



First Day of Passenger Services

Date: 9/9/2004

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The first regular passenger service to run on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway, between Wirksworth and Gorsey Bank, for fifty-seven years, ran at 12 hours, noon, on Tuesday the 24th of August.

The service was out and back to Wirksworth Station, as there is currently no station at Gorsey Bank. This run is approximately one kilometre.

The first train carried some 140 passengers and was hauled by the railway's 0-6-0 Ruston locomotive, "Cromwell", the train itself consisted of the four carriages of the former Gatwick Express set, which the railway acquired last year. The drivers for this service were Martin Miller and Sam Ryde, with guard Mike Craft. The train was despatched from Wirksworth Station by Stationmaster Anton Shone. The first day of operations continued with trains at half hourly intervals until 17.00. The official opening of this section of the line will follow in due course.

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