

PRINCESS ELIZABETH 6201

Steam locomotive 6201 'Princess Elizabeth' was built at Crewe Works in 1933, designed by Sir William Stanier to work passenger trains between Euston and Glasgow. Until 1933, locomotives on London to Glasgow services had to be changed at Crewe, so the Princess Royal Class Locomotives were seen as the answer for a more economical service.

On 16th November 1936, 6201 set up a non-stop record run between London and Glasgow averaging 69 mph for the 401 miles. However on the 17th November return journey with a heavier load, the speed averaged 70 mph for the 401 miles to Euston – a record that has never been beaten by steam to this day. The driver, Tom Clark of Crewe, was awarded the O.B.E. for his achievements by King George the Sixth.

When the locomotive was withdrawn from service in 1962, it was bought directly from British Rail with money from a fund which had been set up in 1961 to save the locomotive from being scrapped. The Princess Elizabeth Society was formed with the initial intention of keeping records of the historic Record Run and the Royal connection. The locomotive was named after the young Princess Elizabeth, now her Majesty the Queen. During the next 12 years volunteers worked on the locomotive at Ashchurch and steamed it on the short stretch of track. When it was realised that 'Princess Elizabeth' could be returned to the main line, effort and money made it possible to attend the Shildon celebrations in 1975.

In 1987 the Crewe Heritage Centre was opened by Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The locomotive was introduced 'to them', this being the first time Her Majesty had seen 6201. Members of our committee were introduced to her and she was presented with a Hornby OO Gauge model of 6201. This model is now on display in the library at Windsor Castle.

On the 3rd June 2012 the locomotive had the great honour and privilege of starting the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant celebrations by sounding the Stanier hooter whilst standing on the Battersea Railway Bridge. This event was followed a few weeks later when 6201 hauled the Royal Train with Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh on board from Newport to Hereford and Worcester to Oxford. This was surely one of the proudest moments in the history of the Society.

During all these years 6201 has continued to haul special charter trains on the main line, thus bringing a great deal of pleasure to the general public and preserving a piece of our national heritage.

Princess Elizabeth is now based at the West Shed at the Midland Railway Centre, Butterley in Derbyshire. 6201 Members are welcome to visit the West Shed Museum, and by prior arrangement are invited to offer their assistance with locomotive maintenance whilst 6201 is on site. In the interests of health and safety, any prospective members wishing to volunteer at the West Shed will be required to undertake a short briefing on site procedures and practices. For further information on becoming an active member, please contact Clive Mojonier – 39 Newton Street, Millom, Cumbria, LA18 4DR.

Photographs, video clips and a wealth of information regarding 6201 Princess Elizabeth can be found on the society website at www.6201.co.uk



Please retain for your information.

ABSTRACT FROM THE SOCIETY RULES AND CONSTITUTION

1. The aim of the Society (which is a Limited Company by guarantee and not share capital) is to acquire locomotives, rolling stock railway machinery and equipment, with particular emphasis on the former L.M.S.R. Company, and to restore, renovate and maintain and run them, particularly Locomotive No. 6201 'Princess Elizabeth'.
2. In addition, to encourage and promote public interest in steam preservation.
3. All money raised by and on behalf of the Society, shall be applied to further its aims and for no other purposes.
4. Membership is granted only on the clear understanding that neither the Society, Executive Committee, nor any third party shall be responsible for any injury or damage howsoever caused to any member or his/her property whilst on any Society business. The Society cannot hold itself responsible for any loss or damage occasioned by a member at any time. Such damage shall be the sole responsibility of the individual concerned.
5. Whilst the Locomotive is present on any other society's site, members are also subject to the rules of that society/site.
6. Joint members only have one vote.
7. Student membership may be granted for those aged 18 to 25 and in full time education.
8. Junior membership may be granted to applicants up to 18 years of age. Please note juniors do not have a vote
9. Subscriptions shall be due on the 3rd February each year. Any member whose annual subscription is unpaid by 1st April shall cease to be a member of the Society.
10. The Executive Committee has the power to terminate membership if it is considered to be in the interests of the Society.
11. In the event of the winding up of the Society, each member is only liable to pay a maximum of £1.00 towards any debts or liabilities.