

**NRM**  
NATIONAL  
RAILWAY  
MUSEUM

# Volunteer News

# ONCE UPON A TIDE

North Sea Ferry Tales



**Volunteer News 15**

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*Cover Image: Once Upon a Tide Exhibition Poster.  
Designed by the NRM*

## **Greetings and Salutations**

Hello everyone and a happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the festive period and are ready for an action packed 2010. With 2009 having come to a close, I would like to thank those of you who have passed on their kind words of support and to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Volunteer Officer.

The big news for the Museum is that Steve Davies has started as the new Director. Steve joined the National Railway Museum in February, having come to us from the Museum of Science and Industry, where he had been Director since 2008. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him all the best in his post.

As for volunteering, 2009 saw a great deal of change in terms of how the volunteer programme at the Museum is run. I hope that this year things will settle down and I will be able to focus on what we can offer our volunteers in terms of the social, and volunteering, opportunities available. As part of this process, I am currently looking into the possibility of re-introducing the volunteer day out, which I understand was once very popular. Although no firm plans have yet been established, I do hope you will be able to join us later in the year.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Volunteer Award Ceremony in December. With the exception of the amp dying on me (after I'd spent ten minutes sound testing it!), everything went very well and it seemed that everyone enjoyed themselves. I shall keep my fingers crossed for a big budget in April, so that we can run the event in the same fashion this year.

I hope you enjoy this edition's offering of news, updates and ramblings.

Enjoy!

Matthew Hick  
Volunteer Officer  
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## **NEWS AND UPDATES**

*This month we have news of a possible change to the volunteer recognition scheme as well as an update on what's been happening at Locomotion. Firstly, though, there's news on our attempts to achieve World Class Customer Service accreditation.*

### **World Class Customer Service**

For those of you who haven't already heard, NMSI recently received World Class Customer Service Accreditation. The pass mark for the award was 80%, with the individual museums receiving the following ratings:

- Science Museum: 83%
- National Media Museum: 86%
- National Railway Museum: 85%

Over the coming months and years we will build on this accreditation and aim for improved scores as we are re-accredited year-on-year.

NMSI is very proud to be the first national museum in the country to receive this award, and on behalf of the organisation I would like to thank you all for your help.

### **Car Parking Permits**

As we are now well into the New Year, the time has come to renew the staff and volunteer car parking permits. If you are still using your old pass you will need to apply for a new one as soon as possible. These can be obtained by completing a “Car Parking Permit 2010” form, which can be collected and returned to Control. Alternatively you can email the following details to Paul Hodgson ([paul.hodgson@nrm.org.uk](mailto:paul.hodgson@nrm.org.uk))

Name

Department

Vehicle Registration

Vehicle Make/Model

Old vehicle registration (if applicable)

Those who have submitted their details will find their new passes in the volunteer pigeon hole.

### **Insight Days**

Since the last issue, the department has helped organise a couple of Insight Days. The sessions are run by Sara Marsden-King, from NMSI’s Learning Team, and provide attendees with the opportunity to find out more about what happens behind the scenes within the organisation.

The day consists of presentations from members of the Museum’s various teams, as well as hands-on activities, and opportunities to explore areas such as the Search Engine archives.

The Insight Days have been well received by those who have attended, and we intend to continue to run the sessions at regular intervals throughout the year. Due to the frequency of these events, and the relatively small number of places available, the days are only advertised by email. If you are interested in attending and do not have access to email, please get in touch.

### **2010 Staff Briefings**

The dates for this year’s staff briefings, which all volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend, have now been released and are as follows:

<b>Date/Month</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>
18 March	Knowledge and Collections
22 April	ICT
20 May	Corporate Events
17 June	Security
22 July	Development
19 August	HR/Finance
16 September	Learning
21 October	Cultural Planning
18 November	Visitor Experience
16 December	Retail

All briefings are planned to take place in the Gibb Lecture Theatre between 09.00 and 10.00. As the dates and locations are subject to change, it is always best to double check with me before making the journey in. I should also point out that due to a regular lack of attendees the Tuesday afternoon staff briefings no longer take place.

### **Resource room for Hackworth House**

The team at *Locomotion* has secured £5,000 funding from the North East Regional Museums Hub's Broadening Horizons programme, to refresh the Education Room in Hackworth House and turn it into a resource room for family learning and interaction.

