

Future events

York

February Family Fun

18–26 February

Featuring Flying Scotsman steam rides. Journey back in time and experience what it was like to travel by steam train with a ride behind Flying Scotsman. Steam through South Yard taking in the sights, sounds and smells of steam power and wave to passengers on the Miniature Railway as you roll past. See our huge turntable in action and discover how a steam locomotive works. For more information on all there is to see and do at the museum this February half term, visit nrm.org.uk/febfun

Mystery on the Rails Season

March –September 2017

From Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express to the recent Girl on the Train, the railways have provided us with the perfect setting for thrilling crime stories. Join us for our brand new Mystery on the Rails season to uncover the special place railways have in mystery and detective fiction, solve the mystery of The Missing Passenger and discover a wealth of real-life tales of audacious robberies, petty thefts and notorious criminals.

Ambulance Trains

Permanent exhibition

Step into a forgotten First World War story. Our new exhibition tells the forgotten story of the ambulance trains used to evacuate sick and injured troops on an unprecedented scale during the First World War. Step on board a railway carriage to discover the experiences of the passengers, and the medical staff who cared for them under extraordinary circumstances. Explore a rich treasure trove of photographs, technical drawings and diaries to uncover the moving stories of some of the millions who travelled on board, as well as the railway staff who built the trains at incredible speed.

A series of free talks by curators, experts and descendants of ambulance train staff will delve even deeper into this fascinating subject, and a special exhibition trail will be available for families.

For more information visit nrm.org.uk/ambulancetrains

Shildon

Durham Photographic Society

2 January–12 February

Exhibition 'On Track'

Cab It

14–15 January

North East Rover Owners Rally

22 January

Winter Toy Fair

18–19 February

With trade stands

Model Motion

4–5 March

with trade stands

Disabled Access Day

10–12 March

Ground Level 5" Gauge Association Rally

17–19 March

Film & TV Model Club

25–26 March

with trade stands

"Osaka Trains" exhibition

27 March–27 April

Sierra Leone event

8–9 April

Northern Bygones Rally

9 April

Spring Toy Fair – with trade stands

29 April–1 May

For enquiries relating to Volunteer please contact Assistant Editor brian.gardner@sciencemuseum.ac.uk or on 01904 685715 (Mondays only)



Talk with us on Twitter
[@NRMVolunteers](https://twitter.com/NRMVolunteers)

For volunteering enquiries contact the Volunteer Team at Volunteer.nrm@nrm.org.uk or on 01904 685715

Volunteer

Edition 30 – Winter 2016



Volunteer working on Sir Nigel Gresley Tube Burning - courtesy Trevor Camp



Simon Walsh
Courtesy Dan Prince

A Word from Simon

At Shildon, the last year passed so quickly as we waited in anticipation of the arrival of Flying Scotsman, spent a hectic nine day period with so many visitors and then recovered for the next six months. What a year it has been with the added fun of the Shildon Shed bash which was a great success.

These events wouldn't have been so successful if it wasn't for our volunteers and I'm pleased that this work has been recognised by an external body. The Shildon Flying Scotsman volunteer team have received 'The Engaging The Audience Award' as part of the North East Museum Volunteer Awards issued by the Tyne and Wear Museum and Archives.

The hard work put in on a day to day basis by every National Railway Museum volunteer is recognised by all and it's great to see articles in this copy of Volunteer about some of the current projects. I especially enjoyed reading the update about the 2HAP project as I can currently hear a lot of loud noise from one of the cars, coming from our Shildon workshop. I'm sure every volunteer enjoys looking at the work of other departments and teams and I believe seeing a project on which you have worked, being highlighted and appreciated by your peers is perhaps the greatest recognition you can receive.

Simon Walsh – Duty Officer Volunteers, Locomotion

A Word from the Director

Each winter at the volunteer awards dinner I enjoy meeting volunteers who have contributed so much during the year. It was notable this year that we presented a large number of long service awards and over sixty people received wheels for their first and second years at the museum.

It is a pleasure to meet those who have actively supported our events and see the dedication of colleagues around the museum paid and unpaid, working together. Volunteers supported most of our highlights this year and on the museum floor you welcomed visitors throughout Scotsman Season and more recently the Future Engineers' project. We have also seen the return of steam rides in South Yard supported by our rail operations volunteers.

