

## Photography Group Report by Alan Kenwright

Photos by Alan Kenwright and Ian Royston

On 5 November, the photography group met up at The Locomotion in Shildon to explore the possibilities for photographing the exhibits there, safe from the whims and vagaries of autumnal weather. There have been significant changes since the group last visited there in 2022, which meant that there was more space around some of the exhibits in the main hall since a lot of the exhibits related to “goods” traffic and maintenance (cranes, snowploughs, goods wagons, and the like) have been re-located to the newly constructed extension. It was still a challenging environment for the group, not least in the new extension with its rather unimaginative layout and very harsh lighting, but we like a challenge! So much fun was had.

After we had worked our way through the possibilities in Shildon, a couple of us moved on to visit the new Hopetown visitors centre in Darlington, staying on the railway theme as it aims to celebrate and commemorate the birth of the Stockton to Darlington Railway 200 years ago. An interesting place to visit – compared with Locomotion it has less to offer the hardcore railway enthusiast in terms of exhibits, but it does have the advantage of having a large adventure playground and lots of interactive exhibits if you have grandchildren to entertain.

The group gathering in December will be for our Christmas Lunch (Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup>), and our meeting in January will be at 10-00 on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> in Enterprise House. More details to follow nearer the time.



