

2026 Programme Info

June 26th

The Lynton and Barnstaple Railway was a narrow-gauge passenger railway which ran from Barnstaple to Lynton. The line opened in 1898 and closed in 1935. The Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust are now running steam trains on a one-mile section of the line from Woody Bay Station to a temporary halt at Killington Lane. It is a major tourist attraction on Exmoor. The Trust have ambitious plans to extend the line.



The first half of **Mike Pearce's** illustrated talk looks at the period up to 1935. The second half focuses on the revived line and the Trust's plans for the future.

July 31st

Jim Boudreau returns with his presentation '**Wandering Locos**'.

In the early days of steam, it was rare for locomotives of an individual Railway Company to stray from their lines. Some interchange trials did take place in the early years of the 20th Century on a somewhat local basis. On formation of the Big Four some more well-known exchanges took place and some engines went abroad usually for publicity purposes. On formation of BR there were the well-known Interchange Trials of 1948. Also, Cross London freights and Enthusiast Specials.'



September 25th

John Fissler presents **Return of Steam to the Looe Branch**

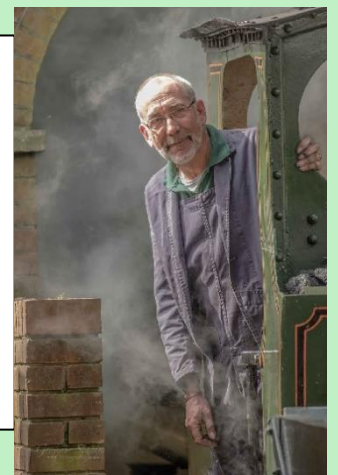
49 years after steam operation ceased on the Cornish branch to Looe steam hauled specials were arranged, featuring Dennis Howells' 0-6-0PT No. 9466, in September 2010 as part of the GWR 175th celebrations. Then in 2012 the newly restored GWS' steam railmotor no. 93 also ran on the branch. We take a look at some of these and associated workings plus regular movements. Signalling on the line is also featured.



October 30th

Life on the Iron Road is presented by **Ian Foot**, a career railway engineer.

He started as a Traction and Rolling Stock Engineering Apprentice at Eastleigh Works in September 1967. His career has taken him to Perth, Glasgow and thence to York as the Eastern Region Training Engineer. An assignment to manage the closure of Stratford Major Depot was followed by joining the Eurostar engineering team finishing as the British engineering manager in Paris. Consultancies followed on LUL, Angel Trains leasing company, Star LRT Malaysia, and Northeast line Singapore. Once 'retired' he joined the NYMR heritage line where he now is a volunteer Traction Inspector.



November 27th

Colin Brading presents "Time Travail" or "Precious Metals and Diamond Geezers"

"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow!" What appropriate words, as 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the first volunteer-led railway preservation project in Britain - the Talylyn Railway. He traces how the heritage sector has grown since then, celebrates its rich diversity and profiles some incredible achievements of ever more ambitious schemes. Looking ahead, we also consider the prospects for our heritage railways. They face difficult issues and must adapt to meet the challenges of climate change, environmental pressures, the use of coal and the availability of resources while maintaining their appeal for future generations. No easy task!

