

THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

Combined Indoor Programme, Spring 2022

- 13th January 2022 **(MANCHESTER @ 19:00)** “Railway Architecture off the GNR(I) by *Siobhan Osgood*.
- 20th January 2022 **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “Irish Railway Catering 1900-2017 – From Dining Car to Food Trolley” by *Louis Cullen*. Louis Cullen, Fellow Emeritus in History at TCD, shares his research into railway catering in the Republic of Ireland. It started with meals from refreshment rooms in stations, onboard catering then expanded after 1918, the GSR’s Pullman cars followed, expansion continued and the zenith was reached in the “golden years” of the 1990’s, with over 70 trains/day offering catering cars including City Gold and the Enterprise. The service is now offered by private contractors (on and off trains) and by 2017 the onboard offer was largely a trolley service. One longs for the old buffet and dining cars.
- 27th January 2022 **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** “Meet the Board” by the *IRRS Board Members*. This meeting is designed to give the wider membership an opportunity to meet the Board, including representation from each of our three branches in London, Manchester and Cork. Each speaker will have a couple of minutes to introduce themselves, give a bit of information on their personal background (if they so wish!) and what work they are involved in with the Society. We will then have a Q&A session at the end.
- 10th February 2022 **(MANCHESTER @ 18:30)** “The MGWR” Recording Archives and the Old Railway, by *Richard McLachlan*
- 17th February 2022 **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “80 years of Bord na Móna” by *Andrew Waldron and Ted McAvoy*. Andrew and Ted are BnM experts. As Ireland’s largest ng railway draws to a close, they present almost an insider’s review of the past 80 years from the earliest days at Clonsast to the last rites on the plains of Mayo, embracing infrastructure, rolling stock, day-to-day operations, engineering work, the last peat fired, steam driven briquette plant in the world etc.. But more than that, the two speakers knew the BnM staff, they understood the psyche of the railway, and they enjoyed many entertaining and hilarious experiences on their frequent visits. You won’t get a better insight to BnM.
- 24th February 2022 **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** “Marketing Conway Scenic Railroad – Two Years Promoting a Tourist Railway During the Pandemic” by *Brian Solomon*. Since December 2019, Brian Solomon has been the Manager of Marketing & Events at the Conway Scenic Railroad in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, USA. He will give an illustrated program of his work selling the railroad during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 10th March 2022 **(MANCHESTER @ 18:30)** “The Railway Photos of Graham Hoare” by *Roger Joanes*.
- 17th March 2022 **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “50 Years Ago – the Films of Macha Film Studios” by *John Friel*. John Friel, brother Charles and others set up Macha Film Studios in the late-1960’s to record the disappearance of steam and other traditional features of the Irish railway scene. Although amateurs, their approach to film making was highly professional embracing a filming van, imaginatively planned and co-ordinated shots, different photographers at different places, and skilful editing afterwards. Their results are among the best of Irish railway ciné. Hear how they did it and enjoy the sights and sounds of steam on the GN, early RPSI tours, spoil trains, goods trains on the Burma Road etc..
- 24th March 2022 **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** Annual Film Show: “More gems of the railways of Munster during the 1960's & 70's from the Joe St Leger Collection, plus Tony Price's early films”, presented by *Ciarán Cooney, Hon Photographic Archivist*. Further unseen, digitised and restored film clips from Cork to Youghal, featuring passenger, goods and PWD workings, plus lifting operations on the Mallow-Waterford line and developments at Ballinacourty; also includes bonus film from the 'Burma Road' and North Wexford lines.

- 14th April 2022** **(MANCHESTER @ 18:30)** “Lance King on the NCC” by *Leslie McAlister*.
- 21st April 2022** **(LONDON @ 19:00)** “NIR – Today and Tomorrow” by *Richard Knox*. Richard Knox, General Manager NIR Rail Services, brings us up-to-date with how the company is performing and developing. He will explain where the company stood pre-Covid, developments at the time, the impact of Covid, and will give us an insight to the future. Exciting developments are in the pipeline such as the New Trains programme to create permanent 6-car CAF units, station developments including the Belfast Transport Hub, track and signalling upgrades and, further ahead, plans to upgrade the Enterprise service and to reduce NIR's carbon emissions.
- 28th April 2022** **(DUBLIN @ 19:30)** **Virtual Site Visit – Iarnród Éireann’s Limerick Works by *Peter Smyth*, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Iarnród Éireann.** The presentation will include a brief history of the Limerick Works, recent developments, video introductions to the maintenance processes and equipment used and the future plans for the Limerick Works. Originally constructed in 1848 to serve the needs of the Waterford and Limerick Railway, Iarnród Éireann’s Limerick Works performs running and heavy maintenance on the entire Freight and Infrastructure Department’s fleet, as well as inspections and maintenance of the rolling stock for the Limerick and Cork commuter networks.

ALL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE - HOW TO JOIN THEM:

Following the success of online meetings during the ongoing 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

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.