Over a number of months, the staff have been working with various partners, including Surestart and the County Durham Probation Service, to adapt the space. Work on the project is likely to take place in late February or early March 2010.

### **Furness Railway No 20 at Locomotion**

*Locomotion* has confirmed that Furness Railway No. 20 – the oldest standard gauge steam locomotive still working in the UK – will continue to operate its steam train service until March 2011. Although it will be away from the museum from May to August 2010, it will be replaced by an, as of yet unnamed, guest locomotive.

### **Signing in and out**

Could I please respectfully remind everyone that it is very important to sign in and out of the Museum. As well as providing me with useful information, it is very important that we know who is in the building in case of an emergency.

If you need a replacement pass please contact either myself or Control and we will prepare one as soon as possible.

### **Volunteer Award Scheme**

As you all know, early last year we introduced a new swiping in system. Although it was introduced to help us improve on site

safety and record volunteer hours more accurately, it also now presents us with a timely opportunity.

Back in the spring of 2003, as a fresh faced student, I undertook two days of voluntary work as an assistant at a Shinkansen event. Three years later I was still receiving awards for my help! As kind as this was, it always seemed a little unfair that I was receiving the same level of recognition as those volunteers who visited the Museum every week – particularly as I hadn't volunteered at all since then!

As an aside, I should point out that when I began working here in November 2007, I did have my name struck off the list. I'm sure you'll all be please to know I no longer receive any recognition awards!

What, you may ask, has all this rambling got to do with anything. Well, I'm proposing that the time has come to reassess the way that the NRM recognises the hard efforts of its volunteers. As we now have an accurate way of recording when volunteers are on site, I feel we should reward levels of activity rather than length of attachment.

I appreciate that this may be a controversial idea, but as it is your recognition scheme I would welcome your thoughts on the matter. Please feel free to drop me an email on the subject, and, although I may not have time to reply, I shall certainly bear your thoughts in mind.

### **Health & Safety Across the NMSI**

As some of you may be aware, Health & Safety across NMSI has become increasingly important over the past few years. Operating

under the guidance of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), NMSI has introduced a variety of measures to help ensure the safety of its visitors, staff and volunteers. In order to assess how far we have come, the HSE will be auditing the Health & Safety standards of the organisation early this year.

Although a number of Health & Safety procedures have already been introduced, the pressing needs of this audit mean that I will be working even more closely with line managers to make sure that we are doing all we can to ensure the Health and Safety of our volunteers. The nature of your role will very much dictate the measures that we need to take. However, the guiding principles of this exercise are that we should ensure your workspace is as safe as possible and that you are aware of any extant dangers.

In order to help the department achieve the required standard, I have recruited Sue Wragg as H&S Support Volunteer. Sue, who has worked for a number of years within the railway industry, has a large amount of experience in dealing with Health & Safety matters and will no doubt prove to be a vital member of the team.

I am sure that with your help and support we will be able meet the demands of the audit and satisfy the requirements of the HSE.

For more information on NMSI's Health and Safety Policy please visit the Health and Safety section of the Intranet (please note, this is only accessible from NMSI computers).

## **HOT OFF THE PRESS**

*This month's news focuses solely on the appointment of Steve Davies, as Director of the NRM.*

As you may have already read, the National Railway Museum recently announced the appointment of Steve Davies MBE as its new Director. Steve has joined the NRM from his position as Director of the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) in Manchester. During his time there he transformed the Museum's fortunes with some spectacular events, and in one of his greatest achievements, led the development of a new £7 million gallery space.

His recent success in the museum sector is supported by the strong leadership skills developed in his earlier military background. Most recently, Steve's role within the army was as Chief of Staff Headquarters 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, which meant his responsibilities extended to 250 central staff and 20,000 troops across the North of England and Scotland.

Steve's lifelong passion for railways was demonstrated while serving the army in Sierra Leone, where he transformed a warehouse of decaying railway artefacts, including locomotives and carriages from the Queen's train used during her visit in 1961, into a new museum. He used his free time to establish the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum, initially paying staff wages from his own pocket. The Museum was officially opened in 2005 by the President of Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom's National Railway Museum Director at the time, Andrew Scott.

