



The London & North Western Railway Society

The Jeremy Flegg Archive and Study Centre



Ex-LNWR 4-4-0 Precursor Class No 25319 'Bucephalus' stands at Kenilworth's down platform in 1938 © David P Williams

The London North Western Railway

The London & North Western Railway was, in its heyday, the largest railway company in the British Isles and the largest joint stock enterprise in the world. Formed from a merger of three of the world's earliest railways – the London & Birmingham, Grand Junction (which had already merged with the historic Liverpool & Manchester Railway) and the Manchester & Birmingham companies; the eventual network stretched from London Euston to Liverpool, Manchester and Carlisle, across the Pennines to Yorkshire, and into both North and South Wales, and even Ireland. The LNWR heritage spans the whole period from Stephenson's "Rocket" to today's high-speed "Pendolinos" on what is now the world's busiest mixed traffic railway.

Based in Kenilworth, in the heart of the Company's territory, the Study Centre (named in honour of a generous benefactor) provides access to the Society's extensive archive of documents, drawings and photographs, and to its library of books and periodicals. Our collections cover all aspects of the LNWR: its staff, locomotives, rolling stock, infrastructure, constituent and associated companies and the later history of the LNWR network.

Our Collections

The document archive includes LNWR passenger and working timetables, operating instructions and circulars, minutes, publicity material, rolling stock diagram books and working diagrams, track maintenance diagrams, accident reports, staff records, bequeathed research notes and much more. The drawing collection covers locomotives and rolling stock, buildings and structures, permanent way, track layouts, signalling and many other line-side items.

There is also a large collection of official, commercial and enthusiasts' photographs of LNWR subjects. The Library comprises a comprehensive selection of specialist books, together with a large collection of railway magazines and periodical articles on all aspects of the LNWR.

Our Facilities

In addition to the library, the Reading Room has nine study positions, arranged around three large map tables, which also allow for the handling and photographing of maps, large drawings and documents. Visitors requiring access to our archive material can, via the Centre's computers, search our extensive catalogue of collections by subjects, words or phrases, dates or combinations. There are also detailed computer-based bibliographies of specialist railway books and periodical articles that may also be searched. Information on databases focused on LNWR subjects and held by third parties, is also available on our computers. PDF versions of our catalogues can be found on the Society's website www.lnwrs.org.uk.

If the material required has yet to be catalogued, then one of our knowledgeable volunteer members will be able to help. We are continually expanding the archive, through donations, acquisitions, as well as loans. The latter are provided as digital copies of a private collection, lent to us to digitise in return for the digital copy. In such instances, the lender retains the copyright and our copy is marked accordingly. The use of such material will be dependent upon our agreement with the owner. Visitors may purchase copies of most of the material held at the Study Centre provided the copies are only for private research purposes and subject to the signing a copyright statement.

We are able to accommodate the less mobile visitor, having a mobile ramp and handrails at the entrance and a toilet equipped with grab handles.

Our scanning facilities are second to none, being to the same professional standard as found at the National Archives, British Museum and British Library. We currently have two scanners in operation. The first, a Contex 42 inch HD Ultra Wide Format Scanner, can scan up to 1200 dpi and is designed to handle maps and plans of any length, or large single sheet documents such as posters.



Contex 42 inch HD Ultra Wide Format Scanner.



Bookeye 4 V2 Professional Archive Scanner

Our second scanner, a Bookeye 4 V2 Professional Archive Scanner, is capable of scanning case-bound documents measuring in size of up to 24.4 inches by 18 inches. It is ideal for projects which require scans of the highest standard whilst also offering maximum productivity, an important consideration for voluntary groups whose members' time is scarce. As a special add-on to the scanner, there is also a horizontally movable V-glass plate, with which the scan template can be positioned exactly in the book fold.

Our development plans include expanding our collection of material, the digital archive and providing online access to our collections. The Study Centre and scanning equipment is also available for hire to like-minded groups and organisations – please contact projects@lnwrs.org.uk for details.

Visiting us

The LNWR Society is an educational charity and, accordingly, the Study Centre is open on selected days to both Society members and the public for study and research. There is no charge for visiting the Study Centre but donations to help defray costs are always welcome.



We operate a calendar of days when the Study Centre is open. Our 'Member's Only Working Days' are focused on work associated with housekeeping and developing the archive, whilst our 'Public Open Days' are when the archive is open to both members and the general public for research purposes. A number of knowledgeable members are on hand to provide advice, guidance and support.

