

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 152

Farewell to Dick Hardy

DICK HARDY

One of the few remaining grand old men of the steam era and RCTS member, Richard 'Dick' Hardy passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 18 February 2018, he was 94.

Dick worked on Britain's railways for over forty years, serving his apprenticeship at Doncaster Locomotive Works and Running Shed between 1941-44, before becoming a shed master, locomotive engineer, divisional manager at King's Cross and Liverpool stations and an Engineering and Research development adviser. He retired in 1982 with more than 60,000 miles of footplate experience on all classes of LNER, GC and GN engines. Dick was the author of four books and numerous articles, originally writing under the pseudonym of Balmore. He completed two autobiographical works, *Steam in the Blood* (1971) and *Railways in the Blood* (1985) as well as biographies of Beeching: *Beeching: Champion of the Railway?* (1989), and Bert Hooker: *Bert Hooker, Legendary Railwayman* (1994). He also loved cricket and had visited the Society to entertain us on several occasions.

The funeral will be at the Chiltern Crematorium, Amersham on Tuesday 13th March at 1pm. No flowers please, but donations may be made to Dementia UK or Alzheimer's Society. The funeral is bound to be very well attended as Dick's connections and influence spread throughout the heritage railway movement as he shared his invaluable knowledge with a younger generation of steam engineers. It will be followed by a gathering at the Hit & Miss at Penn Street – a well-known "cricketing" pub

Kind regards

Irene

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