

FEDERAIL

A photograph of a steam train at a station platform. The train is dark green with a red front buffer. A sign on the front of the engine reads "IMR DALRYMPLE WAITLAND 1848-1919". Steam is rising from the engine. Several people are standing on the platform. In the background, there are trees and a building with a red roof. The large blue text "FEDERAIL" is overlaid on the image.

CONFERENCE 2025 ISLE OF MAN

"Connecting Rails, Inspiring Futures: Embracing Heritage and Touristic Rail Sector"

WELCOME



Welcome to the Fedecrail Conference 2025 – Isle of Man

We are delighted to welcome you to the Isle of Man for this year's Fedecrail conference – a gathering of passionate individuals committed to preserving and advancing Europe's railway and tramway heritage.

On **Thursday**, the Fedecrail team will be available to greet you **in the foyer of the Empress Hotel between 11:00 and 13:30**, ahead of the afternoon Working Group meetings.

This is a great opportunity to check in, collect your name badge and programme, and meet fellow delegates in a relaxed setting.

From **17:00**, registration for the full conference will reopen.

At **18:00**, we officially begin with our **Welcome Reception** at the Empress Hotel, including:

- **18:30** – An overview of the programme for the coming days
- **18:45** – Light buffet served
- **19:30** – A special presentation by **Charles Guard MBE**, renowned Manx historian, broadcaster and expert in the heritage of the Isle of Man

A **cash bar** will be available throughout the evening.

We look forward to a rewarding and inspiring few days with you – full of insights, connections, and shared passion for our mobile cultural heritage.

Welcome to the Isle of Man, the idyllic island where history meets the present, and where those responsible for heritage and museum railways in the railway and tramway sector gather to share knowledge, experiences, and promote their activities. It is with great joy and pride that we welcome you to the conference taking place in May 20 25, where our shared interest in these iconic transport systems will flourish.

Summary of the conference:

Thursday Working Groups 14:00-17:00

Meet & Greet 18:00 at the hotel

Friday Fedecrail Business Sessions 09:00-17:00

- Marketing, Events & Public engagement
- Governance & Inclusive Practice
- Energy Challenges: The Future of Power

18:15, walk from the hotel to have dinner on the Isle of Man Steam Railway's Dining Train

Saturday Annual General Meeting 32

09:00 Annual General Meeting 32

The Role of ERA – Safety Vision for Europe's Railways

Keynote by Josef Doppelbauer

(Board will have a short meeting after the AGM during lunch)

Lunch at the hotel

Youth gathering at the hotel in the foaje

Depart from Darby Castle with tram 16:10

Depart Laxey on the mountain tram 17:00 for Dinner

Sunday

You are free to explore using your Go Card, Lunch on your own. The following optional activities are available:

Steam Railway Workshop Tours (Douglas Station) at 10:00, 11:00, and 12:00. Duration ~90 min. Limited to 10 people per tour. Sign-up required.

Electric Tramway Depot Tours (Derby Castle). Duration ~60 min. Limited to 10 people. Sign-up required.

Horse Tram Depot (Derby Castle) open 11:00–13:00.

Manx Electric Railway Museum open during the day.


Groudle Glen Railway in operation (included in Go Card). Access via tram + short walk. Tea and cakes available at the café. Alternative transport can be arranged—sign up if needed.

Ramsey Pier open for visits. Short walk from Ramsey Tramway Station.

19:00 Carvery dinner at the hotel with Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer KCB DSO MBE and Lady Lorimer.



Working groups Thursday

 **Tramway Group**
14:00-17:00

Tramway Group – Sector Dialogue & Exchange

The **Tramway Group** will meet at the **Derby Castle Depot Meeting Room** for a focused session dedicated to the present and future of heritage tramway operations across Europe.

Example of Topics:


- Technical developments and infrastructure challenges
- Training, staffing and safety on tramway systems
- Balancing heritage and modern-day expectations
- Cross-border inspiration and collaboration
- Operational best practices from member organisations

The group welcomes active dialogue among professionals, volunteers and representatives from working tramway systems and museums. Whether you bring a question, a concern, or a success story, your voice matters.

If you have a specific topic or case you would like to raise in advance, please contact us at:

contact@fedecrail.org

We look forward to welcoming you to Derby Castle!

 **Heritage Operating Group**
14:00-17:00

Heritage Operating Group – Continued Dialogue on Regulation & Practice

The **Heritage Operating Group** will gather at the hotel, Fedecrail's longest-running working group, will meet to continue discussions on operational and regulatory matters affecting the heritage rail sector.

As a group closely linked to discussions with the **European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)**, this session builds on previous meetings and will address ongoing developments affecting heritage rail operations across Europe.

- Safety management and competencies
- Regulatory updates and exemptions
- National vs EU-level coordination
- Practical experiences from members

This session is especially relevant for those involved in operations, compliance, and safety in heritage railways.