Lord Waldegrave, Chairman of the National Museum of Science & Industry, the NRM's parent organisation, said:

“We are delighted with our appointment of Steve Davies and are confident that he will bring great things to the National Railway Museum's future. Our search for the ideal Director centred on looking for visionary leadership, sound knowledge of the history and current practices of the world's railways, and the drive to make sure the NRM retains its place as Britain's most visited museum outside London. We found all of this in Steve and we are certain that his vast experience, genuine enthusiasm for railways and impressive leadership skills will make him the perfect fit to meet the NRM's needs for the future.”



*Left: New Director of the NRM, Steve Davies MBE. Image courtesy of NRM Studio.*

Steve said:

“I am absolutely thrilled and delighted to have been entrusted with leading the National Railway Museum at

this very exciting time in its development. The NRM is the world's preeminent railway museum and a British national treasure. It is critically important to the UK and the Yorkshire region, and enjoys the active support of countless partners, stakeholders, friends, volunteers, enthusiasts and visitors. Together we must ensure that it remains York's visitor attraction of choice and a jewel in the UK's national museum crown.

“The story of the railway and its central role in the economic and social development of this and many other countries is one that needs to reach out to the widest possible audience. NRM+ will have a major role to play in ensuring that all generations understand not just the railway’s illustrious past but also its present operation, and critically, its future environmental, business and social benefits. I therefore look forward to leading the highly motivated NRM team at this exciting time, and to developing fruitful partnerships with our many stakeholders and supporters.”

## **STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH**

*In what has been a busy season for volunteers, Brendan Jones, Bob Brook and Korane Cameron have spared some time to let us know what they’ve been up to. Starting us off, however, is our first contribution from Locomotion, by Chris Potter.*

### **Volunteering at Locomotion**

My name is Chris Potter and I have been a regular volunteer at *Locomotion* for nearly two years. I began to visit the place just after I finished my doctorate in transport history, which concentrated on aspects of my lifelong passion – motorcycling. I came to the Museum for two reasons: firstly, I wanted to expand my knowledge of railway history in a hands-on environment; and secondly, to have volunteered at a motorcycle museum would have meant possibly commuting as far as York. So, I took the plunge and decided to work with larger nuts than I had previously experienced, and I must say that I enjoy it immensely.

Since coming to *Locomotion*, I have assisted – along with another veteran volunteer, John Shiel – in several workshop projects,

including Great Eastern Director's Coach No 3. This task meant learning, amongst other things, how to scumble a wood grain effect on panelling! I also assisted the excellent sign-writer, Phil Anderson, with the cosmetic renovation of J52 GNR 1247, as well as helping to change the colour scheme on the *Sans Pareil* replica – altering it to a more authentic green. Presently, we have nearly finished fitting new buffer beams to BoBo Electric No 1 and are in the process of dismantling a Smiths Rodley steam crane, again for cosmetic restoration. Since Richard Pearson, the Workshop Manager, took up his post earlier last year, two new apprentices – Jason Brown and Jonny Molloy – and a volunteer, by the name of Dale Brunskill, have started, things have been progressing at an increased rate. The only flies in the ointment are the usual contemporary bugbears of health and safety, and who makes the tea!

Coming to the Museum is never boring. Apart from workshop duties, there is always some way that I can lend a hand, be it setting up an interactive or moving tables about for an impending event. I am also in the process of setting up a basic reference library for the benefit of staff and visitors – something that is currently lacking in the Museum. The main perk of the job is of course being able to stand on the footplate of various visiting locos, such as Furness Railway No 20 or the 'diseasal' shunters we have. I came to *Locomotion* with a very sparse knowledge of the ethos of railways; however, through hands-on experience and by listening to the multifarious enthusiasts and ex-railwaymen, my modest knowledge increases daily. Coming to *Locomotion* was a wise move!

Chris Potter  
*Locomotion* Volunteer

## **Diesel Group**

With the arrival of the New Year and the bevy of new jobs it has brought, we thought it would be a good opportunity to mention some of the work undertaken by an enterprising and enthusiastic group of volunteers who help the NRM to maintain its diesel fleet: the Tuesday Night Team Diesel Group.

