

*The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland  
Presents*

## **THE 50<sup>th</sup> IRISH HERITAGE RAILTOUR WEEKEND**

*Featuring the*

### **WATERFORD & LIMERICK RAILTOUR**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Saturday: Dublin (Connolly) - MP3 Parkway - Dublin - Kilkenny -  
Waterford (overnight)**

**Sunday: Waterford - Limerick - Waterford (overnight)**

**Monday: Waterford - Dublin (Connolly) - Belfast (Lanyon Place) -  
Whitehead**

*And in support*

### **RAILTOUR (Steam) POSITIONING TRAIN**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Whitehead - Belfast (Lanyon Place) - Lisburn - Portadown - Dundalk -  
Dublin (Connolly)**

### **THE KNOCKNAREA (Diesel) RAILTOUR**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Dublin (Connolly) - Mullingar - Sligo - Mullingar - Dublin (Connolly)**

### **WATERFORD & SUIR VALLEY RAILWAY**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Waterford (Bilberry) - Kilmeaden - Waterford (Bilberry)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland has pleasure in announcing its 50<sup>th</sup> International Railtour.

The railtour extended weekend will feature two locomotives from the following - former LMS(NCC) 2-6-4 tank locomotive No.4, former GNR(I) 4-4-0 compound locomotive No.85 "Merlin" or former GNR(I) Q class No.131.

This document outlines the itinerary and important details of train travel options and other choices available. Please use the accompanying Booking Form to make your decisions. **Return to the address provided, but no later than Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019** to enable the administration process to be completed, hotels notified and tickets posted in good time.

The Society has secured a number of rooms in selected hotels. Booking rooms through the Society is optional. There will be a high demand for single rooms in Dublin; these are very limited, so you may wish to think about alternative arrangements there.

Every effort will be made to adhere to the proposed arrangements, but with any railway operation there is always a chance of an unplanned late change.

Full departure timings will be issued with your tickets on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Society appreciates the continuing support of Northern Ireland Railways and Iarnród Éireann to make the annual Irish Heritage Railtour Weekend happen.

*M Darragh*

**Mervyn Darragh**

For Belfast Area Operations Committee

## MAIN ITINERARY

*The Waterford & Limerick Raitour fare covers train travel from Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May inclusive.*

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Waterford & Limerick Raitour

#### **Dublin (Connolly) - MP3 Parkway - Dublin - Kilkenny - Waterford**

The day starts at 09:15 with a return trip to M3 Parkway, the terminus along the former Clonsilla Junction to Navan line. After taking water at Connolly shed we depart for Waterford at 12:00 using the Phoenix Park line to Islandbridge Junction at Heuston. The first stop after deviating from the Cork main line at Cherryville Junction will be Athy where water will be taken from a tanker. A stop is planned at Bagenalstown to cross a service train. Kilkenny arrival is scheduled for 14:25. Following an obligatory water stop we depart with a Waterford arrival planned for 17:00.

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Waterford & Limerick Raitour

#### **Waterford - Limerick - Waterford**

Special permission has been granted to use the Waterford to Limerick Junction line, normally closed on a Sunday. Departure off Waterford will be around 09:50 with various photo stops en route. A one hour stop is planned in Limerick departing at 14:05 with a Waterford return for 17:05.

See also Waterford and Suir Valley Railway (optional) under Fringe Itineraries.

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Waterford & Limerick Raitour

#### **Waterford - Dublin (Connolly) - Belfast (Lanyon Place) - Whitehead**

We depart Waterford at 10:20 and use the Lavistown Direct Curve avoiding Kilkenny. Water will be taken again at Bagenalstown with a 'top up' stop at Athy. A quick run along the Cork main line will see a Dublin Connolly return at 13:30. Departure for Belfast and Whitehead using the Mk2 carriages is scheduled for 14:30. A lie-over is required at Dundalk to permit the Enterprise to overtake. The train will be shunted empty to the loop parallel to the platform.

