

THE STORY OF THE RPSI

This is a special year for the Society because we are celebrating our 40th anniversary.

The Society was formed on September 30, 1964 at a meeting in the Presbyterian Hostel in Belfast at which the Lord O'Neill presided.

To mark the anniversary, the Society has published a book called *Forty Shades of Steam* by Charles Friel and Joe Cassells (Colourpoint £12). Signed copies are available tonight.

The Society is a registered charity and has 1,100 members. It has had its headquarters at Whitehead since 1966.

It relies on proceeds from its trips and on the generosity of its members and other supporters to keep the wheels turning.

The RPSI's fleet now extends to 10 steam engines, three diesels and around 30 carriages.

The Society's trains are marketed and organised by the RPSI but operated by professional NIR and Iarnrod Eireann crew when they are on the main line.

The Society is now an important player in the leisure market and its trains attract several thousand passengers every year.

Its operations range from the Santa and Easter Bunny specials to the Portrush Flyer, the Sea Breeze to Rosslare and the Steam Enterprise to Dublin.

Keep in touch with the RPSI through its website at: www.rpsi-online.org



RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

40th Anniversary Grand Gala Dinner

Irish Railway Collection
Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
Cultra

Saturday 2nd October, 2004

Menu

PROGRAMME

Drinks reception in Main Gallery

Music by Grosvenor Grammar School Quartet

Welcome by the Lord O'Neill, RPSI President

Grace by the Rev Canon John McKegney

Dinner

Cutting of 40th birthday cake

Comfort break

Speeches:

Dr Garret FitzGerald, RPSI Vice-President

*Philip Lockett and Gerry Mooney, RPSI
Council members*

*Proposal of toast to the RPSI by David
Morgan, Chairman of the Heritage Railway
Association*

*Response by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, RPSI
Vice-President*

*Guests travelling home by special steam train are
requested to make their way to Cultra station at
10.45pm. The train will be departing at
11.00pm sharp.*

MENU

Starter

BBQ salmon with horseradish sauce

Fan of melon

Main course

Hot dishes:

Strips of beef in stroganoff sauce

Chicken in cream and leak sauce

Cold dishes:

Honey baked ham

Roast turkey with mango dressing

All served with salads

Desserts

Choice of Bailey's Irish Cream cheesecake

or fresh fruit salad.

Tea/coffee and mints.

THANKS TO SPONSORS

The RPSI 40 committee, which organised tonight's function, would like to express sincere thanks to our sponsors, without whose support this event would have been impossible. They are:

Ulster Folk & Transport Museum

NITHCo-Translink

AMARC Catering

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