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THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY

Mike Heath

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway is one of the earliest and most historic lines in the North of England and its origins go back well over a century when its completion in 1836 created an important trade link between Whitby and Pickering and onwards to the rest of the country.

The Preservation Society today operates services along an 18 mile line between the village of Grosmont, located just 6 miles from the fishing port of Whitby, and the market town of Pickering, travelling through the heart of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and some of the most dramatic scenery in Britain.

The line is a major tourist attraction carrying around 300,000 passengers a year and the old world charm of the line's country stations together with the remote unspoilt scenery has provided locations for much film and television work. The hugely popular television series Heartbeat and the blockbuster Harry Potter motion pictures are just two examples.



Mike Heath has been visiting and photographing the railway for over fifteen years recording all aspects of the line, day and night, across all four seasons. Here he takes us on a photographic journey along the route, highlighting the diversity of the landscape through which it passes, the affect that the changing seasons and weather have on it and the various special events held there. These all combine to illustrate the reasons why the railway can rightly boast to being the most popular heritage railway in the country.

For over twenty-five years Mike Heath has enjoyed combining his hobbies of photography and visiting preserved railways all over Britain. In that time he has amassed a vast collection of stunning photographs covering all aspects of the railways across all four seasons, day and night. For this, his sixth book in the Halsgrove Railway Moods series, Mike takes us to North Yorkshire for a personal photographic journey on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway through the stunning and dramatic National Park scenery.



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THE GALLERY – THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY



The perfect silhouette!



The view of the tower when approaching via the moorland path from Levisham is as nothing to that from the tower itself which is spectacular...



The train passes beneath an autumnal Goathland Moor in October 1991.



That day's 'Moorlander' dining train thundered into the station.



With the last remnants of the locomotive's fire being deposited in the pit below, Southern Railway's 'Schools' Class No. 39925 Kyrle stands beneath the mechanical coal hopper. The railway can be fairly proud of the fact that, commissioned in 1980, this was in fact the first purpose-built coal hopper constructed since the 1950s and thus the first in preservation.

Opposite: Readers of my previous 'Ratbag Moors' books will already be aware of my attraction to photographing scenes after dark. Back in 1994 on the Sunday of that year's Gala I stayed into the night to take a few shots!

Example of a typical double page spread