The group has prepared engines, prior to them being loaned out to preservation societies, for a number of years. Many of the group have also attended galas and have acted as owner's representatives. For this to happen, the group has been required to undertake a significant amount of routine maintenance; this has included greasing routines, oil and water level checks, electrical fault finding and rectification – including wiring renewal – and, of course, there has been the routine cleaning and polishing of the engines and painting up of distressed areas.

The group also has significant air tanks expertise, and this includes the removal of air receivers, and material integrity and thickness checking. Examinations have now taken place on most of the NRM diesel fleet, with all the work being fully documented and recorded.

Team members have undertaken an asbestos awareness course and also successfully completed a shunting course. Altogether the team has completed many happy years at the NRM working on the diesel fleet and they are all looking forward to continuing their enthusiastic work once Chris Beet, Engineering & Rail Operations Manager, has fully settled in.

Brendan Jones  
Diesel Group

## L&Y Signalling School

In February 2004, when the restoration work on the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway signalling layout was sufficiently advanced for us to run one train between two signal boxes, we were asked by the Museum to give short talks for special events. This was initially done with just the four volunteers who had been involved with the restoration project; however, as the layout became useable, and more stock workable, we were able to increase the number of demonstrations we could undertake. As a result of this we saw an increase in the number of volunteers interested in joining the team.

Over the years we have tried several variations to the way in which we present our demonstration, some being more successful than others. Today we have an operating team of eight – which are taken from a pool of about thirteen – who conduct a series of presentations between 11.00 and 15.30. Usually we undertake an hour and a half session in the morning, and a two hour one in the afternoon. Every half hour we also provide a short talk on the layout's history, as well as a step-by-step explanation of basic absolute block signalling.



*Left: The L&Y layout in action.  
Image courtesy of Peter Munthe-Webster*

Due to the wear and tear caused to the layout, we are currently giving some thought to the possibility of restricting the amount of use it gets. We are

currently considering several options to occupy volunteers for the rest of the day, including doing fewer demonstrations, but in a more dramatic way, or single line token working.

There has been some discussion on the internet about the layout being the oldest operating model railway in the country. We hope it is, but it will be interesting to see if anyone can come up with an older one. We hope we will still be going strong in 2013, when the layout celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Bob Brook  
L&Y Signalling School

### **The HC Hughes Collection**

My name is Korane Cameron and, as an Archival Volunteer, I have been working on the personal collection of HC Hughes for what seems an eternity. In fact, it feels so long now that I'm sure Martin and Tim must be quite tired of seeing me in my little corner of the John Peck Workroom! Nevertheless, it has certainly been very interesting.

Hughes concentrated mainly on the railways of India and the Middle East, writing and co-writing a number of books on the subject. To researchers interested in this particular niche, these works provide an abundance of details, statistics and rare images on the subject.

I must say, I have thoroughly enjoyed going through the archives, and learning about a number of important procedures and formats. It is great volunteering at the NRM, and you always feel welcomed and appreciated for the work that you are doing – so

much so that I am now looking forward to working on my next archival project!

Korane Cameron  
Archive Volunteer

## **KEEPING YOU POSTED**

*In this section, where we let you know what our various volunteer teams have been up to, Martin Bashforth and Tim Procter update us on the archive team, whilst Louisa Wood lets us know about the KOYLI Group. However, starting us off with some news on the various Search Engine volunteers is Karen Baker.*

### **Search Engine Update**

I won't go as far as saying Search Engine is now "old news" but, as I'm writing this, Search Engine has just turned two years old! Rather like the Queen there'll be another "birthday" in February, the date of the Official Opening, but I thought I'd give an overview of the latest volunteer developments to mark, in a small way, the progression of the years.

The biggest "latest development" has been the new faces in our Search Engine Information Point Volunteer team. As part of developing the service, and as a way of better meeting the needs of our visitors, we have expanded the team from a faithful core of five to a brave band of eighteen volunteers. Our new volunteers are: Alan Leach, Andrew Gallon, Bernie Waddington, Gerry Bacon, Glenn Rae, Graeme Dawson, Grahame Platt, Lee Towers, Martin Baldwin, Phillip Thompson, Roger Brooks and last but not least, Stephen Rattue. The work they have been doing over the past weeks, months and, in some cases, years, has been

instrumental in helping Search Engine create a welcoming and helpful presence to all who find themselves intentionally, or accidentally, in Search Engine. Testimony to their good work is that the Museum has achieved World Class Customer Service status, which from Search Engine's perspective, has been helped by having a volunteer stationed near the entrance to greet people and point them in the right direction.

