

*Programme is subject to amendment as circumstances may dictate - Last updated 29-2-24*

## **Kindly sponsored by The Railway Magazine and Heritage Railway Magazine**

### **Agenda**

#### ***Realities ... Challenges ... Opportunities!***

With the 2024 season upon us, our two-day conference identifies many of the very real challenges facing heritage railways today, offers potential solutions and highlights some of the opportunities ahead

#### **Day 2**

- 09:00**      **Arrival, registration and networking**  
Tea/coffee and refreshments
- 09.25**      **Welcome and setting the objectives for the Day**  
Steve Oates Chief Exec, HRA
- 09.30**      **HRA Annual General Meeting - See AGM Agenda**  
Including a brief look back at the key elements of our work on your behalf, and the key issues on our agenda to support heritage rail in **2024**
- 09.45**      **Keynote Speaker – Michael Whitehouse** Chairman, Vintage Trains Charitable Trust  
**‘Ninety Seconds to Midnight’**  
Michael Whitehouse & Sipho Ndlovu, non-executive trustee appointee
- 10.30**      **Panel Session**  
**Staying on the Front Foot - Future-proofing our Heritage Railways**  
Michael and Sipho are joined by Lord Hendy and Louise Whitehouse (FD, Severn Valley Railway) to discuss how to balance the very real challenges of running a heritage railway, while highlighting heritage rail’s strengths and proudly talking-up our railways and tramways.
- 11.15**      **Break – Networking - Tea/Coffee**  
Tea/coffee and refreshments
- 11.40**      **Railway 200**  
**11.40 Railway 200: National Plans & Local Opportunities**  
Rob Lowe, Network Rail

*Programme is subject to amendment as circumstances may dictate - Last updated 29-2-24*

**11.50A Vision for Railway 200 @ Bluebell**

**Jon Beardmore** Business Development Manager, Bluebell Rly

**12.15 R200 Workshop – What can you do?**

**Phil Marsh** and **Mike Lamport** facilitate round table discussions and ideas sharing, to get behind R200, understand the opportunities, and ensure heritage railways maximise the PR, profile, people, business and commercial opportunities R200 offers

**13:00 Lunch**

... and the opportunity to network with colleagues

**14.00 R200 Workshop - Feedback and Round-Up**

**14.15 Thinking Museum**

A session specifically for those focussing on museums, archives, heritage and interpretation.

**14.15 What is a Museum?**

**Edmund Southworth** Trustee, York Archaeology

**14.35 Practical Interpretation**

**Ian Smith** Vice Chairman, VCT and member of HRA Museum Committee

**14.55 Break - Networking - Tea/Coffee**

Tea/coffee and refreshments

**15.10 Thinking Museum - Q&A**

**Edmund** and **Ian** are joined by **Paddy McNulty** (Railway Partnerships Manager, NRM) and **Tony Cowling** (Museum Manager, Middleton Railway) to discuss some of the issues raised in the previous sessions and to tackle questions from the audience

**15.50 The General Election, Boundary Changes and what it means for Heritage Rail**

**Chris Austin** Secretary, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Heritage Rail

**16.20 Round-up, Close & Depart**

**Steve Oates** HRA Chief Exec

*Please Note: Programme is subject to amendment as circumstances may dictate. The timings are approximate throughout the day and may be subject to change as necessary.*