Rocket 200

25th-27th May 2019

Event Supplement

Photograph courtesy of Terry Pinnegar

The story of "The Rocket's Coming Home"

Back in 2015 the Parish Council and the Rainhill Railway and Heritage Society (RRHS) looked at how best to mark the 190th Anniversary of the 1829 Rainhill Locomotive Trials in 2019

Rainhill Parish Council saw the need to cement Rainhill's unique position in World Transport History and to provide opportunities for the many Voluntary Organisations in Rainhill to promote their operations and to lay significant groundwork for major celebrations in 2029 for "Rocket 200".

The Parish Council delegated myself and Cllr. Derek Long to work with Chris Tigwell and Barrie Rushton from the RRHS. We formed a Steering Group which was soon extended to include representatives from Rainhill's many voluntary bodies, including representatives from Rainhill Rotary (Tony Lewis and Paul Worrall), Rainhill Gala Committee (Steve and Zoe Clarke) and other volunteers. For its part, the Parish Council committed significant resource time from councillors and crucially from the Clerk, Gillian Pinder, together with vital financial support.

As the months past and following a number of meetings with Rainhill's many organisations, the Programme of Events you see in this supplement has been developed. As a key focus for the event, the Parish Council contacted The National Railway Museum in York to request the loan of the full scale Replica Rocket built in 1979 for the Rocket 150 celebrations.

Negotiating the Loan of the Replica has been a daunting process leading to many sleepless nights. However, we now have it secured and the "Rainhill" Replica Rocket will return for the first time on Saturday 25th May 2019 taking pride of place near the ECO garden in Exchange Place.

We are now approaching the culmination of 4 years hard work involving the Parish Council, our Parish Clerk, the Steering Group, representatives from Rainhill Railway and Heritage Society, Rainhill Gala Committee, Rainhill Rotary Club, the Civic Society, both branches of the Women's Institute, The Garrick Society, Rainhill High School, the Towns Women's Guild, the churches, the Local Model Railway Clubs, local singing groups, local football teams and other organisations featuring in the Events Timetable. All of them are now geared up to delivering a fantastic week-end.

In addition, as this major heritage event for the District draws near, St Helens Council have lent their support, guidance and resource which is much appreciated.

Over the weekend it is important to bear in mind that Rainhill Village is a conservation area with very limited parking. By all means bring along friends and relatives from outside Rainhill, but please ask them to use public transport, not their cars.

We are so grateful to everyone who has devoted time to this project and it promises to be a wonderful week-end of celebration.

Brian J Heydon
Chair Rocket 190 Steering Group
Parish Council Vice Chairman

Why are the Rainhill Locomotive Trials *so important?*

The late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries saw the growth of Liverpool as an international trading port and the expansion of engineering and textile industries in the Manchester area.

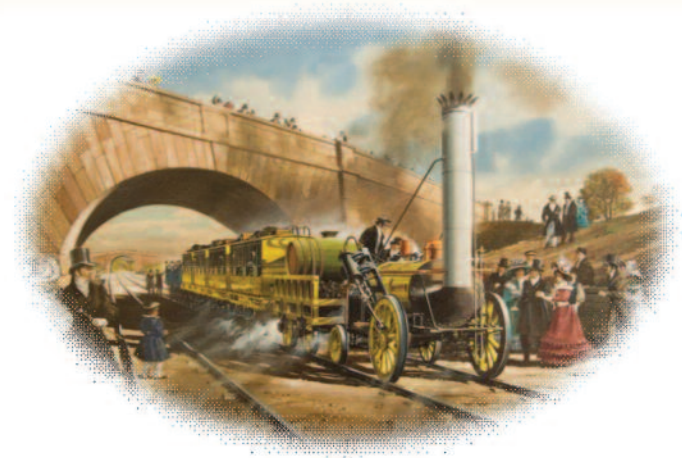


Fig 1: Stephenson's Rocket at the 1829 trials

Liverpool and Manchester depended upon each other for their economic prosperity. Raw cotton and other materials were imported, and finished manufactured goods from the industrial towns around Manchester were exported via the Liverpool docks. But there was one major problem – existing transport links were poor. Canals and turnpike roads were increasingly unable to cope with the increasing levels of traffic. If prosperity was to continue to rise, transport had to be 'speeded up'. The fastest form of transport was the horse!

A group of prominent businessmen formed a company and sought Parliamentary permission to build a railway line from Liverpool to Manchester. The Company's Chief Engineer, George Stephenson, favoured steam locomotives as the means of hauling the trains. The Directors, not being fully convinced, took a decision to hold a series of trials to determine who could design and build a locomotive capable of hauling the type of train envisaged and offered a prize of £500 to the designer of the locomotive that complied with a set of rules aimed at demonstrating the suitability of the type to haul trains on the railway.

