

Draft release

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New Beatrix Potter Exhibition To Open At Ravenglass And Eskdale Station

Western Lake District visitor attraction, the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, has added a lovely new family-friendly feature at its Dalegarth Station, having worked with the National Trust to create a beautiful Beatrix Potter exhibition, in the 150th anniversary year of the author's birth.

World-famous Beatrix Potter character, Peter Rabbit, and representatives from both the Railway and the National Trust, will officially open the exhibition on March 21 at 11am. The exhibition will then be available for visitors to view both during the Easter holidays and throughout the rest of the year, bringing lots of enjoyment to children and adults who have grown up with Beatrix Potter's Tales.

The exhibition is set to grace the downstairs function room of the Fellbites Eatery and gift shop at Dalegarth, covering three walls with the story of Beatrix Potter and her relationship with the Eskdale Valley. Passengers travelling on the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway will be able to view the exhibition between trains, whilst it will also be open to anyone calling in to the café or gift shop and to local residents wishing to know more about Beatrix Potter's connection to Eskdale.

As well as leaving the National Trust her home at Hill Top in Cumbria, Beatrix Potter also bestowed on the Trust one of the charity's most important legacies: 4000 acres of land and 15 farms, including Penny Hill Farm in Eskdale. This set the scene for the conservation movement in the Lake District and, without Beatrix Potter, the National Trust would not be looking after about a quarter of the Lake District today, to ensure enjoyment of the area for everyone.

(It is hoped that the current tenants of Penny Hill Farm will be able to attend the launch, as the current custodians of the land that Miss Potter owned.)

Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway's marketing manager, Rachel Bell, says: "We are delighted to be able to work with the National Trust in the 150th anniversary year of Beatrix Potter's birth. We are sure many visitors to the Railway will delight in the exhibition and its insights into the author's local links."

National Trust General Manager for the West Lakes, Marian Silvester, added: "Although Beatrix Potter is renowned for being the much-loved artist and author of timeless children's books, she was also a woman ahead of her time and a conservationist, farmer and driven businesswoman with a passion for nature and the countryside. This year, in the 150th anniversary year of her birth, National Trust locations in the Lakes are celebrating her life and achievements and the new exhibition at Dalegarth is just one example of this."

More information about how to reach the station, to view the exhibition, can be found at www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk

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Press calls: Jane Hunt, Catapult PR, 01253 891114 – jane@catapultpr.co.uk