



This photograph features a locomotive on loan to STEAM courtesy of the National Railway Museum.'

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK



Who do you Really think made the Railways?

Steam Museum Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY
Tuesday 21st June 2016

We hear so much about the wonderful works of Brunel and others but there would have been no railways without the hardworking navvies. Chris & Judy Rouse have been studying the lives of these people and will give us a glimpse into what they have found.

During the First World War our railways would have come to a halt without the women who stepped in but is that all the women did? Dr Rosa Mattheson will tell us of the part women played in the Swindon works.

The venue for this event is the iconic STEAM Museum and access is included to this wonderful exhibition. To make best use of this we will be laying on some tours, accompanied by our Railway Interests Group, round the museum and also the nearby Designer Outlet utilising the old Swindon works. Many items of interest are still exhibited within the village and add a fascinating insight into our heritage.

Programme

10 am Coffee and registration

10.20 Welcome

10.30 The Railway Navvy -his working life - Chris & Judy Rouse

11.30 Comfort break

11.45 'The Fair Sex' - Women and the Great Western Railway – Dr Rosa Mattheson

12.45 lunch break—opportunities for lunch are in the nearby food hall in the Outlet Village

2 pm Meet for tours a) museum b) outlet village

3 pm second session for tours or do your own thing round the museum or shops

Chris & Judy Rouse Retired Chartered accountant and Librarian respectively. They have set up the Wyvern Midland Index recording the names of 50,000 people having reference to the railways. In their researches they have uncovered a host of facts and stories. You will be enlightened into the lives of these remarkable people in an entertaining way.

Dr Rosa Mattheson Retired headmistress with a fascination for the Swindon works. She has written several books on the subject which, along with her talks, are produced to raise money for her passion The Angels Orphanage in Katmandu. All her talks will give you an excellent insight into the Swindon Railway works.

The Steam museum To see more about this exceptional museum see

<http://www.steam-museum.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Access is included within the study day fee. See some of the new items there for the 175 year celebrations.