

THE Furness, Lakes and Lune branch of a national group for railway enthusiasts starts its winter programme of talks this week.

The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway and trains to the Lakes in the last few years of steam power will feature in presentations to members and visitors to the Railway Correspondence and [Travel](#) Society. Meetings are held from 7.30pm at the Station Hotel, overlooking Carnforth railway station. A donation of £2 for members and £4 for visitors is requested. All are welcome.

October 6, with a presentation by Steve Fort called The Green Diesel Era.

November 3 the speaker is Noel Machell with a [look](#) at Preston to Windermere in the last years of steam.

December 1 The annual [meeting](#) is held on, followed by photographic presentations by members.

January 5 Ian Pilkington is the speaker with a talk called Steam and Diesel in the Northern Fells.

February 2 Peter Van Zeller will describe the history of the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway - also known affectionately as La'al Ratty.

The line was opened in the 1870s to bring Eskdale quarry stone and iron ore to the main railway line at Ravenglass. A century ago, during the First [World](#) War, the track was reduced in width from 3 ft to 15in and while the mines and quarries have gone the line remains a popular tourist attraction.

March 2 John Sloane has the [theme](#) of The Splendid Years of British Railways Steam from 1958 to 1962.

April 6 David Bousfield is the guest speaker with the topic Trains Around Britain - Then and Now.

May 4 The final talk is by Brian Parker about the Carlisle Power Signal Box, which plays a key role in the safe operation of trains on the electrified lines through Cumbria.

You can find out more about the activities of the national society on its website at www.rcts.org.uk

THE STEPHENSON LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY

South Lakeland Centre - Kendal

- 5 OCTOBER** – **Simon Holroyd: FLYING SCOTSMAN**
Re-assembling of ‘Flying Scotsman’.
- 2 NOVEMBER** – **Ian Clark: RAIL TOURS**
The evolution of rail tours from an SLS perspective.
- 7 DECEMBER** - **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING**
- 4 JANUARY** – **John Bateson: OXENHOLME**
Oxenholme Station and its surroundings.
- 1 FEBRUARY** – **Dr Robin Smith: HOW THE GENERAL STRIKE WAS BROKEN**
Striking Trade Unionists and volunteer “blacklegs” on the railways.
- 1 MARCH** – **Peter Fitton: YORKSHIRE RAIL**
Railways in Yorkshire.
- 5 APRIL** – **Michael Davies: IRELAND**
An illustrated tour of Irish railways.

Meetings are held on Thursday evenings (unless otherwise shown) at 7.15 for 7.30 pm at the St. John Ambulance Centre (just off Sandes Avenue, Kendal, LA9 4LL).

Further details from the CENTRE ORGANISER PHILIP HEYES
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[VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT ALL MEETINGS](#)

VISIT THE SLS WEBSITE: www.stephensonloco.org.uk