

**News about STEAM TRAINS at the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**

***“The Railway Children’s Railway”***

## **MAIN LINE STEAM TO BE HIGHLIGHT OF WORTH VALLEY JUNE GALA**

Mainline steam train services from the world-famous Keighley and Worth Valley Railway into the Yorkshire Dales are to be the highlight of a new June Steam Gala event to be introduced this year.



The ex-London Midland & Scottish Railway 'Jubilee' Class express steam locomotive No. 45690 *Leander* (left) is being hired in to run the trains from the Keighley terminus of the branch line to operate excursions for two days to Skipton and Hellifield, with one train continuing over the legendary Ribbleshead Viaduct on the Settle and Carlisle Railway.

Picture – Ray Brown

The new June Gala will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June and will also feature visiting Great Central Railway Class 04 No. 63601 along with several locomotives from the Worth Valley's own Haworth-based fleet.

Picture – Dr. Colin F. Parsons



The idea for the new Gala has grown out of the success of the celebrations held last year to mark the 40th anniversary of the re-opening by enthusiasts of the five mile branch line from Keighley to Haworth and Oxenhope made famous through the filming of the children's classic, *The Railway Children*.

Says Traffic Manager Sam MacDougall: “Such was the response to that event and our main line operations and intensive services on our own line that we realised we were on to something. There is clearly a demand from both the enthusiasts and family visitors for a big, spectacular steam event in the middle of the year, when there's plenty of daylight to enable us to venture beyond our normal boundaries and onto the spectacular railways running into the Dales”.

“So we've got together with Network Rail, West Coast Railways who will provide the trains and other interested parties, to plan this new event in our calendar. Our Autumn events will concentrate on our Beer and Music Festival and the run up to the Santa Special operation, both of which continue to grow”.

“All the evidence is that despite the economic difficulties people face at the moment, they will support ambitious and entertaining gala events, and indeed our business in Wine and Dine Trains, Guided Tours and Cream Tea trains continues to grow at a significant rate”.

Full information on the Gala, including timetables, locomotive rosters and ticket details, will be available soon at [www.kwvr.co.uk](http://www.kwvr.co.uk) Advance Tickets for the Gala and the Main Line trains will be available shortly from Haworth Station on 01535 645214.

*Ends*

*Issued April 2009*

## **Notes To Editors**

The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway is operated almost entirely by unpaid volunteers running steam and diesel trains at weekends throughout the year and daily at holiday times for nearly five miles through ‘Bronte Country’ from Keighley to Oakworth, Haworth and Oxenhope. It was the first complete standard gauge branch line to be re-opened by enthusiasts in the UK and has been the location for The Railway Children and many more films and television series.

# **KEIGHLEY & WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY**

The Railway Station, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8NJ

*Keighley – Ingrow – Damems – Oakworth – Haworth – Oxenhope*

General Enquiries: 01535 645214    [www.kwvr.co.uk](http://www.kwvr.co.uk)    24hr information: 01535 647777

***“One of Britain’s Ten Best Train Trips” – The Sunday Times***