

*The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland  
Presents:*

**THE 41<sup>ST</sup> IRISH HERITAGE RAILTOUR  
EXTENDED WEEKEND**

*Featuring the*

**THE DALRIADA RAILTOUR**

**Saturday 8 to Monday 10 May 2010**

**Saturday: Dublin Connolly – Dundalk – Belfast Central –  
Whitehead – Larne Harbour – Belfast Central**

**Sunday: Belfast Great Victoria Street – Bangor – Whitehead  
– Coleraine – Belfast Central**

**Monday: Whitehead – Belfast Central – Dublin Connolly –  
Belfast Central**

*And in support*

**THE SOUTH WEXFORD (diesel) RAILTOUR**

**Friday 7 May 2010**

**Dublin Connolly – Rosslare Strand – (Barrow Bridge) –  
Waterford – Athy – Dublin Connolly**

A separate booking form that can be down loaded is available for those  
availing only of the South Wexford railtour.

Also featuring:

**Thursday 6 May – Mk2 positioning train: General Motors  
hailed Whitehead – Belfast Central – Dublin Connolly**

## WELCOME

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland has pleasure in announcing its 41<sup>st</sup> International Railtour in May 2010. This coincides with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of mainline steam in Northern Ireland and the British Isles.

Thank you for booking the Dalriada Railtour concentrating on the lines within Northern Ireland and featuring the former Great Northern Railway (Ireland) main line. GSWR No.186 and LMS (NCC) No.4 will haul the tour at different times and the stock used will be the Society's Mk2s throughout. Dining car 547 will provide a catering and bar service.

The train on Saturday will be crewed by Irish Rail, with an NIR crew from Belfast onwards. An NIR crew will work both Sunday and Monday.

The Society with the support of Northern Ireland Railways (NIR) and Irish Rail has agreed a varied itinerary that all should enjoy.

***This document outlines the itinerary and important details of train travel options and other options available to you. Please use the accompanying Booking Form to make your decisions. Please return to PO Box 461 address provided as soon as practical – but return the booking form no later than Wednesday 14 April 2010 to enable the administration process to be completed and tickets posted in good time to all.***

***The Society has secured the block booking of a number of rooms in various hotels. Hotels have requested that room's not allocated for use by mid April, must be surrendered to the hotels for reallocation. It is in your interest therefore to book early.***

***Late bookings will if at all possible be accepted but the Society cannot make accommodation bookings on your behalf.***

Acknowledgements

The Society appreciates the continuing support of Northern Ireland Railways and Irish Rail to make the annual Irish Heritage Railtour Extended Weekend work.

Mervyn Darragh

for Belfast Area Operations Committee

## ITINERARY

### Friday 7 May – South Wexford (diesel) Railtour

#### **Dublin Connolly – Rosslare Strand – (Barrow Bridge) – Waterford - Athy – Dublin Connolly**

Dublin Connolly departure 09.35. The route features the very scenic Dublin and South Eastern Railway line with its challenging banks. Reversing at Rosslare Strand the train takes the scarcely used South Wexford line. Return from Waterford is via the Kilkenny line using the Lavistown Direct Curve. Motive power will be Irish Rail 071 class GM. Return to Dublin Connolly for around 18.45.

### **Irish Railway Record Society Meeting**

The Society is delighted to once again announce an IRRS meeting (open to railtour participants) will take place at the IRRS headquarters beside Heuston Station, opposite the car park on Friday at 19.45 hrs. The evening will be hosted by Michael Walsh and takes the form of an appropriate slide show, followed by an Open House.

### Saturday 8 May – Dalriada Railtour

#### **Dublin Connolly – Dundalk – Belfast Central – Whitehead – Larne Harbour – Belfast Central (overnight)**

GSR No.186 heads the train from Dublin Connolly around 08.50 along the former Great Northern Railway (Ireland) main line to Belfast and on to Whitehead. At Whitehead No.4 replaces No.186 to haul the train to Larne Harbour, returning to Belfast Central where the day's activity formally ends. There are frequent service train connections to Great Victoria Street station, for Society booked hotels.

The Society dinner will be held in the Europa Hotel.

