Pro-Biz

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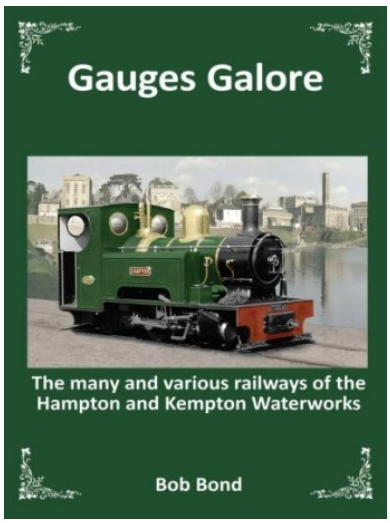
LUNCH TALK: "GAUGES GALORE" BY BOB BOND, TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2025





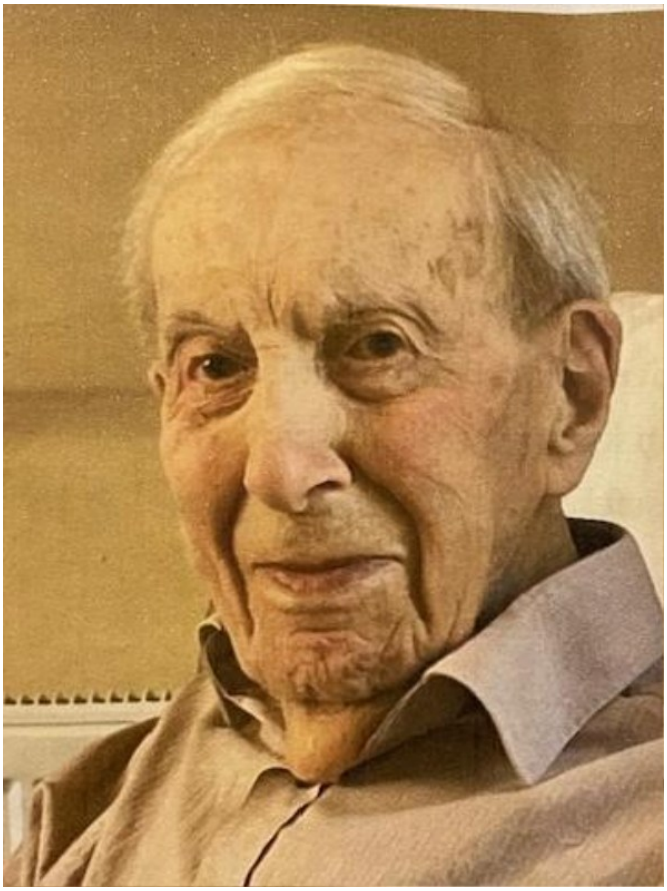
Robert Leadbetter has kindly contributed this insightful report:

Gauges galore indeed! When a few of us started the Metropolitan Water Board Railway Society some decades past we had no idea of the various railways that had existed in the area. We started it with the idea of using the venture as a local attraction to bring to the attention of those interested, that it even had existed and to reconstruct it as a local attraction. There was very little to show that the railway had been there. There existed a portion of track that still exists today at Bunny Lane that some of you who walk in that area might well have seen. But the fact that during the coal burning period so many railways existed and took part in the energy supply of the Great Triple Expansion engines has only recently been uncovered by the diligent research by our railway's archivist Bob Bond who gave our luncheon talk.

Bob is not only our archivist but also the author of a splendid book and can be seen on Sundays at the Hanworth loop of what is now known as the Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway where he practices his other speciality as Station Master.

IN MEMORIAM – BILL WEISBLATT

With thanks to Nick Waters for contributing this obituary



Bill Weisblatt died recently aged 96. Bill and his wife Betty moved from Central London to Hampton in 1962 and embraced "village" life immediately. Bill was proud and happy to be a member of the Hampton community and helped with others to secure the preservation of Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare, the restoration of Hampton Village Green, the saving and landscaping of Hampton Common and the preservation of Hampton Pool

As an active member of what is now The Hampton Society, Bill was involved in discussions about the development of Hampton Nurserylands, the St Clare's Nursery site and noise pollution from Heathrow Airport. His contributions were of great value to the citizens of Hampton.

In addition to his Probus activities, Bill and Betty helped to organise coach visits and other events for the Richmond Association for the National Trust. His ability to speak concisely and wittily at meetings – and without notes – will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to Betty and his daughter Emma and his son in law Nick.

A Memorial Event will be held next Spring.

FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 6th JANUARY: Walk and Pub Lunch, The Prince of Wales, Esher KT10 8LA

TUESDAY 20th JANUARY: CLUB GUEST LUNCH, no speaker

TUESDAY 30th JANUARY: LUNCH at THE VIEW

Thanks to Robert Heath's efforts, our roster of lunch speakers in the first half of 2026 include:

TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY - Rachel Burnett, "National Museum of Computing"

TUESDAY 17th MARCH - Colin Goodwin , "I Built an Aeroplane in My Shed"

TUESDAY 19th MAY - Hannah Lumley, "Avoiding Scams"

TUESDAY 16th JUNE - John Nicholson, "Molecules and Murder"