

Ratty Announces 21 Enticing Events For Cumbrian Residents And Visitors

Western Lake District visitor attraction, Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, has announced an enticing 21 dates in the diary on which visitors can unlock the heritage and landscape of the area by attending specially scheduled events.

The 2016 events programme runs from February to December and some events will run on more than one occasion, whether that is a fish and chip supper, combining heritage rail journey and fishy treat, or an exploration of the mills, huts and stone circles of Eskdale with the National Trust.

The programme includes events that help celebrate the 125th birthday of Beatrix Potter™. On Saturday May 28, Saturday June 25 and Thursday July 21, there are 'Beatrix Potter™ Walk With the National Trust' events. Those pre-booking this experience can either catch a heritage logo from Ravenglass to Dalegarth station, or head to Boot under their own steam and then enjoy a walk to the Penny Hill working farm, under the guidance of a National Trust Ranger. The farm is the only farm the popular children's author owned in Eskdale and the walk alongside the River Esk will give participants the chance to find out more about the author and her links to the National Trust, before they enjoy their packed lunch in the farm's garden.

Another highlight is a Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway family fun weekend from April 30 to May 2, at which heritage locos will share the limelight with entertainers and mascots and even be running to the soundtrack of the Bay Radio Roadshow on the Saturday. Lots of activities will be provided, to make a visit an enjoyable day out for all ages.

Very young visitors will, however, be desperate to meet Peppa Pig™ who is making her first visit to Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, on October 1 and 2. Families wishing to see Peppa Pig™ are urged to buy their tickets quickly, as there will be reserved seats on special Peppa Pig™ trains. Children with official tickets can meet Peppa Pig™ in person and have their photo taken, as well as enjoying entertainment in a Peppa Pig™ marquee and taking home a Peppa Pig™ gift.

The railway enthusiast is certainly not forgotten in this exciting events programme. Those wishing to get behind the scenes, visit workshops and other railway buildings and photograph trains on the line, will be tempted by Photography Days running on May 17 and September 6, which will provide exclusive insights for ticket holders.

Younger rail enthusiasts, accompanied by their parents or another adult, can find out what goes on at Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway as well. Young Engineer's Days Out are running on July 9 and 10, encompassing a return trip on the narrow gauge railway and a guided tour by the author of Peter's Railway, Christopher Vine. There will be a chance to visit the old signal box and have the author sign books, so this is likely to be a not-to-be-missed treat for many children interested in railways.

Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway's marketing manager, Rachel Bell, says: "With a Teddies Go Free promotion at Easter, Halloween Ghost Trains, Santa Express excursions and an RSPB weekend, our Ravenglass and Dalegarth stations will be hubs of activity all year. Additionally, we have our regular scheduled services running every weekend from February 27.

"By announcing our events now, we are helping to spread the message that Cumbria is open for business and that visitors can enjoy the same great experiences in the county that they have enjoyed in the past. We are open for online bookings at www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk and can't wait to start what should be a really exciting marvellous year."

ENDS

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