

# 'MONSTER' DAY OUT FOR SWALLOW NATTER

A fine September day saw members together with several guests set out (not via Bardney!) to hunt for a legendary smoke and fire breathing Welsh dragon taking a holiday deep in the Lincolnshire countryside.

We found our quarry quietly dozing at Ludborough Railway Station, home to the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway where group parking had been set out in advance of our arrival.



The MARDY MONSTER (yes, really!!), a PECKETT 'OC' class 2150 built in 1954 for the MARDY COLLIERY in South Wales was this season's guest steam locomotive hauling a train of three carriages between the base at Ludborough along the newly opened section of track to the next village of North Thoresby where it is now possible to visit the New Inn for a meal (booking advisable). This was particularly appreciated by the staff of the Brandsburton Motor Company who are always ready to sample fine foods.

For the less hungry, there was admirable fare to be had at the Steaming Kettle buffet coach on the station platform especially, as Gordon keeps reminding me, the excellent selection of cakes.



This, however, must have represented a conflict of interest as Ian Caleby was celebrating his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday and had brought along a cake to share with the members.

In addition to riding on the train, the railway boasts a retail opportunity (gift shop), small museum and various static exhibits including the workshops where, through the shadowy gloom it was possible to see the engineers busily cleaning polishing and generally repairing their tea mugs (did I really say that? Of course I meant locomotives!!)

Attendees were as follows:

Gordon and Sylvia Smith

Ian and Sue Caleby

Keith and Eleanor Robinson

Phil and Eleanor Dean (natter and LWR members)

Steve and Linda Capper (BMC Commercials for all your car and van needs, owns the Jag, would have come in a 'B' but cannot find a suitable orthopaedic seat)

And a special mention to our distant visitors:

Gillian Darcy from Wisbeach

Here comes the sackcloth and ashes because we (Keith) have forgotten their names, the couple who came all the way from Pinchbeck.

Favourable comments were received especially regarding the friendliness of the staff, this has been passed to all concerned.

Special thanks must go to Keith and Gordon who together with LWR events officer Gordon Newton made for an excellent day out.

Phil Dean, (Swallow natter and LWR volunteer track layer and restoration technician\_

PS If this has whetted your appetite for steam nostalgia then visit [www.lincolnshirewoldsrailway.co.uk](http://www.lincolnshirewoldsrailway.co.uk) or Google MARDY MONSTER for more pictures.