

SHROPSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

IRELAND SUMMER 2024

Join us on our flagship tour of 2024, a journey to the north of Ireland to visit most of the sites of railway interest in Ulster, together with two in adjoining County Donegal.

Sites we intend our itinerary to cover include The Downpatrick and County Down Railway, the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland's principal depot and museum in Ulster at Whitehead, the Ulster Transport Museum at Cultra, the Foyle Valley Railway Museum in Derry, and the Fintown Railway together with the Donegal Railway Heritage Centre in Donegal Town, and there will also be some time to visit some non-railway places of interest in Belfast and Derry.

At the moment we expect to spend six nights away, with four nights in Belfast and two in Derry, and a detailed itinerary is presently under preparation.

Travel to and from Ireland will be via ferry between Holyhead and Dublin, thence using "The Enterprise" train to Belfast, which will be an opportunity to travel on the primary main line route in Ireland by fast train.

We will travel within Ulster using public transport, and for the visit to the two locations in Donegal it is planned to charter a minibus.

The group arrangements will include the ferry and "Enterprise" train fares, hotels on a bed and breakfast basis, the minibus charter in Donegal, the entry charges of railway locations where we intend to visit as a group, and possibly some train fares in Ulster, such as those for the journeys between Belfast and Derry.

The proposal has now reached the point where we have sufficient informal expressions of interest to make it fairly certain that the tour will operate, and therefore we are now asking for a £50 deposit to enable detailed arrangements to be made and the exact costs to be finalised; deposits can be paid by cheque payable to the Society, or by bank transfer for which purpose the relevant A/C details can be provided.

The dates for the tour also remain to be finalised, but at present it is probable that it will take place in July 2024.

It should also be mentioned at this stage that the number of places available will be limited to the number of seats in the minibus we use in Donegal, so the maximum group size will probably be around 15 people.

Please e-mail Lionel Price at outings@saloprailsoc.org.uk or call 01691 654488 or 07786 165101 (message may be left), to advise your interest and it would be appreciated if members could do that by the end of February; those who have done so will be circulated as to the chosen date and with a detailed itinerary as soon as possible thereafter, and of course the balance of the tour cost will be payable a number of weeks before departure

The names of those members who expressed an initial interest are already recorded, and they need only make arrangements to pay the required deposit, as mentioned above.