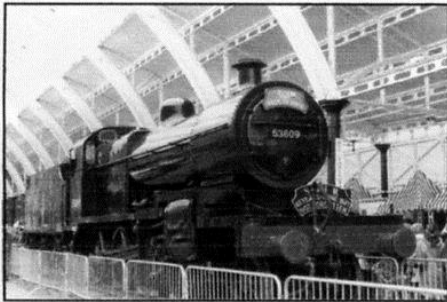


S&D Returns to Bath Green Park

40 years after the closure of the S&D, Bath Green Park once again saw a locomotive under its overall roof. The station, now a covered car park for the nearby Sainsbury store, saw recently restored S&D '7F' No.53809 owned by the 13809 Preservation Society displayed on a length of track donated by Network Rail. The locomotive being brought in by low loader, stopped off on its way the the West Somerset Railway's S&D Gala. The two day event held on the 5/6 March was attended by large crowds all eager to recapture memories of this once unique line.



S&D '7F' No.53809 on static display.



On Sunday 5th. March a welcome sight was found in the shape of Ivo Peter's Bentley, seen here posed adjacent to the '7F'.

Railtour Ends in Failure

Enthusiasts were left stranded when the planned railtour on the 23rd.March, organised by Past Time Rail Ltd., using both Standard Class 4 76079 and Battle of Britain 34067 'Tangmere' double-headed on the circular route from Taunton to Exeter, Yeovil, Westbury, Bristol and back to Taunton, failed with it's 13 coaches to climb the bank between Exeter St.David's and Exeter Central. The tour was abandoned and passengers had to make their own way back to Taunton.

West Somerset S&D Gala Draws in the Crowds

Despite the weather large crowds flocked to the West Somerset Railway on both long weekends from 18/19 and 23-26 March for the much publicised S&D Gala. With nine engines in steam representing many of the classes that worked over the S&D during its lifetime, all helping to rekindle the nostalgia associated with the unique line.



S&D '4F' No.44422 and '7F' No.53809 at Crowcombe on the 24th.March with the 16.55 from Bishops Lydeard (Templecombe) to Minehead (Bournemouth West).

East Somerset Gala Weekend held on 1st. And 2nd. April.

Not to be upstaged by the West Somerset, the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore also held their 'Spring into Steam' gala over the first weekend of April. Although not on the same scale, it was nevertheless enjoyable, with the resident loco's 56XX No.5637, USA No.30075 and Andrew Barclay 0-4-0T's No.705 and No.1398 'Lord Fisher'.



56XX No.5637 arriving at Cranmore with a freight from Mendip Vale. 1st.April 2006.

MEETING DIARY

Tues. 4th.April: 'Diesels in the Wild West' - Dave Mitchell.
 Tues. 2nd.May: 'West & North Devon' - Peter Gray.
 Tues. 6th.June. 'Annual General Meeting' + Other.