

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

**MAIN LINE LOCOMOTIVE TO BE NAMED IN HONOUR OF
WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

**‘JOLLY FISHERMAN’ TRAIN TO RUN AGAIN WITH
ORIGINAL LOCOMOTIVES AND THE JOLLY FISHERMAN
HIMSELF IN ATTENDANCE TO CELEBRATE HIS
CENTENARY**

MEDIA FACILITIES

Thursday 5 June 2008 at Oxenhope Station, KWVLR:

Noon for 12.15 pm: Naming of Direct Rail Services main line Class 37 diesel electric locomotive No. 37087 *Keighley & Worth Valley Railway 40th Anniversary 1968 – 2008* by Paul Makepeace, DRS Regional Operations Manager North; followed by VIP Special

Friday 6 June, Keighley Station, KWVLR:

11.00 for approx 11.15 am: *The Jolly Fisherman* diesel train runs again with two of its original locomotives and original headboard and the Skegness Jolly Fisherman in attendance to celebrate his centenary with a specially baked cake.

Journalists and photographers will be welcome at both of these events which will form part of the Railway’s Diesel Gala – one of the events celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Railway’s re-opening.

The world-famous Keighley and Worth Valley Railway – acclaimed for its steam train services through Brontë Country – will abandon them for three days in June to run a special all-diesel service as part of its celebrations for the 40th anniversary of its re-opening.

The Diesel Gala, when all the steam engines are safely locked away in their shed at Haworth, is a popular annual event attracting thousands of enthusiasts and families to the five mile standard gauge branch line between Keighley, Oakworth, Haworth and Oxenhope which was re-opened by pioneering preservationists in 1968 – the first full size, complete branch line to be re-opened by volunteers in the UK. Heritage diesels have always complemented the steam services and are popular with visitors and enthusiasts as well as local people who use them as everyday transport at weekends and holiday periods.

As a prelude to the three day event which starts on Friday 6 June, the Carlisle-based freight operating company Direct Rail Services, who move many of the visiting locomotives on the main line to the Worth Valley branch, will name one of their Class 37 diesel-electric locomotives, No. 37087 *Keighley & Worth Valley Railway 40th Anniversary 1968 – 2008* at Oxenhope terminus on the morning of Thursday 5 June. Without the active and practical support of Direct Rail Services, loaning their locomotives and providing rail transport for many of the visiting engines during the ten years the Diesel Galas have been staged, it would have been impossible for the Railway to have put on these hugely-popular events.

The naming ceremony will be carried out by Direct Rail Services' Regional Operations Manager, North, Paul Makepeace. Afterwards, the newly-named locomotive will haul a special Pullman train over the Worth Valley Railway while guests enjoy refreshments in the Pullman car and other historic coaches.

Marc Lane, who is organising the ceremony, said: "The naming of one of Direct Rail Services' fleet of main line locomotives is in honour of the 40th Anniversary of the Re-opening of our Railway and it recognises the assistance DRS have provided in helping to maintain Britain's railway heritage. This is a great honour for us and demonstrates the warm and practical relationship between companies operating Britain's main line railway services and heritage railways such as the Keighley and Worth Valley. Their support over the decade has been consistent and unwavering and we look forward to working with DRS for many years to come".

Special three day, two day and one day tickets will be available for the Gala: adult all day fares will be £16 for one day, £28 two days and £38 for all three days with discounts for seniors, families, holders of KWVLR Local Residents' Railcards and members of the preservation society. Locomotives participating will include Class 37 No. D6737 owned by the Devon Diesel Society, Class 25 No. D7612 and Class 20 No. 20110 owned by South Devon Diesel Traction and Class 31 No. 31108 owned by A1A Locomotives.

They will join the resident main line diesel locomotives in the Worth Valley's fleet including Class 25 No. 25059 and Class 20 No. 20031, operating an intensive service of double-headed and express trains, many conveying the Worth Valley's award-winning real ale buffet cars.

This will enable the Railway to stage a unique event - for the first time, they will have two of the locomotives available which worked the hugely popular Jolly Fisherman holiday trains from the Midlands to the resort of Skegness on the Lincolnshire coast in the late 1970s, the 1980's and the early 1990's. They had an iconic status among diesel enthusiasts who travelled on them in huge numbers and photographed them as they made their way on one of the earliest sections of the Great Northern Railway to Skegness station.

The original Jolly Fisherman headboard is now preserved in the Mayor's Parlour at Skegness Town Hall and Skegness Town Council have kindly agreed to loan it for the day to be placed on locomotives No. 20031 and 20110 – and thanks to the East Lindsey District Council, the Jolly Fisherman himself will make an appearance to ride on the train from Keighley to Oxenhope on Friday 6 June.

Gala organiser Tim Moody said: "Having the Jolly Fisherman with us will literally be the icing on the cake as it is his one hundredth birthday this year – so we're making a birthday cake for him. The Jolly Fisherman poster was designed for the Great Northern Railway to promote excursions to Skegness in 1908 – and Keighley station was as far north of Kings Cross as you could go on the Great Northern's own rails. They joined our line at Great Northern Junction near Ingrow and shared tracks into the platforms we now use. Day excursion trains used to run to Skegness from Keighley and Ingrow for just a few shillings up to about 50 years ago, so we are re-creating a real piece of railway history. The Jolly Fisherman is the most famous advertising image created for any British holiday resort. The artist who painted him, John Hassall, immortalised seaside holidays for working people and he died 60 years ago this year".

It's worth repeating a point made by Tim about the Diesel Gala in the current issue of the Railway's magazine *Push and Pull*: "Some people have said to me 'Why are we having a 40th Anniversary Diesel Gala – I thought the 40th Gala was at the end of June?'. Well, it is and that is where a lot of effort is really going to celebrate our 40 years of operations. My answer is this: in the 40 years since we re-opened, we have gone from strength to strength".

"One reason for this is the interest shown in the Railway by younger volunteers and visitors. Many of them, including myself, don't remember steam engines as anything other than museum exhibits or for short, slow rides on preserved railways. The scene outside on the main line has also changed dramatically, with many classes of locomotives being built – and scrapped – in the time we have been open".

"I believe it is right that we celebrate all aspects of our Railway's heritage and development over 40 years – and part of this is by celebrating what makes the Railway a real attraction to as many people as possible. We are a living museum for all ages, both old and young and despite some people not liking it, that includes diesels!"

Meanwhile steam train services on the Worth Valley will resume on Saturday 14 June and the 40th Anniversary Steam Gala, complete with 11 locomotives and main line steam trains from the preserved railway's own stations to Skipton, Hellifield and Ribbleshead Viaduct, will be staged on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 27, 28 and 29 June 2008.

Ends
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Further information on The Jolly Fisherman and his Centenary Celebrations in Skegness:
www.jollyfisherman.co.uk

Further information on the Great Northern Railway in Keighley and District:
www.lostrailwayswestyorkshire.co.uk and www.thegreatnorthernrail.co.uk

For further information on Direct Rail Services: www.directrailservices.com

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

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Keighley – Ingrow – Damems – Oakworth – Haworth – Oxenhope

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