



THE FINAL MOVE IN FLYING SCOTSMAN'S VISIT TO
THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY

Early yesterday morning saw us say goodbye to our visitor 60103 as Flying Scotsman headed home to York after a very successful 7 day Gala Event.

Extensive planning and preparation, for what is probably the largest event that the Bluebell has ever hosted, indeed paid off.

Though advance ticket sales of trips to travel behind the Flying Scotsman soon saw the 1158 seats available each day sold out plenty of capacity remained for visitors to experience the event and travel on service trains hauled by Bluebell Railway resident locomotives 73082 'Camelot' and S15 Class - 847, or just visit the stations.

The amazing weather over the 7 days indeed brought out the customers and just short of 20,000 visitors passed through our gates –over 8,700 of which travelled behind Flying Scotsman hauled services.

We had always planned for a safe, enjoyable and memorable experience for our visitors and that is what we delivered thanks in no short order to the support of our staff and brigade of volunteers.

On the opening day we were delighted to be able to host previous owner of Flying Scotsman – Sir William McAlpine. Whilst at the railway he also saw the recreation of the 1927 photograph of 'the Giant and the Dwarf' taken at Kings Cross featuring Flying Scotsman alongside working 1/3 scale replica 'Typhoon' which was visiting us from the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway as part of their 90th year celebrations. This was one of many memorable events during the Flying Scotsman Flying South event.

Noel Hartley, Rail Operations Manager at the National Railway Museum said '*The Museum is delighted by the success of Flying Scotsman at the Bluebell Railway and that they could be part of the three Heritage Railways hosting the world famous locomotive. With the Bluebell Railways very successful 7 day Gala Event now completed, we are pleased that 60103 not only continues to attract a high level of*

public interest but also promote railways such as the Bluebell in their ongoing commitment to preserve and operate steam locomotives on the Heritage Lines'

Dick Fearn , Bluebell Railway Plc Chairman added ' In our 57th year of operation as Britain's first standard gauge steam heritage railway , the success of the recent visit of the Flying Scotsman to the Bluebell Railway over Easter clearly shows that steam trains still generate great excitement for people of all ages. It was a great privilege to be able to host this most famous of steam locomotives for a full week, so that thousands of people in the South East of England were able to see it in action at the Bluebell Railway'

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