In other volunteer news, we have recently recruited another group of Search Engine based volunteers. This team – called Inreach – are volunteer researchers who will be commissioned by members of the public to undertake research on their behalf, for a fee. At the moment we get quite a lot of enquiries coming through to Search Engine from people who are doing complex research and, for whatever reason, are unable to make a personal visit. Unfortunately, staff are unable to spare the time to do the research for them, so previously we have been unable to really help this section of the public. The Inreach service should solve this problem, as well as creating revenue that will be fed back to fund Museum initiatives. Inreach launched in January and the volunteers running this service are Christopher White, Meng Shu, Terry Penfold and Phil Atkins (our previous librarian). They will be helped by a wider core of knowledgeable Friends who will be called on if specialist subject knowledge is needed.

Finally, there are plans afoot to recruit more volunteers in the spring (Information Point Volunteers and a new team of Library Stores Volunteers), so if you want to be involved with Search Engine, please keep a beady eye on the volunteer pages of the website, alternatively corner Matt or I for more information.

Thank you to all our volunteers and all the best to you and your families for the new decade!

Karen Baker  
Librarian

## **Archives**

Our regular weekly volunteers are fairly eating their way through the listing projects at the moment – in fact, it is to be hoped they don't get indigestion! Ian Watson has ticked off a collection of 1600 drawings rescued from Eastleigh Works, in Hampshire, back in 2005. These proved to be an odd selection, ranging from rather abstruse details of machinery and jigs to some real historical gems revealing the early architecture of the Works. There are still several archive boxes full of reports, registers and schedules waiting to be listed before the whole collection can be released to the public. Naturally I shall be inflicting this task on some unsuspecting volunteer! Ian however will now be turning his attention to a set of carriage drawings from the Pullman Car Company that will satisfy a growing demand from enquirers.

Miriam Davey and Priscilla Roxburgh, having polished off the timetable collection, have been busy all summer catching up on some of the computer input work from the big group projects. Miriam has completed a first box listing of the Swindon Locomotive Works collection while Priscilla is working on a two year backlog from the Southern Carriage and Wagon Works drawings. Both are learning some strange engineering terminology, and can now be approached for advice by puzzled members of the public wanting to know what a 'clack box' is!

Our two student volunteers from last year, Hannah and Rebekah, have now left us for pastures new. We miss them already and wish them both the very best in their new ventures. We've also welcomed this year's intake, Karen Rushton and Jenny Hall, who've made an excellent start in surveying and re-boxing the holiday guides collection.

All our archive volunteers managed superbly well while I took a few weeks off over July and August. Unfortunately, this was because I was ill, but it allowed me to get in some practice for retirement next year. It is really great to have such an experienced team to rely on. It was also good to get back to enjoy their company.

Martin Bashforth  
Assistant Archivist

### **...and More Archives**

On other fronts, the 'Swindon volunteers', from the Great Western Society and the 6880 Betton Grange Society, completed their survey of the Swindon archive and uncovered much treasure. Unfortunately they also uncovered a lot of very brittle tracing paper (Swindon was the only works drawing office to fully embrace tracing paper, much to the chagrin of GWR researchers). Their excellent work has enabled us to break the mass of Swindon material down into more meaningful categories – broad gauge, diesel hydraulic, steam, carriage and wagon – so we can look at putting more projects together to tackle these areas in detail.

We've also welcomed Graham Cornish to the volunteer team. Graham is a noted copyright expert in the library world, but he's

pursuing his interest in railway material by assisting Robert Forsythe in producing descriptions of the contents of the vast Transport & Travel Ephemera collection that the NRM recently purchased from Robert. We've also had our regular visits from John Watling, whose mammoth work on the Stratford drawing archive is possibly nearing completion – nine years in the making! The extremely dedicated Bluebell Railway Group have also been with us and did another week of sterling work on the Southern carriage and wagon drawings; as always it was a pleasure to have them on site.

