

# NENE VALLEY RAILWAY

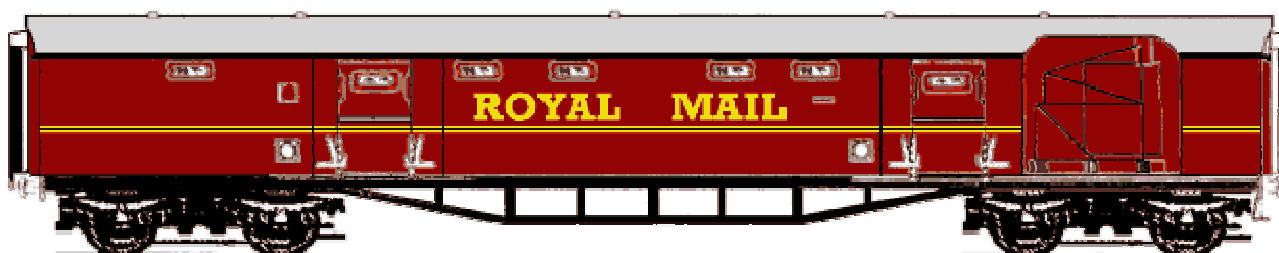


OFFICIAL OPENING

YARWELL CUTTING

TPO APPARATUS

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**



# EVENT GUIDE

## Welcome to the official launch of the Yarwell TPO apparatus

On behalf of the Nene Valley Railway I would like to welcome you to the official launch weekend of the Travelling Post Office (TPO) mail bag exchange equipment at Yarwell Junction.

Almost everyone has heard of or seen the **Night Mail**, with its evocative poem by W. H. Auden:

"This is the Night Mail crossing the border,  
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,  
Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,  
The shop at the corner and the girl next door.  
Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb,  
The gradient's against her, but she's on time."

The NVR is one of only a few railways that can recreate these scenes and during each day the Travelling Post Office set of coaches will make one round trip to demonstrate how mail used to be exchanged while the train was moving.

The Travelling Post Office was first introduced in 1838, some 170 years ago and last until the night of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> January 2004. At the demise of the TPO service in 2004 it was quoted as being "A Victorian answer to a Victorian problem", yet the Victorian era had ended over 100 years earlier.

If you take a close look at the coaches you will notice that one of them has a net on the side and also some metal arms (known as traductor arms). These items of equipment enable the coach to collect and dispatch leather mail bags whilst the train is moving and this will be demonstrated at "Yarwell Cutting", which is located about two hundred yards to the east of Yarwell Junction station. Access is only possible by train.

To enable you to travel on the Travelling Post Office train to Yarwell you must be in possession of a valid rover ticket, which can be purchased from any station on the railway, or from the Travelling Ticket Inspector on the train. Please note that no tickets are sold on the TPO itself and should be purchased from the ticket office beforehand.

Whilst onboard the TPOs, if you would like to have a go at "sorting the mail" then please do, our volunteers will be only too pleased to help. You may also wish to take a close look at all the sorting frames, known as "fillets"; note that they are not all the same and are of different sizes for the sorting of mail, parcels and registered mail. Take note of the kitchen area that was provided for the sorting crew to make a brew during their nightly trip, which includes a small oven – try finding it!

If you have any questions, just ask one of the members of staff – if they don't have the answer they will know someone who does.

### PLEASE NOTE:

No passengers can be carried on the Travelling Post Office train while exchanges of mail take place, so please disembark from the TPO when it arrives at Yarwell Junction and walk back to the exchange equipment.

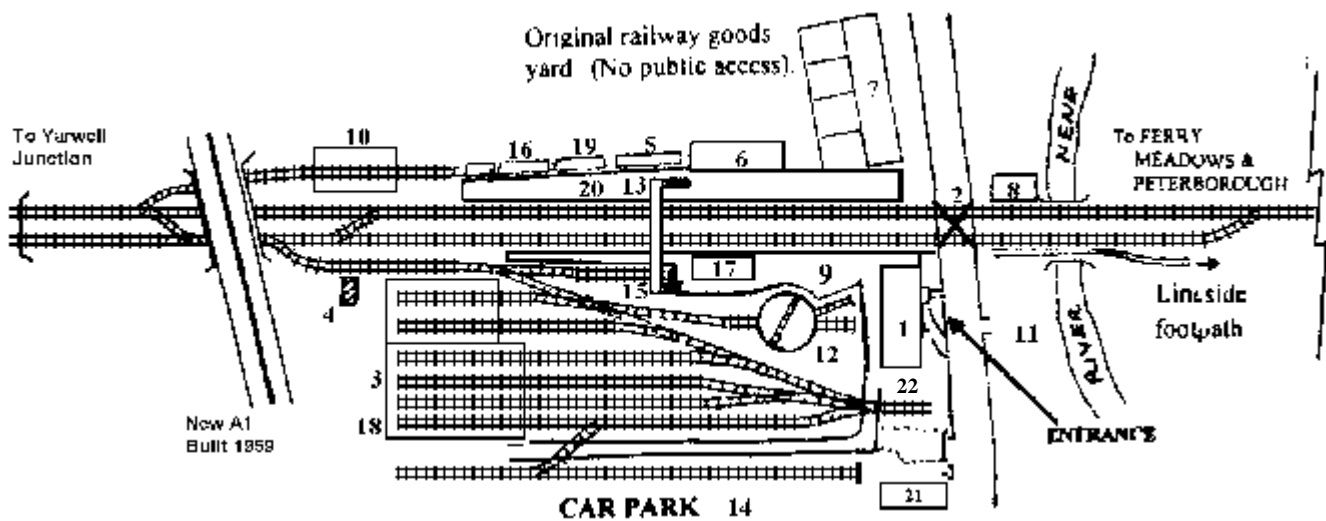
The Travelling Post Office has no seating area on it, so if you require to be seated while travelling to Yarwell then please catch the passenger train that precedes the TPO service you plan to watch and then catch the train that follows the departure of the TPO from Yarwell. A timetable appears on the next page.