It is particularly rewarding to see this dedication recognised by others; with awards recently received by both our sites. Congratulations to Simon Walsh and volunteers at Shildon who won the 'Engaging the Audience Award' at the North East Museum Volunteer Awards 2016 and for welcoming over 45,000 people during the Shildon Shed Bash. Our York site in partnership with the North York Moors Railway, was awarded the 'Tourism Event of the Year' at the White Rose Awards, for the 'Flying Scotsman Returns' event. The coming year promises to be another busy year and I look forward to your involvement with all our plans.

Paul Kirkman - Director



Jeff Cail, Alan Preistley and Philippa Coad with a Little Free library - courtesy Richard Pearson

Little Free libraries

The Shildon Workshop team is well versed in the restoration and repair of some of the biggest and most interesting items from the National Collection. They are currently well underway with their part of the 2HAP restoration project; but when the chance came to help with a project slightly different from their normal work they jumped at it.

As part of this year's Durham Book Festival it was decided that a series of 'Little Free Libraries' would be set up across the county. The Little Free Library movement began in Wisconsin, USA in 2009 when Todd Bol built a model school room in commemoration of his mother, a school teacher with a passion for reading. He filled it with books and left it out for people to help themselves.

The concept is simple; if you take a book, you leave a book. Since such a humble beginning there are now over 250,000 free little libraries around the world, but none in the North East of England. Each library box is unique and reflects the community where it is housed or where it was created, with lots of character.

Locomotion was approached to support the project, but instead of just hosting a box we thought we'd lead a hand building the libraries for other locations. In total there are now fifteen libraries across the county, including one at Durham Cathedral itself. Our team worked closely with the communities involved to come up with not only the design they wanted, but also a design that

would work for their needs, for example an indoor or outdoor library. Most of the boxes were of a fairly generic design, however, the staff at the cathedral wanted something a little different.

The library in the cathedral was to represent the architecture of the building itself. Despite the complexity of the project our workshop volunteers took on the challenge of recreating the finest example of Norman architecture in Europe. The outcome was a great success, really showing off the skills and dedication to detail that is a hallmark of our workshop. All the woodwork and construction was completed on site by our volunteers and will be finished off and decorated by the young volunteer team of the cathedral; in total they created five little libraries for the project.

One of these libraries will be on display in our own collections building and modelled and painted to represent a Deltic; a homage to the work done by the Shildon Workshop team on the KOYLI locomotive earlier this year. Next time you visit Locomotion feel free to see if you can find our own little library and maybe exchange a book or two.

Simon Walsh – Duty Officer Volunteers, Locomotion



National Media Museum's Saltaire Stories Project visit
courtesy Cath Carlton

National Media Museum volunteers welcome the Saltaire Stories Project

Last summer, a longstanding group of National Media Museum collections volunteers welcomed archive volunteers from the Saltaire Stories Project. Saltaire is a World Heritage site near Bradford and the project is a partnership set up to manage the archive and improve educational resources at the site.

The aim of the day was for volunteers to showcase current projects, outline what they do, and exchange ideas. Our volunteers presented their top five favourite objects then conducted a 'behind the scenes' tour.

Kath Carlton, a National Media Museum volunteer working with the Saltaire archive and one of the organisers of the day, commented: 'the group from Saltaire had a great time, some fantastic material was provided for them to see, together with a lovely explanation of the work, followed by a visit to the library'. The Saltaire team thoroughly enjoyed the visit and asked if they could come again to shadow our volunteers to get a better feel for what they do. Everyone agreed the visit was a success and we hope to organise a series of similar visits with teams from different museums in Bradford and the surrounding area.

Kathryn Bogdanovic - Volunteer Coordinator

An Award for Shildon

It was a great honour for James Percy and myself to represent the Locomotion volunteer team at the North East Museum Volunteer Awards 2016, held in the Hancock museum, Newcastle. The team fought off stiff competition to win the 'Engaging the Audience Award' for our work during the recent Shildon Shed Bash, during which arguably, the most famous locomotive in the world paid a visit.

