

Full steam ahead for rail carriage scheme

A RAILWAY-mad couple from Skipwith are on the right track after rolling back the years for their latest venture to create a unique holiday experience.

Lizanne and David Southworth have converted two railway carriages into holiday lets at Skipwith Railway Station, bought by them in August 2004 to restore to its 1912 splendour.

Their labour of love to convert the defunct Derwent Valley stop-off back to its original state is now complete, and the holiday home railway carriages have added that finishing touch.

Jonathan Stockwell, archivist from the Derwent Valley Light Railway Museum at Murton, was on hand with old photographs and memorabilia to help with the restoration project.

Lizanne said: "When they arrived at the station, they had been sealed for 13 years – their last journey, according to the manifest still on board, having been from Gatwick to Manchester on November 1 1991.

"They were like a time capsule, with newspapers scattered around and even a recently finished British Rail meal box with knife and fork on one table.

"The carriages took three years to convert to holiday accommodation and were finally completed at about 10am on March 2 – just hours before the first guests arrived."

Log-on to www.skipwithstation.com or call 01757 282288 for further information.

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RAIL ESTATE: One of the refurbished holiday carriages at the former Skipwith Railway Station. (s2901h810) Picture: Peter Vickers