

Lappa Valley Celebrates 30 Years of the Iconic Newlyn Downs Branch Line with a Special Locomotive Reunion!



00_DUKE_OF_CORNWALL_CARLYON_BAY: Duke of Cornwall running on the Carlyon Bay Railway in the 80s. Photo credit: Paul Obrey

A much-loved locomotive will be the star of the show, as Lappa Valley gets set to celebrate the 30th birthday of one of their much-loved railways **THIS WEEKEND the 28th and 29th June..**

In 1995, the family attraction opened its charming 10¼-inch gauge Newlyn Downs Branch Line, which follows the former Newquay to Chacewater GWR line. The railway was constructed using rails purchased from the then-closed Carlyon Bay Beach Railway, which delighted thousands of beach-goers each year.

As part of the purchase, Lappa Valley also rescued the locomotive “Duke of Cornwall” which was the sole motive power from when the branch line began operation until 2008. Although currently being stopped undergoing an overhaul, the locomotive will make a special appearance during the anniversary weekend.

Ben Harding, Operations Director at Lappa Valley said: “Lots of people remember Duke of Cornwall with a great deal of fondness from her time on the beach, as well as here at Lappa.

“We’re really pleased to be giving her a run-out over the weekend, with a series of demonstration services along the Newlyn Downs line. We’ll also be commemorating the hard work that went into constructing the line on the old track bed over the cold winters.

“Here at Lappa Valley, we love honouring the past and inspiring the next generation of train lovers.”

Over two days of celebration, visitors will journey along the route of the former Great Western Railway to the Mitchell & Newlyn Halt behind today's fleet including 10¼-inch diesels "Eric" and "The Duke" built by Alan Keef. There will also be the unveiling of a new information board celebrating the history of the line.

Last year, Lappa Valley unveiled a new station for the branch line which will become a focal point for the anniversary celebrations. There will be opportunities to enjoy photos with Duke of Cornwall alongside the current fleet.

About Lappa Valley:

Tucked into Cornwall's countryside, Lappa Valley blends family fun with heritage railway charm. The award-winning attraction features a 15" gauge railway, indoor and outdoor play, café, shops, and more. Drawing over 100,000 guests annually, Lappa is renowned for creating unforgettable memories, and was named Railway of the Year 2025 in the Heritage Railway Association Awards.



newdown3: The imposing East Wheel Rose Engine House stands over the construction of the Newlyn Downs Branchline in the early 90s.