It was only when the host addressed all present at the ceremony and the audience gasped at the visitor statistics, that we realised the enormity of the event. Our Team had greeted 45,000 visitors over nine days, given cab tours, crewed the trains and kept guests amused. Blessed with good weather and with the star of the show Flying Scotsman, in steam alongside supporting locomotives such as Union of South Africa and Joem, visitors certainly enjoyed the spectacle.

The planning behind the scenes from the museum team and the support from the casual team played its part in making the Shed Bash a success, it was a great team effort. Our thanks go to Simon Walsh for nominating the volunteer team for this award. We've had the Great Goodbye and now the Shed Bash, two massively attended and successful events, we wonder what's next but will certainly be willing and ready.

Brian Goodfellow - Volunteering Team, Locomotion.



The 2HAP team together at Shildon
courtesy John Piper

Project Commuter - volunteer support

Project Commuter is a partnership between the Network SouthEast (NSE) Railway Society and the National Railway Museum to restore the Southern Region, NSE 2HAP electric multiple unit. It is perhaps the furthest travelled vehicle in the National Collection, having amassed 2.7 million miles in its working life.

After 19 years awaiting restoration and a slow start, the interiors were stripped by a dedicated team of volunteers. The vehicles were moved to the Shildon workshop in 2015 for repairs to the corroded body, and work on the first vehicle is progressing well. It has been necessary for the floor covering to be lifted in places and recently agreed that the vehicles will probably need a completely new floor.

Meanwhile, motor Coach 61275 is at York and we are slowly restoring the interior fittings by cleaning 19 years of dirt and dust from the seats and backs as well as preparing the metal items for repainting. The work on the timber faced aisle panels and much needed repairs to many seats is still to be started. Once completed to museum standard, they will initially be on display at Shildon and later York, along with complementary display material explaining the development of commuting through the railway era.

Because progress at York is moving slowly we have decided that it is time to see if we can speed up the work by inviting any existing volunteers to join this team. Some of you may have worked on similar units at York Works and could bring valuable experience to my team of non-professionals. Our immediate need is for anyone who has experience in the production or repair of upholstery to help with repairs, re-upholstering and re-building approximately 50 seats and backs.

We have similar concerns about the restoration of the timber faced aisle panels and although we already have some suggestions, once again any experience you have would be most useful to us. Our target is to refit the motor coach interiors early in 2017 but before this can be achieved we need help to replace the saloon floor in conjunction with Richard Pearson and the workshop team at Locomotion. Once this is complete we can start to refit seats and other interior fittings.

Regular weekend working parties take place at York on the second weekend of every month. Many of our existing team come from the local area but some travel from as far away as the South Coast. If you would like to help and join a working party on this project, please contact Emma Faragher Smith to register interest. To find out more about Project Commuter visit www.projectcommuter.org.uk.

Chris Osman - Project Manager, Project Commuter



Class 66 Locomotive
courtesy Ian Horne

An East Yorkshire Rail Tour

Last October Alan Shankster and myself, both workshop volunteers, were given tickets for a special train tour of the East Riding freight routes. We met at Doncaster for a train which originated in London, Finsbury Park which was due to depart as a 'charter' at 10:32. It was a cool morning and we were both pleased to see our 'special' arrive, topped and tailed by 66030 and 66168, both heavy freight engines.

We left on time and a brisk run brought us to Goole swing bridge where after a slight delay to allow a passenger train to pass, we joined the Selby-Hull main line at Gilberdyke Junction in the middle of what is reputed to be the longest straight line in Britain; Cliffe to Crabley Creek.

We were now just outside Hull and Hessle Road junction with the excitement building up as we turned onto the Springhead Goods Line. Much interest was shown by lineside residents as a passenger train here is a rare sight. People stopped to stare in the street and in allotments as our impressive fifteen carriage train passed.

We left the residential areas travelling slowly on the 'King George' dock line with industry closing in on both sides and entered the port of Hull. The railway presence at Hull docks is a shadow of what it was fifty years ago when the railway owned the port. Next we set off for Goole which was a 'leg stretching' stop, arriving around 1:45pm. The final

part of the trip now started and on leaving Goole, we crossed over the Doncaster lines to gain the ex Lancashire & Yorkshire (L&Y) Wakefield line. This is single track to Gowdell Lane and we rattled along with some of our long distance passengers now feeling the effects of the 7:14am London start.

