

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

Wednesday 24 April
At 19:15

The 1968 Hixon
Level Crossing Disaster



In this dreadful accident a huge articulated transporter lorry, carrying a 120-ton transformer slowly over the automatic level crossing at Hixon, was hit by a 500-ton express train travelling at about 75mph. It was truly a dramatic case of an irresistible force meeting an immovable object.

The terrific impact not only destroyed the electric locomotive, killing the three-man crew instantly, but also wrecked the first five coaches of the train, causing the death of eight passengers, and tore up the track and infrastructure for nearly 200 yards.

Guest Speaker

Malcolm Garner

This talk will examine the accident from all perspectives and the changes which followed, plus an update of recent commemorative events in the village of Hixon and in the railway industry.

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

Open to All

Bring a friend

The Monthly Newsletter of RCTS Chichester Branch.

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**Front Cover Poster by
Roger Sandford ©**

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What's on for the Railway Enthusiast in April

| 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 (iwsteamrailway.co.uk) | info@iwsteamrailway.co.uk info@iwsteamrailway.co.uk | 01983 882204 |
| Kent & East Sussex Railway | Kent & East Sussex Railway – Tenterden – Northiam – Bodiam (kesr.org.uk) | 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 (littlehamptonminiaturerailway.com) | | 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 |

What's on for the Railway Enthusiast in April

| RailwayName | StartDate | EndDate | EventText |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kent & East Sussex Railway | 29/03/2024 | 11/04/2024 | Easter Bunny at Tenterden Station |
| Watercress Railway | 29/03/2024 | 01/04/2024 | Easter Bunny train. |
| Isle of Wight Railway | 29/03/2024 | 12/04/2024 | The Great Railway easter hunt |
| Hayling Light Railway Trust | 02/04/2024 | 30/09/2024 | Summer Timetable in operation |
| Watercress Railway | 02/04/2024 | 14/03/2024 | Egg Trails at Easter |
| Bluebell Railway | 06/04/2024 | 07/04/2024 | Alice in Wonderland |
| Amberley Museum | 14/04/2024 | | Steam Day & Spring Industrial Trains |
| Bluebell Railway | 27/04/2024 | | Falconry at the Bluebell |
| Amberley Museum | 28/04/2024 | | Steam Day & Spring Bus Show |
| Bluebell Railway | 28/04/2024 | | MG Car Club Meet |
| Bluebell Railway | 28/04/2024 | | The Toy and Rail Collectors Fair |



Amberly Museums' Bagnall "Peter" which is expected to be running on Steam Days during April. (see above!) © Ian McKey

May's Miscellany: by Geoff May ©

The Romance of Steam?



West Country Class 4-6-2 No. 34095 'Brentor' has its fire cleaned at Eastleigh MPD on 22 June 1967. The locomotive was withdrawn just under three weeks later at the end of the steam era on the Southern Region.

34095 was one of the British Railways built Light Pacifics being built at Eastleigh in 1949 and later rebuilt in 1961.



National Rail

On the 20th March 2024 strike action was announced by the ASLEF Union. These strikes will have an impact on our immediate area on:-

- Monday 8 April - c2c, Gatwick Express, Great Northern, Greater Anglia (including Stansted Express), South Western Railway (including Island Line), Southeastern, Southern and Thameslink. London Underground drivers who are members of ASLEF are also set to go on strike on this day.
- Additionally train operators will have an overtime ban from Thursday 4 April to Saturday 6 April, and from Monday 8 April to Tuesday 9 April.

Track Renewal at Ryde Pier Head : Images by Richard Rickard ©



Our Chairman, Roger Sandford comments: -

Fascinating! Richard has captured the complete renewal of the track between the Pier Head and Esplanade. I remember travelling on the dedicated tram in the picture, but that was in the days prior to the growth in car traffic to and from the Island, when thousands of people would regularly pass through Ryde. The images date from October 1963.

Members Weekend & Officer's Conference

This event will return in 2024 to the traditional format based in Portsmouth

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th September

Members will have organised group outdoor visit options to

- The Eastney Beam Engine Houses
- The Isle of Wight Steam Railway Gala Event
 - Eastleigh Railway Works
 - The Watercress Railway
- Going aboard a WWII submarine

Our hotel base is within a few minutes walk of Portsmouth Harbour rail and bus stations, adjacent to the Historic Dockyard and just a few hundred yards from the Gunwharf Quays leisure complex and Spinnaker Tower.