## FRINGE ITINERARIES

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Positioning Train

#### **Whitehead - Belfast (Lanyon Place) - Portadown - Dundalk - Drogheda - Dublin (Connolly)**

Either locomotive No.131 or No.4 will haul the train comprised of Mk2 stock. Departure from Whitehead will be at 09:05. The train will pick up at Carrickfergus, Belfast Central, Lisburn and Portadown. Dublin arrival is scheduled for around 13:45

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May - The Knocknarea (diesel) Raitour

#### **Dublin (Connolly) - Mullingar - Sligo - Mullingar - Dublin (Connolly)**

Friday is diesel raitour day. Unfortunately Galway has had to be dropped due to Friday pathing issues west of Portarlinton with Friday only trains; meaning a too-late return to Dublin.

Departure from Dublin Connolly is at 10:00 with the Cravens set. Following a lie-over in Sligo we return to Dublin Connolly for 20:00. Our previous visit to Sligo on a Friday was in 2013. Locomotive hauled trains on the Sligo line are very rare.

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Waterford & Suir Valley Railway

#### **Waterford (Bilberry) - Kilmeaden - Waterford (Bilberry)**

Travel on this 6½ mile narrow gauge line along the former Waterford, Dungarvan and Mallow line is recommended. Seating is limited to 70. Bilberry is close to the site of the original station Waterford South; 0.5 miles from the main road river bridge. Departure is scheduled for 18:20 and return for 19:45.

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May - Coach Tour

The weekend wind-down coach tour departs from the Europa Bus Centre, Stand 2 at 09:30. The itinerary includes a visit to HMS Caroline a decommissioned C Class light cruiser built in 1914 and is the sole surviving ship that featured in the 1916 Battle of Jutland. This is followed by a coach tour featuring the Groomsport to Donaghadee coastal route for lunch at the Moat Inn Bistro. Time permitting we drive along the Ards Peninsula to Ballywalter then to Greyabbey on the Strangford Lough side of the peninsula. Our day ends with a guided tour of Parliament Building, Stormont. Return (traffic permitting) via Belfast Lanyon (Central) to set down is planned for 17:00.

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May - Whitehead Railway Museum

Instead of the coach tour participants may wish to visit the museum which will be opened specially from 10:00 to 12:00. A special reduced admission charge will apply.  
(There is a direct train connection from Belfast's Great Victoria Street to Whitehead NIR).

## **SEATING**

There will be allocated seating for the Waterford & Limerick and Knocknarea Diesel Raitours.

Milepost seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you would like a milepost seat please write "Milepost seat for ..." in the Information box on the booking form. Please also indicate which section of line as mileposts may be on different sides throughout the weekend.

The train will be for the sole use of raitour participants.

## **TRAIN TIMINGS**

Principal departure times will be confirmed with the issue of tickets. Detailed timings for the weekend will be issued on board the train.

## ACCOMMODATION

### HOTELS

Hotel bed and breakfast accommodation arranged through the Society is at reduced rates. This is optional, and customers are at liberty to make their own arrangements. Single rooms are very limited in availability. Some hotels will release rooms after the single occupancy allocation is complete, but at full occupancy tariff. All hotel prices are inclusive of VAT. We shall endeavour to allocate your accommodation in your preferred hotel but experience shows this is not always possible. In such circumstance an alternative hotel will be used, if available.

The Society has pre-booked hotel accommodation based on the demand for the May 2018 railtour. For Dublin this may not now meet the potential demand, especially from those seeking single rooms.

All hotel rates quoted are 'per person' per night.

**Note: We cannot take requests for specific hotel needs beyond the options we have available here. If you have special requirements it is recommended that you arrange your own accommodation.**

**There is no guarantee that we can supply a hotel place, especially in Dublin, as the hotels we use have a limited number of beds available.**

## RAILTOUR DINNER AND REFRESHMENTS

### 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

This year's railtour dinner will be in Treacy's Hotel on Saturday evening at 19:30 for 1945. A cash bar will be available.

