



## Irish Railway Record Society TIMELINE HISTORY

- 1914**
- Enthusiasts **circulate notebooks** amongst each other recording newsworthy items on Irish railways, but their circulation ceases at the commencement of WW1.
- 1919**
- Post-WW1, Irish railway enthusiasts publish items of interest via *The Railway Magazine*.
- 1928**
- **Irish Railway Society (IRS)** is established.
  - Prime movers **Robin Clements and Kevin Murray** begin to distribute a series of '**Bulletins**' containing Irish railway news to likeminded enthusiasts.
- 1933**
- The IRS ceases to function owing to a lack of subscriptions and interest.
- 1934**
- Photographer **Harold Fayle** instigates his own **bulletin**, which are circulated to former IRS members for potential future publication.
- 1939**
- Wartime censorship inhibits Fayle's bulletins being distributed to and from Ireland.
- 1945**
- Fayle's bulletins ceases and he suggests the creation of a new society for Irish railway interests.
- 1946**
- **Irish Railway Record Society (IRRS)** is established at Haynes Restaurant, Dame St, Dublin, on 24 October.
  - **Kevin Murray** is elected as society 'Chairman' and **Robin Clements** as 'Editor' of the proposed IRRS Journal.
  - Regular meetings are planned and membership begins to grow.
- 1947**
- **Belfast and Cork branches** of the IRRS are established.
  - **IRRS Journal No. 1** is published.
  - '**Junior Branch**' is established, producing its own Journal at a reduced subscription.
  - First **IRRS outing** takes place in Spring, visiting the Great Northern Railway works at Dundalk.
  - First '**Annual Dinner**' is held in the Great Northern Railway Restaurant in Amiens St Station, Dublin.
  - Historical records, manuscripts, books and photographs begin to be gathered.
- 1954**
- By now IRRS meetings are held in the **CIÉ Club, Earl Place**, having moved from Haynes Restaurant due to growing member attendances.
  - Provision for storing the IRRS's growing collection is made by CIÉ at the **Point Store, North Wall** (now the 3Arena).
- 1960**
- IRRS obtains a lease in the basement at **32 Blessington Street, Dublin**, allowing for the provision of a members' library and a venue for meetings.
- 1961**
- Regular '**Library Nights**' are established on Tuesday evenings (a tradition which continues today).
  - **Kevin Murray** replaces **Robin Clements** as IRRS Journal 'Editor', a position he would occupy until his death in 1999.
  - **IRRS London Area** is established under the stewardship of British based enthusiast **Lance King**.
- 1964**
- Post-1964 when the RPSI became active, local effort is put into the operation of this complimentary body and the Belfast Area of the IRRS ceases to function.
- 1965**
- IRRS moves to **53 Lower Baggot St, Dublin**, allowing for a larger space for its library and meetings.
  - The Journal is now published three times per-year, which has been maintained ever since.
- 1968**
- IRRS moves to the former **Drumcondra Station (closed since 1901), Dublin**.
  - An ambitious project commences to restore Drumcondra Station into a library, archive, complete with meeting rooms.
  - Transfer of IRRS's collections from the Point Store to a new archive at Drumcondra takes place.
- 1969**
- First IRRS meeting is held in the new Drumcondra Station premises.
  - The library/meeting room and archive are now established.

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- 1971**
    - A second floor is added at Drumcondra Station for the purpose of providing a newer larger library.
    - Post-1973, the 'Junior Branch' of the IRRS ceases to function.
  - 1983**
    - IRRS moves to CIÉ's former **Goods Office at Heuston Station, Dublin.**
    - Interior of the Goods Office is reconstructed and renovated, culminating in the creation of a library, archive, meeting room and kitchen.
  - 1986**
    - First European outing takes place with the IRRS visiting the railways of Austria.
  - 1996**
    - **50th Anniversary of the IRRS** is marked by an official visit to the library and archive by the then President of Ireland, Her Excellency, Mary Robinson.
  - 1999**
    - IRRS establishes itself online with its website: **www.irrs.ie**
    - **Kevin Murray**, the IRRS's principal founder, dies aged 94 at Sandycove, Co. Dublin.
  - 2000**
    - The society becomes a 'Company limited by guarantee'; the Irish Railway Record Society Limited.
  - 2015**
    - **IRRS eJournal No. 1** is published, the society's first electronic publication.
  - 2016**
    - **70th Anniversary of the IRRS** is marked by a members' dinner in Dublin and by the London Area at a special reception in the Irish Embassy in London.