

THE DEVON BELLE

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ILFRACOMBE RAILWAY 150th ANNIVERSARY



On 20th July, we celebrated the 150th anniversary – to the day - of the very first train from Ilfracombe. With the generous support of Ilfracombe Town Council, we organised a free railway exhibition in the Landmark Pavilion. We were particularly delighted that our exhibition, and the parallel railway exhibition at Ilfracombe Museum, were officially opened by HRH Queen Victoria and Prince Arthur of Connaught (aka Rita and Frank Clews of Ilfracombe.) Special thanks to Sandra Davies for rounding up all the Ilfracombe Victorians - including Town Crier Roy Goodwin.



Combe Rail trustees John Burch, Glyn Pollington and Richard Heacock were delighted to welcome Tim Steer (2nd from L.) Tim's father and grandfather were both railwaymen at Barnstaple Junction, and Tim is not only a trustee at Bideford Railway Heritage Centre, but has almost single-handedly kickstarted the campaign to reconnect Bideford to the national railway network, leading to the formation earlier this year of The Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.