### Sunday 9 May – Dalriada Railtour

#### **Belfast Great Victoria Street – Belfast Central – Bangor – Whitehead – Coleraine – Belfast Central**

Sunday will feature both No.186 and No.4. A complimentary diesel railcar connection departs from GVS to Belfast Central around 09.40. Patrons then transfer to the Society train hauled by No.186 to Bangor. No.186 retraces its outward journey to stable at Whitehead. No.4 takes over and proceeds to Coleraine via Belfast Central. Time is allowed in Coleraine to turn, service and water the locomotive before returning to Belfast for around 19.10. The Society's plan was to operate to Portrush but due to deteriorating track the Portrush Branch is temporarily prohibited to steam. The Branch will close this September for a number of weeks for a full track relay.

### Monday 10 May – Dalriada Railtour

No.4 will depart Whitehead around 10.00 and pick up at Carrickfergus and Belfast Central 10.45 for a purposeful run to Dublin Connolly, arriving around 14.15. No.4 will stable and an NIR GM diesel will return the train to Whitehead at around 15.35, setting down as outward. Return to Belfast will be about 18.20.

## **POSITIONING TRAIN AND COACH TOUR ITINERARY**

### **Thursday 6 May – Positioning Train**

#### **Whitehead – Belfast Central – Dublin Connolly**

This year the train will be hauled by a NIR GM diesel locomotive. Whitehead departure will be around 10.00 with pick-up at Carrickfergus and Belfast Central with further stops at Lisburn and Portadown. Arrival in Dublin is scheduled for 14.15.

### **Tuesday 11 May – Coach Tour to Silent Valley and Ben Crom Reservoirs**

The day starts at the Europa Bus Centre (Stand 2) at 09.30, returning for 17.45. The tour centres on the beautiful Mourne Mountain region. The itinerary will be:

Morning – a visit to the lovely fishing village of Annalong to visit the National Trust's restored Corn Mill. A guided tour has been arranged.

Lunch – booked in the nearby Harbour Bar Restaurant, Annalong. A two course lunch is arranged including freshly caught Irish Sea haddock served with chipped potatoes.

Afternoon - a visit to the Silent Valley reservoir complex including Ben Crom. The reservoir complex was constructed by the Belfast Water Commissioner's at the location of the then named Happy Valley, over roughly 65 years from 1890. In 1933 the main dam was finished, work tools were downed and the Happy Valley.... became Silent, as it filled with water!

In the late 1940s man again triumphed over mountain, first to build the impressive Ben Crom gravity feed dam and then construct the 4-mile Binnian Tunnel deep under the mountains.

All these labours can be viewed from the tour coach with a guide provided by Northern Ireland Water. There will be plenty of opportunities for asking questions, taking a short walk if so desired, climb the steps to Ben Crom reservoir, or just to absorb the sheer beauty of the place. A visit to the on-site museum and teashop is highly recommended.

The coach on return will set down at Central Railway Station.

### **SEATING**

All passengers will be allocated reserved seating for the Dalriada Railtour. There will be no reserved seating for the South Wexford Railtour or the Thursday positioning train. 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. The Society is aware a lot of luggage can be carried. Every effort will be made to ensure that there is sufficient luggage space for everyone. The train will be for the sole use of railtour 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 AND REFRESHMENTS

### **HOTELS**

Hotels bed and breakfast accommodation is arranged by the Society at reduced rates. Single rooms are limited in availability and a supplement is payable. Single rooms cannot be guaranteed. 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 for later bookings.

Belfast Hotels are either on or immediate to Great Victoria Street. All are within a 5 minute walk of Great Victoria Street Railway Station and the a-joining Europa Bus Centre.

### **RAILTOUR DINNER**

The dinner this year is being held on Saturday evening in the Penthouse Suite of the Europa Hotel at 19.45 for 20.00 hrs.

The menu is:

*Potato and Leek Soup*

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*Supreme of Chicken Breast with Tomato Farce wrapped in Bacon and served with Pan Jus*

*Served with Champ Potatoes, Roast Carrots, Turnips and Parsnips*

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*Warm deep dish Apple Pie with Crème Anglaise*

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*Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee*

Participants who are vegetarian or have special dietary requirements should inform us so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Write the details in the additional information box on the Booking Form.

