



NEWS RELEASE

2017 Spring Diesel Gala is taking shape

The Bluebell Railway's 2017 Spring Diesel Gala being held over 3 days between Friday 31st March and Sunday 2nd April is beginning to take shape. Whilst timetables and details of all visiting motive power are still being firmed up, we can announce that the event will include 2 Class 50 locomotives being 50035 Ark Royal and 50049 Defiance.

Owned by the Class 50 Alliance Ltd and normally resident at the Severn Valley Railway, the 2 locomotives will travel to the Bluebell Railway in Sussex via the National Rail Network.

Entering service in August 1968 and December 1968 respectively Ark Royal and Defiance are 2 of the 50 originally built by English Electric between 1967/8 as Type 4 diesels later to become BR Class 50's. The 50 theme continues with 2017 representing 50 years since the first of this class was built. Withdrawal of the Class started in the early 1990's – 50035 being withdrawn in August 1990 and 50049 a year later.

50049 Defiance was the last passenger diesel powered locomotive built for British Rail and 50035 Ark Royal was the first of its class to be preserved. A Class 50 has not visited the Bluebell Railway in the past.

Photo courtesy of Tony Middleton



Further details of the event can be found on www.bluebell-railway.com

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