

BDRS - PROGRAMME 2026		14/07/2026	
Date	Title	Speaker	Details
14-Jan	Classic and Modern Image	Terry Foulger	Member Terry and his Son Justin Show Us Some Classic Old and new images from there Collections.
28-Jan	AGM followed by The Railways of Porto and the Douro Valley	Tony Wright	Your chance to have your say at the AGM followed by a talk by Tony Wright The Society Newsletter recently featured articles by David Brace about his trips to the Porto area. In September this year Tony had the opportunity to visit Porto for the first time and his presentation will take a look at what can now be seen on the railways in this beautiful area.
11-Feb	Even more Old, New, Borrowed and Blue. Postponed Due to Ill health of spouse new show A Taste of Island part 1	Alastair Wood / Walter Stamper	After a two year gap, an opportunity to catch up with all new material travelling through time and around the country from Alastair personal and archive collection.
25-Feb	A To Z of Swiss Railways Part 1	Steve Ollive	In the first of three parts describing the Railways of Switzerland, I will cover the major operators (SBB, BLS and SOB), look briefly and freight and infrastructure operators and then cover the Private Railways from A to C inclusive, starting with the Appenzeller Bahnen and ending with the Chemins de Fer du Jura. I will give a brief overview of the history of the railway and a map of the route, followed by some 21 st Century photographs of the rolling stock, along with any updates about changes to the stock.
11-Mar	Railways Of Hampshire	Stephen Bigley	"Hampshire was never a heavily industrialised county so it never had horse-drawn waggon ways but the railway came fairly early with the London & Southampton Railway in the late 1830s to serve the newly developed Southampton Docks. Gradually the network developed almost entirely under the auspices of the London & South Western Railway . We will be looking at stations, bridges, and everything else that makes up the railway including some remains of the Didcot Newbury & Southampton Railway. There will also be a few trains"
25-Mar	Steam Loco Photo's from the 1960's to present day UK, Europe,China and U.S.A.	Chris Ardy	<i>The first part of the show is photos from trainspotting in the 1960's around the uk to preserved and new Steam in the 2000's. The second half of the show is photos from europe in the 1960's to more recent years , China in 2003 and the U.S.A and Cuba in the 2000's .</i>

08-Apr	Before they were Preserved	Richard Coghlan	We can all take pictures of preserved locos, trains and stations now, but this show consists of pictures of these preserved locos at work before they were even considered for preservation, and some of the preserved stations.'
22-Apr	At Work	John Hollands	John will draw on images from his collection of railway picture postcards that date from the early twentieth century onwards. Each image will feature one or more workers carrying out a wide variety of roles.
13-May	The history and the restoration of BR Standard 4 tank no. 80150	Martin Orford	The first half of the talk deals with the construction and build of 80150 as one of the last locos to emerge from Brighton Works and follows its travels in service around the South of England and Hampshire in particular . Withdrawal and Woodham Bros Scrapyard then follow, as the loco falls further into decay and disrepair until our intervention in 2017. Part 2 of the talk describes the wonderful community project which has grown up around 80150 and the "push for parts" to gradually fill in the missing pieces of a full size 3D jigsaw. In a way, this is a Cinderella story of a locomotive unwanted and unloved by BR and passed over for decades by enthusiasts, which we are determined will very much "go to the Ball" one day.
27-May	Western Canada in 1981 / 2016	Neil Kearns	Western Canada is an enthusiast view of the railways of Western Canada with an excursion south of the border to Seattle. There is a certain level of inside knowledge as I have friends in Canada who worked for Canadian Pacific, Canadian National and regional lines. You don't need to know the difference between an F7A and a F9A or between a SD40-2 and a SD70MAC. For the steam section of the audience there is some mainline steam and an explanation of how mainline steam in British Columbia was stifled by political interference. Vancouver had a network of tram routes and inter urban trans and we will have a look at those as well as the trolleybuses which were the replacements.
10-Jun	Rhätische Bahn Revisited	John Fissler	John Returns to give his part 2 talk this talk follows on from Part 1 using material that time previously did not permit to explore more of the RhB network. Expect to see steam, diesel, electric and other heritage vehicles plus parallel steam running.