Fig 2: Sans Pareil replica at Rocket 150

By the summer of 1829, the line was substantially complete and the section through Rainhill was chosen as the location for the trials. Rainhill was selected because the railway at this point was flat and straight and offered good conditions for the trials to be undertaken.

The Trials were held over a nine-day period, commencing 6 October 1829. Between twelve and fifteen thousand people attended, including many prominent engineers and scientists drawn from around the world.

The initial five entrants were quickly reduced to three:
"Rocket", entered by George & Robert Stephenson (see fig 1)
"Sans Pareil", entered by Timothy Hackworth (see fig 2)

Fig 3: Novelty replica

"Novelty" entered by Messrs. Braithwaite & Ericcson (see fig 3)

At the conclusion of the trials, "Rocket" was declared the outright winner and the prize duly awarded to the Stephensons.

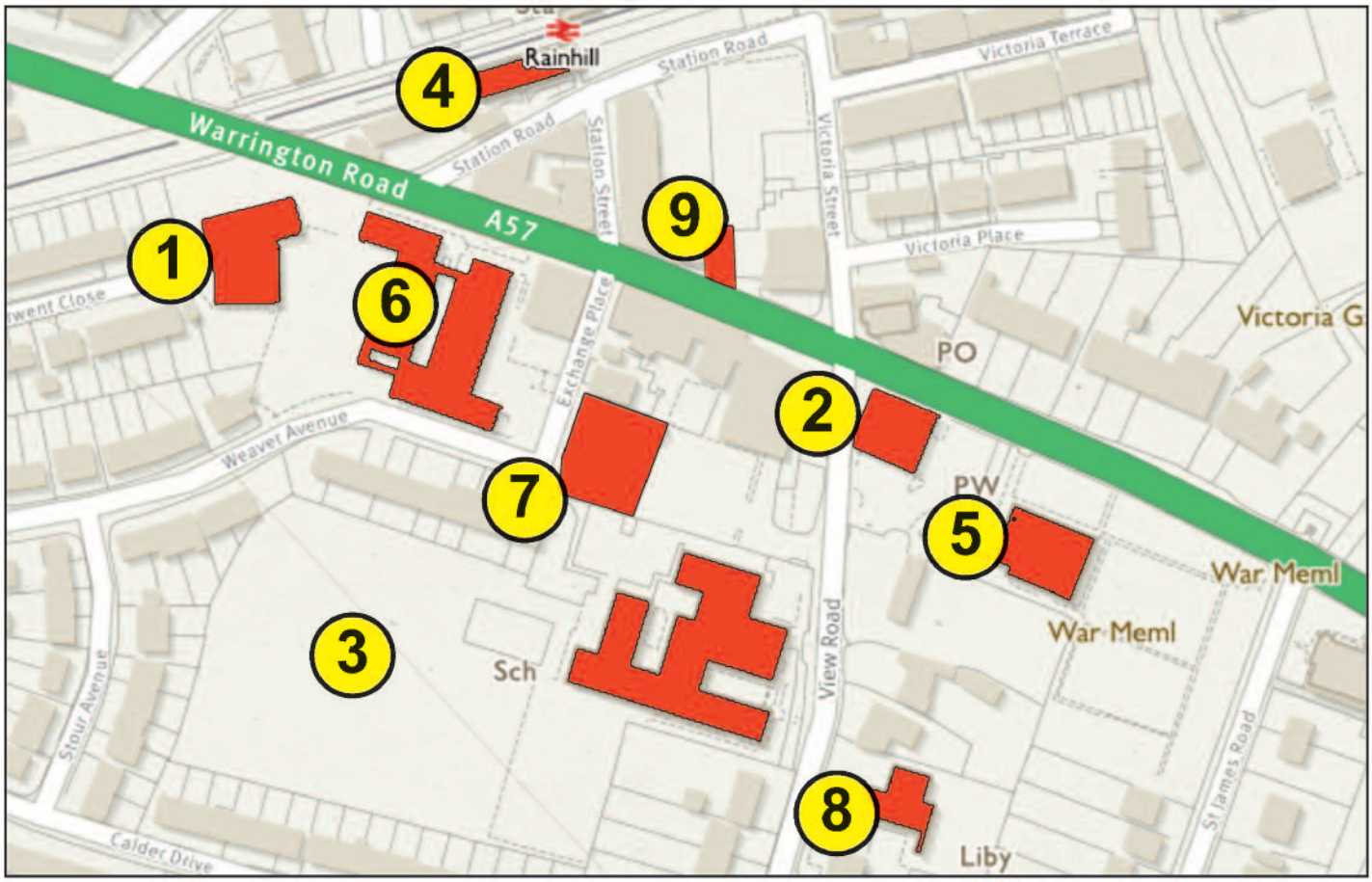
Rocket was the result of the application of all the design concepts for steam locomotives that had been developed in the previous years. The way was then open for the Railway to be completed and the design concept of the Stephenson locomotive to be developed and refined during the next 130 years.

