931) was a great believer in the potential of low-cost railways, and was involved in upwards of 50 different projects, not all of which came to fruition.

"Suggested donation (to defray costs) £3 Members, £4 Guests"
Collected on arrival at the door

Come and join us Bring a friend Everybody welcome

The Monthly Newsletter of RCTS Chichester Branch.
Editor: Ian McKey
Distributor: Roger Sandford
**Additional Proof Readers: Geoff Adams, Geoff May
& John Barrowdale**
**Front Cover Poster by
Roger Sandford ©**
**Contributors: Ian McKey,
Rosemary McKey, Paul Myatt,
Roger Sandford.**
What's on for the Railway Enthusiast in November - Part 1: The Railway Contacts.

Railway Name	Website	Contact Email	Contact Phone
Bluebell Railway	The Bluebell Railway in Sussex - A heritage steam railway (bluebell-railway.com)	enquiries@bluebell-railway.com	01825 720800
Isle of Wight Railway	Isle of Wight Steam Railway – The 10 Mile Museum	info@iwsteamrailway.co.uk info@iwsteamrailway.co.uk	01983 882204
Kent & East Sussex Railway	Kent & East Sussex Railway – Tenterden – Northiam –	enquiries@kesr.org.uk	01580 765155
Watercress Railway	Watercress Line - Heritage Steam Railway	info@watercressline.co.uk	01962 733810
Amberley Museum	Amberley Museum	office@amberleymuseum.co.uk	01798 831370
Hayling Light Railway Trust	The Hayling Light Railway Trust	haylinglightrailway@yahoo.com	07902 446340
Littlehampton Miniature Railway	Home (littlehamptonminiaturerailw		01903 719876
South Downs Light Railway	South Downs Light Railway	info@south-downs-railway.com	07518 753784
Stansted Park Light Railway	Stansted Park Light Railway	help@sp-lr.co.uk	02392 413 324

In December most Heritage lines only offering Santa Trips, Dining Trains and Lightshow trains. Contact the individual lines for details of their offerings. See web links above.

RCTS Chichester Branch AGM

The Branch AGM will be: held on

Wednesday 13th December 2023 @ 19:15

Location: Bassil Shippam Centre - Tozer Way - Chichester, PO19 7LG

What's on for the Railway Enthusiast in December

Part 2: The Events other than Santa Trains etc!

Railway	Date(s)	Event
Amberley Museum	02/12/2023 - 03/11/2023	Christmas Craft Fair
Amberley Museum	09/12/2023 - 10/12/2023	Christmas Craft Fair
Amberley Museum	16/12/2023 - 17/12/2023	Christmas Craft Fair
Isle of Wight Railway	26/12/2023 - 27/12/2023	Mince Pie Special
Kent & East Sussex Railway	29/12/2023 - 01/01/2024	Steam into the New Year with us!
Isle of Wight Railway	01/01/2024	New Years Day Special

FROM THE CHAIR

The older you become the faster time moves on, at least that's how it seems. Difficult to believe we are already entering December and the festive season.

At RCTS Chichester we have firmly settled into the Post Covid routine and our new meeting home at the Bassil Shippam Centre in Chichester. Whilst numbers attending our meetings are not quite at pre-Covid levels they are pretty close. Many similar groups have not been as fortunate and have struggled in recent years. We thank all of you who attend, regularly each month, or only occasionally, your support is very much appreciated. If you are unable to join our gatherings in Chichester the Society offers regular 'Zoom' meetings. Details at www.rcts.org.uk You receive our monthly Newsletter as a RCTS member assigned to Chichester, or have either attended a meeting in Chichester or a Zoom meeting organised by the local branch.