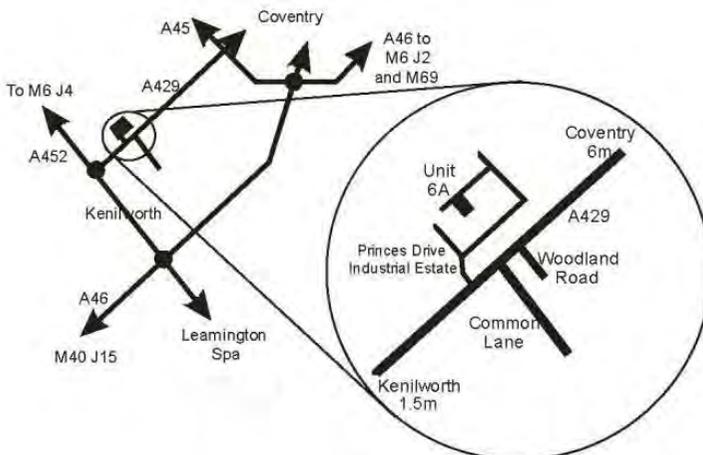
Details of our 'Public Open Days' and 'Member's Only Working Days' can be found on the last page of this brochure. For further information please contact David Patrick on 01270 666 459 or email library@lnwrs.org.uk. Pre-booking is not essential but helps at busy periods

Location & Transport

The Study Centre is located on the northern outskirts of Kenilworth, off the A429 Coventry Road (see map). The address is Unit 6A, Princes Drive Industrial Estate, Coventry Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2FD. Parking is available just to the right of the entrance or on the estate road.

By railway service to Kenilworth's recently re-opened railway station, served by an hourly West Midlands Railway service between Coventry and Leamington. Please note there isn't a direct bus service from the station. A taxi would therefore be necessary but be aware there is no taxi rank at the moment.

There is also a regular Stagecoach Midland Red X17 bus service from Coventry station, from a stop on the station side of the bridge (turn left out of the station along a footpath up to the bridge) to the stop at Woodland Road -near Common Lane, Kenilworth-which is close to the industrial estate. Return buses stop opposite Woodland Road. The journey time is around 12 to 15 minutes in each direction.



London & North Western Railway Ancestry Project

The London and North Western Railway Society has an extensive library and archive at its Study Centre in Kenilworth where its resources are backed up by the extensive knowledge of its members. Like the work carried out by the National Railway Museum, The National Archives, the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick and the University of Portsmouth, working together on the 'Railway Work, Life & Death' Project, we are currently working to open up these resources to family history researchers.

Visitors are always welcome at the Study Centre where members will help you with your research but this project will mean that much more is available online.

We are aiming to:

Make our catalogue more accessible and searchable online

Digitise and make more of our name-rich sources available online

Make all of our databases available via the website or the forum

Make it much easier to use our website for family history

and

Provide more research guidance online

We are very much at the start of this project and there is a long way to go – our volunteers can only do so much at any one time and they have their own research projects too – but the future for those with LNWR ancestors is looking good!

May 2019

The LNWR Society's Study Centre and Archive 2019 Calendar

LNWR Society Open Days for the Public and Members Only Working Days

Please note the following dates are planned but are subject to the vagaries of weather, etc, so please contact David on 01270 666 459 or Mike on 077543014 before you leave.

January

Saturday 26th January Joint LNWR Society and SRS Research Public Open Day

February

Wednesday 13th February LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Saturday 23rd February LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

March

Wednesday 6th March LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Wednesday 13th March LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

Saturday 30th March Joint LNWR Society and SRS Research Public Open Day

April

Wednesday 10th April LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

Wednesday 24th April LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Saturday 27th April LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

May

Wednesday 8th May LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Saturday 18th May LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

Wednesday 22nd May LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

June

Wednesday 12th June LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Saturday 22nd June LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

July

Saturday 6th July LNWR Society Model Railway Display

Wednesday 10th July LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Saturday 20th July Joint LNWR Society and SRS Research Public Open Day

August

No events

September

Wednesday 11th September LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

Wednesday 18th September LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Saturday 28th September Joint LNWR Society and SRS Research Public Open Day

October

Wednesday 9th October LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Wednesday 16th October LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

Saturday 26th October Joint LNWR Society and SRS Research Public Open Day

November

Wednesday 13th November LNWR Society Members Only Working Day

Saturday 30th November LNWR Society Research Public Open Day

December

Saturday 14th December Joint LNWR Society and SRS Christmas Social