

Halsgrove Railway Series

EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY BY NIGHT

Mike Heath

In his fourth railway title for Halsgrove, published in 2006, Mike Heath took us on a photographic journey along the East Lancashire Railway highlighting the varied landscape through which it passes and seeking to show those unfamiliar with the line the reasons for its success.

Within the pages of that album were a number of photographs taken of steam locomotives 'after dark' and those pictures attracted much critical acclaim in the excellent reviews of that book.

Living locally Mike has been able to make regular visits to the line since its reopening back in 1987 to capture on film the winter evening service trains in illuminated stations or on shed at the end of the day, and partake in the many enthusiast-targeted night photo shoots organised by the volunteers of the preservation society.

This has resulted in a stunning portfolio of atmospheric night time scenes from which this collection of more than 140 images has been drawn, featuring many of Britain's most famous preserved steam locomotives suspended in a railway time warp as today's 21st century backgrounds are cloaked in darkness. This is a uniquely atmospheric portrait of steam preservation at its finest.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For well over 25 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 stupendous photographs covering all aspects of the railways across all four seasons, day and night. His other titles in the Halsgrove Railway Series include *The Embsay and Bolton Steam Railway* and *The Paignton and Dartmouth Railway*.

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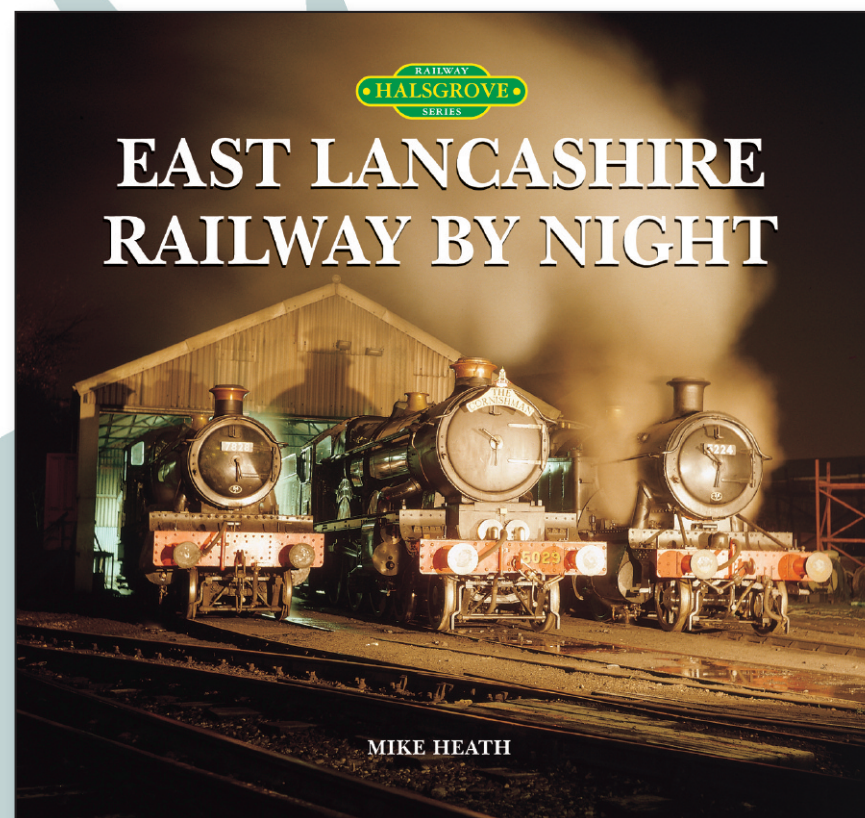
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EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY BY NIGHT



The final 'Santa' trains of 2008 were hauled by Black Five No. 45231 'The Sherwood Forrester'.



An extremely cold 27 January 1996 at Ramsbottom Station.



With the exception of the plastic dustbin and liner these photographs could have been taken over fifty years ago.



'Canadian Pacific' renewed this fine working life ran from October 1942 until withdrawn in October 1965. Having languished in the Bury scrapyard until 1975, it finally spent time at Cansletts before moving to Queens on the Great Central Railway where restoration was completed in November 1998. Like 26256 it is now based on the Mid Hants Railway.

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Example of a double-page spread.



Once the Bury-bound train had departed it was over the footbridge to capture the double-header with both locomotives having plenty of steam to spare.



On the 3 July 1992 'Odney Manor' was the motive power on a Dining Train. At dusk on a summer evening the clear sky retains some colour to fill the background.