24-Jun	Docklands Light Railway Talk	Paul Ebbutt	Paul Ebbutt worked as a Civil Engineer with TfL / London Transport for 40 years. With this talk Paul will provide an overview of the planning, construction and operation of the original Docklands Light Railway (DLR) network from Tower Gateway to the Isle of Dogs and Stratford East London. Paul will explain the background to the DLR and provide personal reflection on his role and the politics with the project between 1983 and opening in 1987.
08-Jul	GOSLING'S GALAVANTS in 2025	Paul Gosling	Another Exciting Years travels where has Paul Been This Year
22-Jul	Keeping Track	Colin Brading	My talk is titled: "Keeping Track". It is a Powerpoint presentation that I put together to mark Last Years Rail200 events. I am a track engineer by background, and I felt that marking the 200 years needed to be about much more than just the trains. The format of the talk deals with (i) the evolution of track from the earliest designs, showing how many types of rail, sleeper etc. were tried in the years up to the early 1900s when a standard form of track was established, (ii) some of the lessons learned the hard way when track has been the cause of accidents, (iii) 20th century development to the modern form of track, especially continuously welded rails, (iv) how track is maintained and renewed, especially showing the great changes from manual work to mechanisation, and (v) reflections on the life of track workers over 200 years.
12-Aug	The Great Central Railway	Raymond Schofield	The Great Central Railway and Marylebone Station was London's last main line. It opened with great gusto in 1899 using the selling point "Rapid Travel in Luxury". The railway had its origins in the 1841 <i>Sheffield, Ashton-under-Lyne & Manchester Railway</i>, with its 3 mile Woodhead Tunnel under the Pennines. By 1847, with amalgamations, it became the <i>Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway</i>, a very successful coast to coast provincial line centred on Sheffield and Mexborough. It was the 'London Extension' and change of name to the Great Central that brought the line to national significance. Ray takes us on a journey using his own and purchased material commencing at Marylebone then covering tracks to Grimsby in the east and Wrexham, Wales, in the west. It has been said more than once that "the GC was more about Mexborough than Marylebone" and so it was as Ray will relate.

26-Aug	The Dick Sansbury Collection	John Barrowdale	"Dick was a Geography teacher and taught at Eastleigh and also at Aberystwyth University which is why this show mainly covers Hampshire and the Cambrian lines of the Western Region in the 1950s. There are also odd pictures taken around the Western Region and some on the London Midland Region, but virtually little on the Eastern Region. Whilst mainly steam, some modern traction is there as well, but of course not modern now. EE type 4. Warships and Hampshire and Hastings DEMUs appear as well. The original pioneer preserved narrow gauge railways of Wales also feature. The best pictures of local interest are men at work in Eastleigh works in the 1950s. Dick was a good friend of Eastleigh Shed master and well-known author and photographer Stephen Townroe so got into places not always available to the public like footplate rides and accident scenes. Most of the pictures were taken between 1950 and 1965".
09-Sep	Even more Old, New, Borrowed and Blue.	Alastair Wood	After a two year gap, an opportunity to catch up with all new material travelling through time and around the country from Alastair's personal and archive collection.
23-Sep	Hanging around in Germany	Colin Boocock	This presentation centres on not one but two examples of the hanging monorails known as Schwebebahnen. The well-known one at Wuppertal is described in some well-illustrated detail from one end to the other of its 13 or so kilometres' journey along and above the Wupper valley. Its survival confirms it as a very busy and valuable transport system. The other example is elsewhere and has a different purpose, but is also very unusual, probably unique. The show concludes with a summary of the many railway and shipping interests around Dresden.

14-Oct	The Good, The Bad, and the Infamous Sandwich: The Story of British Rail in the 1970s	Richard Marks	British Rail in the 1970s was a paradox on wheels. It could dazzle with innovation and frustrate with neglect — a railway caught between ambition and austerity. This was the era of the High Speed Train, a sleek marvel of engineering, launched into a network still cluttered with 1950s rolling stock and crumbling infrastructure. Some stations were so dilapidated they looked abandoned, yet trains still dutifully stopped. Elsewhere, commuter services thrived, with spotless platforms and bustling crowds. It was a railway of contradictions. In one town, gleaming new carriages; in another, the demolition of ornate Victorian station buildings, replaced by soulless prefab boxes. Critics called it vandalism. Supporters called it progress. And then there was the catering — a saga in itself, immortalised in folklore and foil-wrapped sandwiches. With renationalisation once again on the political horizon, the story of British Rail in the 1970s feels more relevant than ever. In this talk, The Good, The Bad and The Sandwich, railway historian Dr Richard Marks invites you to explore a decade of extremes, eccentricities, and enduring legacies — a journey through the highs, lows, and lunchboxes of a truly remarkable period in railway history.
28-Oct	Part 1 - European Roundabout. Part 2 - A trip to the Dentist	John Godfrey	Part 1 - European Roundabout. A selection of images from Europe covering the period 2000 - 2025 and will include trains and trams. Part 2 - A trip to the Dentist - where all will be revealed on the night and will include trains, trams and trolleybuses!
11-Nov	The history of 7903 Foremarke Hall and its restoration	Jim Clarke	Jim Will show Pictures and Films of 7903 Foremarke Hall and The Locomotive in Restoration
25-Nov	A Visit to the Greatest Gathering In Derby	Paul Gosling and Ryan Lamb	Paul and Ryan will Show Pictures of what was a fantastic Day in Derby for the Greatest Gathering For Rail 200
09-Dec	CHRISTMAS FILM and BUFFET		Program to be confirmed