

NOTTINGHAM & DISTRICT BTPF BRANCH

AUG./SEPT. 2026 NEWSLETTER

Number 199

SECRETARY

Colin Rolle
4, Brackmills Close
Forest Town
Mansfield
NG19 0PB
Tel. 07870 874 410
candarolle@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN

John Wayman
120, Marshall Hill Drive
Mapperley
Nottingham
NG3 6HW
Tel. 07749 892 713
johnwayman019@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Geoff Knapp
7, Sobers Gardens,
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 6QU
01159 268 975
geoffknapp@hotmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

Lawrie Windwood (BTPF Vice President). Driver Shaun Burton

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING (Committee meetings start at 11.00)

Tuesday the 8th. of September

NEXT GENERAL MEETING (General meetings start at 10.30)

Wednesday the 16th. of September - Railway slide show by Jim Freebury

**** If you will be attending any General Meetings, please consider donating a raffle prize.
Money raised from the raffle supports the Branch, including producing these newsletters.**

FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Committee meetings start at 11-00)

Tuesday the 12th. of January 2027

Tuesday the 11th. of May 2027

Tuesday the 14th. of September 2027

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS (General meetings start at 10.30)

Wednesday the 20th. of January 2027 (**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**)

Wednesday the 19th. of May 2027 - Railway slide show to be confirmed

Wednesday the 22nd. of September 2027 - Railway slide show to be confirmed

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Hello everyone. I hope you are all enjoying, or perhaps not, the prolonged heat wave we're having this summer. Oh for some rain for the garden!!

Just before the end of June I went up to London again to revalidate my Oyster card for London Transport. As you may be aware, you cannot now revalidate this card at the London Transport Travel Centre at St. Pancras/Kings Cross; the working now is that you have to seek out a member of London Transport around the ticket barriers at the Underground and ask them to do this for you. It's quite simple and quick once you have battled through the multitude of bodies!

An interesting article from EMR appeared in the Nottingham Post newspaper on the 20th. of July, regarding the services to and from London St. Pancras, that as from the above date there would only be one train an hour during the main part of the day due to the unavailability of the new Class 810 (Aurora) trains and the backlog of maintenance on the Class 222 (Meridian) trains. Strangely, no mention was made of the number of 222 trains that have been transferred away to Lumo for their new Stirling to London Euston service, which is now up and running!

Now then, don't forget to book up for our Christmas lunch (details below). This will be our last one at our present venue, as the Mechanics Institute are moving house early next year, so be there please.

So till September, please stay safe.

Regards,

JW

RAILWAY BENEFIT FUND - RETIRED RAIL COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Railway Benefit Fund will be hosting a **FREE TO ATTEND** event at the Porterbrook Offices, Pinnacle Way, Derby. DE24 8ZS (10 minutes walk from the Pride Park exit from Derby railway station) on **the 23rd. of November**. The event starts at 13.00, lasts for 2 hours, is **FREE to attend** and refreshments are included.

Geoff Knapp and Reg Sargeant attended a Retired Rail Community Event at Manchester Piccadilly station on Tuesday the 7th. of July, where they joined eight other members of retired railway staff on a very interesting tour conducted by the Station Supervisor and two of his assistants, of several station areas, including the Assisted Passenger lounge, the Station Main Control Room, the Station Water Supply & Filtration plant and the main Station Boiler Room, both situated deep in the bowels of the station. The tour lasted nearly two hours and ended in the Avanti 1st. Class Lounge for refreshments.

The next **FREE TO ATTEND** Retired Rail Community Event at Manchester Piccadilly station will be on Monday the 5th. of October between 13.00 and 15.00. Anyone interested in attending this event and/or the Derby Porterbrook event on Monday the 23rd. of November, can register their interest online with an email to:- support@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk or by phoning EMMA BUCKLEY (Volunteering Co-ordinator) on 0345 241 2885 Ext. 410.

2026 BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year's Christmas lunch will be held on **WEDNESDAY THE 2nd. OF DECEMBER** at the Nottingham Mechanics Institute, NG1 4EZ. Meet at 12.30 for a 3 course Christmas lunch plus coffee and mince pies at 13.00. The cost of the meal will be £19 and those members intending to partake of our Christmas lunch should see **Colin Rolle** at our **September** branch meeting to pay him either by cash or with a cheque made payable to **BTPF (Nottingham & District Branch)**.

If you will not be attending the September branch meeting, please send your details and a cheque to:- **COLIN ROLLE, 4, BRACKMILLS CLOSE, FOREST TOWN, MANSFIELD, NG19 0PB.**

BOOKINGS WILL CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY THE 7th. OF OCTOBER and refunds will only be given if bookings are cancelled **5** days before the Christmas lunch date (**FRI. 27th. NOV.**).

NATIONAL FEDERATION NEWS

The following are the current National Federation Officers:-

President - Maurice Holme OBE	National Chairman - Reg Sargeant
National Secretary - Steven Saunders	Assistant National Secretary - David Hughes
National Treasurer - Chris Jago	Travel Facilities Representative - Ian Clarke
Website Manager - Paul Murphy	Assistant Website Manager - John Trigger
Director, Railway Pensions Trustee Company - John McBride	
Vice President - Tony Cotgreave.	
Vice President - Les McDowell.	
Vice President Peter Holden.	

