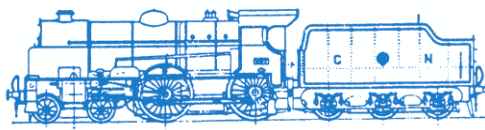


IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

LONDON AREA



www.irrs.ie

london@irrs.ie

The London Area of the IRRS provides a forum in South East England for those interested in Irish transport, particularly railways.

MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETINGS : OCTOBER 2025 – APRIL 2026

18.00 – 20.45 on the dates shown below

Please check the IRRS website www.irrs.ie for any updates to our programme

LIVE MEETINGS are at **The Gallery at Alan Baxter, 77 Cowcross Street, Farringdon LONDON EC1M 6EL.**

Entry is £3 for IRRS members, £5 for non-members. There will usually be a sales table offering the latest books of Irish railway interest.

ZOOM MEETINGS : Those on the London Area e-mail list will be sent advice on how to join via Zoom. To be added to our e-mail list, please apply to london@irrs.ie . Zoom participants are invited to make a donation to the London Area through the link on the Branches - London page of our website www.irrs.ie

LIVE + ZOOM : Friday 10 October 2025

“The Donaghadee Branch and Harbour” by Gordon Hunt

Gordon is an active member of the RPSI and the Ulster Model Railway Club. His special interest in Donaghadee stems from childhood and he has now built a highly acclaimed, award-winning model of Donaghadee station and its environs. In the context of a brief history of the BCDR, he will focus on the Donaghadee branch, the life and demise of the station, and the rail-connected harbour including its novel form of construction. And he will recall the highs and lows of building his superb model during the difficult Covid years.

LIVE + ZOOM : Friday 21 November 2025

“Photos of Closed Lines that might Reopen” by Roger Joanes

The All Island Strategic Rail Review of 2023 advocated reopening of several long closed lines throughout Ireland. Garnering high quality photos from 12 leading Irish railway photographers, lifelong enthusiast Roger Joanes recalls these lines as they used to be with photos of trains, stations and places long since disappeared. If reopened, the lines may look quite different so take this opportunity to relish their heyday.

LIVE + ZOOM : Friday 5 December 2025

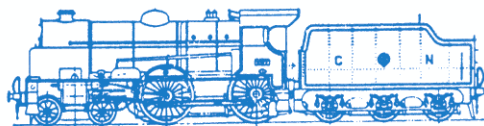
“Last days of the Irish narrow gauge – through the lens of David Soggee” by Joe Begley + London Area AGM

David Soggee was a much travelled enthusiast with renowned camera skills. A vast collection of his colour slides bequeathed to the IRRS show a preference for branch lines and smaller railways. On three visits to Ireland in 1959 and 1960, he travelled on the last three remaining Irish narrow gauge railways, the C&L, CDRJC and West Clare lines. Joe Begley shows images from these visits which present a vivid snapshot of these lines as they moved towards the end of their working lives. **followed by London Area AGM**

continued overleaf

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MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETINGS : OCTOBER 2025 – APRIL 2026 (continued)

ZOOM ONLY : Friday 16 January 2026

“Sligo Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway – Real and Modelled” by David Richardson

David Richardson and David Holman share their love of this little railway and their modelling of it. The SL&NCR was perhaps the quintessential Irish railway. Engines bore names and not numbers, archaic rolling stock, and a gradient profile that a rollercoaster engineer would shy away from. It attracted plaudits from Hamilton Ellis for its aesthetics, and from R N Clements for its engineering. On a journey down the line, the two Davids tell the story of how the railway defied the odds, only finally collapsing when its larger neighbour took away its *raison d'être*, and tell what it took to recreate the Sligo Leitrim in 7mm scale.

LIVE + ZOOM : Friday 20 February 2026

“Celebrating Great Victoria Street” by Robert White

May 2024's final removal of Belfast's Great Victoria Street terminus from Ireland's railway map prompted this eulogy for the departed. A user of the station since the early 1960s, Robert White looks back over its life and times, from the early days of the Ulster Railway, through its evolution under the GNR(I) and more recent transport bodies. Could the earliest plans for a different station location have made the Belfast Central Railway unnecessary? Growth, alterations, decline, closure and resurrection are all illustrated.

LIVE + ZOOM : Friday 20 March 2026 “Irish Rail wanderings in the 1980's” by Ken Fox

Railways have been part of Ken's life for 50 years, and he has been a railway man since 1989. The show is of the general railway scene throughout the country in the 1980's. An era of locomotive hauled freight and passenger trains. Remember cement trains, fertiliser trains, regular liner trains, ammonia trains, Tara Mines and beet trains? So much has disappeared but Ken brings it back to life tonight, viewed not only through the camera lens but through an experienced railwayman's eyes and with an informed commentary.

LIVE + ZOOM : Friday 17 April 2026

“Foynes Line – Decline and Rebirth” by Hassard Stacpoole

The Limerick to Foynes rail line, opened in the 1850s, has undergone significant phases of growth, decline and near abandonment, saved by export ore from Silvermines. By 2001, the line was disused. But now it has been rehabilitated and due to reopen by autumn 2026. Hassard Stacpoole, a Co. Limerick native, seasoned railway professional, and Railway Magazine's Irish Correspondent, will present an overview of the line's historical significance and periods of decline. He will examine the current rebuilding and reopening, providing insights into the restoration process and what lies ahead for this vital route.

end of programme