

# SPIRIT OF THE KEIGHLEY AND WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY

Mike Heath

The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, which was originally opened in 1865, spent much of its first 100 years of existence known only to the West Yorkshire community it was built to serve. Then, during the 1960s, branch lines all over the country were closed as part of British Rail's streamlining policy which also saw the replacement of steam locomotives with diesel and electric traction.

The Worth Valley line itself was closed in 1962 but local people teamed up with railway enthusiasts in an effort to save it. Their determination saw the setting up of a preservation society which was the first to purchase a standard gauge railway from BR. Many years of volunteer toil resulted in the line reopening on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1968 since when the railway has been managed and operated by qualified volunteers who have now provided services for over three decades and justifiably celebrated forty years of operation in 2008.

The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Preservation Society is rightly proud of having preserved the branch line in its entirety and the decision to recreate and maintain the superb late 1950s – early 1960s house style found along the line.

In this all new pocket size album Mike Heath takes us on a photographic journey along the route which starts alongside the BR station at Keighley and climbs through the diverse West Yorkshire landscape to the line's terminus at Oxenhope, highlighting the magnificent Bronte countryside and the affect that the changing seasons and weather have on it. Stepping back in time at the beautifully restored stations at Ingrow, Damems, Oakworth and Haworth along the way he celebrates the many and varied events that the railway holds creating a 'Worth Valley Experience' enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year.

## 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. He is the author of more than ten railway titles, all for Halsgrove.

## HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

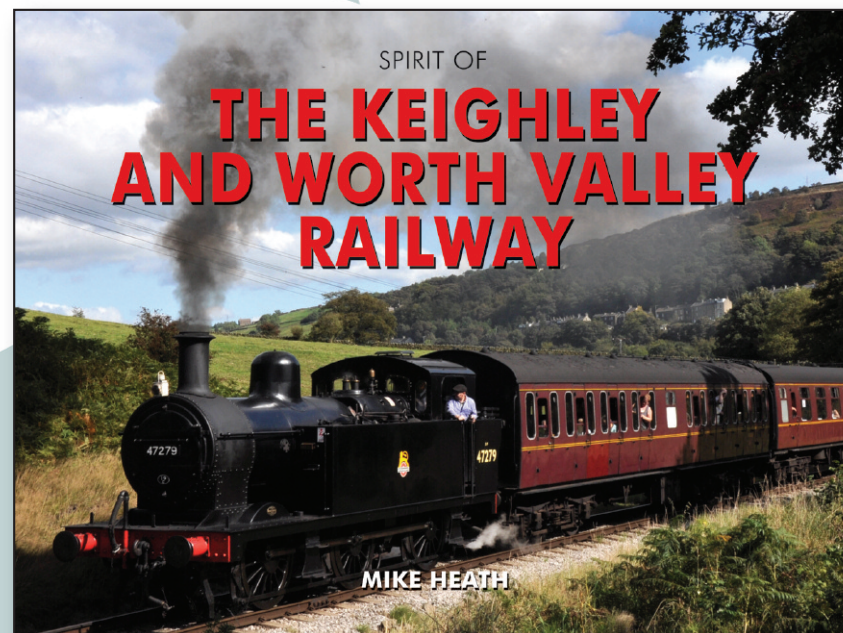
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Black Five No. 45212 plays to the photographer's gallery at the top of Keighley bank.



957 is the one survivor of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway's Class 25 locomotives.



No. 42729, the 'Jinty', climbs Oakworth bank, a popular location for photographers. (Photo Karl Heath)



8 Vintage trains are not confined to Gala day running. On selected Sundays and Bank Holidays between May and August passengers are invited to travel the line 'as great grandad did!'



9 These Gala Weekends see all operable locomotives in action and Keighley is an ideal location to watch the comings and goings.

Example of a double-page spread.



Steam hauled trains, a frost-encrusted landscape, clear blue skies and a nip in the air – what more could a railway photographer want for Christmas!