

THE BURE VALLEY RAILWAY

Andy Stansfield

Running from Aylsham to Wroxham in the heart of the Norfolk Broads, the Bure Valley Railway provides both families and narrow-gauge enthusiasts with excitement daily throughout the year. Built in 1990, its nine mile route follows the old trackbed of the East Norfolk Railway, dating back to 1880, and has intermediate stations at Brampton, Buxton and Coltishall.

Its base at Aylsham is the setting for its engine sheds, souvenir shop and restaurant. At the other end of the line Wroxham provides a link with the national rail network and access to boat trips around the protected wetland landscape of the Norfolk Broads, Britain's third largest inland waterway which has equivalent status to that of a National Park.

Throughout the year the Bure Valley Railway stages special events such as Thomas the Tank Engine days, a Gala Weekend and Santa Specials. If you find yourself hooked on the narrow gauge experience, it is also possible to go one step further and learn how to drive these miniaturised steam locomotives for yourself.

In this evocative collection of over 140 colour photographs Andy Stansfield records in intimate detail this delightful line, its rolling stock, locomotives and the glorious stretch of English countryside within which it lies.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andy Stansfield is a photographer, feature writer and author specialising in travel and outdoor leisure. His first book was finally added to his extensive portfolio of magazine work in 2006 and was so successful that he now concentrates almost entirely on writing and illustrating books, mostly for Halsgrove.

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Aylsham turntable. There are turntables at both ends of the line, each within view of the platforms.



Belaugh Green. Situated just north of Wroxham, the level crossing at Belaugh (pronounced 'be-low') Green is un gated, as indeed are all the crossings on the line.



Brampton loop. Mark Timothy swings back onto the single track at Brampton as Bickling Hall heads south pulling The Broadman.



Elegance. Not as fast as the famous fighter aircraft but just as elegant, Spitfire leaves Buxton at 15.42 on its way to Wroxham.

Example of a double page spread.



Steam locomotive
The distinctive spotlight adorning the front of Spitfire usually makes it easy to identify. Observers seldom may have spotted Mark Timothy behind the No 11 during the year's 2000 picture it was built and 2001 when it was re-mounted.

The selected fine
The path which runs adjacent to the line the engine to enter length to eventually parallel with cables of all ages and brick of stone. As the path is shared with pebbles, it is a good idea to have a fall blind to your left.



Mind the doors!



The Broadman. Spitfire waits at Brampton loop for permission via the radio to enter the next section of track.



Right: Into the light. A few minutes south of Aylsham a tunnel carries the line under the main road. Bickling Hall is seen here emerging into daylight heading northbound.