

THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

Combined Indoor Programme, Spring 2021

- 14th January 2021 **(MANCHESTER @ 18:30)** “Developing and Operating the Dublin LUAS”, by *Danny Vaughan* (Head of Metrolink, TfGM) and *Carl Phillips*, (former Head of Operations, Manchester Metrolink and LUAS).
- 21st January 2021 **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “Irish Ambulance Trains of the Great War”, by *Charles Friel*. Irish railway preservationist, photographer, and author, Charles P Friel brings us his researches into No 13 Ambulance Train, provided by the GNR(I) and No 14 Ambulance Train, provided by the GSWR. The talk includes details of the vehicles involved and their adaptation using many rarely (if ever) seen photographs and drawings as well as Charles' researches into the trains' hitherto almost-unknown movements. The talk includes details of how the vehicles were used back in 'civvie street', including some reused in a World War II Ambulance Train
- 28th January 2021 **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** “Railways of Iran” by *Tim Morton* (Chair – IRRS, London Area). Based on his visit to the country in 2017, Tim tells us about the fascinating railways in this very different land. See images of freight and passenger trains in dramatic deserts and magnificent mountains, hauled by locomotives from America, Europe and Asia, some over 50 years old. Enjoy the stunning TransIranian railway as it spirals and loops its way across viaducts and through tunnels. If you have never been to Iran, prepare to be very surprised at what this country offers. Tim's railway adventure is enlivened by anecdotes about his personal experiences, the friendly people, the authorities and their laws, staying in a hotch-potch of hotels and wrestling with the currency. For Tim, visiting Iran was an unforgettable experience. Let him share it with you.
- 11th February 2021 **(MANCHESTER @ 18:30)** “The North Kerry line”, by *Alan O’Rourke*.
- 18th February 2021 **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “Railways throughout Munster in the 60’s & 70’s” – a Film Show by *Ciarán Cooney*. IRRS Photo-Archivist, Ciarán Cooney, presents a feast of unique films by the late Joe St Leger. From Mallow and rare glimpses of the Sugar Factory, we sample Cork mainline workings ranging from new Supertrain MkII stock to magnesite and loose-coupled goods trains. Then to the Cork City goods-line, GM and Metrovick diesels on summer excursions to Youghal, Sulzer-hauled ballast operations, beet specials, Tivoli oil flows, traditional goods trains serving Newcastle West and Castleisland, a PWD steam-crane plugging the ‘bridge gap’ at Abbeyfeale. Finally the development of the freight-only Ballinacourty branch, including the factory ‘opening’ train and the seldom photographed Deutz engine on lifting-trains. Plus a bonus film about the Loughrea branch.
- 25th February 2021 **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** “With Lance King in Ireland – 1957-1963” by *Leslie McAllister*. London Area Committee member, Leslie McAllister, pays tribute to the Area’s founder Chairman, Lance King, with a first selection of Lance’s colour photographs taken in the Republic in the last years of steam there. Lance was a skilled photographer and left a fine record of steam in the Dublin area and on the fondly remembered branches such as Kenmare, Loughrea, Ballaghdareen, Edenderry, Tullow, Clara and Youghal, Steam and diesel in daily service on the CB&SCR feature, as well as the memorable railtour with the last “Bandon tank”. The early days of silver and “black and tan” liveried diesels conclude the period. A snapshot of Irish railway history at a time of great change.
- 11th March 2021 **(MANCHESTER @ 18:30)** “Great Northern Railway of Ireland”, by *Charles Friel*.
- 18th March 2021 **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “UTA/NIR Spoil Trains of 1966-70”, by *Joe Cassells*. The UTA/NIR Spoil Trains were the last great challenge for Irish steam. Over 3½ years, WT Class 2-6-4T locos operated 7600 trains carrying over 4m tons of spoil from Magheramorne to Greencastle. Lifetime recorder of the railway scene, Joe Cassells, keenly observed the operation but now using previously unavailable information, he has produced the definitive description of it - its conception, its planning, and day-to-day activity. There is a special focus on the locomotives and enginemmen but through word and photos, Joe gives us a full insight to this impressively successful project.

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- 25th March 2021** **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** “**CIÉ Modern Traction on Irish Railways from the 1960’s to 1970’s**”, presented by *Ciarán Cooney*. Debut Film Show featuring the collection of the late Tom Dowling, which has been digitised, restored and edited by IRRS Photo-Archivist Ciarán Cooney. We sample scenes from the ex-GNR terminus at Amiens St, where brand new GM diesels and their Metrovick counterparts are filmed alongside the last steam workings from Belfast, including VS Class 4-4-0 and WT 2-6-4 Class engines. After lineside shots between Dublin and Navan, we move to the GS&WR mainline to feature passenger and goods workings out of Kingsbridge, showcasing a kaleidoscope of liveries from CIÉ green to black and tan, with rare shots of Sulzer locomotives and mainline AEC-railcar sets. We then have a feature-length film on the North Kerry Railway during the 1970’s, visiting Castleisland, Fenit and Listowel, complete with lineside and footplate views, with plenty of ‘loose-coupled’ shunting.
- 08th April 2021** **(MANCHESTER @ 18:30)** “**Powering Down, the changing Bord na Móna railway scene from 2010-2020**”, by *Seán Cain*.
- 22nd April 2021** **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “**Locomotives of the Great Southern & Western Railway**”, by *Michael McMahon*. Michael McMahon, co-author of the recently published eponymous book, recounts the complex motive power story of the GSWR throughout the company’s existence from 1844 – 1924. This historic subject has never been comprehensively researched before and Michael and the team took 10 years to do it. Michael therefore covers, in depth, a huge part of early locomotive development in Ireland, mirroring the expansion and needs of GSWR operations. He unravels the convoluted loco numbering system and explains the construction, rebuilding and renewal of the large fleet (325 at the end) as it evolved over 80 years. A huge amount of new information is revealed. Hear it directly from Michael.
- 29th April 2021** **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** “**Bantry Branch (Drimoleague to Bantry Pier)**” by *Oliver Doyle*. On the 60th Anniversary of the closure, Oliver will recount early efforts to have a railway to Bantry. The initial station was high above the town and was not long open before an extension was proposed including a pier for a steamer service to Glengarriff & Castletownbere. Cattle fairs were a big source of revenue, particularly those in Autumn. Many interesting excursions are recounted, a Sunday Bandon to Glengarriff outing with 500+ passengers changing at Bantry Pier. Two through excursions to Limerick to view the new Ardnacrusha Power Station the first of which ran through Aughaville Station gates killing the gatekeeper. Two other fatalities on the line are recounted. The paper concludes with the demise of the West Cork system on 31 March 1961.

ALL MEETINGS ARE ONLINE - HOW TO JOIN THEM:

Please note that due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, **all the above meetings will be held online**, unless indoor gatherings are permitted in the meantime by the relevant authorities. **Details on how to access the meetings will be issued by the host branch a number of days before each presentation to those on the branch's mailing list.**

If you are not currently on the IRRS mailing list, or that of any of the branches, and wish to be added in order to access any of the above meetings, please send your details (name, email address and IRRS membership number) to:

Main (Dublin) IRRS mailing list: membership@irrs.ie

London IRRS mailing list: irrslondon@hotmail.com

Manchester mailing list: IRRSManchester@gmail.com

Please note that if you have received the **eNewsletter** you are already on the **main (Dublin) mailing list** and therefore do not need to request to be added to **that** list. You may wish to be added to the London and/or Manchester mailing lists, in which case you will need to request to join.