

The Tramway & Light Railway Society

Background

In 1938 a group of people who shared an interest in tramcars and tramways came together to form the TRAMWAY AND LIGHT RAILWAY SOCIETY. It has continued ever since to expand and is now a registered national charity with around a thousand members.

Aims

- To bring together people interested in tramways
- To promote public education and knowledge of all facets of trams and tramways
- To encourage tramway modelling
- To organise meetings and visits
- To collect a tramway archive and library
- To create a National Model Tram Collection
- To encourage research and publish books
- To liaise with other appropriate societies

Liaison

Close liaison is maintained with other specialist societies in the field of preservation of historic tramcars and tramways and the promotion of modern tram and light rail systems. Members may attend meetings of such other societies. The TLRS also liaises with manufacturers of model tramway products, many of whom are members of the Society.

Publications

The Society has published many books and pamphlets on model and prototype trams, both alone and in association with other organisations. Books still in print can be obtained from the Society by mail order. Perhaps the most notable joint venture was recording the history of the tramways of London, a task taking many years of dedicated research in which several of our members have been involved.



Frank E Wilson's 1:16 (3/4 inch) scale model LCC E-class 444 (left) is the oldest model in the TLRS National collection, built in 1927. Alongside is his London E/1 class 1800, which carries a panel pointing out that it was the only tramway exhibit at the 1931 Albert Hall exhibition celebrating the centenary of electrical pioneer Michael Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction, the electrical driving force. Four other Wilson models are also in the society's collection.

The Frank E Wilson Memorial Models Competition

The Society's Annual General Meeting takes place in late spring at a venue chosen for tramway interest. During the meeting a competition is held for model trams, to honour the Society's late President. It is open to all members and trophies are awarded for two different scale groups.

National Model Tramway Collection

As part of its archive, the Society is establishing a collection of models and toy tramcars and related items. Several historical scratch-built models are already in the collection, together with a number of toys from several decades. Part of it is on display at Heaton Park Tramway, Manchester.

Archive and Library

A growing collection of documents, papers, books, drawings, photographs and records is available to those researching the history and operations of tramways.

Model - making

Many members of the Society enjoy the pleasure of making scale models of tramcars and tramways and displaying and operating them at exhibitions, helping to promote public knowledge of this means of transport.

Members work in a variety of scales, choosing what is most suitable for their purpose and the space available to them. Thus someone wishing to build a highly detailed model tramcar might go for 3/4 inch scale or G-scale, whereas if a depiction of a model tramway, with full scenery forming a complete model town or landscape is desired, then 00 or N gauge might be chosen.

The most popular scales are 1:16 (3/4 inch), 1:22.5 (G), 1:43 (0), 1:76 (00), 1:87 (H0), and 1:148 (N). To help beginners a series of dimensional guidelines is available showing such things as track-spacing, trolley wire height, etc.

Technical advice on model engineering and specialist parts is available for the larger scales from the Hon. Model Engineering Secretary. For the smaller scales there is a separate advice service and a mail order shop offering discount prices to members.



Tramfare

Model Trams - Modern Trams - Old Trams



Tramfare is a 40-page A5 publication produced to professional standards. Its aim is to be a channel of communication to and from members, and to keep members up-to-date with the latest developments in modern tramways, tramway modelling and tramway history. Our international membership is reflected in the systems and topics covered.

The Society's magazine is published six times a year and is free to all members. In addition to articles on prototype trams and tramways past and present, it includes items of interest for modellers including constructional articles, details of new kits, components and proprietary models in all the popular scales. Reviews of books and DVDs are a regular feature.

Details of forthcoming meetings of the Society's area groups are given, these being open to all members. A diary of exhibitions in which members are participating, either with a layout or static display, is also included. Finally, a lively letters column provides the line of communication for those who cannot, or do not wish to, attend meetings. It provides a platform for opinions to be expressed and information to be sought or disseminated.

NOTE: Tramfare is sent to non-European addresses by surface mail unless the member pays a supplement.

Membership

There are four classes of membership.

Full membership is open to anyone aged 22 years up to and including 64 years of age.

Senior membership is open to anyone aged 65 years and over.

Student membership is open to anyone aged from 18 years up to and including 21 years of age.

Junior membership is open to anyone under the age of 18 sponsored by an existing member.

Subscription rates are set at the Annual General Meeting. There are concessionary rates for Senior, Student and Junior members. Details of subscription rates, if not presented with this leaflet, may be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary, (tlrs.membership@tramwayinfo.com) or by consulting the website www.tramwayinfo.com/tlrs where you can join online.

All classes of membership entitle the member to participate in all Society activities and - except for Junior Members - vote at General Meetings.

Members are encouraged to make the Gift Aid declaration which forms part of the membership application form.

Meetings

Where a concentration of members exists an area group may have been formed. New groups are formed from time to time and full details of meetings can be found on the Society's website www.tramwayinfo.com/tlrs

There are Area Groups in:

East Anglia	Solent
East Midlands	Sussex
Kent & SE London	Thames Valley
Merseyside	West Midlands
North East	West of England
North Lancs	Northern Ireland
North Wales	German-Speaking countries
Oxford & Chilterns	

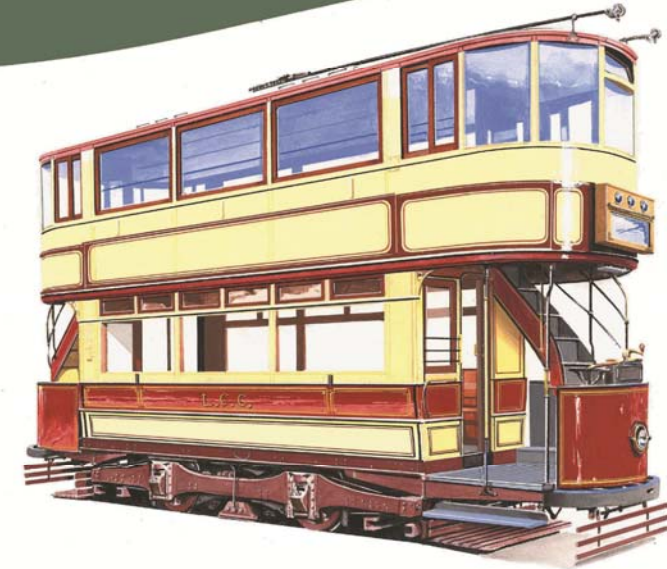
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**Model Trams
Modern Trams
Old Trams
Area Meetings
Archive of Documents and Models
Bi-monthly magazine – Tramfare**



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