All Society work is voluntary and we are fortunate to have a relatively small but dedicated committee, plus several people playing a supporting role, in keeping the branch active and prosperous. Being part of a national organisation brings many advantages, but also involves adhering to common practices and procedures. We therefore thank the following people for the time they are devoting to assisting in our continued success:

Geoff May, Geoff Adams, John Barrowdale, Ian McKey, Douglas Meany, Roger Jones, John Robbins, Mike Petherbridge & Alan Wallbank

We are always looking forward to the future and welcome input from everybody. Suggestions for future indoor meeting speakers, outdoor events, other activities, for example, a branch photographic competition has been suggested, or you feel you can help in some way please come forward. Email to chichesterchair@rcts.org.uk - or in person if the situation arises. Very best wishes to you, your family and friends, at this festive time of year, health and happiness into the New Year.

Roger Sandford

Chairman RCTS Chichester Branch

Ffestiniog Motive Power! Image by Paul Myatt © Notes by Ian McKey



Lead engine: Surrey County Council – Highways Department - Engine GP39

Built in 1930 by Hudswell Clarke (Makers No. 1643) for Surrey County Council, GP39 was used in the construction of the Guildford By-Pass. It was subsequently sold to the Penrhyn Slate Quarry in 1934, where it was named “Bronllwyd”. It continued working for the quarries until last used commercially in 1949.

It was subsequently scavenged for parts until Alan Bloom rescued the chassis and rebuilt the locomotive but with a Kerr Stuart boiler. Since then it has been rebuilt and overhauled more than once.

In 2005 GP39 worked on the Lynton & Barnstaple railway and hauled all the trains in that year.

In 2010 GP39 was sold to the Statfold Railway Museum, Tamworth

2nd engine: Britomart

Built in 1897 by Hunslet Engine Company of Leeds (Makers No. 707) Britomart was supplied to the Pen-yr-Orsedd quarry in North Wales. Britomart was moved to the Ffestiniog Railway in 1965. This locomotive is privately owned by a syndicate but kept on the Ffestiniog Railway

3rd and 4th engines: Linda followed by Blanche

These two locomotives share a common history. Both were Built in 1893 by the Hunslet Engine Company of Leeds with consecutive Works Nos. (Blanche 589, Linda 590) they were supplied to the Penrhyn Quarry Railway. In 1963, after closure of the Penrhyn Quarry Railway both engines were acquired by the Ffestiniog Railway.

Note: A wealth of information about the Festiniog can be found on the internet at Festipedia

SOUTHERN

Industrial Action

The ASLEF union has announced that strike action will take place by its members on the following dates:

- Sunday 3 December - Thameslink and Great Northern
- Wednesday 6 December - Southern and Gatwick Express

It has also been announced that there will be a ban on overtime from Friday 1 December until Saturday 9 December (inclusive).

Train service plans for these dates are yet to be confirmed. We will provide further information on our [Industrial Action](#) page when it becomes available.

Timetable Changes - December 9th 2023

Southern Rail are making changes to their timetables which will take effect on 9th December 2023

You can obtain downloads of the revised timetable from the website below :-

[Train Timetable](#) | [Train Times](#) | [Southern Railway](#)

First Group Blue Liveried Rolling Stock In the South

By Roger Sandford ©

Great Western Railway and South Western Railway, launched respectively in September 2015 and August 2017, are finally close to finishing the new external branding of the Class 166 DMU (GWR) and Class 444 and 450 EMU (SWR).

GWR has recently begun a long awaited refurbishment programme for the Class 166, used on the Portsmouth to Cardiff route, which requires each unit to visit Wolverton. A number of the Class awaiting refurbishment still retain their original First Great Western branding, with not even the company name having been updated. 1st Class external signage, which no longer exists, is also still in place.

At SWR whilst internal refurbishment of the Class 450 and 444 was completed pre-Covid, the external repainting has been a long slow process. Normally two units at any one time are at Bournemouth depot where the repainting has been actioned. There are just a handful of both Class to complete now, which will finally see the end of the SWT blue on the Class 450 and the white of the Class 444.

See images on pages 6 & 7

First Group Blue Liveried Rolling Stock In the South Continued...



