

Forums

RAILWAY STUDY FORUM

We look forward to another exciting year of events, talks and visits in 2019, following on from a very successful 2018, where we saw the full roll-out of the merger between the former Railway Study Association and CILT.

The undoubted highlight for 2019 is the study visit to Australia in October, which will include a week of visits and technical seminars in Sydney and Melbourne, and travelling by train between the two great cities. CILT Australia has been very helpful in assisting our visit organisers with local contacts. Highlights of the visit include: new construction for Sydney and Melbourne metros, Hunter Valley Coal Chain in Newcastle, 'Secret Train Tunnels', Barangaroo Delivery Authority, a walk over the Sydney Harbour Bridge with experts describing its history and maintenance, a twilight dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour, a tour of the Port of Melbourne, a trip on the Victorian Goldfields Railway and a drive along the spectacular Great Ocean Road. The trip would not be complete without visiting the largest tram network in the world at Yarra Depot in Melbourne with a special tram tour ending at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Following on from the success of the sold-out event in 2018, we are planning to return to the Oval Cricket Ground in June for our annual dinner. We are aiming to repeat last year's success, with another prestigious speaker following on from John Nelson in 2018. Details of this will be confirmed soon.

Forthcoming speakers include, on 28th February, Will Whitehorn, a former President, Virgin Galactic, once noted as Sir Richard Branson's right-hand man, whose talk will be a look into the future based upon an assessment of the past, which is

UPCOMING EVENT

DEVOLUTION IN ACTION

20th March 2019

Baskerville House, Cambridge St, Birmingham B1 2ND

This event is targeted at those interested in how local government is taking a much more active role, not just in being an informed stakeholder, but a specifier and manager of local railways for local communities and local people.

an event not to be missed. On 20th March, Malcolm Holmes, Executive Director, West Midlands Rail Executive, will be giving a talk in Birmingham on: *Devolution in Action*. This event is targeted at those interested in how local government is taking a much more active role, as a specifier and manager of local railways. Other talks are planned and will be confirmed on the CILT website.

Finally, we will be continuing the very successful and popular UK visits programme. These visits have been given a new lease of life and the recent ones to CrossRail stations under construction, plus two to Three Bridges ROC and ASC, and Hitachi North Pole Maintenance Centre sold out almost as soon as they went on sale. Future visits include the Thames Valley Signalling Centre in Didcot on 12th and 26th March, and a possible freight visit is in the pipeline.

The Forum is really thriving now, with corporate membership starting to take off, too. It is a very good time to be part of it within CILT and 2019 promises to be a great follow-up to the success of 2018.

For more information and to find out how to reserve your place on the once-in-a-lifetime trip:
www.ciltuk.org.uk/RSF19

Simon Feast CMILT
Chair,
Railway Study Forum.



Members of the Forum have participated in discussions with the DfT Freight Team to provide guidance on priorities for EU exit negotiations

FREIGHT FORWARDING FORUM

The Forum closed 2018 with the annual supply chain risk event that is held jointly in the City of London with the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply and CILT London Region. This event has been a fixture in Institute diaries for over a decade, and has always attracted great commercial and academic speakers who have addressed a wide range of topics in this critical area, informing, educating and entertaining the combined audiences.

International supply chains are complex, often fragmented and usually pressured, susceptible to risk along their entire length. From threats to raw materials compromising availability dates, to worker exploitation compromising brand values, supply chain risks are diverse, numerous and critical, which is why this event continues to attract a new audience every year. The latest one saw 120 delegates registering to hear speakers look at best practice in supply chain risk management and making sense of the technology wave.

Technology is transforming the freight sector, with the industry leaders investing in digitalisation solutions that offer shippers instant access to rates, bookings and customs with dashboard control across all their devices; and with the biggest committed, the rest of the market will follow. Despite the hype, we are early on in the digital transformation of our industry and there is a big opportunity for the most enlightened freight forwarders and the early technology adopters, because they will win and enjoy the benefits of earlier technology differentiation and increased market share. The Forum intends to host a number of events across the country to review the technology landscape and showcase the disruptors that are attracting the most interest and offer the best value for money to forwarders.

For some time, members of the Forum have participated in discussions with the Department for Transport's Freight Team, to provide guidance on priorities for EU exit negotiations. We will respond to the developing Brexit situation and host events to explore the opportunities that may accrue.

In achieving the Forum's mission of highlighting freight forwarding as a profession and raising awareness of the value of the sector, we invite corporate members, especially forwarders, shippers and logisticians, to consider hosting events that highlight their contribution to the nation's supply chain. By understanding each other better and recognising the contribution made, forwarders' profile will rise and awareness of the whole supply chain sector.

Paul Kelly FCILT
Chair,
Freight Forwarding Forum.



The Railway Study Forum programme for 2019 includes a visit to Australia in October