

Holiday train



A railway signalling manager and his wife have opened a brace of holiday cottages in converted railway carriages at Skipwith station in Yorkshire.

Sadly trains stopped running on the Derwent Valley Light Railway in the 1980s. That has not deterred Lizanne and David Southworth who bought the station in August 2004.

The historic Derwent Valley Light Railway was opened in 1913 and operated by the North Eastern Railway. However it was never nationalised. The line was built under the Light Railways Act of 1896, the only known case in which local authorities used their freedom under this Act to obtain an Order for light railway construction.

When the Southworths bought

the station in August 2004, they had not planned to buy railway carriages. David had worked for BREL at the York Carriage Works and learned there was a rake of carriages available for sale from the Bombardier factory in Doncaster. The ones in best condition were the carriages which had formed the old Doncaster Trial Train. The carriages took three years to convert to holiday accommodation and were finally completed at around 10am on the 2nd March 2008 - just hours before the first guests arrived.

Archivist Jonathan Stockwell from the DVLR society at Murton which includes a mile-long section of track kept alive and in running order by an avid group of enthusiasts, recently visited Skipwith. A small display from the museum

has been set up inside the station building which has also been restored to its former glory.

David Southworth currently works for GrantRail Ltd as a business development manager. He worked for BREL in York building the class 166 and Eurotram vehicles before living in China for 5 years. Lizanne Southworth is a Garden Designer and keen horticulturalist. The couple have two children, Alastair and Victoria.

Says Rail Media's Tom O'Connor, 'All of us here wish David and Lizanne every success with the holiday cottages - we look forward to spending a few days there soon. If you would like to enjoy this beautiful part of the country, book your place now by contacting David on 01757 282288 or visit: www.skipwithstation.com