Pre-Covid 23 December 2019 a GWR Class 166 crossing Portcreek Junction with the 07:30 Cardiff to Portsmouth Harbour service.



A GWR Class 166 heading the 17:23 Portsmouth Harbour to Cardiff Central is passing through Bursledon. 17 June 2023.

First Group Blue Liveried Rolling Stock In the South continued...



Three SWR Class 450s form the 10:45 Portsmouth Harbour to London Waterloo approaching Farlington Junction. 23 December 2019.



A pair of SWR 450s, heading for London Waterloo, are approaching Farlington Junction. 28 March 2022.

Class 313 'The End' By Roger Sandford ©



The last coach of the last 'living' green Southern 313 was finally cut up at Eastleigh during mid-October leaving only blue 201 remaining, awaiting a decision on its long term future. The last vehicle to be 'exterminated' was from 313 212. To the **left** is a picture of this unit at Chichester in happier times for the class.

Image dated 24/8/2022.©

Late Breaking News: Blue Unit 313201 has now been sold by Beacon Rail to the 400 Series Preservation Group. It is remaining and will be kept operational at Arlington Fleet Services, Eastleigh.

Joint Railway Companies' Steam Packet Service.

COLLIERS' STRIKE

The Joint Railway Companies give PUBLIC NOTICE that in consequence of the Strike

The Service of Steam Packets

between

Portsmouth Harbour, Southsea Pier and Ryde

advertised to run from 1st October 1911 to 31st May 1912, will be cancelled on

Wednesday 13th March, 1912.

The undermentioned service will be run on and from that date, until further notice, (weather and other circumstances permitting) :-

Portsmouth and Southsea to Ryde		Week Days	
Ports. Hbr. dep.	2.40	8.15	9.45
Southsea Pier	9.55	12.25
Ryde Pier arr.	3.10	8.45	10.20
		12.50	1.50
		2.25	4.0
		6.40	8.45

Ryde to Southsea and Portsmouth		Week Days	
Ryde Pier dep.	8.0	10.10	12.55
Southsea Pier arr.	8.25	10.35	1.20
Ports. Hbr. ..	8.35	10.45	1.30
		2.25	4.35
		6.48	9.55

Portsmouth & Southsea to Ryde. (Sundays) Ryde to Southsea & Portsmouth

Ports. H. dep.	2.40	10.10	12.10	2.10	6.45
S'sea P.	10.20	12.20	2.20	6.55
Ryde P. arr.	3.10	10.45	12.45	2.45	7.20
		11.35	1.35	5.35	9.55

(A) Southampton and Isle of Wight Steam Packet Co.'s Steamer, Passengers holding Railway Companies Tickets may travel from Portsmouth Harbour and Southsea Pier to Ryde by this Steamer.

THE TOW BOAT SERVICE between Portsmouth and Ryde will be run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only.

I.W. Central Rly.

CRICKET MATCH AT PORTSMOUTH.

AUSTRALIANS

V.

HAMPSHIRE

22nd, 23rd and 24th JULY, 1912.

CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS

TO

PORTSMOUTH Hbr. or SOUTHSEA PIERS

(Via RYDE)

By any Train due to leave before 3.30 p.m.

FROM	1st.	Return	3rd Return
Any I.W. Central Station (except the undermentioned)	3 6	2 6	
Freshwater, Yarmouth, Ningwood, and Calbourne	4 6	3 6	
Carisbrooke	4 -	3 -	

GENERAL OFFICES: NEWPORT, I.W. JULY, 1912.

RUSSELL WILLMOTT, GENERAL MANAGER.

ESSENTIAL SIGNS & PRINT, RINK ROAD, RYDE.

These two posters were photographed whilst on the Chichester RCTS tour to the Isle of Wight Railway on the 9th June 2019.

Interesting to know that over a hundred years earlier our ancestors' major concerns were strikes in the transport industry and beating the Australians at cricket!

Nothing much changes in the world it seems!

Images by Rosemary McKey ©