Two final words - Enjoy yourselves

Brian Hallett (TPO Project)

## Where to find the attractions

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shop, Booking Office, Café &amp; Toilets</li> <li>2. Level Crossing</li> <li>3. Locomotive Shed</li> <li>4. Coaling area &amp; Water tower</li> <li>5. Model Railway</li> <li>6. Original Station Building (Privately owned, no access)</li> <li>7. Original Railway Cottages (Privately owned, no access)</li> <li>8. Wansford Signal Box (opened 28<sup>th</sup> April 1907)</li> <li>9. Turntable viewing area</li> <li>10. Carriage Shed (Not open)</li> <li>11. Picnic Area</li> <li>12. Turntable</li> <li>13. Footbridge</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Car Park</li> <li>15. Platform 1</li> <li>16. Second Hand Bookshop<br/>Friends of M30272M TPO Group</li> <li>17. Barnwell Building</li> <li>18. BR(M) TPO M30272M<br/>Undergoing a major rebuild</li> <li>19. Southern TPO, 4920.</li> <li>20. Museum &amp; Exhibition siding</li> <li>21. Jubilee Playground<br/>An area for the kids to let off steam</li> <li>22. Platform 5 – Shire horses</li> </ol> |
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TIMETABLE								
STOCK		Mk 1	TPO	Mk 1	TPO	Mk 1	TPO	Mk 1
Loco		B	A	A	B	A	B	A
Wansford	Dep.	11:00	11:25	12:45	13:10	14:30	14:55	16:15
Yarwell Junction	Arr.	11:05	11:32	12:50	13:16	14:35	15:01	16:20
	Dep.	11:13	12:20	12:58	14:05	14:43	15:50	16:28
Wansford	Arr.	11:18	12:27	13:03	14:12	14:48	15:57	16:33
	Dep.	11:20		13:05		14:50		16:35
Ferry Meadows	Dep.	11:35		13:20		15:05		16:50
Orton Mere	Dep.	11:40		13:25		15:10		16:55
Peterborough (Nene Valley)	Arr.	11:45		13:30		15:15		17:00
Peterborough (Nene Valley)	Dep.	12:00		13:45		15:30		17:15
Orton Mere	Dep.	12:06		13:51		15:36		17:21
Ferry Meadows	Dep.	12:11		13:56		15:41		17:26
Wansford	Arr.	12:26		14:11		15:56		17:41

**Notes:**

Locos: A = 2183, B = 31271 (Sat), D9516 (Sun)

Please note that no passengers are carried in travelling Post Office coaches during the exchange of mail.

Information correct as of 8th May 2008

Please Note: Attractions, Displays and Timetables may change at short notice before the event. The Nene Valley Railway cannot be held liable for any change to the programme, no matter how caused. The Nene Valley Railway will endeavour to provide the items listed wherever possible.

## Other attractions to be seen this weekend

### Second Hand Bookshop on platform 4.

Our well stocked second hand book shop offers not only a wide selection of railway related books but also a selection of other titles including novels. All the surplus income from this bookshop goes to the continued restoration work on TPO M30272M.

### Pump Trolley

Our recently restored pump trolley, which dates from 1907, is now on display on the platform at Wansford. This vehicle can be viewed alongside the turntable.

### Wansford Signalbox

The signalbox at Wansford is one of the largest preserved signalboxes in the country that is still in its original position. It was built in 1907 to replace three smaller boxes at Wansford and last year celebrated its centenary.

## Rail Mail 2008

Our next event featuring the Travelling Post Office set of coaches will be on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008 when BOTH "Sutton Cross" and "Yarwell Cutting" exchanges will be in use – a first in preservation.

An intensive timetable will be in operation, along with various steam and diesel locomotives.

Various stand and displays will be on site as well as our famed "Real Ale Beer Tent"

Full details appear on our website: <http://www.nvr.org.uk/timetable/railmail.php>

## About us

We hope that you have enjoyed the event and have had an insight into the operations of the Nene Valley Railway. If you feel that the time you spent with us was enjoyable and that you could help us to operate the railway then please become a member of the NVR and come and join in. You don't need to have any special skills (although it helps) as training will be given, the only requirement is that you want to enjoy yourself.

Ask one of our members for a membership form, they will be only to glad to point you in the right direction

Nene Valley Railway  
Wansford Station  
Stibbington  
PETERBOROUGH  
PE8 6LR

Registered Museum : 1636

Tel: (01780) 784444  
Fax: (01780) 784440  
Talking Timetable: (01780) 784404

TPO website : [www.tpo.org.uk](http://www.tpo.org.uk)  
NVR website : [www.nvr.org.uk](http://www.nvr.org.uk)

NVR is a Registered Educational Charity : 263617