

Rob Irving:  
Vice Chairman and  
Lecture Programme  
Co-ordinator



Rob grew up in Birkenhead in the 1950's, where he regularly spent time in the docks, railway sheds and warehouses, forging a lifelong interest in transport and transport history. A lecturer in economic history at Aberdeen University in the 1970's, he has authored several articles and a book on late Victorian railways as business enterprises.

After leaving academic life, Rob spent 7 years with Imperial Group plc, latterly as a Divisional Human Resources Director and 4 years with the British Steel Corporation as Personnel Manager of the international consulting arm of the Corporation, BSC (Overseas Services), where he worked on projects in Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Subsequently specialising as a management consultant to corporate clients requiring support with the human dimensions of mergers, acquisitions and other change processes, Rob holds a BA in Sociology from York University, an MSc in Organisational Psychology from London University and a PhD from Birmingham University in Economic History. Voluntary work has involved him as an elected Local Councillor and a Governor at North Herts College of Further Education until 2019. He was appointed a Trustee of the Friends in 2021 and since then Lecture Programme Co-ordinator and Vice Chairman.