

Railway Enthusiasts 2019

January 2019: MANCHESTER

This month the group took the opportunity of the coach trip to Manchester to visit the Museum of Science & Industry. This is housed on the site of the world's first passenger station, Manchester Liverpool Road, which opened as a part of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway in 1830. Much of the original station survives as well as the extensive warehousing associated with the station's original function as a link between the manufacturing centre of Manchester and the International shipping port of Liverpool. This was the principal means of transfer of raw materials and finished goods between these two cities before the building of the Manchester Ship Canal in 1894.

The preserved buildings have been creatively converted to exhibition space. On display are fascinating items relating to science and technology, transport and local industry. We were particularly pleased to see the remains of George Stephenson's "Rocket", currently on loan to the museum.

Special thanks go to Sue and her team for arranging the transport which made it so easy for us to visit such an interesting place.

Nick Clark

February 2019: YORK

We decided it was time to pay a return visit to the National Railway Museum at York, it being nearly two years since we last went. A small group of six of us met at Nottingham station to take the train to York, and enjoyed the ride, At the museum we had had four hours to spend. Some took advantage of a guided tour of the royal carriages while others wandered around the main hall reacquainting themselves with some old favourites. The workshop area was particularly busy with both Flying Scotsman and the frames of Sir Nigel Gresley getting some attention from the men with big hammers.



The trip home was uneventful until we got to our connection at Newark Castle to find our train stationary and the route ahead blocked by a broken-down freight train. We took the advice of the station staff and found ourselves a number 90 bus to get to Nottingham. We arrived home a little later than expected, but no worse off than a many a rail traveller these days I suppose.

April & May 2019: LONDON UNDERGROUND

The London Underground has been the main topic of the last two film-show meetings of the group. In April we had a driver's eye view of the Northern Line with commentary on the history and organisation of the line.

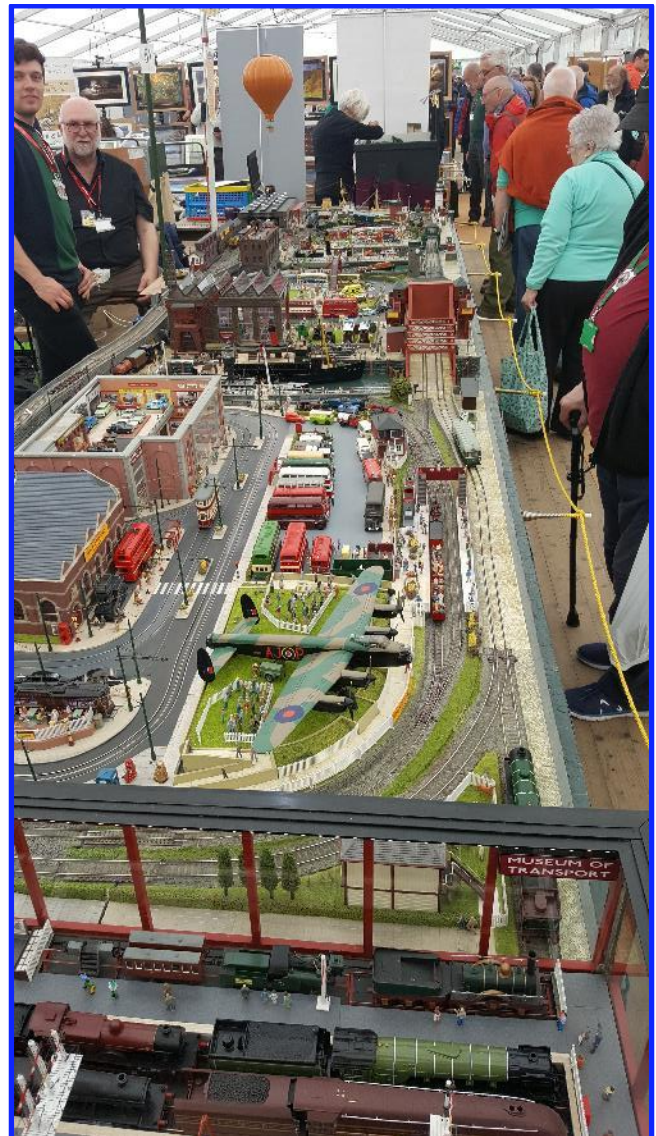
In May we watched an entertaining exposé of the "Secrets of the Underground", a whistle-stop tour of the entire network by a young man who has twice held the Guinness Book record for visiting all stations in record time. He enthusiastically pointed out items of architectural, artistic and historical interest including abandoned and "ghost" stations.



June 2019: MODEL EVENT

Our meeting in June was delayed till late in the month so that we could take advantage of the Great Central Model Event.

With displays and exhibitions at three the stations on the line, and a full service of trains running up and down the line all day there was plenty to see and do.



August 2019: FLYING SCOTSMAN

The famous locomotive Flying Scotsman was the star of our session of films this month featuring a recently filmed footplate ride during a leisurely trip along the rails of the Severn Valley Railway, a venue that we're planning to visit later this month.

This gave us a detailed look at the complexity of firing and driving such a classic engine. This was followed by a collection of clips of the same engine pulling heavy trains on West Country main line excursions back in the late '90's, a real treat to see the loco working hard.



September 2019: SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

A group of us set off to visit the Severn Valley Railway during its Autumn Steam Gala. Our route to Kidderminster involved two changes of train, but we all arrived together in time to take a look around the displays at the SVR station in all its Great Western glory and then take a ride to the other end of the line at Bridgnorth, hauled by a Bullied Pacific. A return run on the same train got us back to Kidderminster in time to catch our trains home.