If you wish to suggest a topic in advance, please contact: **contact@fedecrail.org**
We look forward to welcoming you, sharing knowledge, and working together!

 **Environmental Group & Working
Industrial Mobile Heritage** 14:00-17:00

The **Environmental Working Group (EWG)** and the **Working Industrial Mobile Heritage (WIMH)** will gather at the hotel for **meaningful dialogues on issues that concern us all.**

One of the central questions this year is: **How do we continue to work with Plan Paris while preserving our mobile cultural heritage?**

- Sustainability strategies in heritage transport
- Energy use and emissions in heritage operations
- Environmental impact assessments
- Public perception and future policy trends
- Examples of innovation from member organizations

This is a key opportunity to share experiences, explore solutions, and **actively participate in shaping how our sector meets environmental challenges** while staying true to its values.

If you would like to contribute a topic, question, or case to the group, please contact us in advance at:

contact@fedecrail.org

We look forward to your input!

Translation under the Meeting

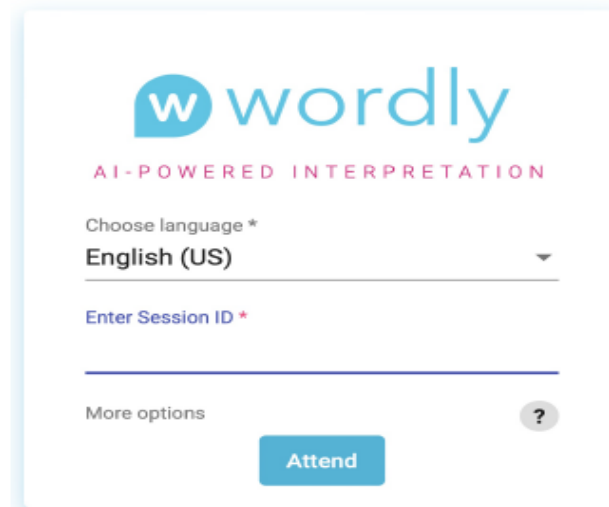
Business session Isle of Man How to Use Live Translation

Step 1



Scan QR Code or Go To:
<https://attend.wordly.ai/join/MNXF-1293>

Step 2

A screenshot of the Wordly app interface. At the top is the 'wordly' logo with a blue 'w' in a circle. Below it is the text 'AI-POWERED INTERPRETATION'. There is a dropdown menu labeled 'Choose language *' with 'English (US)' selected. Below that is a text input field labeled 'Enter Session ID *'. At the bottom left is a link for 'More options' with a question mark icon, and at the bottom center is a blue 'Attend' button.

Choose Language
Click Attend

Step 3



Read Captions on Device
Use Headset for Audio

Business Session Friday

Marketing, Events & Public Engagement in the Heritage Sector

Branding: The Isle of Man Case Study - We begin with a unique story where **motorsport and heritage coexist**. The Isle of Man, world-renowned for the TT Races, has successfully used this global spotlight to promote its rich cultural heritage

Edward and Fox: Creative Strategy for the Heritage Rail Sector

Experts in branding and communication, Edward and Fox will share how they work with heritage railways to refine their voice, elevate visual identity, and create targeted marketing strategies that attract audiences and build long-term engagement.

Railway 200: Celebrating a National Milestone Railway 200—the UK-wide celebration of 200 years of railway history. Learn how effective coordination, branding and stakeholder buy-in transformed an anniversary into a unifying movement across the heritage rail sector.

Governance & Inclusive Practices

Governance & Organizational Modernization

Hear how heritage organisations are strengthening their boards, planning for leadership succession, and building transparency that earns real stakeholder buy-in.

Panel on Inclusion, Diversity & Equity

A bold conversation on how to open the doors wider—especially in volunteer-led environments. Learn how to better engage youth, underrepresented communities, and build a truly welcoming culture.

Lviv's Children's Railway Inclusion in a different way.

Discover how a youth-led railway initiative is redefining inclusion in a country facing enormous challenges. A powerful reminder that inclusive practices look different in every context—but always matter.

Energy Challenges: The Future of Power in Railways & Tramways

Historic Energy & Its Modern Lessons We begin with a journey back in time to the horse-drawn tramways of the Isle of Man

Panel: Energy, Regulation & Alternatives

Expect open insights into practical challenges and bold responses from organizations actively working to adapt.

Open Forum: Where Are We Going?

