

# Railway Ramblings

Issue 116

March 2020

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The monthly newsletter of the Hitchin Branch of the RCTS

## Meetings This Month

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

10 March: **Branch AGM and Members' Presentation Evening**

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

31 March: **The varying fortunes of the Hatfield to St Albans Railway** "How much do you know about this?" Alistair Cameron

## From the Photo Album



A4 No. 3 *Andrew K McCosh*, still in wartime black, passes Welwyn North in March, 1947.

*Photo: Tom Gladwin /Doug 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

The branch AGM will be held on 10 March at Hitchin. As usual the formal business, which is usually fairly short, will be followed by the opportunity for members to give a presentation - I look forward to these and if this is something you would be prepared to do then please let Dave Elsdon or me know in advance.

The AGM is of course the time to let you all know formally how the branch has fared over the past year and to give members the chance to elect or re-elect their branch officers and committee. Reports from the Branch Officers will be emailed directly to members well before the meeting date and if there are matters you want to raise at the meeting then I would appreciate notice of these. There will also be some printed copies of the Officers' reports available at the meeting.

The RCTS will be 100 years old in 2028 and you may recall that a few months ago I told you that the Society's Development Committee were starting to formulate ideas to celebrate the occasion. Yours truly has the job of collating suggestions for the DC to discuss. I am seeking the help of members of this branch to offer their ideas - and I hope to hear from you. At present there's plenty of time, but don't hold back!

## Hitchin Branch 2020 AGM - Agenda

To be held at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church, Upper Tilehouse Street, Hitchin SG5 2EE, prior to the Hitchin Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 starting at 19:30

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 3 MINUTES OF 2019 AGM
- 4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES
- 5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- 6 SECRETARY'S REPORT
- 7 TREASURER'S REPORT & SUMMARY
- 8 ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE OFFICERS' REPORTS
- 9 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2020  
(All Officers and Committee Members)
- 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## Membership

We welcome Tony Turner and Julie Robertson as new members.

## More from the Photo Album



1A30 12.45 LD -KGX HST 43290 & 43295 pass 1D18 14.33 KGX -LDS IET 800105 at Brookmans Park, alongside 700048 on 2C32 14.21 KGX- CBG 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

*Photo: Adrian White*



A4 60019 *Bitten*, heading north, passing through Sandy station on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010. In this going away shot it clearly shows *Bitten's* second tender. This allowed the journey from KX to York on the "White Rose" to be performed much quicker, with no need for a water stop.

*Photo: George Howe*

# Exhibitions

The following exhibition takes place this month:

## Sat 21<sup>st</sup> & Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> March - London Festival of Railway Modelling

Venue: Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way, London, Greater London N22 7AY

Opening times: Saturday 10:00 – 17:00, Sunday 10:00 -16:30

Admission: Adults £13.00 (£12 in advance), Children (5-16) £6.50, Family (2+3) £39

Subscribers to BRM, Garden Rail, Narrow Gauge World, Engineering in Miniature and Traction magazines can get an £11 adult ticket if booked in advance.

Booking in advance saves you money on entry, gives you 30 minutes' early entry and a free show-guide on arrival. Booking closes at 12 noon on 23rd March 2018. Contact: 01778 391123

The advance publicity says "Visitors can enjoy over 40 hand-picked layouts from around the globe and in excess of 100 exhibitors to browse and purchase from. The vast selection of trade covers those 'must-have' items to 'specialist' items in rarer scales and gauges. Don't miss the expert demonstrations. Sponsored and supported by Bachmann Europe, Graham Farish and the Model Railway Club".

A FREE shuttle bus service will be running continuously on Saturday and Sunday between Alexandra Palace Station, Wood Green underground station and the venue. Last bus from the venue will be 5.15pm each day.

There will NOT be an RCTS stand at this year's exhibition.

Looking ahead to next month:

## Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April – Luton Model Railway Club

Venue: Stopsley High School, St Thomas' Road, Luton LU2 7UX

Opening times: 10:30 – 17:00

Admission: Adults £6, Children £3, Family £15

The Luton MRC exhibition is now established in the new school premises, which provides a much better environment, together with improved parking facilities. A wide range of layouts in various scales and a good selection of traders & societies (including RCTS Hitchin branch) will be there.

## Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April - De Havilland Model Railway Society

Venue: Ludwick Way Methodist Church, WGCity, AL7 3PN ... (Our meeting place)

Opening time: 10:00 – 17:00

Admission: Adults £5, Children £2

Over a dozen layouts in various gauges plus trade & refreshments. Two floors of exhibits with access for limited mobility. Free street parking.

There will be an RCTS Hitchin branch stand at this exhibition.

# Book Sales at our Branch Meetings

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.

## 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](mailto:gricersteve@hotmail.com)

## Contributions to Railway Ramblings

If you would like to make contributions – photos and/or text – to this newsletter then please contact the editor: [John.Dossett@btinternet.com](mailto:John.Dossett@btinternet.com)

## Forthcoming Branch Events

During April 2020

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

14 April: **Railway Cameramen. The Story of the Railway Photographic Society** “An interestingly different evening” John Hillier

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

28 April: **45596 Bahamas Locomotive Society. A preservation pioneer** “Preservation is always fascinating” John Hillier

All members are welcome at all meetings, at any branch of the society.

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*