

Railway Ramblings

Issue 112

November 2019

The monthly newsletter of the Hitchin Branch of the RCTS

Meetings This Month

At Hitchin (19:30-22:00, doors open 19:00)

12 November: **American Rail Rover** "Big country, big trains, large loads and more" – John Day

At Welwyn Garden City (14:00-16:30, doors open 13:30)

26 November: **The Railways of Western France** "Our annual visit to the continent with Michael" – Michael Bunn

From the Photo Album



TPE IEP 802210 passing Welwyn North on 29 August 2019

Photo: Adrian White

If you have photos (old or new) that you are willing to share with other members please supply them, with a suitable caption, to the Editor (John.Dossett@btinternet.com). They should be your own photographs!

Chairman's Platform

A special welcome to those receiving this newsletter by email for the first time. If you are a reader who doesn't normally attend our branch meetings why not come along and give us a try. (Non-members, are also always welcome at our monthly meetings - as we hope that we may tempt you to become members!) Attendance at recent meetings has been good and I hope that more will take the opportunity to become "regulars".

You may have noticed in the Railway Observer that the RCTS will be 100 years old in 2028 and the Society's Development Committee have started to formulate ideas to celebrate the occasion. (see Sept RO page 578). Yours truly is collating suggestions for the DC to discuss. I am sure that some members of this branch have ideas and I hope to hear from you. At present there's plenty of time, but don't hold back!

Finally, if you have friends/relatives enquiring what you would like as a Christmas gift why not suggest one of the Society's excellent publications? (see www.rcts.org.uk/publications/sales)

Exhibitions

Over the coming weeks there are several exhibitions to note:

ROYSTON MODEL RAILWAY CLUB on 16 November 2019 (10:00 – 16:00) at Bassingbourn Village College. There is a free Historic Bus service between Royston bus & train stations to the venue.

LETCHWORTH MODEL RAILWAY CLUB on 30 November 2019 (10:00 – 16:30) at Etonbury Academy SG15 6XS. This is on the outskirts of Stotfold, just off the A507.

And a little further ahead:

CHILTERN MODEL RAILWAY ASSOCIATION on 11 & 12 January 2020, at the Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre, Stevenage SG1 1LZ. Over 30 layouts plus trade stands etc.

The branch will have a stand at these exhibitions – to encourage people to become members and to raise funds for the branch through book sales. If you visit any of these exhibitions do call by our stand and say hello.

Book Sales

The book-sales table is popular at meetings and the revenue helps towards our running costs. If you can contribute any books to the branch they would be most welcome, and it will give you shelf-space to purchase "new" books for your own enjoyment! A number of members have already donated books – will you join them?

Branch Programme for 2020

Branch Secretary, Dave Elsdon, has finalised the programme of meetings for 2020 and this is now back from the printers. Devising a varied programme and engaging the speakers is no small task and we should not under-estimate the amount of time and effort Dave puts in behind the scenes to achieve this: Thanks Dave.

An overview of the 2020 programme is on the next two pages.

Branch Programme for 2020

HITCHIN MEETINGS 2020

14 th Jan	A potpourri of European Railways <i>(Who knows what may turn up tonight)</i>	Rob Freeman
11 th Feb	More Thrills & Spills <i>(Stories from an ex-railwayman)</i>	Chris Blackman
10 th Mar	Branch AGM & members' presentations <i>(Show us your railway interests)</i>	
14 th Apr	Railway Cameramen, The Story of the Railway Photographic Society <i>(An Interestingly different evening)</i>	John Hillier
12 th May	Steam in the 1940's on 16mm film <i>(Always different with movement)</i>	Frank Banfield
9 th June	Depots and Works Open Days 1980 – 1999 <i>(Did you attend any of these)</i>	Robert Warburton
14 th July	Roaming around London with my Camera <i>(Something unusual bound to come up)</i>	Geoff Brockett
Aug	No Meeting	
8 th Sept	Welsh Highland Railway re-building <i>(This is how it was done)</i>	Stephen Jupp
13 th Oct	The Peter Bland Collection (The diary of a Train-spotter) <i>(Railways as we remember them)</i>	Bryan Cross
10 th Nov	Newcastle & the North East in the 90's <i>(An ever popular area this)</i>	Richard Allen
8 th Dec	That was the year that was 1962 <i>(Not to be missed)</i>	Geoff Plumb

Branch Programme for 2020

WELWYN GARDEN CITY MEETINGS 2020

28 th Jan	Next Train Gone <i>(Many local scenes here possibly)</i>	Adrian White
25 th Feb	The 1829 Ordeal, "The Rainhill Trials" <i>(The very early Historic event)</i>	Dr Rudi Newman
31 st Mar	The Varying Fortunes of the Hatfield to St. Albans Railway <i>(How much do you know about this)</i>	Alistair Cameron / Jeff Lewis
28 th Apr	45596 Bahamas Locomotive Society, A preservation Pioneer <i>(Preservation is always fascinating)</i>	John Hillier
26 th May	London's Two New Railways <i>(The future is about to be explained)</i>	Chris Green
30 th June	East Anglian Railways in the 21 st Century. A period of Transition <i>(This is bang up to date)</i>	John Day
28 th July	London Underground Then & Now <i>(This could be a dark secret explained)</i>	Brian Hardy
Aug	No Meeting	
29 th Sept	Thrills and Spills <i>(An ex-railwayman's stories)</i>	Chris Blackman
27 th Oct	Through Kirton Tunnel (Part 2), Kirton-le-Lindsey to Cleethorpes <i>(Another exceptional afternoon)</i>	Stephen Gay
24 th Nov	A Lifetime of Railway Discoveries <i>(Where will we go this time)</i>	Michael Bunn
15 th Dec	A Taste of Japan <i>(A rare glimpse into the Orient for us)</i>	Gordon Davies

More from the Photo Album



The narrow gauge (1000mm) shed at Wernigerode, Germany on 4th August 2019 with some of the large tank locomotives cooling down after a hard day at work in the Hartz mountains.

photo: John Dossett



Snowy Santa "92 Squadron" at Wansford, Nene Valley Railway on 10th December 2017. The snow was not created through photoshop, I was standing there in a blizzard!

photo: Steve Lacey

Newsletter Distribution

This e-newsletter is distributed by the Branch Chairman (Steve Lacey). If you do not currently receive a copy directly but would like to do so, provide him with your email address and you will be added to the list. Conversely, if you currently receive a copy but wish to be taken off the distribution list then please advise him accordingly. Steve's email address is gricersteve@hotmail.com

Forthcoming Branch Events

During December 2019

At Hitchin (19:30-22:00, doors open 19:00)

10 December: **Cane Train Odyssey** "The cane tramways of Queensland and Fiji" – Patrick Keef

At Welwyn Garden City (14:00-16:30, doors open 13:30)

17 December: **A 92 Squadron and Nene Valley Update** "Local news from our Chairman" – Steve Lacey

At both December meetings there will be festive snacks in the interval !

All members are welcome at all meetings.

A reminder that the suggested donation rates for meetings are £2 for members and £3.50 for non-members. All attendees are entered into a free book draw, and admission also includes refreshments at the mid-meeting interval.

Railway Ramblings is published by the committee of the Hitchin Branch of The Railway Correspondence & Travel Society. Such committee does not endorse any personal opinions expressed in this publication. The committee comprises Steve Lacey (Chairman), David Elsdon (Secretary), Paul Holloway (Treasurer), Chris Alton, John Dosssett (Newsletter Editor), Martin Elms, Roger Moulden and Adrian Scrutton. The Railway Correspondence & Travel Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered with the Charities Commission