



PRESS RELEASE / PHOTO OPP

7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Flying Scotsman meets Typhoon at the Bluebell Railway**

**90 years on, Flying Scotsman is to meet its little sister from Kent again**

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90 years ago this year, the World's most famous locomotive, Flying Scotsman, posed with an incredible working 1/3 scale replica at King's Cross. This smaller engine - a little sister - was "Typhoon" of the World's smallest public railway, the World-famous Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway (RH&DR), in Kent. Now, after 90 years apart these two icons of the steam age are to meet once again, to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the RH&DR.

Flying Scotsman and Typhoon will be based at the Bluebell Railway (Sheffield Park station, East Sussex) over Easter and will meet again at long last on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 17:30. The "Giant and the Dwarf" - as the 1927 press and newsreels said - are back, side by side for families, enthusiasts and the world to compare. As part of the Bluebell Railway's Flying Scotsman 7 day Gala Event both locomotives will be available for the public to see individually at Sheffield Park station over the Easter bank holidays, but there is only one chance to see them together: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 17:30.

The media is being invited to this once-in-a-lifetime recreation to see these world-famous two sisters. They are looking well for their age, but could so easily have both been lost forever had it not been for the personal determination of RH&DR Chairman, Sir William McAlpine. He rescued Flying Scotsman from the USA in 1973, having already saved the RH&DR from near-closure in 1972. Sir William will be present on Thursday, breaking open a ceremonial bottle of Champagne at 17:30 to celebrate this truly historic occasion. Interviews with this celebrated and enigmatic railway enthusiast will be available at Sheffield Park Station; please call Tim Godden on 07814 416250.

Danny Martin, RH&DR General Manager said "there is no more pertinent way to kick off our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations than to look back at the historic meeting of these two railway icons at King's Cross in 1927 and to celebrate that they are still here for future generations to enjoy, hopefully for the next 90 years. Our special thanks to our friends at the Bluebell Railway and the National Railway Museum for making this possible."

To capture this fleeting moment, the locomotives will be positioned in such a way that photographers can frame this monumental occasion in memory of the original photograph. These photographs will be matched side by side in an exciting new book celebrating the 90 year anniversary of the RH&DR. Launching in July 2017 the 'Romney: Then and Now' book mirrors traditional RH&DR images with their modern day equivalent.



The RH&DR is celebrating 90 years of opening this year. Special events are planned throughout the year, culminating in a whole weekend of celebrations on the 15/16<sup>th</sup> July. This date will mark the official 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of opening; and will feature a recreation of the very first RH&DR train departure and the launch of the brand new book 'Romney: Then and Now'.

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**Notes for Editors:**

"Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway runs for 13 ½ miles from the picturesque Cinque Port town of Hythe, through the family friendly seaside village to Dymchurch, towards the railway headquarters at New Romney and finally reaching the National Nature Reserve of Dungeness. Winner of the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence this World famous steam railway is one of Kent's top attractions."

To see the locomotives together and record this unique occasion, please contact:

**Tim Godden, RHDR: 07814 416250.**

Flying Scotsman is owned by the National Railway Museum in York whilst Typhoon is still owned by the RH&DR.