

SHROPSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OUTING 2018 – “ESCAPE THE TURKEY”
NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT !

Join us on a day out in Lancashire on Saturday 29 December 2018, for a guided visit to the fascinating Bolton Steam Museum on one of their post-Christmas steaming days.

Operated by the Northern Mill Engine Society, the Bolton Steam Museum is housed in a building formerly part of the Atlas Mills complex on the outskirts of Bolton, and offers a superb display of almost thirty stationary steam engines, forming the largest collection of working textile mill steam plant in the country, most of which are in steam on running days.

Open from 10 am to 4 pm on the day of our visit, the museum will reward a visit of several hours, and we have arranged for our group to have a tour of the museum led by one of the volunteer guides beginning near the opening time, when the museum is likely to be relatively quiet, before we have some further time to look again independently at favourite items in the collection.

The museum does not impose an admission charge, but of course donations to the cost of steaming sessions are welcomed, and we have agreed with the museum that an amount of £5 per person would be reasonable, which it is hoped will be felt to be very good value considering the scope of the Bolton Steam Museum, and the fact that the engines will be seen in steam, far more appealing than when they are lifeless exhibits.

There is easy access by public transport from the museum to Bolton town centre and any members or partners who do not wish to join the museum visit could spend some time there. In addition, as the museum visit is likely to take around 2- 2.5 hours including some “independent” time as mentioned above, there would be time for anyone who wishes to do so to extend the day by visiting Bolton town centre after the end of the museum visit. As an alternative, there are various local museums near Bolton of which details can be given if requested.

The museum has its own facilities for those requiring a light snack during or after our visit, and in addition the museum building is adjacent to a large Morrisons supermarket which has its own café where anything from a drink to a full meal can be had.

It has not yet been finally decided whether transport to the museum would be by rail/local bus, or by road (the museum has ample parking facilities available), and that aspect of the visit will be given further consideration during December once the level of interest has been accurately gauged. Travel by rail involves the use of the Northern Rail route through Bolton which is not only currently undergoing electrification works, but on the day of the visit is subject to industrial action, and those considerations will be taken into account when a final decision as to mode of travel is made.

If you are interested in joining the Society on an interesting post-Christmas excursion, please advise Lionel Price at outings@saloprailsoc.org.uk or call 01691 654488 or 07786 165101 (message may be left) indicating the location where you live (to assist with travel planning should it be decided to travel to the museum by road), and whether you would prefer to travel by rail/local bus to the venue, or to drive your own car there, taking some other members on a shared fuel cost basis.

We have already have a number of members booked for the trip, and it is thus likely that the outing will operate, but more participants can easily be accepted, and all those members who wish to go and who have not so far expressed their interest should please do so by Friday 14 December.