Thanks go to all the volunteers for another fantastic year's work. I know we say it every year, but we do mean it – each year the archives volunteers put in an amazing, unstinting amount of work for which we're very grateful. I don't get to spend anywhere near as much time as I'd like on the collections, and I get to spend even less time with the volunteers, but it is a reassurance to know their work helps us make progress so much. So cheers, and here's to a fruitful 2010!

Tim Procter  
Curator of Archive & Library Collections

### **Restoring Deltic 55002**

As you might be aware from previous issues, a group of NRM volunteers known as the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI) Group, are aiming to restore Deltic 55002 back to running order for use on preserved lines.

Since the last edition of Volunteer News, substantial work has taken place on the locomotive. However, the Group hopes to move forward this year after the anonymous donation of £5,800

has allowed them to purchase new radiators for the locomotive. These have already been cleaned and tested and are ready to be fitted once there is room in the Museum's Workshop.

Deltic 55002 is currently on display in The Flying Scotsman Story exhibition, in the Museum's Warehouse. For further information about the KOYLI Group's work or to make a donation go to [www.55002koyli.com](http://www.55002koyli.com)

Louisa Wood  
Development Executive

## **DEPARTMENTAL NEWS**

*Coming up in this section we have news on the Steam Our Scotsman Appeal as well as an update from the Learning Team. However, before that Russell Hollowood is here with news of the NRM's newest exhibition.*

### **What's a Ship Doing in a Railway Museum?**

From 10 February until 6 September 2010 the question 'What's a ship doing in a railway museum?' will run a close second to 'Where's *Flying Scotsman*?' as the most asked question in the NRM. If you want to know why, read on!

On 10 February a new exhibition opened at the NRM, called Once Upon A Tide – North Sea Ferry Tales. The exhibition tells the story of the Harwich to Hook ferry service, and it will launch (excuse the pun) a whole new chapter in the way we use the turntable at the NRM.

Traditionally, visitors have been able to see locomotives on the turntable, and twice a day Explainers have demonstrated it to an enthusiastic audience. However, it has never been a space we allow visitors to access. But, by converting the turntable into a roll-on roll-off ferry, *Once Upon a Tide* is going to be doing things differently. What's more, we will be inviting the public to come on board.

Why? Well it's a case of a practical problem being turned into a theatrical and intellectual opportunity. As I said above, *Once Upon a Tide* tells the story of the Harwich to Hook ferry service. However, it is not a detailed history of the service, but an immersive walk through that uses our rich poster collection and personal memories to tell its story. As the strapline says, it's the story of the Harwich to Hook ferry service told through passenger memories, and the poster artwork used.

This is the practical problem: we are using poster artwork to tell a story that runs from 1867 to 2010, at a time when we don't have a gallery in which to hang it. As a result, we have had to build an environmentally sound gallery in the Great Hall that can accommodate over 37 posters, three paintings, three uniforms, one cinema, one ship model, a display case full of silverware, interpretation, and have circulation space for visitors. How could we achieve all this, without expanding onto the turntable? Since we must use the turntable as a temporary gallery, it would be perverse not to weave it into the theme of the exhibition. Its metal decking and the sense of enclosure created by the galley structure naturally lend themselves to an immersive experience - not unlike the car deck of a roll-on roll-off ferry. For relatively little extra cost we can dress the inside space and add relevant visual effects to the outside.



*Left: Artist's impression of how the turntable will look in the new exhibition. Image courtesy of Chris Mossop, Design Manager*

In terms of the narrative of the exhibition, it's perfect. For the period 1867 to the 1960s, visitors are immersed in a world of polished wood and luxury. Walking onto the turntable will plunge them into the stark, functional environment of a roll-on roll-off ferry car deck, which is the perfect backdrop for the naff (my personal opinion!) poster styles of the 1970s and 1980s.

As an orientation tool and exhibition icon, the ferry will draw visitors towards the turntable as soon as they enter the Great Hall. It will trigger interest from the media and the visiting public alike and demand the obvious question: 'What's a ship doing in a railway museum?'