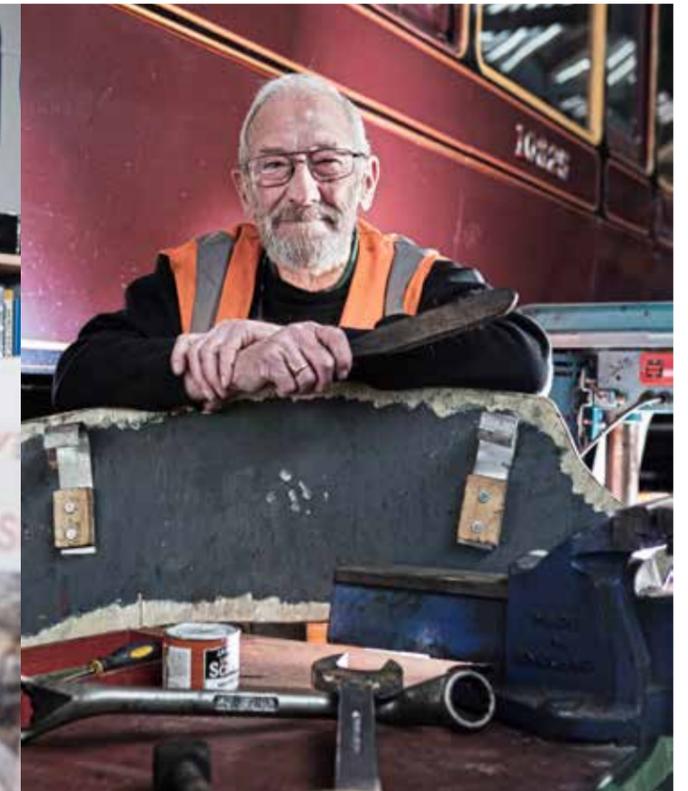
We had to pass the junction for Drax as we were on the 'up' line with no suitable crossover so went to Whitley Bridge where the driver changed ends and we crossed over to the down Goole line and retraced our steps to run into the Drax lines. At about 5:15pm we left Drax via the 'Bypass' line and regained the old Manchester Goole L&Y main line. We were heading for Doncaster past the now sadly, closed Kellingley Colliery through some amazingly tight curves at Knottingley passing the engine sheds with quite a collection of class '66' freight engines.

It was now dusk as we enjoyed a fast ride to Doncaster where we arrived at 6:05pm and boarded a Virgin East Coast train for York. Our thanks to Drax for offering this opportunity and to Volunteer Coordinator Emma for the invitation and arrangements. A wonderful day out.

Gordon Reed - Workshop Volunteer (retired)



Mel Goody and Alan Shankster
courtesy Dan Prince



Smile please

It's hard to believe, but it's almost 18 months since I took up the position of Volunteer Development Manager. Since then I've done lots of exciting work aimed at providing a more professional and enjoyable volunteering experience for you. Most recently our northern Volunteer Coordinators, and a group of their volunteers, visited the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) for a photo-shoot for our new Volunteer Handbooks. MSI was chosen as it holds a collection that reflects the specialisms of all our museums, allowing us to mock up a variety of volunteering activities. In total there were seven 'set-ups,' including Workshops, Information Points and Collections. York Volunteers Tony, Mel, Alan and Leena were great models and despite the rather cold weather, managed to keep smiling throughout the day.

In addition to acquiring some great photographs courtesy of Dan Prince Photography, the day offered a chance for employees and volunteers from across the Group to work together. This was hugely beneficial as it helped keep costs down and more importantly, allowed us to spend quality time discussing the future of volunteering within SMG. Topics included introducing a regular Group outing and the potential for a Group volunteering conference...all very exciting stuff.

Rob Derbyshire, who designs Volunteer, is currently working on the handbooks and it's expected that the Science Museum edition will be published soon; the others will arrive over the next few months.

Once complete, it will be the first time that all of our museums have had their own professionally designed handbooks.

For examples of Dan Prince's work see: www.danprince.co.uk

A comment from Mel....

'When offered the opportunity to be a 'model' in a photo shoot for the new volunteer handbooks I jumped at the chance. Because the shoot was at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, an early morning train out of a cold Leeds station was required. I joined Emma, Leena and Tony on the train through from York and within a few minutes, Tony had bought us all a welcome hot drink; camaraderie at its best.'

