



Wattrain

The World Alliance of
Tourist Trams & Trains

In Association with UIC-The Worldwide Railway Organization.



Editorial:

Welcome to this June edition of the WATTRAIN Newsletter.

And as each day passes, excitement is mounting as we approach the WATTRAIN Conference in Frisco, Texas (31st October-4th November 2018.) The details are contained in this newsletter, along with registration details.

In the news this last week or so, Swanage Railway announces a tie up with South Western Railway; Seaton Tramway opens a new station at the end of the month; Rocket returns home..and Killingworth Billy was probably built in 1816, making it the 3rd oldest surviving steam locomotive.

In this edition we note some news from India, and how it has made some plans to ensure the preservation of its railway history. The railways are to hire retired personnel to preserve its heritage. Mmm.....hope younger ones are trained to carry on the work after the retirees are no more...

And the last page includes a few WATTRAIN member's websites, so, click beneath the image, and all being well, you should link through to the relevant website!

“Wattrain goals: help, foresee, react, invent, define and be a factor of balance on a worldwide scale”

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

WATTRAIN-World Alliance of Tourist Trams & Trains

will hold its triannual Conference at the Drury Inn Frisco, Texas, from October 31 to November 4, 2018

Theme: "How to address the new challenges of tomorrow using the resources we have today"

We strongly hope to see you there!!!!

Registration: WATTRAIN Frisco, TX registration is now live. Please find below the link to registration: [HERE](#)

Deadline for registration for Conference: September 30, 2018.

Topics: Staffing (recruitment & Training), Environment (incl. safeguarding future use of traditional fuels), litigation, protection of historic collections, and insurance.

Speakers: in addition to Wattrain speakers, renowned experts in their fields, including: Steve Ryan, Sergio Rodriguez Zubieta, William Brotherton, Tripp Salisbury, Gabriel Asenjo, Courtney Wilson, G. Mark Ray (HRA President), Jeff Johnson.

Venue: Wattrain has blocked a number of rooms at special rates at the Drury Inn & Suites Frisco, TX. To reserve: www.druryhotels.com and enter Group Number 2340496. The deadline for hotel registration is October 9, 2018.

Further info, program of the Conference, Partners program: see www.wattrain.net

OPTIONAL POST-CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

We have deliberately scheduled our conference to slot into the American Heritage Rail Alliance programme and annual congress. Those wishing to attend would fly with me to Durango on Sunday November 4th, where we would stay two nights, travelling on the iconic Durango & Silverton Railroad on Monday 5th November. On Tuesday 6th November we would transfer by road to join the HRA conference in Santa Fe. This culminates in a ride on the famous Cumbres & Toltec Railroad followed by a gala dinner on Saturday 10th November; details to follow. Return home from Albuquerque International Airport on 11th November, or later. DAVID MORGAN -PRESIDENT

Re: Recent fires at Durango & Silverton: In replying to enquiries about the recent fires, Al Harper (Durango & Silverton) said "Hi David: Thank you so much for your kind letter. Nothing is easy and there are always surprises in the heritage railroad business. The fires are about under control and it appears we can be back in full operation by July 1st. Let us hope! I am excited about your visit in the fall. I want to make your stop in Durango the highlight of your US visit. Best Wishes, Al"

That is good news! These events are never easy to deal with, so our thoughts are with the Durango & Silverton Railway.

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South Western Railway (SWR) and Swanage Railway (SR) connect the region to Corfe Castle.

A brand new partnership between local train operator South Western Railway (SWR) and the Swanage Railway (SR) will connect the region to Corfe Castle with 6 new trains each Saturday during the summer (26th May to 8th September inclusive) with the first regular timetabled service from Corfe Castle to London Waterloo since 1969

Corfe Castle will be fully connected to the national rail network with new simple fares.

Trevor Parsons, Chairman of Swanage Railway Company, said:

“We are delighted that this partnership with South Western Railway will enable a regular train service on summer Saturdays to Corfe Castle. This will give everyone the opportunity of visiting the historic Corfe Castle and join us on board our iconic steam trains to the Victorian seaside town of Swanage”.

To book tickets or for more information pop in to one of our station ticket offices, or book online at: www.southwesternrailway.com or visit www.swanagerailway.co.uk/summersaturdays

Isle of Man by rail: a leisurely way to explore the best of the island's beaches and countryside.

<https://inews.co.uk/inews-lifestyle/travel/isle-of-man-by-rail-a-leisurely-way-to-explore-the-best-of-the-island/>

Meet the volunteers of the scenic Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/meet-the-volunteers-of-the-scenic-keighley-worth-valley-railway-1-9181044>

Stephenson's Rocket is en route back to Newcastle - here's when to can see it

Famous Rocket moves for first time in 156 years as it heads home from London to star in The Great Exhibition of the North

The iconic Stephenson Rocket has been in motion for the first time in almost 160 years.

The Tyneside-built locomotion has now moved from its spot in The Science Museum in London - where it has been on almost continuous display since 1862 - in readiness to embark upon a journey back home.

