

## **Main line railway accident under the microscope**

The Hixon Rail disaster of just over fifty years ago shocked the nation and raised concerns again about safety on the national network. It followed a period of modernisation and cost cutting on UK main line railways through the introduction of unmanned and half-barrier level crossings, replacing the traditional full-gates controlled by a crossing-keeper.

The incident will be the subject of a talk this month to the Welshpool Area Group, which supports the local narrow gauge steam railway from the town.

The disaster takes its name from a village in the English Midlands, near to which a Manchester to London electric express train collided with a low-loader carrying a transformer at a newly installed automated crossing.

The speaker will be Malcolm Garner who has given a number of talks to the group before on a variety of topics. Malcolm gave this talk some years ago but its subject matter is still so relevant and disturbing that he has been invited to repeat it.

The unfolding events will be recounted on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May in the Welshpool Town Hall [Council Chamber] beginning at 7.30 p.m.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend and a small charge of £3 will be made to cover costs. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available, and there will be a raffle.

Full details of the group and its activities are available on their website - <http://welshpoolareagroup.org.uk/>

Released by Steve Page, Vice Chairman, Welshpool Area Group on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

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