

News Update

Rail 200 Event

Saturday saw the culmination of a very successful three-day event based around the Rail 200 Inspiration Train which was stabled at Boat of Garten during its stay. **Gordon Kirk reports:**

We sold almost **1,000 tickets** and generated income of nearly **£28,000**. The Rail200 Inspiration Train had over **930 visitors**.

There was a tremendous “Buzz” around the Railway with a huge amount of interest and posts on social media. This highlighted the many exciting opportunities to see our fleet in action including unique mixes -double and triple headers, brake van rides, Queen Anne etc - all a brilliant show case of the Railway. **An event to be proud of and all thanks to the enormous effort and teamwork from everyone across the railway;** it was a superb testament to all.

Whilst everyone contributed and helped make it the success it was, the burden of course fell on some individuals more than others in particular very special thanks to Keith Holyland for all the hard work in arranging the timetable; he truly was the mastermind! And then Nathan Lightowler, who was one of the initial instigators of the event, and the shed team assisted by the regular volunteers, in particular Ben Angus for preparing and organising all the locos and rolling stock, Graham Sutherland for organising and liaising with the Rail 200 train and all the activities and logistics associated with it as well, as along with Ellie Morgan, promoting and advertising. Graham Maxtone and the signalling team working away, largely behind the scenes, together with Stephen Muirhead RO'ing to ensure everything went off safely. Guards, footplate crews, station staff, especially at Boat with so much going on there, catering with their trolley on the platform in addition to their usual offerings, were all instrumental in coping with the increased numbers.

I would also like to acknowledge the great support from the Rail 200 team and GBRf for allowing us to use their two 66's. A special thanks is due to Graham, their driver who volunteered to do this and also opened his cab for visits raising almost £50 in donations for the railway.

I can't mention everyone, and I am sure I have missed many but clearly a great effort by everyone on the railway.

Thank you one and all.

Gordon Kirk
General Manager