It will be proudly displayed in Discovery Museum , a fitting location given the venue's focus on North East invention, during the upcoming northern showcase which will run from June 22 to September 9.



An essay written by Stephenson about its design and building is also to go on show at Discovery Museum when the Rocket takes pride of place.

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/whats-on/stephensons-rocket-en-route-back-14752508>

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And in a recent announcement, a steam locomotive has been declared one of the oldest in the world after researchers discovered it was built 10 years earlier than originally thought.

The George Stephenson-built **Killingworth Billy** was believed to have been constructed in 1826. However, a new investigation of the engine, on show at North Shields Stephenson Railway Museum, suggests it was constructed in 1816. That would make it the third-oldest surviving locomotive in the world.

It would also be the oldest surviving locomotive built by Mr Stephenson and the oldest surviving with a standard gauge. (Wikipedia Image of "Billy" at the Stephenson Railway Museum.)

Steam trains return to village as station reopens after 42 years

Slaggyford in the South Tyne valley lost its rail link when the 13-mile Haltwhistle-Alston line was closed by British Rail. The last train services ran on May 1, 1976, when 5,000 people turned out to ride the route. But on the 9th & 10th June 2018 the South Tynedale Railway railway ran special steam-hauled trains to refurbished Slaggyford station -repainted in its original Newcastle and Carlisle railway livery- from its Alston base.

<https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/whats-on/steam-trains-return-village-station-14754670>



Seaton Tramway is proud to announce the opening of its brand-new, state of the art station in Seaton. The 28th of June will see the culmination of 10 years of planning and hard work, with the opening of the new £3 million station.

Chief Executive - Jenny Nunn commented :

"The new project has been a huge undertaking by the tramway and represents major investment in the tourism economy of Seaton. The new Tram Station will be one of the final pieces in the puzzle for the town's regeneration project and a unique addition to the Southwest's coastline. With the 301 square metres of internal space, it will enable the charity to attract even more visitors to the area than ever before."

For further information and to find out more about timetables, please visit www.tram.co.uk or phone 01297 20375.

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IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) is offering special summer holiday packages covering important religious and leisure destinations. These include Kullu Manali Special Ex Delhi tour, Kashmir Special Ex Delhi package, LTC Tour package, Gangtok Darjeeling holiday special package, Natural Nilgiris with fascinating NMR ex mettupalayam package, among others, as mentioned on the official website of IRCTC Tourism.

Full details [HERE](#)

Heritage steam engine now running at Bal Bhavan(www.outlookindia.com)

New Delhi, Jun 15 A mini steam engine on which Jawaharlal Nehru, S Radhakrishnan, R Venkatraman, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and former US First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy had enjoyed rides, is now up and running at Bal Bhavan, the Northern Railway said today. Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani flagged off the engine gifted by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru to Bal Bhawan in 1958, it said in a statement.

India to scrap its narrow gauge train lines

In 1991 when IR launched its "Unigauge Policy" – a one broad gauge network for the entire country – India's rail system consisted of 25,000 kilometers of meter gauge and approximately 6,000 kilometers of narrow gauge lines. Of those, only about 4,000 kilometers of meter gauge and about 2,000 kilometers of narrow gauge lines have survived. In a recent policy decision, the Railway Board decided to uproot all but half a dozen of the small lines and convert them to broad gauge tracks.

"There exists a big potential for developing these heritage lines for tourism purposes," said Amit Chopra of a firm called Travel Pals. "Foreign clients have shown immense interest. In the past months, I had pitched in with proposals to run heritage trains on some of these routes, but the railways authorities have not responded."

Details [HERE](#)

Railways to hire retired personnel to preserve its heritage.

NEW DELHI: Railway old hands, not more than 65 years of age, will be recruited to preserve the heritage stocks of the national transporter, senior officials said on Wednesday.

The Railway Board has approved a proposal to engage retired railway staff at Rs 1,200 per day, to preserve, restore and revive railway heritage items such as steam locomotives, vintage coaches, steam cranes, semaphore signals, station equipment and steam-powered equipment.

"They have the experience to repair and maintain railway heritage and can also act as coaches for the younger generation. It is not an easy task to keep, say a clock - which is 150 years old - ticking even after all these years. The old hands have that expertise," a senior railway official said.

After years of neglect, the Indian Railways has shifted its focus on preserving its heritage

Continue reading [HERE](#)

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WATTRAIN Members' News (Click beneath Images)



We are pleased with the international response. We are seeing more registrations from countries like the USA and expanded publicity from Malta as an example (click here to view).

As always we look forward to hearing from our readers. We welcome suggestions and specifically information on what interests them. Everything is possible. Please click here to view the latest

newsletter. We hope you enjoy the read www.starsofsandstone.com



www.museumoftheamericanrailroad.org



www.tramway.co.uk

www.museit-museum.com



www.tranvia.org.ar



<https://downsteam.com/>



www.trendelfindelmundo.com.ar



<http://www.turistren.com.co/>

www.borail.org

More of the same next month!!

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