Let's face it together: Should the heritage rail sector work to phase out fossil fuels, or preserve them as part of living history? This facilitated discussion gives voice to a range of perspectives—from purists to pragmatists—and invites participants to co-create a way forward

Translation:

<https://attend.wordly.ai/join/MNXF-1293>



Friday Sessions timeline

09:00 Welcome introductions and set up

09:10 Session 1: Marketing, Events & Public Engagement in the Heritage Sector

9:10 – 09:45 Oliver Edwards – How can we better market our services and attract more visitors and stakeholders to heritage railways and tramways

10:00 – 10:45 Isle of Man – Tourist office about TT races

10:50 – 11:20 Stephen Oates (HRA) – Reflections on Railway 200

Session 2: Governance & Inclusive Practices

11:30-11:45 Introduction Marieka Nauta

11:45-12:30 Stephen Oates (HRA) - Hear how heritage organisations are strengthening their boards, planning for leadership succession, and building transparency that earns real stakeholder buy-in.

12:30-13:20 Lunch

13:20-13:50 Lviv's Children's Railway Inclusion in a different way, Антоніна Копачева

13:55-14:25 Paneldiscussion about inclusion, diversity and equality hold by Marieka Nauta including: Mimmi Mickelsen, Stephen Oates, Per Englund, Антоніна Копачева

Session 3: Energy Challenges – The Future of Power in Railways & Tramways

14:30 – 15:10 Historic Energy & Its Modern Lessons Andrew Cowie (Horse-Drawn Tramways – Isle of Man)

15:15-17:00 Energy, Regulation & Alternatives.

Where Are We Going? Let's face it together: Should the heritage rail sector work to phase out fossil fuels, or preserve them as part of living history? This facilitated discussion gives voice to a range of perspectives—from purists to pragmatists—and invites participants to co-create a way forward. (Jaap Nieweg)



Annual General Meeting Saturday May 10th

09:00 Introduction

09:10-09:55 The Role of ERA – Safety Vision for Europe’s Railways, Keynote by Josef Doppelbauer

- The importance of safety leadership and governance responsibility.
- How the ERA has shaped EU safety policy for rail transport.

10:00 AGM (documents on website)

During the meeting, we will go through:

- **Reports from the Board and Committees**
- **Financial overview and budget approval**
- **Membership**
- **Elections and other decisions as per the agenda**

If you wish to raise a point under information item 32-16, it must be submitted in advance to the President at mickelsen@fedecrail.org no later than 5 May at 12:00 CEST.

If your organisation cannot be represented in person or online, you must submit a completed proxy form to contact@fedecrail.org no later than 8 May at 09:00 UTC.

If your organisation will be represented by someone other than

your official delegate, a proxy form is also required.

We look forward to your participation in shaping the future of Fedecrail!

12:30 Lunch (Board Meeting with Lunch)

13:30 Youth Upskills Programme in the Lobby

Printed Documents at the AGM

Please note that **no printed documents will be provided on site during the Annual General Meeting**. All relevant materials will be available digitally in advance.

If you prefer to work with paper copies, we kindly ask that you **print and bring your own documents** to the meeting.

Thank you for your understanding and support in reducing unnecessary paper use.

Depart from Derby Castle the latest tram leaves 16:10

Depart Laxey on the mountain tram 17:00 for Dinner at Victory Café

Partners Programme



Partners Programme

Thursday

Meet & Greet 18:00 at the hotel

Friday 10:00

A bus will collect partners from the front of the Empress hotel and go to Peel on the west of the Island where there will be time to take in the sights, including the castle and perhaps visit Davidson's Ice Cream Parlour where around 40 different flavours of locally produced Ice Cream are served, as well as handmade chocolates. The Creek Inn on the harbour is a traditional pub which serves bar snacks and lunches.

14:00 Following lunch, the bus will take us to the Calf Sound at the southern tip of the Island where we will have time for some tea and cake in the café overlooking the sound and the Calf of Man. We will hopefully see some seals and perhaps dolphins or basking sharks.

15:45 Our bus will return us to the hotel, arriving at about 16:30. Evening together.

Saturday 09:00-12:00 Partners are free to explore Douglas, or visit the Manx Museum, or venture further afield with their Go Cards. A visit to the retired horses' home is also possible please contact Mary Harding +44 (0)7521 701098

Lunch 12:00-13:00 Empress Hotel

After Lunch there is a possibility to join the Youth Upskill programme talk for FEDECRAIL for those that's interested.

The day is then free for you to do as you wish until 17:00 using your Go Cards. The following activities have been specifically arranged or are available: Guided tours of the Steam Railway workshops, engine shed and signal box at Douglas Station. Tours last about 90 minutes and are limited to 20 participants each. Please sign up if you wish to participate. Additional tours may be possible if needed.

Sunday (Lunch on your own, not included)

10, 11 & 12:00 Guided tours of the Electric Tramway Depot at Derby Castle.

11-13:00 Look inside the Horse Tram depot at Derby Castle.

12-16:30 Manx Electric Railway museum at the MER Depot is open.

