



GROUP TALKS

1. Women's Work - Women on the railway

Did you know that our railway's magnificent flagship steam locomotive would have been built by a mainly female workforce? This talk will explore the varying roles of women on the railway between 1940 to 1960. Starting in 1939 with the outbreak of WWII we will look at the roles played by women in the building, maintenance and running of Britain's railways. Referencing the tradition of the railway in the use of women in certain areas through times of war and afterwards. It will then look at how women's roles on the railway changed from the end of WWII to the 1960's.

2. It's all about family on the railway - Southern Railway Servant's Orphanage

Did you know that our local railway company created one of the first charities and an early model of social services? This talk will explore the story of Southern Railway's Servant Orphanage in Woking. Its humble start as a 'fatherless girl's' home in 1885 with strong links to the railway. It developed into The London and South Western Railway Servant's Orphanage and later The Southern Railwaymen's Home for Children. Its strong connection to the railway lasted up until the last child left the orphanage in 1989. Along with the orphanage the railway set up an old people's home to care for retired railwayman and this is now Woking Homes.

3. The Birth of Eastleigh - Eastleigh Works

Did you know that the town of Eastleigh owes its existence to the railway works? This talk will explore the history of Eastleigh Works and how they drove the development of the town. The works were created after the move of L.S.W. R's carriage and wagon works being moved from Nine Elms, London to Eastleigh in 1883. The arrival of the carriage works meant that housing for the workers needed to be created and so began the development of the new town of Eastleigh. Expansion of the works continued and in 1909 the locomotive works was also re-located there and became a hub of locomotive and carriage building and maintenance.

4. Canadian Pacific Project – Engineering a future from the past

Did you know that through our restoration of our flagship steam locomotive and two rare carriages, unemployed job seekers have found work, apprenticeship and new volunteer positions have been created? This talk will explore what the Canadian Pacific Project is about, what we are doing, what we aim to achieve and how you may be able to take part. It will also cover the history of our illustrious 'Canadian Pacific' steam locomotive which is the focus of our project. Come and find out about the oldest and fastest surviving Merchant Navy class steam locomotive on a preserved railway.

5. Battle of the Atlantic

Did you know that the shipping line after which our flagship steam locomotive Canadian Pacific was named, suffered the greatest losses of the Battle of the Atlantic? This talk will explore the role of merchant shipping lines in the Battle of the Atlantic. The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest continuous campaign during WWII. It started from September 1939 until the defeat of the German's in 1945. The Canadian Pacific Shipping Line was one of many shipping companies involved in supplying Britain with troops and cargo. The shipping line names were used for the most powerful steam locomotive class to be designed by Oliver Bulleid, which in context demonstrates their significance.

6. Over the Alps - The history of the Watercress Line

Do you know the story behind why the Mid-Hants Railway became known affectionately as the 'Watercress Line'? Explore the history of our picturesque railway from its opening in 1865 through to its closure and near extinction in 1973, and re-opening in stages as a heritage railway from 1977. Find out how a rural station has become a preserved railway engineering hub and find out more about the line's impressive collection of locomotives to be found there.