



## **Discover Forgotten Metro-land Buckinghamshire Railway Centre**

**Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th & Wednesday 7th August 2013**

*“Child of the First War, forgotten by the Second,  
we called you Metro-land.”*

Sir John Betjeman, BBC documentary 'Metro-land' (1973)

Celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the London Underground in the beautiful Vale of Aylesbury at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in an area that is now a forgotten part of 'Metro-land'. The Centre is based at Quainton Road station - a former outpost of London's Underground network on the now closed lines to Verney Junction and Brill. Events will include rides in vintage carriages pulled by Victorian steam locomotives, family fun activities, bouncy castle, as well as talks, films, and a Metro-land trail.

Quainton Road station was made famous in the 1970s by the then Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman in his Metro-land documentary which celebrated an area north-west of London that developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century around the Metropolitan line of the London Underground. In the film Betjeman reminisces about having sat there in the autumn of 1929 watching the Brill 'tram' depart.

## Steam train fun and nostalgia

All sorts of vintage locomotives and carriages will be in action over the three days, with parallel running to view trains in motion including:

- **The Metropolitan Steam Locomotive No. 1:** which in Edwardian times hauled Dreadnaught carriages from Verney Junction as far as Harrow
- **Metropolitan Jubilee Carriage 353:** originally built in 1892 and meticulously restored with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund
- **Metropolitan Dreadnought Carriage 465:** one of nearly 100 built between 1910 and 1932, in use until electrification reached Amersham in 1961; special features include the unusually wide footboards and the curved tops to the doors, designed to minimise the risk of damage if the doors accidentally opened in tunnels
- **Milk Van:** freight as well as passengers was also carried on the Metropolitan Line. Built in 1896, the milk van was used for transporting milk from the Vale of Aylesbury to London until the 1936. The return trains carried horse manure!
- **Former London & South Western 'Beattie' well tank:** built in 1874 and now one of only two surviving from the original 85 built between 1863 and 1875, it ran suburban trains out of Waterloo station during Victorian times. Its train will comprise fully restored vintage varnished teak 4 and 6 wheeled carriages (LCDR and GNR carriages of 1880 and 1889)
- **Brill branch train of 1900:** recreated with a representation of steam locomotive BRILL No. 1, running as a mock up Brill 'tram'. The Metropolitan line took over this quirky six mile tramway in 1899 which had been built by the Duke of Buckingham with his own labour in winter to serve his estate. The existing little engines had to be repainted as main lines ones as the track could not take the weight of anything heavier
- **Miniature Railways:** operated by the Vale of Aylesbury Model Engineering Society (VAMES) with visiting mini Metropolitan locomotives. The circuit is 1 km and has its own stations, crossing and even a tunnel
- **Model miniature trains:** an 'O' gauge tin plate model railway around 100ft straight line featuring Metropolitan trains at speed; a rare spectacle at eye level for children.

### On static display:

- **Brill Tramway 'tram' of 1872:** recreated with original Aveling & Porter steam traction engine that was on display at London Transport Museum for many years. The line was designed for horse drawn goods trains, but they could not cope, so the Duke brought two of these engines, but they too struggled and frequently derailed as the front wheels lifted up if the load was too heavy. A rare opportunity to see it in the open with –
  - **a four wheel replica of a unique carriage:** reluctantly bought by the Duke when the people of Brill pressed him for a passenger service; however most trains had more trucks than passengers, and;
  - **Metropolitan Railway Open Wagon:** a rare survivor of the days of freight transportation on the London Underground – one of only three remaining of this type of wagon. Wagons on the branch frequently carried the ubiquitous 17-gallon conical milk churns bound for London and return empty

- **Dining Carriage:** was originally built in 1901 for ordinary first class service from London Euston and, around 20 years later, was added to the Royal Train for use by the equerries. It has one of the finest interiors in near original condition anywhere in Britain. Refrigeration was provided by hay boxes
- **Churchill 'Royal' Carriage:** built in 1940 for Queen Mary, it was requisitioned for use by Winston Churchill and General Eisenhower for wartime planning meetings in 1944 in the run up to the D-Day landings
- **Travelling Post Office Carriages:** try your hand at sorting the post on the Night Mail
- **Historic photograph trail:** old photographs of trains displayed at the sites where they were originally taken
- **Museum:** this contains much memorabilia, large and small, from London Underground ranging from the passimeter (ticket barrier) from Westminster station, to signs and badges.

