



Downpatrick & County Down Railway Society

Railway Station, Market Street, Downpatrick, County Down, BT30 6LZ
Telephone: 077 9080 2049, Internet: www.downrail.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE

28th April 2005

New Name as Railway Celebrates 20 Years

Downpatrick's local heritage railway has announced that it is adopting a new name to celebrate its twentieth anniversary. The attraction, formerly known as the Downpatrick Railway Museum, will now be called the "Downpatrick & County Down Railway."

Railway Chairman, Michael Collins, explains the reasons behind the rebranding, "With the Inch Abbey extension virtually complete, and already a few sneak preview trains running to the new destination before the official opening, the railway will finally be able to offer people a destination – and we felt that our old name didn't suggest we were a running railway."

He continues, "We're Northern Ireland's only operating Heritage Railway, we're not a static attraction, and we have returned to our roots and have adopted a variation of the name of the railway that originally ran here – the Belfast and County Down Railway, as well as a new logo based on the traditional railway garter design common throughout the British Isles."

And the timing could not be more perfect, as 2005 sees the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the railway scheme.

"It's hard to believe it's 20 years," says Mr. Collins, "The railway was established in the summer of 1985, although it would be another two years before trains would run again in Downpatrick, albeit over a very short distance of track. We've seen other schemes come and go, we are the only ones that have made it this far."

As part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations, the railway is keen to hear from anyone who has a particularly fond memory of visiting the railway.

Robert Gardiner, Marketing Manager with the DCDR, outlines the railway's ideas, "We would love to hear from anyone who has a story to tell about the railway – perhaps your parents brought you to visit the railway when you were a child – or you had a birthday party here, or something memorable."

He continues, "We would hope to produce a special 20th Anniversary edition of our magazine Downrail with the best stories of people's visits to our railway – and we're especially looking for photographs people have taken of their families at the railway to illustrate the stories – those personal touches rather than the usual pictures of the steam train passing by."

If you have a story to tell about the railway, you can contact Robert Gardiner either via the Contacts page on the railway's website at www.downrail.co.uk, telephone the railway on 028 4461 5779 on Saturdays, email: downtrains@yahoo.co.uk or come along in person at the railway's next public running day on May 2nd.

Ends