



CONVENTION SMOKESTACK



A bit of 1980s England.

A scene from one of the 0 Gauge layouts at the Macclesfield Model Railway Exhibition in March this year.

The scene is a rather rundown freight yard with typical British Rail Blue liveried diesel locos in charge. It is set in north Staffordshire in England in the late 1970s just before such yards disappeared.

MAY 2022

This is a shortish issue for the RI Convention in Houston as an introduction. Thanks to a series of heart and lungs health scares and an even greater scare on hearing the cost of travel insurance from the UK to the USA (almost the air fare) your President will not be there and it will be a wrench not to meet old friends from IFRR and IFRM musicians. Indeed the current news at the end of May is that he has been diagnosed with Chronic Heart Failure which may be controlled but now cured so a slow decline is inevitable. Accounts for his tiredness and breathlessness.

One bright spot recently though was meeting fellow Director Bruce McNaught from Brisbane who was visiting his son in Langley UK – the vast distance of 15min from where your President lives! Two meals shared – one with wives and one with David Maidment of the Railway Children charity my Club supports. Lovely to share information.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS RELEVANT TO IFRR AND RAILROADING,
ANYTHING HISTORIC WOULD BE A WELCOME ADDITION.

RELEVANCE TO ROTARY PROJECTS WOULD BE PREFERRED!

And now some Convention news. IFRR has not booked a booth but asked about sharing. RI said they don't have a shared booth space as of right now unfortunately. If space becomes available at some point we might have liked to have one. The best possible was for one of our other fellowships that has a booth maybe display something for us? RI can post a list of those that intend to be there and maybe we could reach out to one of them and ask. Curtis and Bruce will be looking at a spare room for the AGM when at Convention or even better share some lunch at the same time.

I know fellow Director Curtis is keen to find a railroad orientated potential visit in the Houston area. Full size or model railroad. Anyone help? Curtis has not found anything right up to the start of Convention.

I also understand that the VIRTUAL Convention is now at the same time and dates as the in person one and not a week later. \$50.00 is needed to sign up for the Virtual Convention I believe. In my present state of health producing a virtual booth has sadly been beyond me.

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Now on to little bits of other news I receive over the internet.

Toronto Railway Museum who stay in touch with us since our visit there at the RI Convention in Toronto.

On May 19, Royal Historian Carolyn Harris presented an online lecture about the royal train tours of Queen Elizabeth II's time. Appropriate as we in the UK approach her Platinum Jubilee. As a part of this year's online lecture series, the presentation was free.



Toronto Railway Museum participated in [Doors Open Toronto](#) at the end of the month on May 28 and 29. This weekend-long, free event kicked off their summer season. More information I trust in our next issue of Smokestack.

Lastly, after a two year hibernation, the gift shop in Don Station is slated to reopen soon.

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And now an appeal which arrived on my desk some months ago when I was in hospital rather ill. I cannot see we can help out directly as we have no immediate funds but IFRR members may have some contacts. The below is reproduced verbatim as you may see.

Dear President and Rotarian Friends of IFRR,

I am Cesare CALCARA, council member and past president of ROTARY CLUB PALERMO MEDITERRANEA (IT- 2110 District), Founding Member and former Head of the 2110 District Fellowship ROTARIAN GOURMET (Sicily & Malta); district fellowship that for some time has merged into the International Fellowships of Rotary, thanks to work of, Vincenzo CAROLLO (Rotary Club Trapani -IT) current Italian Fellowship's President.

That said, I disturb You for the following.

In addition to "cooking" and "fine gourmet", I have always been passionate about railways. I was recently appointed Honorary Member of "Associazione di Cultura ed Attività Ferroviaria SICILIAin TRENO " based in Palermo (Sicily) <http://www.siciliaintreno.org>. A young NO PROFIT Association, composed by enthusiasts Members of history, technique & railway 's modeling and tours in historic trains makers.

Chaired by Andrea BERNASCONI engineer, is a very active small railway Association, that has recently had exceptional cultural exploits (BBC collaboration to production of Sir Michael PORTILLO's TV episode of Sicily) and operational (reactivation's initiative of the Sicilian narrow gauge line 'Castelvetrano - Menfi).