'The first volunteer 'up' for his 'external shots' was Alan, who had joined us in Manchester. While the hardest stayed outside picking up tips and techniques, Leena and myself chose the warmer option and went inside to enjoy the museum. This proved to be a good choice as we later joined the cold 'outsiders' for a splendid lunch, generously provided by MSI. My turn to be a star came late in the afternoon, my moment lasting all of ten minutes. It's tough being a super model, I'll stick to volunteering.'

Matthew Hick and Mel Goody

Trust volunteers' hard work drives 60007 overhaul

The strong willing hands, engineering skills and long experience of a determined team of volunteers are playing a vital role in giving A4 Pacific Sir Nigel Gresley a new lease of operating life. When completed, the locomotive's major overhaul, which is taking place in The Works at York, will be celebrated as a major achievement by volunteer members of the Sir Nigel Gresley Locomotive Trust, the owners of 60007. The Trust is also meeting the project cost of around £750,000.

'Without tremendous volunteer support it wouldn't be happening' says Darrin Crone, Locomotive Engineer, who was appointed by the Trust to lead the overhaul team. Darrin reports to Richard Swales, Chief Mechanical Engineer and Trustee. Darrin told Volunteer: 'Sir Nigel Gresley came in as a working locomotive but needing a major overhaul and we're making fantastic progress. The work is on schedule for completion by the end of 2018 and the locomotive will leave here in main line condition, ready to go back into traffic.' Since work began in 2015, there have only been two days without volunteers working on the locomotive. By early 2017 volunteer working hours will have exceeded 1000 man-days. 'So you can see that volunteers are essential to getting this job done,' said Darrin.

Sir Nigel Gresley was the 100th Gresley Pacific to be built at Doncaster Works and entered service in 1937 bearing LNER number 4498. It was briefly re-numbered as No.7 before becoming 60007 when the company was merged into British Railways. Every component, once removed, has been thoroughly cleaned to enable detailed inspection. The loco's wheel sets, removed using the NRM wheel drop, have gone to specialists at the South Devon Railway for testing and new tyres. During the past 12 months the volunteer team, under Darrin's guidance, has stripped the locomotive down to its frames, removing all boiler tubes and separating the boiler from the frames. The boiler is now in Llangollen, Wales, for overhaul.

The 'A4 Preservation Society' was formed in 1964 and saved Sir Nigel Gresley from the threat of the breaker's yard in 1966, becoming a charitable Trust in 1999. Locomotive 60007 is the only A4 owned and operated by a Trust that is owned and controlled by its members.

In 1995 it moved to the North York Moors Railway, still a racing thoroughbred and remained in regular use until September 2015, when its 10-year Boiler Certificate expired. Using money the locomotive had earned, coupled with memorabilia sales and donations from Trust members and the public, the Trustees were able to commission the overhaul. More donations will always be welcomed by the Trust and details are on their website 60007.org.uk

