



Federation of Model Engineering Societies

Saturday 19 September 2026

Hosted by the Reading Society of Model Engineers



The 2026 Federation rally is to be hosted by the Reading Society of Model Engineers at its Prospect Park Railway site on Saturday 19th September 2026.

The Reading Society of Model Engineers was first formed in 1910. The society is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) and occupies land leased from the local authority. Membership was just over 100 in 2025 with a subscription of just £20 annually. More details can be found on the club website <https://www.rsme.uk/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Prospect-Park-Railway-Reading-Society-of-Model-Engineers-304909433015879>

RSME is based at 82 Bath Road, Reading RG30 2BE. If using satnav enter "Prospect Park Railway". The site is about a mile from the town centre situated on the A4 road going west and is situated in a pleasant park setting including spacious parking for vehicles. It includes a club house with catering facilities, a newly modernised workshop, and a 1,200 ft raised level miniature railway track incorporating 2 ½, 3 ½ and 5-inch gauges. This is surrounded by a 1,500 ft ground level track, with a gradient, incorporating 5 and 7 ¼ inch tracks.

Refreshments will be provided throughout the day together with a buffet lunch at mid-day

To assist the unloading of ground level locomotives a hydraulic lift is used giving access to a turntable and steaming bays. Both tracks have a 12/24 volt facility and are fully signalled provided the actuating club carriages are used. The ground level carriages have vacuum brakes which may be actuated by the locomotive ejector or by a vacuum pump on the carriage.



RSME members have a wide range of interests Including traction engines, clocks, vehicle restoration and workshop practice generally. The clubhouse also incorporates a 00-gauge model railway which is being continually developed by those of all ages.



The Annual FMES Autumn Rally Competition is open to any exhibit that evokes the spirit of model engineering. This may include locomotives, road vehicles, stationary engines and model railways. The judges will consider the degree of construction provided by the owner in arriving at an outcome.

Qualifying models will be judged by a member of the FMES, RSME, and a suitably qualified model engineer. The competition rules can be found at the FMES website [HERE](#).

Alongside the FMES rally competition, there will be an opportunity for prototypical outline locomotives to be judged in line with the Australian Association of Live Steamers (AALS) rules. Entrance must be a working steam locomotive of a Commonwealth prototype in any gauge between 2 ½ and 7 ¼ inches. The AALS competition Rules and FAQs can be found [HERE](#).

If you wish to see more about these competitions, please refer to the FMES website, in the appropriate section under [EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS](#)

Competition for the AALS trophy is open to all members of clubs and societies affiliated to FMES, and such members may nominate their locomotive for judging. If deemed appropriate, these may include other locomotives present on the day but not nominated.

You do not need to pre-book for these competitions; judges will consider all eligible models anyway!

Camping is permitted on site by booking only. Please contact stuartnkidd@aol.com. All waste must be taken away, as we do not have suitable waste disposal systems.

If bringing a steam locomotive or any model boiler to be used please remember to bring a current boiler certificate. Proof of club membership and insurance certificates are required for operating models at the rally.