A Friday early evening light meal followed by a double header railway speaker presentation. Saturday evening dinner with guest speaker and Sunday morning Officer's Conference will all be located at our hotel.

Booking for this event will commence upon distribution of the June RO containing full details and application form. Add to your diary now!

Working Steam in Poland by John Barrowdale ©



Editor's Note: These images were taken by John Barrowdale whilst on a rail tour of Poland, organised by the LCGB and Eisenbahn Kurier between the 9th and 20th August 1984.

The images show working steam in Poland in the 1980's. Whilst obviously hard worked, the engines seem to be mostly clean and probably well maintained.

Left: Ty42 114 2-10-0 taken at Raciborz 14/8/84.

Below: Px48 1734 0-8-0 (ng) near Umianowice 15/8/84.



Working Steam in Poland in 1984 © John Barrowdale Continued..



Left Top: Ty2 706 2-10-0 nr Wroclaw on 12/8/84.



Left Middle: TKi3 26 2-6-0T and TKt48 171 2-8-2T at the rear taken at Karpacz in southern Poland. The weather was terrible, hence my use of b/w here to make my colour picture better. 11/8/84.

Bottom: Ty2s 2-10-0s at Nysa shed on 12/8/84.



Working Steam in Poland in 1984 © John Barrowdale Continued..



Left Top: Pt47 30 2-8-2 taken from the cab of Pt47 74 2-8-2 at speed between Nysa and Raclawice on 12/8/84.



Left Middle: Ok1 359 4-6-0 (Ex Prussian P8) and O149 59 2-6-2 between Wolstyn (before it became famous) and Zbqszynek 17/8/84.

Bottom: Px29 1704 0-8-0 (ng) between Tulawice & Wyszogrod 16/8/84.



Southern Engineering Works - April 2024



SOUTHERN

Engineering works likely to affect journeys in our area.

Date: 6 April - 6 April 2024 11:59 PM

23:16 London Victoria to Chichester.

[Engineering work](#) is taking place between Worthing and Chichester, closing some lines.

As a result, the 23:16 London Victoria to Chichester service will terminate at Worthing. A rail replacement bus will run from Worthing to Chichester, calling at all stations.

Date: 7 April - 7 April 2024 11:59 PM.

Routes affected:

Southern between London Victoria / Brighton / Littlehampton / Barnham and Portsmouth Harbour

[Engineering work](#) is taking place between Havant and Portsmouth Harbour, closing some lines.

As a result buses will replace trains between Havant and Portsmouth Harbour.

Date: 9 April - 12 April 2024 11:59 PM.

Routes affected:

00:36 Barnham to Bognor Regis

[Engineering work](#) is taking place between Barnham to Bognor Regis, closing some lines.

As a result, the 00:36 Barnham to Bognor Regis will be replaced by a bus throughout.

Date: 9 April - 12 April 2024 11:59 PM.

Routes affected:

00:36 Barnham to Bognor Regis

[Engineering work](#) is taking place between Barnham to Bognor Regis, closing some lines.

As a result, the 00:36 Barnham to Bognor Regis will be replaced by a bus throughout.

Date: 21 April - 21 April 2024 11:59 PM.

Routes affected:

Southern between London Victoria / Haywards Heath / Brighton / Bognor Regis / Southampton Central and Littlehampton / Chichester

[Engineering work](#) is taking place between Arundel / Angmering and Barnham / Littlehampton, closing all lines.

Southern Engineering Works - April 2024



SOUTHERN

Engineering works likely to affect journeys in our area, continued..

All day on Sunday, engineering work will take place between Arundel / Angmering and Barnham / Littlehampton.

Buses will replace trains between:

Angmering and Barnham calling at Littlehampton and Ford.

Angmering and Barnham calling at Littlehampton.

Arundel and Angmering calling at Littlehampton.

Arundel and Barnham calling at Ford.

Date: 28 April - 28 April 2024 11:59 PM.

Routes affected:

Southern between London Victoria and Portsmouth Harbour / Bognor Regis.

Thameslink between Bedford and Horsham.

[Engineering work](#) is taking place between Three Bridges and Horsham / Pulborough, closing all lines.

Southern:

Buses will replace trains between Three Bridges and Horsham / Pulborough.

Trains between London Victoria and Portsmouth Harbour will run to an amended timetable via Hove, splitting and attaching from Littlehampton trains at Worthing.

Trains will also run between Pulborough and Bognor Regis.

Additionally trains from Portsmouth Harbour to Brighton will run to an amended timetable departing Portsmouth Harbour 13 minutes earlier than normal.