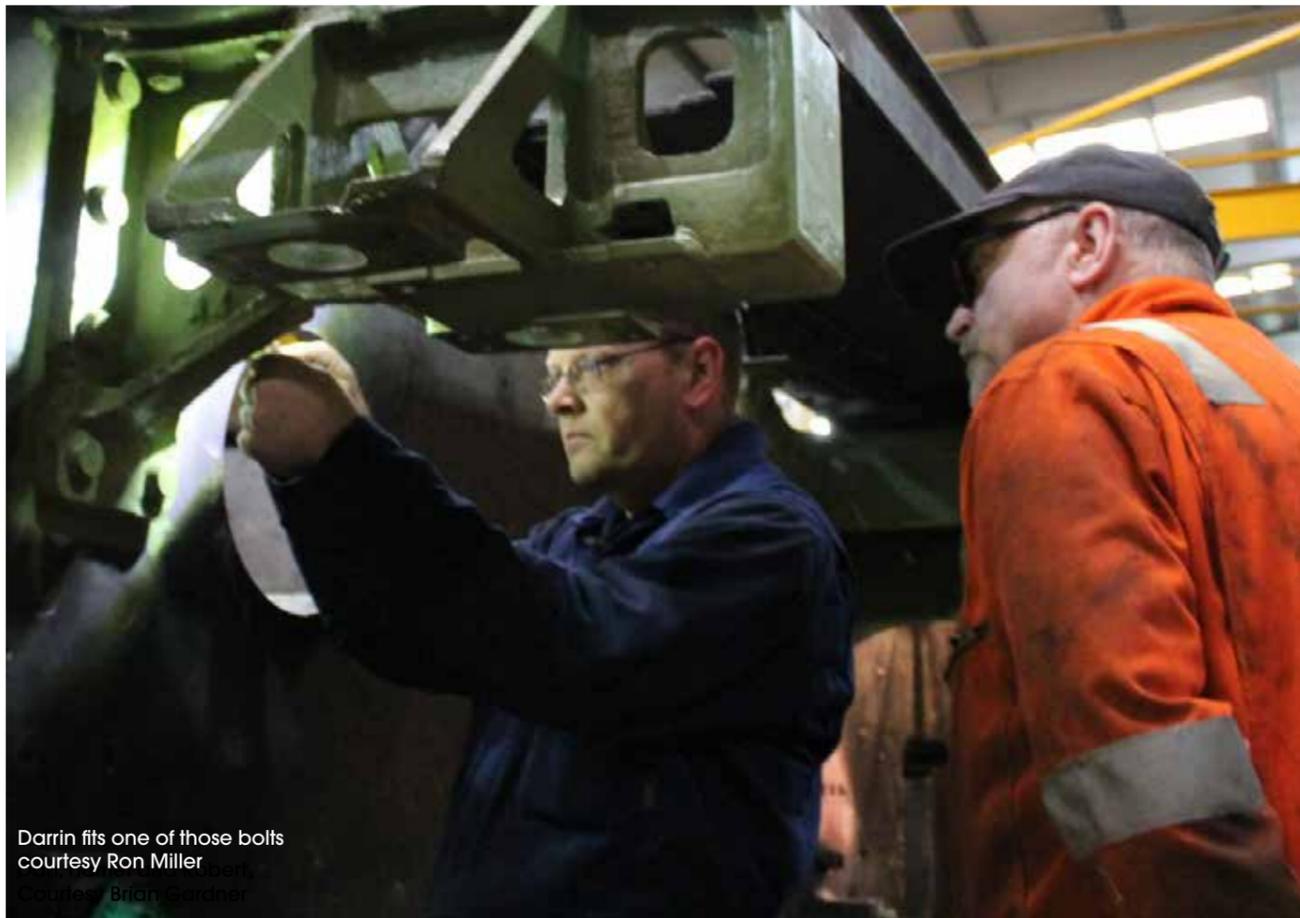
Talking to Darrin, the only paid member of the team, it soon becomes clear that the overhaul is not just a job of work. 'I have driven or fired the locomotive many times and worked on it as an engineering volunteer. I am a qualified engineer, though my experience has not been within the railway industry. I spent 24 years designing and certifying safety equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres, including the oil industry. You have to take a pragmatic approach to a major project of this kind,' he says, adding: 'I am determined to make sure we give Sir Nigel Gresley value for money with this overhaul. I get a thrill from working on it; even fitting new bolts gives me enormous satisfaction. When those have to be Whitworth specification they don't come cheap these days. I've just had to pay £470 for 50 bolts,' said Darrin, ruefully.

He is full of praise for the museum workshop team, led by Simon Holroyd, Engineering Manager and including Charlie Bird and Danny Holmes. 'Their co-operation has been absolutely superb, including allowing our use of specialist equipment. When the overhaul ends we enter a new phase of supporting the locomotive's operation on the mainline throughout the country, using a travelling volunteer team. The loco needs continuous attention in traffic, not only maintenance and periodic inspection but daily preparation for running and disposal when its duties are finished. The team will still have plenty to do when the loco returns to steam.'

Ron Miller - Information Point Volunteer



Darrin and colleagues at the Wheel Drop
courtesy Trevor Camp



Darrin fits one of those bolts
courtesy Ron Miller

Courtesy Brian Gardner



Luzern visit - Rigi Kulm, summit of Rigi Bahn
courtesy Peter Brumby

Friends and Volunteers visit to Luzern

In our third visit to Railway Museums of Europe we travelled to Luzern in Switzerland to see the Transport Museum located on the lakeside in this attractive town.

