

**News about STEAM TRAINS at the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
“The Railway Children’s Railway”**

One of Britain’s Ten Best Train Trips

The world famous Keighley and Worth Valley Railway which operates heritage steam and diesel trains through West Yorkshire’s Brontë Country is one of Britain’s Ten Best Train Trips, according to *The Sunday Times*.



Travel writer Stephen Bleach says: “Famous as the location for *The Railway Children*, it has buckets of charm. For bookworms, the Brontë Parsonage is a stroll from the station at Haworth”.

Introducing his selection of the Ten Best, he says: “Nostalgia’s a funny thing: you don’t have to have lived through an era to remember it fondly. Nobody under 50 was around when steam trains were common in Britain, but the appeal lives on”.

There are, *The Sunday Times* explains, more than 100 heritage steam railways running up and down the country adding: “When Beeching savaged the railway network in 1963, he could hardly have foreseen that an army of enthusiasts would rise up and set about reopening chunks of it simply for fun”.

Keighley and Worth Valley Chairman Paul Brown says: "We were actually the first full sized complete branch line railway to be reopened back in 1968. It was something the community did, aided by railway enthusiasts who defied their critics to show that trained amateurs could successfully run a railway. More than 40 years and more than five million passengers later, our trains are more popular than ever".

This year, with the prestigious "Large Groups" award for the best preserved railway from the trade body the Heritage Railway Association under its belt, the Worth Valley line will be operating more vintage trains using wooden bodied carriages and particularly venerable steam engines; it is expanding its Cream Tea trains and *White Rose Pullman* Dining Trains and is planning a big weekend Gala for Friday 26 – Sunday 28 June.

There will also be "Behind The Scenes" Guided Tours of Haworth Locomotive Depot, a special weekend for diesel train enthusiasts, evening tours using 50 year old German diesel railbuses as well as a Beer and Music Festival in the autumn before the Santa Specials which the Worth Valley pioneered return in the run up to Christmas.

"It seems people can't get enough of steam trains and those on the Worth Valley in particular" adds Paul. "We hope to add an extra Pullman Car to our Wine and Dine Trains to cope with the demand and this endorsement from *The Sunday Times* confirms what our passengers tell us – that we are simply one of the very best days out for families and friends".

"However we do rely on volunteers coming forward to help to run the trains and the more popular the Railway becomes, the more we need even more volunteers to maintain the line and the trains and to operate them".

Ends

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Notes To Editors

The other railways selected by Stephen Bleach are: The Isle of Mull Railway, the North Norfolk Railway, the Bo'ness and Kinneil, the Snowdon Mountain Railway, the Kirklees Light Railway, the Paignton and Dartmouth, the Severn Valley, the Ravenglass and Eskdale and the Bluebell Railway.

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

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