

CELEBRATING THE SAVING OF THE SETTLE CARLISLE LINE

25TH ANNIVERSARY

On Friday 11th April, thanks to the generosity of DRS (Direct Rail Services) there was a special train from Leeds to Carlisle and return along the Settle-Carlisle Line. Ten carriages were hauled by two Class 37 diesel engines, with another Class 37 at the rear. The excursion was superbly organised by the Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company.



Left: Here we are at Carlisle Citadel station at 5.30 am prior to travelling down the East Coast Main Line to pick up VIPs and paying guests at Leeds at 9.30.

Right: Best known of the VIPs was Michael Portillo, seen here being interviewed on the train by the BBC.



Some good videos on YouTube of our stately progress, try [this one](#).

A total of 600 people travelled up to Carlisle, where the VIPs were treated to a buffet lunch in the Hallmark Hotel and listened to brief speeches by Michael

Portillo and others who were involved in the saving of the line from closure.

It was a unique occasion, a reunion for those who saved the line and at the same time a marvellous opportunity for FoSCL to speak to those who will be involved in specifying the next Northern franchise.