



# MID YEAR CONVENTION SMOKESTACK JUNE-JULY 2021



Many years ago your President went on many Museum conferences. Sometimes rails intervened. Here is D49 Class 4-4-0 "Morayshire". Designed by Nigel Gresley of the LNER in 1927, this is the only remaining member of the class and is preserved in Scotland. The locos were names after Hunts and Shires in the UK.

An extra 2021 issue to take in RI Virtual Convention with any updates that result.

Welcome to another **Smokestack**. This an interim edition for Convention with some news sent to me recently. We'll be producing another for the Autumn (Fall) later in the year.

We hope Covid Lockdown is easing here in the UK though there are still threats from the Delta variant. We are however ever thinking of our Rotary colleagues in India in particular where no such relaxation is possible.

I've included some bits of news that have come my way in the last few days. Much more needed from members though!

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## Rail destinations - we hope this will become a regular update

We know how much the pandemic has affected many of our Rotary interests this last 18 months but as well it does so with matters of our Fellowship interests. At present activities are naturally curtailed but there is some gradual reopening of places of interest. Let us know about your trips or plans – or direct from attractions you personally know of.

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## Rail User Express (UK)

Nothing new at the time of writing but we will be keeping an eye on this news over the next few months.



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## Railway Children

Nothing new here either but I will be keeping an open invitation to the Chairman of this Charity David Maidment to come and talk to my Club in person once we are meeting in person again. He is already interested in Rotary's support. David's latest book on Great Western Railway King class 4-6-0 locos is out now!

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## From a member

To the right is the cover of the British Railway Upgrade plan for 2017/18 that member Adrian Kitchen has sent me. I'm not going to take up the rest of the newsletter with the whole book but the whole plan can be found on the network rail file.

[networkrail.co.uk](http://networkrail.co.uk)



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## Convention News

I mentioned last time that IFRR have registered for a virtual booth at the Taiwan Virtual Convention now upon us. Simple the booth might be, but it took over 9 hours to "assemble" even with instructions! It is now "live", and I hope members (and non-members) will visit it during the virtual Convention. We do not have unlimited ability in number to "staff" it but there are contact emails on the tabs at the Booth. Please feel free to comment and of course urge fellow Rotarians to join!

The Convention is always our main chance to get together with members and potential members as well as meeting old friends in the House of Friendship. Sadly we still cannot do this in person but the virtual Convention is the next best thing – and most certainly allows Rotarians from all over the World to attend who might well not have been able to get to Taiwan.

I'm sure like me many of you have a schedule for Convention. Myself and other Board members will be looking at this and working on our own diaries (and time zones!) to try and get to meet via Zoom. I'm sure Bruce will email any latest news around the whole membership.

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## Annual General Meeting

We hope to have this either during or just after the Convention. All the officers are willing to continue for another year, but we will accept challengers! We are STILL looking for a volunteer webmaster remember!

Once again we rely on you as members to say how you would like IFRR to progress and let the Board have your ideas – or better still, contributions to **Smokestack**. Don't hesitate to do so. There will always be members who appreciate a new piece of railroad knowledge or interest.

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## To come for future editions of Smokestack

This has been a shortened edition just to cover the period of the Convention. Towards September/October I hope to have another issue – always depending on news from the railroading world and IFRR members.

I already have a few promises of articles and comments from some new members, but we always need more – the more I have in the bag the more often I can produce issues of our newsletter and keep us all together in Fellowship. And, I hope, helping Rotary projects at the same time – which is what we are really here for.

**Once again - let us know your interests and how you might want the IFRR to continue. We would all love to hear from you.**

Thanks to fellow Board members for their advice and contribution to the layout of this issue. All errors are entirely due to me!

Yours in Rotary Service,

**Bob**

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