



Compere

ROB FOXON

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Organist

LEN RAWLE MBE

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The Programme

for the 40th Steampipes show

Thursday 28th November 2019

The Musical Museum

Brentford

London

The London Area Groups of the Ffestiniog, Talylyn and Welshpool & Llanfair Railways

welcome you to a new venue for the Steampipes Show – the 40th show bearing that name. Our stay at The Salvation Army's William Booth College was short lived as the quoted venue hire fee for this year would have made the show uneconomic. We are grateful to Len Rawle for putting a good word in for us with The Musical Museum and hope for an extended run here. Because this venue is significantly smaller we are putting on two shows on the same day to accommodate our regular patrons and have been rewarded with a sell out for the afternoon show! The three railways are extremely grateful for your support of Steampipes over the years and willingness to travel to new venues with us.

We are delighted to welcome back **Rob Foxon** as compere for his fifteenth Steampipes show. A feature of Steampipes has always been the screening of real FILM on a real screen; there's nothing digital about today's presentations! We are grateful to Rob both for compiling the programme and providing the specialist projection equipment that allows us to screen the films in the time honoured way. As a leading railway film historian, Rob is best known for his *Railways Remembered* presentations now in their 40th year, but he has screened films to enthusiast groups for much longer. Rob became interested in railway history on film following a chance meeting with John Huntley in the 1960s and has since researched and restored many otherwise lost films. He holds a large collection under the title *The Railway Film Archive*. Despite his role as compere, Rob has come to enjoy the films every bit as much as the audience!

We are pleased to welcome **Len Rawle MBE** to the console of the Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ here in the Musical Museum for this year's Steampipes show. Len has been our resident organist since 2004 and is widely known for having rescued the Empire, Leicester Square's Wurlitzer pipe organ and then building his own home around it! He has retained his passion for playing, restoring and re-installing Wurlitzer theatre organs throughout his adult life and has acted as a consultant to many projects around the world. He was for seventeen years the Musical Director of Yamaha UK. He has made over thirty recordings and has numerous broadcasts and television appearances to his credit. In addition to performing on the UK Theatre Organ and Electronic Organ Society circuits, his music has taken him around the world several times, including eleven USA tours. He re-opened the historic organ the famous Tuschinski Theatre, Amsterdam and has inaugurated many other theatre organ transplants including in Holland, Perth in Western Australia and Christchurch, New Zealand. This year has seen another full diary of performances including a tutorial for would-be theatre organists in Geneva. Very much a hands-on enthusiast, Len enjoys keeping the Mighty Wurlitzers in the Woking Leisure Centre, the IOM Arcade in Douglas and the one here at the Kew, Musical Museum, in tip-top condition. Not infrequently, he meets fellow enthusiasts who share a joint fascination for vintage pipe organs and steam trains. "Long may they both reign," says he. For his "Services to Music", Her Majesty the Queen awarded Len the MBE in 2011.

Steve Foxon continues in his position behind the projector managing the technical side of the presentation. As Rob's son, he has been brought up with films and is himself a professional film archivist.

**Films shown the way the original film makers intended
us to see them – on FILM on the big screen!**

Programme

THE WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR RAILWAY (1963)

A short film record made by Peter Worden of early preservation revival operations on the W&L using *Countess*, one of the original locomotives, with contemporary sound. The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway is one of the founders of Steampipes!

COMPERE'S ARCHIVE

An overview of railway operations on the Isle of Wight in the 1930s, shot originally on 9.5mm film by *Uncle Mac*, A.B. Macleod, the then Southern Railway Asst. Superintendent of IOW Railways. This newly discovered first time screening shows railway operations on the island including a consignment of locomotives and rolling stock arriving from the mainland at Medina wharf in July 1933. Motive power on the island consisted of LBSCR E1 class and original Terrier 0-6-0T's, together with LSWR O2 class 0-4-4T's. Most interesting is ex Freshwater, Yarmouth & Newport Railway Manning Wardle 0-6-0ST W1 *Medina* in action at Medina Wharf. A former contractor's locomotive built in 1902, it was shipped to the island in 1913, taken into Southern Railway stock and eventually withdrawn from traffic in June 1932. Add to all this paddle steamers, Ryde pier, Ryde St John's rebuilding, passenger & freight trains. Enjoy!

ORGAN SOLO

POSTAL SPECIAL (1936)

The legendary GPO Film Unit production *Nightmail* by John Grierson (the father of British documentary films), showing the work of the postal staff and the LMS railway on the overnight postal express from London Euston to Glasgow set the style for British documentary film making for the next thirty years and still stands with enduring popularity as one of the best loved archive railway film classics. *Nightmail* remains as popular on the silver screen today as when it was made more than 80 years ago, but few realise that a supporting classroom short was made for schools that included scenes not used in the cinema release. Keep a look out for these in this extremely rare surviving version, released at the same time as the original!

ENGINE ON THE SHED – LMS RAILWAY (1938)

Produced by Topical Press for the LMS Film Unit in 1938, *Engine on the Shed* shows the work of the local shed team servicing a main line steam locomotive between runs. The depot is Longsight, Manchester and the locomotive depicted is rebuilt Royal Scot 6170 *British Legion* which has just worked into Manchester London Road from Euston and is being prepared for its return the next day. No 6170 was the former Schmitt high pressure experimental locomotive *Fury* and the first of the Royal Scot's to be rebuilt with a Stanier taper boiler, later applied to the whole class.

An interval of 20 minutes

CARTOON

More hilarious animated antics of some well loved characters!

THE ENGINE DRIVER (1948)

A Citizen Film. A day in the life of an engine driver and fireman based at nearby Nine Elms loco shed, principal London depot for the Western division of the former Southern Railway. The shed team prepare ex Southern Railway Lord Nelson class 30856 *Lord St Vincent* for a mainline return run to Bournemouth before the loco crew arrive to take the engine over. Filmed soon after nationalisation, our Lord Nelson is in the earliest BR livery with *British Railways* (in Southern Railway fonts), painted in full across the tender.

TRAINS AT YORK (1960)

Filmed by John Adams and Patrick Whitehouse as one of their hugely popular BBC Children's TV *Railway Roundabout* series. Loco-spotters in action on a summer's day in 1960. Featured are A4's working the non-stop Flying Scotsman and Elizabethan expresses, A1 pacific 60132 *Marmion*, rebuilt A2/2 60505 *Thane of Fife*, together with A2's 60511 & 60524, a V2, B16, 9F and a J72 working station pilot; plus a Cravens DMU on a Hull service. Those were the days!

ORGAN SOLO

LAND OF THE LITTLE TRAINS (1975)

A Windjammer Film made by Alan Willmott showing the ten *Great Little Trains of Wales* narrow gauge railways and the varied scenery through which they run in North and Mid Wales. This is what Steampipes is all about! Alan was one of the founders of Steampipes and this film was premiered at the New Gallery Steampipes event in 1975!

TO THE RESCUE (1917)

Our classic extract from the silent cinema features a hero, a villain and of course, a damsel in distress! The climax of *Teddy at the Throttle* finds Gloria Swanson very much a damsel in distress and tied to the rails. Help comes when she whistles for Teddy, the Keystone hero dog, who alerts her rescuer as the express approaches.....! However, silent films were never shown in silence so over to Len for our thrilling Steampipes finale!

THE QUEEN

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and Healthy New Year in 2020

To be added to the Steampipes mailing list to be notified about future Steampipes shows please write with your address to: Roger Patenall, 10 Greta House, 60 Hardy Road, Blackheath, SE3 7PA. (email: steampipes@patenall.eu)