

MEDIA REVIEWS & READER FEEDBACK



Review via email: Dr Peter Waterman OBE DL, media presenter and railway enthusiast:

Hi Chris just finished your book and loved it! Thanks Pete.

Review: David Chambers, Director Rushden, Higham & Wellingborough Railway. Trustee Rushden Historical Transport Society:

Cutting Remarks contributes a wealth of well researched information on a significant component of our first major railway line. Chris Hillyard has incorporated much new material and covers not just the history of the Roade Cutting, but also that of the village it now bisects and its people. He has included humour and sadness to a background of the changing fortunes of the rail companies and how businesses came and went in Roade. As both a trustee and director of railway-oriented heritage organisations, I have read many accounts of great engineering feats, and this account of Roade Cutting construction and its effect on the area to this day surpasses all. This from a novice author is a great achievement as it is not just another railway book. (RLHS 2022 BALH entry for Local Historian Award.)

Review: Stuart Wilkinson, National Transport Trust Chairman:

This work by Chris Hillyard charts the development of the railway as it tackles the construction of one of the largest cuttings on the UK network as well as setting out the changes this brought to the village, some temporary but probably more with a permanent legacy, and follows the operation of the railway with its perhaps inevitable highs and lows. Chris Hillyard has demonstrated through a commendable level of research how the development of transport has shaped Roade as surely as the canals, harbours, railways, road network and airports have shaped the nation as a whole. Roade Local History Society is clearly a very active example of the many activities and organisations which make Roade a living village. (RLHS 2022 BALH entry for Local Historian Award.)

Feedback via Facebook: (*Roade Remembered*), Freda Bennett :

A very interesting read.

Feedback via Facebook: (*Cutting Remarks*), David Frank Austin:

Fantastic book, many congratulations!

Feedback via Facebook Messenger: Paul Ireson :

A great read and a wonderful presentation with a lot of photos I have never seen before. Well done!

Review via email: Dianne Sutton:

Really enjoying it – thanks for making the info available for posterity.

Text Message: Andy Newbury:

Thanks for the copy of your work, its brilliant.

Review via email: David Winter:

Your book is superb, well done, the research must have been very time consuming and I can appreciate what it takes to follow every thread of the story.

Review: Brian Gooding, National Transport Trust *Transport Digest No 146*:

There is a plethora of railway books out there often covering railway companies, locomotives and rolling stock. However, this book, by the former Royal Train Foreman with railways in his blood, has taken a deep look into the railway and its cutting which pass through his home village of Roade, a village in Northamptonshire, a couple of miles south of the county town. Recommended.

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Text Message: Mick Waterhouse:

I have just finished reading the Roade Cutting book. Thoroughly enjoyed it, isn't local history fascinating.

Review via email: Humphrey Gilliott, Retired Railway Chaplain:

I have just finished reading your wonderful book. I have SO enjoyed it. Thank you so very much for it.

Review: Tony Gillam, L&NWR Society Newsletter 205:

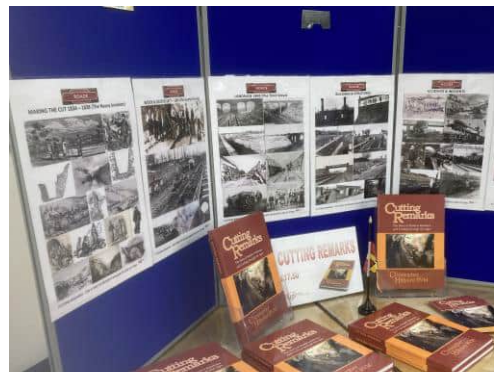
This book records the significant impact the railway has had on the social and economic development of the village from the 1830's to the present day. It will appeal to railway enthusiasts, the technically minded and people interested in rural and social history.

JEYES HERITAGE HUB OPENING (NHF AGM report extracts), Georgina Jeyes:

Following the launch of the Heritage Hub we have been pleased to receive more of your leaflets and learn more of the heritage stories of the members.

I have learnt so much – Roade's Railway's and Chris Hillyard's book.

So many members have supported the hub, my idea was and is for us all share our Heritage stories and so far, it has worked.



Review via email: Mike Brough:

Your book arrived this morning and what a fabulous book it is!

Review: Bernie Keith, interview with author, BBC Radio Northampton 11.15am:

Available on BBC sounds.

Review: Angela Malin, Chair, Northamptonshire Family History Society, Footprints Magazine:

It is a nicely produced book with lots of illustrations and is very name rich, with a good index of people mentioned in the text. Reading the story gives a good insight into what it must have been like to have been either a navy or someone resident in a place like Roade when the new railways came through.

Feedback via Facebook: (Roade Notice Board) Lynn Brown :

Very enjoyable and interesting read.

Feedback via Facebook: Brell Ewart DL (Derbyshire):

A brilliantly written and illustrated book about a huge civil engineering work undertaken in a bygone era that today is still extant and forming part of the West Coast Mainline railway network, some 150+ years after it was built.

Feedback via Facebook: (Roade Notice Board) Sue Gardener :

Although I'm not keen on trains I found it really interesting and a good read, I did not put it down until I had finished it.

Feedback: (Email) Bob Mullins, Northampton:

Northampton has been traversed by main lines since the nineteenth century and one of the most notable feats of engineering in the area of Roade Cutting.

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“Cutting Remarks” is a very comprehensive and interesting history of how the cutting was built and the impact it and the railway had on the population of Roade over a period from the 1830s to the present day.

The early years were dominated by the construction as part of the new London to Birmingham Railway and the resulting Navvy invasion. This book deals with many incidents that occurred involving the navvies whose hard working and hard living style of life conflicted with that of the villagers. It provides a timely contrast with the construction today of the HS2 line not so very far away, although I feel sure Brackley will not suffer the same way as Roade did!

Many interesting facts are highlighted such as the one about the aqueduct in the cutting being a listed building and this and others are backed up by photos. Perhaps the most amazing of all was the air race in 1910 that would see Roade become prominent in national and international headlines with the railway cutting playing its part.

The more modern period is covered with nostalgic pictures of Roade Station before it was closed in 1964 and there are even details of where the now By-pass will cross the cutting.

There is also plenty on Roade’s other railway and cutting, the Stratford-upon-Avon and Midland Junction Railway nickname “The Scratler” which ran from east to west and has long gone but has left its mark.

The book is well illustrated with colour and black and white photographs and is a bargain at the price.

Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Awards, October 2022: ‘Hindsight Award’ for the Best Published Work.

‘Cutting Remarks – The Story of Roade’s Railways and Cutting through the Ages’ was runner-up for this prestigious award.

The Judges found the book to be hugely enjoyable and ‘not just about trains’! They particularly admired the depth of original research and the imaginative ways the information was used and presented, commenting that the energy and creativity in interpretation was inspiring. The Society’s collective efforts were rewarded with the Judges Choice Special Award.



Feedback: (Email) John Reeve.

A very interesting read and was obviously the result of careful research.