There will also be a mini exhibition about the 150 years of history of the London Underground which will include the stories of the restoration of the Metropolitan Locomotive No. 1 and the Metropolitan Jubilee Carriage 353.

## Family Fun

- **Make and take workshop: Captivating Crest Badges**  
**11.00 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 15.00**  
 Every company on the Underground has its own coat of arms each with symbols to depict different aspects of the line. Inspired by the Metropolitan Railway crest, families will be able to design their own wacky and fun coat of arms as a badge. Make a simple version of an Underground worker's hat and wear it to take part in storytime.  
*Open to all but most suitable for families and children aged 5 – 12 years*
- **Storytime: The Runaway Train**  
**12.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 15.30**  
 Join Pluto, a puppet version of one of the earliest Underground trains, and help him as he searches for a way to break free from the confines of the Tube tunnels into the fresh air and openness of the Metro-land countryside.  
*Open to all but most suitable for families with children aged 3 – 8 years*
- **The Metro-land Family Trail**  
 Take the family on a self-guided trail to discover the secrets of Metro-land, explore the Railway Centre and the old station of Quainton Road. Will you take the challenge to count all the wheels on the tracks?  
*Open to all but most suitable for families with children aged 5 plus*

## Film screenings

Three films will be shown continuously throughout the day:

- **Metroland:** first broadcasted in 1973 and featuring John Betjeman as he takes an excursion on the northern lines of the former Metropolitan Railway. He visits various stations including Quainton Road and the line to Verney Junction. The film will be shown in the old Quainton Road station waiting room where Betjeman was filmed outside sitting on a bench.
- **A Trip on the Metropolitan Railway in 1910:** a film that turns the viewer into an Edwardian passenger as it shows a driver's eye view of the Metropolitan line as it travels from Baker Street to Aylesbury and passing through Rickmansworth and Chorley Wood stations. Whilst the basic route and infrastructure has not changed much in the last 100 years, the surrounding countryside and open fields have undergone massive transformation through urbanisation.
- **Brill to Baker Street:** presents 120 years of the Metropolitan Railway, from its early years as the world's first underground railway, through to development as an integral part of the London Underground network. Includes archive material of steam and electric trains.

### Admission:

- Adults: £12.00 (advance £10.00)
- Children: £9.00 (advance £7.00)
- Senior Citizens: £11.00 (advance £9.00)
- Family (two adults and up to 4 children) £33.00 (advance £31.00)
- Group – 10% discount for parties of 15 to 24 people. Free place for driver
- Group – 15% discount for parties of 25 or more people. Free place for driver

All tickets also allow 50% discount to another August 2013 event at Buckingham Railway Centre.

These include:

- **Moving the Mail weekend** – 10 & 11 August
- **A Victorian Day out in the Country** – 17 & 18 August
- **Pre-78 Car Rally** – 26 August

All events take place at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton Road Station, Quainton, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 4BY. Tel: 01296 655720. [www.bucksrailcentre.org](http://www.bucksrailcentre.org).

## Travel

### Train:

Trains from London Marylebone railway station to Aylesbury Vale Parkway railway station. There will be a **special free vintage bus service on Saturday and Sunday 3 and 4 August that will meet trains.**

### Road:

The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre is located at HP22 4BY and is signposted off the A41 Aylesbury to Bicester Road at Waddesdon, and off the A413 Buckingham to Aylesbury Road at Whitchurch. Simply follow the brown signs.

Junctions 7, 8 and 9 of the M40 are all close by and the M1, M25 (Junction 20), M4 and M40 makes the Centre easily accessible from London, the Southeast and the Midlands.

### Bus:

The number 16 bus runs between Aylesbury Bus Station and Quainton but there is no Sunday service. For service bus information telephone 0844 800 4411.

Ample free parking is provided for cars and coaches.