The answer will be provided in text located near the turntable and by a twice daily demonstration. Unlike previous turntable demonstrations, this one will take visitors on a voyage from Harwich to Hook and back again. Along the way visitors will hear about the operation of railway ferries and how Britain's railway

companies were once major ship owners. We hope it will inspire some visitors to explore the relevant study pack in Search Engine.



Left: Dutch railway poster for travel between Holland and London.

Image courtesy of Dutch National Railway Museum

Of course, there are real practical difficulties with this. The NRM often needs to shunt vehicles across the turntable. So how will workshops do this with a ship in the way? Well Chris Mossop and Pippa Wise have stretched the limits of scenic structure design to the point where even *Mallard* can travel safely through the ship's belly.

So when you're next in the Great Hall and a visitor asks you 'What's a ship doing in a railway museum?' you can give this concise answer with confidence, 'It's part of the exhibition *Once Upon a Tide*. If you go on board you will discover the full story. Oh, I should warn, you the ferry sails twice a day!'

Russell Hollowood  
Exhibition Developer

## **Great Western 175 Exhibition: Search Engine Gallery, May to October 2010**

From May to October this year, the NRM will be celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Great Western Railway, which received parliamentary consent on the 31 August 1835. We will be putting together an exhibition for the Search Engine gallery

which will showcase the NRM's collection of small objects, posters and paintings that relate to the GWR. The exhibition will be organised around the nicknames by which the line was known – from 'Brunel's Billiard Table' to 'Speed to the West' – and it will explore the image of the company through the technology, advertising and paraphernalia it produced. In addition to the exhibition at the NRM a number of other museums and heritage railways in the GWR region will celebrate the anniversary. We will be developing a section of the website looking not just at our own exhibition but at GWR 175 celebrations across the country. This gives us the chance to recognise the importance of the GWR within the history of the railways, helping reinforce our position as the leading railway museum in the country.

Ellen Tait  
Exhibitions Organiser

### **Fundraising: *Flying Scotsman* Update**

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has donated to our Steam Our Scotsman Appeal. Without your help, we really could not continue with this important project.

Since the last issue, a substantial amount of complex and highly technical improvements have been made to *Flying Scotsman's* boiler. Whilst we are ensuring that each engineering task is executed to the satisfaction of the VAB Boiler inspectorate, it is our priority that refurbishment decisions are based on quality, programme efficiency, value for money and, ultimately, that they ensure the boiler and *Flying Scotsman* have a long and healthy life. Riley & Sons have now completed the assembly of the inner firebox components and secured the refurbished copper throatplate to the copper tube plate with 55 new copper patch

screws. The new foundation ring has also been manufactured and is currently being fitted to the firebox.

Whilst it is essential to ensure that the boiler works proceed in a careful and chronological order, further work is being undertaken in parallel at the NRM Workshop. Following our last report, the Workshop team is nearing completion of the overhaul of the locomotive brake gear system. It has also manufactured brand new horn stay bolts, whilst a multitude of other new bolts were successfully fitted to the frames. Not resting on its laurels, the team has also been busy with the restoration of the lubrication system, the driving axle box, the checking of clearances to the horn guides, and the renewal of the white metal to the thrust faces and crowns.

At the time of writing we have raised over £141,658.58. I cannot stress how very grateful we are for all your help and support. You will know that our target is £250,000, so we still have a way to go to achieve this.

Katie Watkinson  
Development Services and Events Executive

### **Learning Department**

Since Jon wrote the last contribution to this fine and noble publication, many things have happened within the Learning Department. Our 'new' staff have been here over a year now and have all made their own mark – on both the department and the Museum. We've changed our range of activities and have introduced explosive Science Shows to the Learning Platform (formally ILC).

So, why the changes? It's really all to do with getting our visitors/customers/folk-who-come-through-the-front doors – call them what you will – interested and involved with our fantastic collection. Hence, what we now provide is an offer that changes depending on the needs of the audience. During term-time our audience is primarily pre-booked school groups and general visitors – mainly those fortunate enough to have retired. To reflect this split we have divided our offer: specific sessions related to the National Curriculum – usually history and science – for schools; and more traditional tours and talks for our general visitors. We've also been working closely with our colleagues in Knowledge and Collections and are now able to offer a behind the scenes tour of Search Engine twice a week (Tuesday and Friday at 14.45).

