

LTC ROLT – LIFE, WORK, LEGACY

A Joint Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust/Keele University Conference

9-11 May 2024

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of the writer and biographer LTC Rolt, also known as ‘Tom’.

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust has partnered with academics from Keele University to host this event with the aim of celebrating the life, and explore the continuing legacy, of LTC Rolt.



THURSDAY 9 MAY
50th anniversary of the death of LTC Rolt

6pm-8pm	The Furnace Kitchen, Coalbrookdale	Drinks reception for conference attendees
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FRIDAY 10 MAY

8.30am-11.30am	The Covered Bays, Coalbrookdale	Registration Tea & coffee
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Session 1: Rolt as a Writer

9.30am-9.50am	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	‘Allied Ironfounders - A Study in Rolt’ - <i>Duncan Comrie</i>
9.50am-10.10am	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	‘LTC Rolt’s Contribution to the Ghost Story - A Taxonomical Analysis of his Collection Sleep No More’ - <i>Danny Rhodes</i>
10.10am-10.30am	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	‘The Writing Life, Life Writing, and the Politics of Heritage: LTC Rolt’s Landscape Trilogy and the Industrial Legacy of British Culture’ - <i>Prof David Amigoni</i>
10.30am-10.45am	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	Questions

Session 2: Legacies of Rolt

11.15am-11.35am	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	The Inland Waterway Association and Tom and Sonia Rolt - Inspirator and Vice President - <i>John Fletcher</i>
11.35am-11.55am	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	Isambard Kingdom Brunel - Rolt’s Biographical Legacy - <i>Tim Bryan</i>
11.55am-12.15pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	Tom Rolt - the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society and the Narrow Gauge Railway Museum - <i>Ian Evans</i>
12.15pm-12.30pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	Questions

Buffet lunch

Session 3: Who Was LTC Rolt?

1.30pm-1.50pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	‘Five Years That Saved Canals’ - <i>Kate Saffin</i>
1.50pm-2.10pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	Landscape with Heritage: Tom Rolt and the Sense of Place - <i>Anthony Coulls</i>
2.10pm-2.30pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	‘How did Tooley’s Boatyard Influence LTC Rolt’s Early Life and Subsequent Career?’ - <i>Catherine Acott and Matthew Armitage</i>
2.30pm-2.50pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	‘The Rolts & Landmark Trust’ - <i>Caroline Stanford</i>
12.15pm-12.30pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	Questions

Session 4: Keynote

3.45pm-4.30pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	‘Hidden in the Landscape - Writing About Rolt’ - <i>Victoria Owens, author, The Life of LTC Rolt: Where Engineering met Literature (Pen and Sword, 2024)</i>
4.30pm-4.45pm	The Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale	Questions

Conference Dinner

SATURDAY 11 MAY

Tours and activities to be announced

THURSDAY 9 - SATURDAY 11 MAY

10am-5pm	The Costume Project, Coalbrookdale	LTC Rolt - Archive Display - <i>Chris Pickford, Rolt Cataloguing Project Archivist</i>
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CONFERENCE TICKETS INCLUDE

Thursday:
Drinks reception

Friday:
Teas & coffees
Buffet lunch
Conference Dinner

Saturday:
One-day Pass to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust sites
Tours & activities

Access to the Rolt Archive Display