Hence the need to have an adequate site for internal initiatives and for those by the local cultural world, which are increasingly in required . But the young and small Association does not have the strength to finance the restructuring costs of the headquarters, actually in acquisition, approximately calculated at Euro 10.000 € (US \$ 11.550 - GB \$ 8,480)

Therefore I turn to you, Brothers in the common railway passion and in the Rotarian Friendship , to ask for financial help, of any amount, which will always be useful for the purpose.

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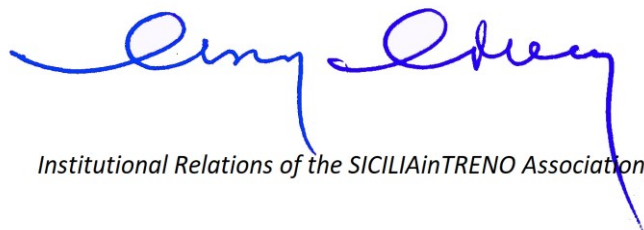
Obviously the SICILIA in TRENO Association will always be appreciative - both in the cultural and operational sense - with availability to news exchange , event's notification and, if possible, to have you our guests in Sicily also in our historic trains trips & railways sites tours (museums & ancien lines) to make in future.

Also, IFRR and / or its Members who wish to contribute, will be nominated "Benefactor Members" in perpetuum, and will receive the online SICILIA in TRENO's newsletter and all the most interesting news about our activities.

We thank You for your attention and for You how possible help. We look forward to Your kind reply.
Yours sincerely

YIR & YIRailways

Cesare CALCARA



Institutional Relations of the SICILIAinTRENO Association

☐ For more info about us, see our website: www.siciliaintreno.org

Direct contacts (English speck) :

Andrea BERNASCONI, SICILIA in TRENO Association's President : phone +39 392 348 4377

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I make no apologies for going back to one of my favourite Charities – the Railway Children. Supporting children in danger of abuse and trafficking from railway stations all over the world. David Maidment of the Charity spoke to our Rotary Club for an hour and held members mesmerized. Their latest challenge is below!



We thought you might be interested in taking up a challenge for Railway Children this year that will give you the adventure of a lifetime, while helping us change children's lives. We have events to suit everyone - so whether you prefer to stay close to home or dream of intrepid international adventures, join us in 2022 to make a real difference to vulnerable children around the world.

If cycling is your thing why not sign up for our [Coast to Coast Challenge](#)? Taking place in September, participants will clock up 214km over two days, from Whitehaven to Whitley Bay. There will be plenty of hills and it's not for the faint-hearted but we'll provide all the support you need as well as food, accommodation and a lift back to the start if you need one.



Rather put your best foot forward on an international adventure?

If you prefer a challenge of truly epic proportions why not join our [Himalayan Trek](#) taking place in October instead?



Participants will spend five days hiking in the world-famous mountain range and once you have completed the challenge we'll show you just what a difference your support makes with a visit to a Railway Children project at the station in Delhi. You'll have a chance to meet the children whose lives are changed by this kind of fundraising and see the real impact of your support first hand.

Both of these exciting challenges for 2022 are taking bookings – and our team is on hand to discuss sponsorship options and give you all the advice you need every step of the way.

Katie Mason
Events Manager

events@railwaychildren.org.uk



Railway Children - registered charity no: 1058991
Tel: 01270 757 596

Email hello@railwaychildren.org.uk at any time to change how we communicate with you. Review our privacy policy [here](#).

This is my favourite as it combines Railroads with a Charity worthy of Rotary support. DO think about it and find out more.

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Well that's what I have time for at the moment. Curtis and Bruce are at the Convention in Houston if you are there too so look them out. My last photo shows a Director and the main Railway Children man together which seems appropriate.

Scene at a local UK Inn in Cheshire. Fellow Director Bruce McNaught visiting from Brisbane and managing a meet with David Maidment of the Railway Children Charity and your President Robert. The meal was good too!

Let us know your interests and how you want the IFRR to continue. We would all love to hear from you.

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