



**Ribble Steam Railway**

Chain Caul Road Preston PR2 2TU

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **MARCH 2004**

# **LOCOMOTIVE NEWS**

In time for Open Days on 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> January restoration of D2148 was completed and locomotive returned to traffic operating demonstration freight train in our yard. D2148 was built by British Rail in Swindon in 1960 then sold onto The National Coal Board Opencast Executive at Bowyers Row Disposal Point, Astley, Yorkshire in 1973 and subsequently purchased by a Steamport Member and delivered to Southport on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1987. Class 05 D2595 built by Hunslet Engine Company in 1959 was also in use. January's Open Days exceeded our expectations with over 700 visitors. The next Open Days are 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> July when we are expecting to steam Agcroft No2 following it's return from loan with East Lancashire Railway.

(We have Photo images available upon request, courtesy of Robert Yelland)

Our voluntary workforce continues to expand. So does our activity. Cosmetic restoration has now commenced on "PUG" 0-4-0 Saddle Tank built at Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company's Horwich Works in 1910, works number 10897. Cosmetic restoration is progressing on our Andrew Barclay Fireless locomotive "HEYSHAM" built 1928, works number 1950 and battery powered electric locomotive "GREENBAT" built in Leeds by Greenwood & Batley in 1945, works number 2000.

We record our sincere thanks to Hilary Royden (our Company Secretary for over 25 years) for his generous bequest which is funding restoration and return to traffic (currently scheduled for late 2005) of "NORTH WESTERN GAS BOARD", a Peckett 0-4-0 Saddle Tank number 1999 built in 1941. This locomotive operated at Blowick gas works in Southport before transfer to Darwen Gasworks and subsequent acquisition by the Cryer family. 1999 operated passenger trains at Keighley and Worth Valley Railway in early days before loan to Steamport who purchased the locomotive in 1999. In addition Hilary's bequest is assisting the restoration to traffic of Class 02 lookalike D2870, an 0-4-0 diesel hydraulic built by Yorkshire Engine Company at Sheffield in 1960, works number 2677 which formerly worked at Pilkington Glass in St Helens.



## Ribble Steam Railway

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March we took delivery of two Sentinel four wheel drive (4wd) diesel hydraulic shunting locos. "SIMON" was very generously donated by OMYIA Cement in Hull and is possibly the oldest Sentinel diesel in captivity. Built 1959, works number 10020, "SIMON" has been out of use for many years. The second loco, "DH23", was built 1965 for Manchester Ship Canal Company, works number 10226, and has only recently been withdrawn from traffic. "DH23" was one of three Manchester Ship Canal 4wd Sentinels equipped for tandem working.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March Ribble Rail fitters started both locos. "SIMON" started first time after being out of use for many years. Both were built at (Shrewsbury) and will complement our existing ex Preston Dock Sentinel Diesels. We have two Sentinel Steam Locomotives – ST MONANS and GASBAG, built 1947 and 1929 respectively, both 4wd locos with vertical boilers. There is no truth in rumour that we are about to become The Sentinel Preservation Society!!

**\*ISSUED ON BEHALF OF RIBBLE STEAM RAILWAY ON 30th MARCH 2004  
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\*TONY KUIVALA IS DIRECTOR OF STEAMPORT SOUTHPORT LTD AND  
CURATOR OF RIBBLE STEAM RAILWAY'S NEW MUSEUM.**

**THANK YOU**