

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

## **RAILWAY DEFIES RECESSION WITH NEW £350 SUPER-LUXURY DAY TOURS**

The world-famous Keighley and Worth Valley Steam Railway is set to defy the recession with a new Super Luxury All Day Guided Tour of its line from Keighley through Brontë Country – at a fare of £350 per person.

Just 12 people will be able to participate in the first of the tours on Friday 25 September 2009.

For their money they'll enjoy exclusive use of the Railway, travel in *The Old Gentleman's Saloon* from the film *The Railway Children* with expert guides including the Head of the National Railway Museum, Andrew Scott CBE and the owner of the carriage, (which is a North Eastern Railway directors' saloon dating back in parts to 1871), Chris Lawson.

After a day with the Railway to themselves, in which they'll enjoy superb food cooked by the Worth Valley's own TV-trained volunteer chef Jessica Thewlis (as seen in BBC-2's *Indian Food Made Easy*), fine wines and a detailed tour behind the scenes of all the areas normally closed to the public, the VIP passengers get to travel on the footplate of historic Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway steam engine Number 957 which dates from 1887 – and is perhaps better known as *The Green Dragon* from the EMI film of *The Railway Children*.

The whole experience will be rounded off with a reception in The Old Hall Hotel in Haworth and a question-and-answer session with the Railway's volunteer management team.

Introduction in the last two years of Cream Tea Specials using *The Old Gentleman's Saloon* and Guided Tours at £29.50 a head, have led to growing demands for more “premium” services. Says the Railway Preservation Society's Chairman Paul Brown: “We can't keep up with demand of our Guided Tours, our Cream Teas, our Wine and Dine Trains and our Santa Specials and we've been asked many times for something much more exclusive and luxurious.

“Clearly people are fascinated by how we run the Railway. They want to see inside the locomotive workshops and depots, how we renovate and maintain our fleet of carriages – all the nooks, crannies, cubby holes and places where we fix gas lamps and fish-plates, the rusty sidings, the signal boxes and water towers”.

“This lifts the veil on those secret places. People like to see what's there and hear about it and talk to the people involved”

“Every premium service we have introduced has proved incredibly popular and at £350 a head, there's never been anything like this on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway or any heritage railway”.

Bookings are now being accepted at the Railway's headquarters on 01535 645214 and further details are on the line's website [www.kwvr.co.uk](http://www.kwvr.co.uk)

**Footnote:** a normal All-line Adult Return Ticket costs £9.40; an Adult All Day Rover ticket costs £14 and the cheapest fare is a child's single ticket between Oakworth and Haworth or Oakworth and Damems for £1.05. There are reductions for Senior Citizens and holders of the Local Residents' Railcard.

*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***