The menu can be chosen on the night from the following -

#### Starters

*Cream Soup of the Day  
Chicken & Mushroom Vol au Vent  
Melon Cocktail with Fruit Sorbet*

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#### Main Courses

*Roast Rib of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy  
Supreme of Chicken, with a cracked Black Pepper Sauce  
Spicy Cajun Salmon Vegetable Couscous & Pineapple Salsa  
Baked Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread, Salad & Fries*

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*Treacy's Hotel Trio of Desserts*

*Followed by Tea or Coffee*

### ON-TRAIN CATERING

Pre-paid boxed lunches (optional) will be available on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

A catering service providing tea, coffee, snacks and sandwiches will be available throughout the extended weekend.

A full bar service will be provided.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### FARES

All fares are in Sterling as indicated on the Booking Form. If paying in Euros then please use the Sterling amounts and add 20% to the total in the box provided.

### PAYMENT

Payment should be by cheque, Visa/MasterCard or debit card. As soon as your booking is accepted and places allocated your cheque will be cashed or card debited.

### DISPATCH OF TICKETS

Tickets, key departure timings, hotel and seat allocation details will be dispatched first class post no later than Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

### CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be made in writing to the Hon. Operations Officer at the address provided on the Booking Form. If received not less than 28 days before the commencement of the tour, fares will be refunded minus a £5 administration charge. If received between 14 and 28 days before the commencement date a 90% refund will be made, less the administration charge. Cancellations received less than 14 days before the tour regrettably cannot receive a refund.

### CONTACT

If you have any queries regarding the Prospectus and/or Booking Form then please contact us via email at [rpsitrains@hotmail.com](mailto:rpsitrains@hotmail.com).

### CONNECTIONS

**The RPSI cannot be held responsible for alterations leading to possible out of course running, or other delays that might impinge on inward or outward transport connections - rail, ship or airline - with any of the railtour trains. Please leave yourself adequate time to deal with unforeseen circumstances.**

## BOOKING OPTIONS (ALL PRICES IN STERLING)

**(NOTE: The details on this page are required to fill in the booking form.)**

### SECTION A - WATERFORD & LIMERICK RAILTOUR (12th to 14th May inclusive)

Temporary Member	A1	£205
Member **	A2	£180
Temporary Member Child (Under 16)	A3	£190
Member Child (Under 16) **	A4	£165

**\*\* 2019 membership number must be listed on the form for each member travelling.**

### SECTION B - ALTERNATIVE EVENTS

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May - Positioning Train to Dublin	B1	£35
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May - The Knocknarea Diesel Railtour	B2	£50
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May - Waterford & Suir Valley Railway	B3	£9
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May - Heritage Tour by Coach	B4	£35
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May - Whitehead Railway Museum	B5	£5

### SECTION C - RAILTOUR OPTIONS

Dublin/Belfast Enterprise single ticket (any day, either direction)	C1	£18
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### SECTION D - MEALS

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May - Boxed Lunch	D1	£12
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May - Boxed Lunch	D2	£12
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May - Boxed Lunch	D3	£12
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May - Railtour Dinner	D4	£25

### SECTION E - HOTELS (Bed & Breakfast tariff)

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May (Dublin)

Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street (single supplement £36)	£73
Ripley Court Hotel, Talbot Street (single supplement £25)	£66

#### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May (Dublin)

Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street (single supplement £36)	£73
Ripley Court Hotel, Talbot Street (single supplement £25)	£66

#### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May (Waterford)

Treacey's Hotel (3*), Merchants Quay (supplement £18)	£44
Fitzwilton (4*), Bridge Street (single supplement £27)	£55

#### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May (Belfast and Dublin)

Holiday Inn, Hope Street, Belfast (single supplement £42)	£53
Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street (single supplement £36)	£73

**NOTE: If you require accommodation for other dates, please make your own arrangements.**

Should the Society be unable to provide a single room where sought it would either not be charged, or in the case of payment by cheque, refunded later. Please state if you are prepared to "pair up" with a friend and share a twin bedded room should the limited single room availability be exhausted.

Separate photographer's timing leaflet (included in railtour fare)	£25
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**PLEASE RETURN BOOKING BY MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**