BTPF Vice President Lawrence (Lawrie) Windwood sadly passed away on Wednesday the 27th. of May and his funeral was held on Friday the 24th. of July at Horsham, attended by the National Federation Chairman and Secretary, who joined several family members and fifty plus friends and former work colleagues.

Lawrie worked for British Railways for 37 years before retiring in 1993. He was the Secretary of the Federation from 1999 to 2015. He was also the Secretary of the British Railways Board Headquarters Retired Staff Association and was once a representative for the BTPF on the Executive Committee of the National Pensioners Convention.

PENSIONS

Peter Holden retired as our Director, Railway Pensions Trustee Company at the end of June after completing his seven year term of office. Peter has been succeeded by John McBride whose nomination was formally endorsed by the branch Delegates at the Federation's AGM in London on the 12th. of March. Peter will not be off the Railway Pension scene entirely though. At the AGM he was elected as a National Federation Vice President and as such he will be joining Vice Presidents Les McDowell and Tony Cotgreave in monitoring and helping to administer the 1994 Pension Fund.

RAILWAY INDUSTRY MEMORIAL

The **2026** re-dedication of the Railway Industry Memorial took place at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas on Friday the 22nd. of May attended by Vice Presidents, Tony Cotgreave and Les McDowell, National Chairman, Reg Sargeant, Paul Robinson (who conducted the re-dedication service) and Paul's wife Vivienne and Walsall BTPF branch member, Gary Beeley

The **2026** Remembrance wreath laying and two minutes silence will take place at **11 am on Wednesday the 11th. of November** also at the National Memorial Arboretum.

If you intend to travel to the National Memorial Arboretum by car for the 11th. of November Remembrance event, it's advisable (and cheaper) to book in advance. The present parking charge **per car** is £5 in advance and £8 on the day, but please check on the NMA website for any revised parking charges and arrangements.

For the Remembrance wreath laying you are advised to book for no later than the 10am slot.

****There is also a DAILY hourly direct bus service from a bus stop opposite the car park at Tamworth railway station, operated by the Diamond bus company. The journey time is 30 minutes.**

Discussions are currently taking place to secure the best option for the future maintenance and cleaning of the Railway Industry Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. At the moment the Memorial is cleaned twice yearly in early May, to prepare it for the annual re-dedication service on the 22nd. of May, and towards the end of October to prepare it for the annual Remembrance Service on the 11th. of November. The cost of both cleans is around £600 per annum and the Federation National Committee are anxious to 'future proof' the Memorial maintenance as the present contractors, Andrew Rackham and his father, who have to travel from Diss in Norfolk, are looking to reduce their involvement at the NMA due to their ages (Andrew is in his late 50s and his father is 80 years of age) and the distance they have to travel there and back for each clean, which is becoming increasingly expensive and less cost effective for all concerned.

BEDFORD TRAIN COLLISION

As you will probably be aware, a serious collision occurred on the Midland Mainline at Elstow, just south of Bedford, on the 19th. of June when a train from Corby ran into the back of a train from Nottingham. Both trains had been bound for London St. Pancras. Tragically, **Shaun Burton**, the Driver of the train from Corby, was killed and 162 passengers were injured, many of them seriously. Also injured were ALL of the members of the on train staff and the Train Manager on the train from Nottingham, who, despite receiving broken ribs and a broken arm, was able to jump down and place track circuit operating clips on the Down Fast line to replace signals on that line to danger, thus preventing the possibility of another train running into a coach which had derailed in the collision.

NATIONAL PENSIONERS CONVENTION NEWS

The NPC is now a Limited Company called 'The National Pensioners Convention Ltd'. (Company number 16257217). A detailed reorganisation is continuing but the NPC will continue its campaigns to retain the State Pension 'Triple Lock', to retain free bus passes, to retain free prescriptions, to retain the winter fuel payment for ALL pensioners and to get a 'Minister for Older People' appointed in England.

2027 BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 2027 Membership Subscriptions will become due for payment on the **1st. of January 2027** and must be paid by the **30th. of April 2027** to continue your membership of the Federation and receive these newsletters. A Membership renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

You can pay your subscription directly to Geoff Knapp at the January branch meeting or by post to Geoff at his address shown on the first page. Cheques should be made payable to:-

BTPF (Nottingham & District Branch).

RAILPEN

Contact details:- Telephone - 0800 012 1117

Email - csu@railpen.com

Post - Customer Services Team, Railpen, PO Box 300, Darlington, DL3 6YJ

RAIL STAFF TRAVEL

Contact details:- Telephone - 020 7841 8274 (Mon., Wed. & Fri. - 09.30 till 12.30)

Email - rst@raildeliverygroup.com

Post - Rail Staff Travel, PO Box 80612, London. EC4P 4NH

RAILWAY MISSION

Contact details:- Telephone - 0203 887 7000 (Emergency contact)

Email - office@railwaymission.org & support@railwaymission.org

Post - Railway Mission, Rugby Railway Station, Rugby. CV21 3LA

AGE UK

Contact details:- Telephone - 0800 4 70 80 90 (Helpline) 0800 678 1602 (Advice Line)

Email - contact@ageuk.org.uk

Post - 7th. Floor, One America Square, 17, Crosswall, London. EC3N 2LB