

# THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

## Combined Indoor Programme, Autumn/Winter 2021

- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021** **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** **Slideshow: Irish Railfans News in Pictures – an illustrated journey through the 1950's & 60's featuring the Les Hyland Photographic Collection, presented by *Ciarán Cooney*, Hon IRRS Photographic Archivist.** A nostalgic photographic journey from Bangor to Baltimore and everywhere in between featuring steam and diesel traction north & south during the 1950's & 60's, taking in both standard and narrow-gauge systems as well as noteworthy events as reported in Irish Railfans News under the editorship of Leslie Hyland himself.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021** **(MANCHESTER @ 19:30)** **“My First Railway Adventure in Ireland” by *Michael Davies***
- 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021** **(LONDON @ 19:00)** **“Irish Rail Timetabling – Slotting it all Together” by *Kieran Marshall*.** Kieran is an enthusiast, preservationist and railway professional working in Irish Rail's timetabling office. Kieran describes how Irish Rail approaches the complex task of planning the timetable, balancing many different requirements between commercial, fleet, infrastructure and signalling, as well as personnel considerations. It is not easy to devise the optimal plan, which in turn will define the day-to-day operation of the railway. In addition to that, Kieran explains the further considerations involved in threading additional, special services through the timetable. It is challenging to “slot it all together” and Kieran gives us a close insight into the practicalities and professionalism involved.
- 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021** **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** **“The Derry Central Railway” by *Charles Friel*.** This part of the NCC ran west of the river Bann, through country Londonderry, from Magherafelt to Macfin Junction (just south of Coleraine). Apart from its own traffic, was a useful relief to the busy main line. Although the line was closed to passengers in August 1950, Magherafelt to Kilrea remained open for goods traffic until October 1959 - and saw some passenger specials too. One of the line's principal traffics was to and from Clark's Linen Mill at Upperlands (between Maghera and Kilrea) which had its own branch line and an internal horse-worked tramway. The talk will be fully illustrated with maps and diagrams as well as several pictures from all eras, including a few post-closure. Many of the pictures are being published for the first time. Indeed, some of the 'new' pictures have raised questions that have yet to be answered – maybe you will be able to help?
- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021** **(MANCHESTER @ 19:30)** **“Through the Lens” – The photographs of Cyril Fry, by *Hassard Stacpoole*.**
- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021** **(LONDON @ 19:00)** **“The County Donegal Railway – Survival and Revival” by *Joe Begley*.** Joe Begley is a railway author long interested in the CDR. Based on new material, he recounts the many challenges faced but survived by the railway – financial, Partition and war to name but three – enabling it to outlive most of its contemporaries until closure in 1959. But the story did not end there. Many items of rolling stock enjoyed a stay of execution and have been recovered and restored by the North West of Ireland Railway Society, the development of the Foyle Valley Railway Centre and the formation of the South Donegal Railway Restoration Society. The memory of the CDR is securely preserved through a growing collection of railway items, and Joe brings the story right up to date.
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021** **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** **“The Munitions Strike” by *Dr Peter Rigney*.** The munitions embargo of 1920 was a key aspect of the struggle for independence, but one which is neglected by historians. Although it took place in Ireland, it had its roots in eastern Europe and the drama played out in London as much as in Dublin. Dr Peter Rigney is a long-standing member of the society and the author of *'How Railwaymen and Dockers Defied an Empire – The Munitions Embargo of 1920'*
- 09<sup>th</sup> December 2021** **(MANCHESTER @ TBC)** **“An Ulster Railway Trip” by *Gas Hill*, to include Christmas luncheon and a pre-arranged Railway Visit in the North West of England, (further details to follow) **\*\*note this will be a daytime event\*\*****

**09<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (LONDON @ 19:00) “With Lance King in Ulster 1957-1970 – The NCC in Action” by Leslie McAllister + London Area AGM.** London Area Committee member, Leslie McAllister, pays a third tribute to our late founder Chairman, Lance King, Tonight, we enjoy Lance’s colour images as he recorded the remaining lines of the former Northern Counties Railway (the NCC) and the activities of its locomotives both on their home lines and “abroad” on the Great Northern. Lance also photographed the diesel units which replaced steam, so a period of change is faithfully recorded. 1965 saw the foundation of the RPSI and Lance travelled on many of its early tours. The period concludes with the famous Stone Trains helping to build a motorway. A heady mixture of nostalgia, brilliantly recorded by a master photographer!

**ALL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE - HOW TO JOIN THEM:**

Following the success of online meetings during the Coronavirus pandemic, **all the above meetings will be available online.** Individual branches may hold some or all of their meetings in person also; please check the relevant branch page on the IRRS website for updates. **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](mailto:membership@irrs.ie)**

**London IRRS mailing list: [irrslondon@hotmail.com](mailto:irrslondon@hotmail.com)**

**Manchester mailing list: [IRRSManchester@gmail.com](mailto: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.