11-16:30 Groudle Glen Railway in operation (included in your Go Card). This is accessed via a 10-minute tram ride and then a walk down the glen. The café serves tea and cakes and provides wonderful views. If you would like to visit the railway but are unable to walk down the Glen, alternative transport can be 'arranged. Please sign the appropriate sheet. Footplate rides will be available on a first come first served basis.

14:00-17:00 Ramsey Pier is open. Opened in 1886 this is one of the longest piers in the British Isles and is one of the longest piers in the British Isles. It is currently undergoing restoration.

19:00 Carvery Dinner at the Empress

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Evening Programme

EMPRESS

Thursday 8 May

18:00 Welcome Reception at the Empress Hotel, Douglas Promenade, including:

18:30 An overview of the programme for the coming days

18:45 Light Buffet

19:30 Presentation from Charles Guard MBE, Manx historian and broadcaster and expert in the heritage of the Isle of Man

A cash bar will be available throughout the evening.

Friday 9 May

We will be having dinner on the Isle of Man Steam Railway's Dining Train. It is about a 25-minute walk from the hotel to the station and you should aim to leave the Empress hotel by 18:15 at the latest. Alternatively, you can use your Go Card to take the bus from opposite the hotel to the station; please ask for times.

18:45 Board our private train at Douglas Station

19:00 Train Departs; our main course will be served on the outward journey.

20:15 Train Arrives Port Erin. On arrival there are various options:

- visit the Railway Museum where volunteer guides

will be available to talk about the exhibits and the railway generally.

- If it is a nice evening watch the sunset over the bay
- Visit the Station Hotel Bar opposite the Station

21:15 Train Departs; our dessert course will be served on the return journey.

22:30 Arrive back at Douglas Station and return to the hotel.

A cash bar will be available throughout the train journey in both directions.

Saturday 10 May

The departure point for the Manx Electric Railway is Derby Castle which is at the north end of the promenade and can be reached by horse tram or bus from outside the hotel or a pleasant 20-minute walk along the promenade. In Laxey the Great Laxey Mines Railway will be running (included with your Go Card) and you can take this followed by a short walk to view the Lady Isabella, or Laxey Wheel, the largest waterwheel in the world. Please contact the organisers if you require advice or have any special requests.

Ensure you are at Laxey at the latest by 16.40. You can get to Laxey by scheduled tram using your Go Card. The

latest tram from Derby Castle you can get is at 16.10. Please contact the organisers if you need any help. Other trams depart from Derby Castle to Laxey at 13:10, 13:40, 14:10, 15:10 and 15:40. The journey takes 30 minutes.

17:00 Depart Laxey on the mountain tram to the Summit Of Snaefell where on a clear day you can see Seven Kingdoms arriving at the Summit at about 17:30 After a time to enjoy the views, we will return at about 17:50 / 18:00 to the intermediate station at the Bungalow where we have a very short walk to the Victory Café, our venue for dinner. Being on the world-famous TT course, the café has plenty of motorbike memorabilia as well as stunning views.

21:00 Depart Bungalow by bus, returning to hotels on Douglas seafront.

Sunday 11 May

19:00 Carvery Dinner at the Empress hotel attended by The Lieutenant Governor Of The Isle Of Man, Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer KCB DSO MBE & Lady Lorimer MBE.

A cash bar will be available throughout the evening.

Sunday



😊 Sunday: Explore, Experience & Enjoy – Your Day, Your Way

Sunday is all yours! With your **Go Card**, you're free to explore the Isle of Man at your own pace – but we've also prepared a variety of optional activities for those who want to dive deeper into the island's unique heritage. Lunch on your own not provided.

🚂 Guided tours

Join small-group tours (max. 10 people) of the **Steam Railway workshops** at Douglas Station (10:00, 11:00, 12:00) or the **Electric Tramway Depot** at Derby Castle. Discover behind-the-scenes stories, machinery, and signal technology from the golden age of rail.

🐎 Horse Tram Depot Open Viewing

From 11:00 to 13:00, stop by the Derby Castle depot and see an impressive selection of historical tramcars.

📖 Manx Electric Railway Museum

Open throughout the day – take a step back in time and explore one of Europe's oldest electric tram systems.

🌲 Groudle Glen Railway

Included in your Go Card! Take the tram, walk down through the glen and enjoy tea and cakes at the charming café. Can't manage the walk? Just sign up and we'll arrange alternative transport.

🌊 Ramsey Pier

A hidden gem! Built in 1886 and now under restoration, this scenic pier is just a short walk from Ramsey Tramway Station.

🍷 End the Day in Style – Carvery Dinner at 19:00

After a day of discovery, we invite you to wind down with a **traditional British carvery dinner** at the hotel starting at **19:00**. Enjoy perfectly roasted meats, delicious side dishes, and a warm, friendly atmosphere. The evening continues with Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer KCB DSO MBE. Don't miss this relaxed and memorable conclusion to your weekend with Fedecrail