

# SPIRIT OF THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY

Mike Heath

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway Preservation Society today operates services along an 18 mile line between the village of Grosmont 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 with its landscape of huge skies above the largest tract of heather moorland in England and Wales. On selected dates these services are extended a further 6 miles along the picturesque Esk Valley to the historic port of Whitby.

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 the locations for much film and television work. The hugely popular television series 'Heartbeat' and the blockbuster 'Harry Potter' motion pictures being just two examples.

Mike Heath has been visiting and photographing the railway for over fifteen years and here through more than 60 new photographs in a handy pocket-sized format, he captures the true spirit of the line, taking us on a photographic journey along the route and highlighting the reasons why the railway can rightly boast to being the most popular heritage line in the country.



## 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 stunning photographs covering all aspects of the railways across all four seasons, day and night. Having already produced nine titles in the Halsgrove Railway Series including *The North Yorkshire Moors Railway*, published in 2006 Mike has selected over 60 superb new photographs for this pocket-format book.

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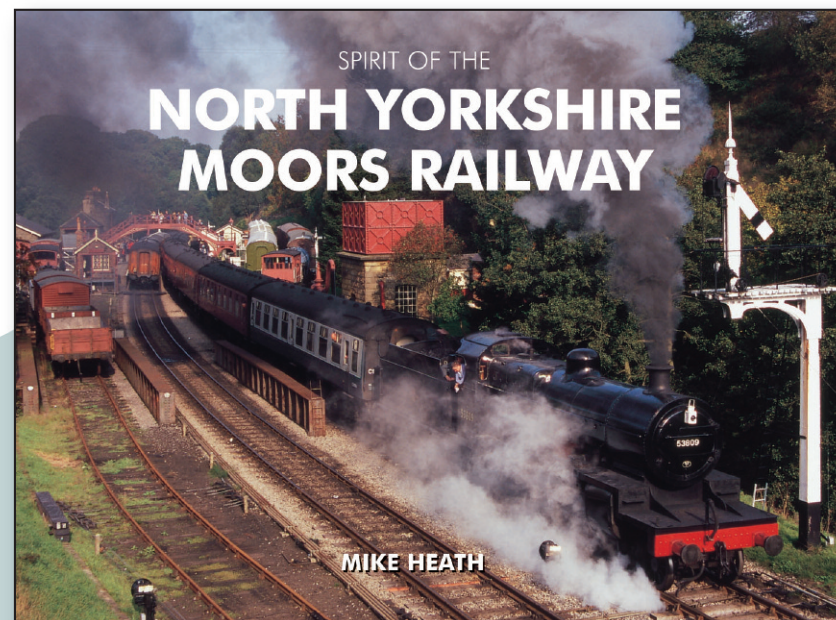
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The autumn colours were as vibrant as ever in October 2007 as No. 75029 passes across the scene. (Karl Heath)



A favourite location for photography is Darnholm where the early morning trains capture the light perfectly. B1 No. 61264 rounds the curve on 20 October 2007.



The view from Skelton Tower must be one of the best on any railway.



Goathland Station is familiar to millions of television viewers as the fictional 'Aidensfield' in the hugely popular 'Heartbeat'.



The railway viewed from Cross Dale as a Santa Special heads for Levisham. (Karl Heath)

Example of a double-page spread.



Grosmont is the northern terminus of the preserved railway. The footbridge crosses the Esk Valley line to the left of the N1WR platforms.



In April 2007 history was made when the railway commenced running through trains from Pickering to Whitby becoming the first preserved railway allowed to operate passenger trains on the national railway network. On many operating days it is no longer necessary to 'change' at Grosmont.



Passing over the line's summit at Fen Bog is 'The Great Marquess' on an overcast 28 September 2007.