The success of the "Rocket" at Rainhill and the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway had enormous implications for communications worldwide. It led to the development of railway systems throughout the world as the main means of transport. It opened up continents. Its economic impact allowed new industries to develop and existing ones to expand. Indeed, its impact was of a magnitude that it was recognised as an International Historic Landmark in 2016 by the UK and USA (see Fig 4)

Fig 4: The plaque presented to Rainhill by the USA and UK Association of Civil Mechanical Engineers

From a social perspective,

- It led to the establishment of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), for timetables could not be drawn up if local time continued;
- It allowed the population of the urban areas to 'spread out'. Suburbs allowed some families the chance to move out of the city centres and to travel in to work each day by train;
- Day excursions and seaside holidays by train became popular, especially amongst the industrial workers,
- The development of a national postal service became possible.



Events taking place Saturday 25th May, Sunday 26th May, Monday 27th May

	Location	Activity	Date	Time
1	Village Hall	Model Railway Exhibition Musical Performance Tea Party including performers	Saturday Saturday Sunday	10am - 4pm 7.30pm 2pm - 4pm
2	St.Ann's Millennium Centre	Exhibition of Rainhill Heritage and previous Trial celebrations	Saturday	10am - 4pm
3	St.Ann's School Field	Rainhill Gala	Monday	11.30am - 4.30pm
4	Railway Station Waiting Room	Unveiling of heritage plaque at railway station Exhibition of Railway Memorabilia	Saturday All Weekend	TBC 10am - 4pm
5	St.Ann's Church	Flower Festival	All Weekend	10am - 4pm
6	Dane Court	Display of Classic and vintage motorcycles	Sat/Monday	10am - 3pm
7	Exchange Place	Exhibition of vintage locomotives	All Weekend	10am - 4pm
8	Library, View Road	Rainhill Trials Exhibition Gallery of Railway Heritage Photographs	All Weekend All Weekend	10am - 4pm 10am - 4pm
9	Houghton Street	Location of information kiosk	All Weekend	10am - 4pm

Plus a Huge Street Parade on Sunday 27th May starting at 13.00pm.

See website for further details, www.rocket190.org.uk rainhill190 @rainhill190

Correct at time of going to print, 22.03.2019

Rocket 190 Timetable
Services to Rainhill

Service	Arriving At	Location
Saturday Only Service (25.5.19)		
Model Railway Exhibition	Village Hall	1
Football Tournament	Holt Lane Playing Fields	
Display of Classic & Vintage Motorcycles	Dane Court	6
Exhibition of Rainhill Heritage and 150th Trial's Celebrations	Millennium Centre	2
Evening of Musical Entertainment	Village Hall	1
Sunday Only Service (26.5.19)		
Parade – including floats and walking participants, Band, Locomotives, Vintage Vehicles	From Ship Inn to Village Centre	
Tea Party with Entertainment	Village Hall	1
Exhibition of Steam & Traction Engines	Around Village	
Monday Only Service (27.5.19)		
Rainhill Gala	St.Ann's Field	3
Weekend Service (25.5.19-27.5.19)		
Replica Rocket on Display	In Exchange Place	7
Guided Tours by Costumed Actors	Around Village	
Period Costume	Around Village	
Re-enactments of Historical Events (Saturday & Monday)	Around Village	
Exhibition of Railway Memorabilia	Railway Station waiting room	4
Flower Festival	St.Ann's Church	5
Exhibitions at Railway Museum	Rainhill Library	8
Gallery of Railway Heritage Photographs	Rainhill Library	8
Park & Ride with transfer by Vintage Bus	From local areas	
Special Services		
Performance of "Ghost Train"	Village Hall - 16-18 May 2019	
Service of Commemoration for Rainhill Trials	St.James Church - October 2019	
"Rambettes Return" - sponsored walk York to Rainhill	Railway Station 12th May 2019	

