

# Railway Ramblings

Issue 113

December 2019

---

The monthly newsletter of the Hitchin Branch of the RCTS

## Meetings This Month

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 !

## From the Photo Album



Out with the old & in with the new

New inner suburban Siemens Unit 717003 alongside 'Gerry's 313 farewell railtour' with NSE liveried 313064 standing at Welwyn Garden City on Wednesday 23rd October 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](mailto:John.Dossett@btinternet.com)). They should be your own photographs!*

# Chairman's Platform

As previewed in the November issue, the 2020 Hitchin Branch programme has arrived. Printed copies are available at meetings and will also be available at exhibitions where we have a stand. It is also again reproduced in this copy of Railway Ramblings giving you the opportunity to note the dates in your diary.

No doubt you will have noticed that the editor has started to include more photos in the newsletter and there is the opportunity for any of our readers to have their favourites published. I think that it would be good to see some of "our local area" over the years – but this can only happen if you "dust off" the album and send them to us. Photographic perfection is not a requirement!

As I said last month, if you have friends/relatives enquiring what you would like as a Christmas gift why not suggest one of the Society's excellent (new) publications? Or perhaps an RCTS sweatshirt? (see [www.rcts.org.uk/publications/sales](http://www.rcts.org.uk/publications/sales))

And finally, Seasons Greetings to you all !

## Exhibitions

Over the coming months there are exhibitions to note:

CHILTERN MODEL RAILWAY ASSOCIATION on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 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 this exhibition – to encourage people to become members and to raise funds for the branch through book sales. If you visit the exhibition do call by our stand and say hello.

BRAMBLETON MODEL RAILWAY CLUB on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020, at Harpenden Public Hall, High Street South End), Harpenden. Opening time 10:30 to 17:30.

For those travelling to Harpenden by car, there are public car parks at Harpenden station and on Bower's Way. For those travelling by train, the public halls are approximately a 5-minute walk from the station.

## Book Sales

The book-sales table remains popular at branch 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 for those new arrivals you will acquire over the festive period! A number of members have already donated books – will you join them?

## 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 [glicersteve@hotmail.com](mailto:glicersteve@hotmail.com)

## More from the Photo Album



Southall-bound 60103 hurries past Stevenage Platform 5 preparation work at Langley Junction on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019

*Photo: Adrian White*



... and *Flying Scotsman* at Wansford on the Nene Valley Railway, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

*photo: John Dossett*

# Branch Programme for 2020

## HITCHIN MEETINGS 2020

14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	A potpourri of European Railways <i>(Who knows what may turn up tonight)</i>	Rob Freeman
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	More Thrills & Spills <i>(Stories from an ex-railwayman)</i>	Chris Blackman
10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Branch AGM & members' presentations <i>(Show us your railway interests)</i>	
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Railway Cameramen, The Story of the Railway Photographic Society <i>(An Interestingly different evening)</i>	John Hillier
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Steam in the 1940's on 16mm film <i>(Always different with movement)</i>	Frank Banfield
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Depots and Works Open Days 1980 – 1999 <i>(Did you attend any of these)</i>	Robert Warburton
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Roaming around London with my Camera <i>(Something unusual bound to come up)</i>	Geoff Brockett
Aug	No Meeting	
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Welsh Highland Railway re-building <i>(This is how it was done)</i>	Stephen Jupp
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	The Peter Bland Collection (The diary of a Train-spotter) <i>(Railways as we remember them)</i>	Bryan Cross
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Newcastle & the North East in the 90's <i>(An ever popular area this)</i>	Richard Allen
8 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Next Train Gone <i>(Many local scenes here possibly)</i>	Adrian White
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The 1829 Ordeal, "The Rainhill Trials" <i>(The very early Historic event)</i>	Dr Rudi Newman
31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Apr	45596 Bahamas Locomotive Society, A preservation Pioneer <i>(Preservation is always fascinating)</i>	John Hillier
26 <sup>th</sup> May	London's Two New Railways <i>(The future is about to be explained)</i>	Chris Green
30 <sup>th</sup> June	East Anglian Railways in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century. A period of Transition <i>(This is bang up to date)</i>	John Day
28 <sup>th</sup> July	London Underground Then & Now <i>(This could be a dark secret explained)</i>	Brian Hardy
Aug	No Meeting	
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Thrills and Spills <i>(An ex-railwayman's stories)</i>	Chris Blackman
27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Through Kirton Tunnel (Part 2), Kirton-le-Lindsey to Cleethorpes <i>(Another exceptional afternoon)</i>	Stephen Gay
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	A Lifetime of Railway Discoveries <i>(Where will we go this time)</i>	Michael Bunn
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	A Taste of Japan <i>(A rare glimpse into the Orient for us)</i>	Gordon Davies

# New Members

The Branch Secretary reports the following new members have joined the branch:

Geoffery Neaum, Timothy Cole, Ronald Parry, Chris Lascelles & Peter Glazebrook.

A warm welcome to them all.

# Forthcoming Branch Events

During January 2020

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

14 January: **A Potpourri of European Railways** “Who knows what may turn up tonight” Rob Freeman

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

28 January: **Next Train Gone** “Many local scenes here possibly” Adrian White

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 Dossett (Newsletter Editor), Martin Elms, Roger Moulden and Adrian Scrutton. The Railway Correspondence & Travel Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered with the Charities Commission*