

April 20, 2016

## Railway set for another Jam-Packed Weekend of Family Fun

A fun family weekend awaits visitors to Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway between April 30 and May 2, with the Railway offering a wide range of activities and things to see and do on a jam-packed weekend that sees one loco, Northern Rock, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The three-day programme offers visitors, of all ages, the opportunity to say 'happy birthday' to the muscat-green loco, built in 1976 and one of the most powerful 15-inch gauge engines in the world. This magnificent 24-foot loco, in the Highland Railway's colours, will be running up and down the line during the weekend, thrilling those who spot her.

Northern Rock combines all the most successful design aspects of the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway's River Irt and River Esk, as well as those of the Kentish Romney Hythe & Dymchurch loco, Northern Chief.

At Ravenglass station, families will be able to see the 116-year-old loco Bonnie Dundee – one of the oldest 15-inch gauge steam engines in the world and an engine celebrating 40 years with the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, to which she was donated in 1976. She was built in 1900 in Stoke-on-Trent, for the Dundee Gasworks in Scotland and takes her name from a Sir Walter Scott poem.

This loco, in the bronze green livery of the North British Railway, will be around all weekend, giving visitors the chance to see this historic engine in all her glory and have pictures taken with her.

Mini-rides on another loco based at Ravenglass station will also be available. This is the royal blue coloured Synolda, which is much-loved by visitors, as it was rescued from Belle Vue Zoo in 1978 and restored to full working order by employees at BNFL.

Those able to tear themselves away, can head to see the Old Signal Box at Ravenglass, Visit the engineers workshop and explore a museum trail and various activities. After hopping on a train and travelling to Dalegarth, families will find other activities and a new Beatrix Potter exhibition, which explores the author's relationship with Eskdale, in her 150<sup>th</sup> birthday year.

Delicious homemade food will be available at both The Turntable at Ravenglass and Fellbites Café at Dalegarth and both stations can be used as a base to explore the surrounding area. At Ravenglass, you can take a short walk and explore the Roman Bathhouse – one of the most completely preserved buildings from Roman Britain – while at Dalegarth, you can follow a walk around the village, taking in Eskdale Cornmill, or head off to see the natural beauty of waterfall, Stanley Force.

Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway's marketing manager, Rachel Bell, says: "Once again we have an action-packed programme of events for our Family Fun Weekend. Many of our activities are free-of-charge, so this really does offer a chance for all the family to explore the many treats that the Railway has to offer. There's so much to see and do at both ends of our seven-mile line and for the price of a standard fare on the Railway, families can get involved in everything that is happening at both Ravenglass and Dalegarth."

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Press calls: Jane Hunt, Catapult PR, 01253 891114 – [jane@catapultpr.co.uk](mailto:jane@catapultpr.co.uk)