All details are correct at time of going to print, 16.03.2019

Rocket

The Ukes3A Ukulele Band

The Nearly Tuneful Company

Serendipity

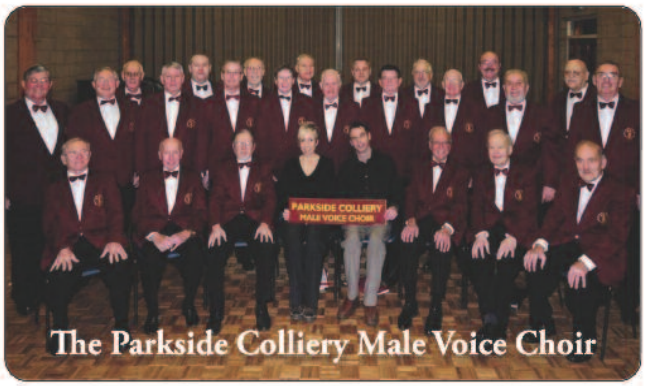
One Night Only Concert

Rainhill Village Hall

25th May 2019, at 7.30pm,

Five Great Local Acts

Tickets £7, available via the Women's Institute in Rainhill.
For details see their website: HTTP://rainhillwi.com


The Parkside Colliery Male Voice Choir

The Hi Notes

Village carpark will be closed on the night.

Rocket 190 Parade *Sunday 26 May 2019 - 1pm*

Organised by Rainhill Rotary and led by The Rocket and The Parr Band

Photograph courtesy of Terry Pinnegar

As President of the Rotary Club of Rainhill for 2018/19, one of the events that features very highly during my year in office is the huge celebration for the 190th anniversary of the Rainhill Steam Locomotive Trials.

Aside from the Beer festival and the Christmas float events that we organise every year, we were asked to marshal the parade which will take place on the 26th May. For me this is a unique community occasion as it gives the opportunity to really put Rainhill back on the map and remind everyone how important our village is with regard to world transport history.

The parade will be led by the replica Rocket which has been kindly loaned to us by the National Rail Museum, which has taken many months of negotiation by the Parish Council. In addition, we will have community groups joining the traction engines, bands, vintage vehicles and dancing groups, to mention but a few of the current participants.

We have managed to secure a very short term full road closure along Warrington Road to allow the safe passage of the walking groups. This will allow spectators to view the parade from both sides of the road right into the village.

The start of the parade will be adjacent to the Ship Inn and will travel into Rainhill Village, with the replica Rocket ending up as a static display in Exchange Place alongside the Eco garden. To minimise disruption to the residents and traffic, the road closure will be on a managed basis.

We anticipate a lot of media coverage including local radio and the BBC. So bring your family and friends, and join us to make this a memorable event - and don't forget the other ongoing events throughout the weekend!

Tony Lewis
President Rotary Club of Rainhill

RAINHILL HALL

Since its inception in 2008, Signature Living has grown to become one of the UK's most exciting hoteliers, specialising in large group accommodation, heritage hotels and spectacular weddings & events spaces.

Set in the suburbs of Merseyside and dating back to 1824, Rainhill Hall is our newest venue. The Grade II listed country house will be transformed into a luxury hotel with woodland cabins, unique treehouses, a bar & restaurant and a spa retreat. The venue will also feature a breathtaking wedding and events space inside and another nestled in the woodland grounds. Rainhill Hall is a stunning jewel in the crown of Merseyside.

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PROUD TO SPONSOR ROCKET 190

Road Closures and Car Parking

As part of these celebrations, a spectacular parade is planned on **Sunday 26th May** (details on page 7) which will involve **closure of Warrington Road** for a short period to allow the parade to pass. **Exchange Place will also be closed** during the weekend.

Warrington Road will be closed at the Skew Bridge junction with Rainhill Road, through to the Mill Lane junction. Closures will start at 12.30pm for through traffic. Access will be provided for affected residents, but access from most side roads will also be restricted at 12.30pm and alternative routes should be found.

At 1pm the parade will set off from St.Bartholomew's Church and no traffic will be allowed in either direction along Warrington Road until the parade has passed (10 to 20 minutes). As the parade passes, side roads will be opened with full access being restored after approximately 1 hour.

The Replica Rocket will be on display in Exchange Place between 10am – 4pm Saturday to Monday. In order to provide a safe environment, Exchange Place will be closed to all traffic throughout these days.

The village centre car parks will be hosting many of the events over the weekend, including exhibitions and the tea party. Everyone is encouraged to use public transport throughout the weekend to access Rainhill. Limited parking will be available at Park and Ride sites outside the village with transfers provided. Please see the website for further details.

We apologise that this will cause some minor inconvenience, but we hope that you will take the opportunity to support all the attractions.

The event is shaping up to be a truly spectacular community occasion and we hope that you will join in with the festivities.

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