

Press release: 5 July 2018



Put on your walking boots to celebrate La'al Ratty centenary.

Ravenglass Railway Museum is marking the centenary of the last La'al Ratty train to travel up the line to Boot Village.

Join the Museum's Curator, Peter van Zeller, on Sunday 15 July to discover fascinating stories from the history of the railway and enjoy a guided walk along the long-since closed section of the track from Dalegarth up to Boot Village. The last train ran along this section in the summer of 1918 and the walk will take in the remains of the station and old iron ore workings, and a look at the developments taking place at Eskdale Mill, recently given large HLF grant. The experience will include a return train journey from Ravenglass to Dalegarth with two different steam engines, Katie and River Irt, who are the only two surviving engines to have worked trains to Boot village.



The train will depart from Ravenglass at 10.45am, with plenty of opportunities for photos with stops at Irton Road and Fisherground water tank on the way. The walk is a return route of approximately 2 kilometres along the trackbed of the disused line, make sure you wear sensible footwear as the path may be uneven and wet in places, and enjoy a rare chance to walk in the footsteps of history.

David Rounce, Manager of the Museum, says, 'I'm excited about celebrating the centenary with this special walk. It is a rare opportunity to go along part of the line that is no longer in use and to discover how this this amazing small railway contributed to the life of work of Britain and the local community for over 100 years. The Museum is dedicated to bringing to life the stories of the Railway to inspire visitors of all ages.'

Editors notes:

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway is a family-owned business operating a heritage, narrow gauge steam railway on the Western Coast of the Lake District. The railway is surrounded by stunning views and walks and is based in Ravenglass, the only coastal village in the Lake District National Park. The business's awards include a Silver Green Tourism award, Coach Tourism's 2015 Heritage Railway award, Winner of Cumbria Tourism's 2015 Large Visitor Attraction of the Year and Finalist in the same category in the 2018 Awards.

<https://ravenglass-railway.co.uk/events>

Ravenglass Railway Museum brings to life the story of the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway, affectionately known as the 'Ratty'. Reopening in 2017 following a comprehensive redevelopment the museum has artefacts ranging from steam locomotives and carriages right down to tickets, uniforms and models. With engaging displays and hands-on interactive features for all ages, visitors can experience 150 years of the R&ER as well as the origins of the historic Roman port of Ravenglass and iron-ore mining in Eskdale. Entry is FREE. The Museum has recently received funding from Copeland Community Fund. Open daily from February half-term to October half-term and throughout winter when the Railway is running.

<https://ravenglassrailwaymuseum.co.uk>