Our journey started in St Pancras where we boarded Eurostar to Paris. Smooth, fast and punctual – everything rail travel should be. What a pity most of these fine trains will soon be in the scrapyard. Our journey continued by TGV via Strasbourg and Basel to arrive in Luzern for dinner.

Our hotel was located close to the lake and on the first day we visited the Transport Museum. The group was hosted by the director, who took us through the rail section of the museum. The huge Gotthard Tunnel, due to open next year, was the subject of a large exhibition explaining the whole Gotthard route and the challenges digging a 56km tunnel under the Alps. The museum is much more of a general transport museum with extensive displays of ships, cars and aircraft and was clearly a great hit with families who had many interactive displays to amuse themselves.

Later in the day, many of the group decided to head for the mountains and took the scenic railway to the resort of Engleberg. Despite being a minor narrow gauge line with just an hourly service, it boasted new electric trains, latest signalling, new construction and several new stations.

Perhaps a highlight for many was a trip up the Rigi by mountain rack railway. The day started with a cruise along the lake and as we left the quayside we could see little through dense clouds. It was cool and damp and spirits were low. At Weggis we left the boat to walk to the cable car for the next leg of the journey. The clouds got thicker and at the halfway point we couldn't even see signs to the station. Our little vintage train rolled in to the station and we found our reserved seats for the final steep climb to the summit. Still the visibility was poor when suddenly there were signs of a break in the cloud and the train emerged into brilliant sunshine. We were now above the clouds and looking out over the peaks of the Alps poking through the sea of cloud – magnificent! The mood changed as the warmth of the sun and the fabulous views lifted our spirits. After time for lunch and photos we set off down along a different route back to Luzern.

Our journey home was again by train and almost every one of our four trains spot on time. The TGV from Strasbourg was particularly impressive travelling over a recently opened line eating the miles away at a constant 200 mph.

Ian Macbeth - Trip Organiser



Ian and Emma in Switzerland
courtesy David Thomas

Volunteer events and outings 2016 – 2017

Autumn and winter is our busiest period for volunteer events and outings and this year was no exception. One of the things I enjoy most about my role is organising and hosting our events and outings. Though very different events, for me they share a really important feature in bringing staff and volunteers together.

The October seminars included updates on progress with the York Central Development, a preview of next year's Mystery on the Rails Season and an introduction to the Science Museum Group project to enhance our storage site at Wroughton by moving items stored in Blythe House in London to the new facility. I really enjoyed hearing volunteers talk about what they do and I hope to include this in our programme again next year. Both days finished with an open Q&A which was lively and engaging. Chris Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator at Manchester Museum of Science and Industry joined us and received a warm welcome. Chris particularly enjoyed hearing volunteers and staff discuss our work plus a ride on the Miniature Railway at lunchtime. If you were not able to attend and would like to know more about any of the topics we discussed, ask your supervisor for more information or get in touch with me.

November saw the annual quiz night in York, one of the most popular yet with over 50 attendees; the winners? Jim Lowe, Paul Kirkman, Andrew Maclean and PhD student Thomas Spain with a convincing victory.

On one of the first really cold days of the year it was lovely to welcome over 170 people to the (slightly warmer) Station Hall for our annual Christmas dinner and volunteer awards ceremony. Over 60 volunteers received awards including our Gold Award for 15 years volunteering with us.

We are now planning events for 2017, so look out for more information as these are confirmed and if you would like to get involved in helping us plan get in touch with me. If you enjoyed reading Ian Macbeth's account of our October trip to Luzern (opposite) and are tempted to join a future visit, you'll be pleased to hear Ian is already planning the next international trip: 'We are planning to visit the Dutch Railway Museum in Utrecht in early October 2017. Again we will travel by train and as well as visiting Utrecht and Amsterdam we will take a ride on the scenic heritage railway from Hoorn to Medemblick followed by a vintage steamer cruise on the Zuiderzee to the pretty town of Enkhuisen. Interested? Just email tony.oldfield@nrm.org.uk and we will send you details.'

Emma Faragher Smith, Volunteer Coordinator