School holidays are a different matter and we need to provide activities which can deal with large numbers of people and cater for a broad range of ages. We now offer a make-and-take railway related activity every single holiday. We use these activities to introduce concepts the average visitor might not be aware of; for instance, at Christmas we explored the relationship between railways and standardised time. As well as opening up the collection to the public, it gives us a chance to introduce something new to visitors and get them to look at history and science with fresh eyes.

The Science Shows in the Learning Platform are another example of how we try to engage with a broad range of people. During these sessions, we take Newton's three Laws of Motion, break them down into language and concepts that an eight year old (and their parents) can understand, and then apply them to how a train moves. In order to spice it up, we chuck in some exciting

demonstrations using elephant launchers, explosions and a Barbie cannon! It's fast, it's fun and it shows the older members of the audience that of course they know what Newton's three Laws are, even if they haven't been to school for donkey's years. Audience reaction so far is good and we continue to evaluate and monitor.

These changes have resulted in quite a different way of working for the department, and all credit must go to the team of Explainers who have had to learn the new shows and presentations and then deliver them during the busiest summer holiday we've had since records began!

Hannah Collingridge  
Explainer Team Leader: Gallery Programmes

### **Comings and Goings**

*As ever, it seems, there have been a number of personnel changes in the Museum. Although we haven't seen anyone leaving since our last issue there have been a number of new starters as well as several promotions.*

### **Comings...Lorna Frost**

Hello everyone, Matt has asked me to tell you a bit about myself, so here goes...

My name is Lorna Frost and I'm the new Assistant Curator, Image Collections at NRM. This role comprises the artwork, poster and photographic collections. Amongst other things, I will be looking at the storage and documentation of these collections, answering

enquiries and working with the Exhibitions and Development teams on exhibitions.



*Left: Lorna Frost, new Assistant Curator, Image Collections. Image courtesy of Lorna Frost.*

Prior to working at the National Railway Museum I was a part time Assistant Registrar at both the National Media Museum and Leeds Museums and Galleries. Before this I was Curatorial Assistant, Wallpaper and Textiles at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester.

I studied undergraduate degrees in both Animation and History of Art, following these with an MA in Art Gallery and Museum Studies. I was an active volunteer throughout my studies and have seen, first hand, the benefits of an active volunteer programme to both institutions and individuals. I look forward to working with some of you on future projects.

Lorna Frost  
Assistant Curator, Image Collections

### **Comings...NRM+**

Joining the NRM+ team are Paul Bowers and Dick de Jong. Paul joined the NRM on 1 October, in the capacity of Project Director for NRM+. Paul has come to the National Railway Museum from the Natural History Museum, where he was Project Director for the £9 million public offer element of the newly-opened Darwin Centre. Paul will be focussing almost entirely on NRM+, reflecting the huge commitment the Museum is making to taking the work

forward in the months ahead. Also joining the NRM+ team is a consultant Creative Adviser, Dick de Jong. Based in Amsterdam, Dick is a Museum Designer who will advise the NRM+ team during the development period for the HLF Stage 2 bid. He will not become a member of staff but will work at the Museum from time to time on a consultancy basis.

In addition to these new appointments, I would like to congratulate Anthony Coulls, who has been appointed as the NRM's Senior Curator, Rail Vehicle Collections, and Helen May who has been promoted to the position of Development Manager.

### **...and Finally**

As I sit here shivering, and staring out across a snowy vista of mottled white rooftops, I can't help but think about the year ahead. With two seminars, regular Insight Days, an Awards Dinner and the possibility of a couple of day trips, it certainly seems there should be plenty to look forward to in 2010.

I am also hopeful that this year we will be able to expand the range of opportunities we have for volunteers at the Museum. So, if you're looking for a change in role, or perhaps you're interested in joining the team, why not check out the volunteer section of the website from time to time – you never know what you might find.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who made a contribution to this month's issue of Volunteer News, in particular those who contributed to *Straight from the Horses Mouth*. Having chatted to a number of volunteers, I am aware that this is one of the most popular sections of the journal. I am always looking for articles to include in future editions, so if you are interested in writing something please get in touch.

I hope you all have a great 2010 and if you have any questions about volunteering please feel free to get in touch.

All the best,

Matthew Hick