### **ON-TRAIN CATERING**

Packed lunches will be served on the train on Saturday and Sunday to those who have pre booked. Throughout the extended weekend, tea, coffee and hot light food will be available, plus a full bar with a wide range of spirits and wines; Guinness and cask Real Ale.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **GUEST HOUSES**

For those making their own arrangements we suggest for Dublin telephone Irish Tourism on 00 353 1 605 7700 from within the UK; or 0800 039 7000.

For Belfast telephone the Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609 or contact their web site [www.gotobelfast.co](http://www.gotobelfast.co). The Northern Ireland Tourist Board web site is [www.discovernorthernireland.com](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com)

### **FARES**

All fares are in Sterling as indicated on the Booking Form. The fares are kept in line with 2009.

### **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 90% refund will be made. Cancellations received less than 14 days before the tour regrettably cannot receive a refund.

### **PAYMENT**

Payment should be by cheque, Visa/MasterCard or debit card (*but please indicate which card is being used*). As soon as your booking is accepted and places allocated your cheque will be cashed or card debited. A handling charge of 5% has to be made to cover the commission we are charged by the bank on every payment via card.

### **DISPATCH OF TICKETS**

Tickets, seat allocation details and key departure timings will be dispatched first class post no later than 29 April 2010.

### **DALRIADA KINGDOM – THE GLORY OF ANTRIM**

For information the railtour name Dalriada was that called of an ancient Irish kingdom, initially based on what is today north eastern Northern Ireland, but subsequently covering sizable portions of western Scotland; expanding to Scotland around AD 500. It was possibly the most powerful kingdom to emerge from what today is county Antrim in Northern Ireland, and therefore many northern Irish feel a special affinity and pride towards it.

## **BOOKING OPTIONS – ALL PRICES IN STERLING**

### **SECTION A – DALRIADA RAILTOUR – Saturday 8 to Monday 10 May inclusive**

Temporary Member (for tour)	A1	£190.00
Member **	A2	£165.00
Temporary Member Concession (for tour)	A3	£165.00
Member Concession **	A4	£140.00

**\*\* 2010 membership number must be listed on the form for each member travelling.**

### **SECTION B – ALTERNATIVE EVENTS**

Thursday 6 May – Positioning Train to Dublin	B1	£25.00 Flat fare
Friday 7 May – South Wexford diesel Railtour	B2	£43.00 Flat fare
Tuesday 11 May – Silent Valley Coach Tour	B3	£35.00

### **SECTION C – RAILTOUR OPTIONS**

May *** Enterprise Train Ticket	C1	£15.00
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\*\*\* Single journey ticket usable on any day.

### **SECTION D – MEALS**

Saturday 8 May – Packed Lunch	D1	£10.00
Sunday 9 May – Packed Lunch	D2	£10.00
Saturday 8 May – Railtour Dinner, Europa	D3	£30.00

### **SECTION E – HOTELS**

Where the Society is unable to allocate a single room if required it would either not be charged, or in the case of payment by cheque, refunded later. Price is per person sharing, unless otherwise stated.

#### **Thursday 6 May (Dublin)**

Wynns Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, (single supplement £18.00)	£53.00
North Star Hotel, Amiens Street (single supplement £23.00)	£53.00

#### **Friday 7 May (Dublin)**

Wynns Hotel, as above, (single supplement £18.00)	£53.00
North Star Hotel, as above, (single supplement £23.00)	£53.00

#### **Saturday 8 May (Belfast)**

Europa Hotel, Gt. Victoria Street, SINGLES ONLY	£70.00
Jurys Inn, Fisherwick Place, (single supplement £35.00)	£42.00
Days Hotel, Hope Street, (single supplement £30.00)	£42.00

#### **Sunday 9 May (Belfast)**

Europa Hotel, as above, SINGLES ONLY	£70.00
Jurys Inn, as above, (single supplement £35.00)	£42.00
Days Hotel, as above, (single supplement £30.00)	£42.00

#### **Monday 10 May and Tuesday 11 May (Belfast B and Dublin D)**

B – Europa Hotel, as above, (single supplement £35.00)	£70.00
B – Jurys Inn, as above, (single supplement £35.00)	£42.00
B – Days Hotel, as above, (single supplement £30.00)	£42.00
D - Wynns Hotel, as above (single supplement £18.00)	£53.00

**PLEASE RETURN BOOKING FORM BY WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2010**