

Sunday 2 April

RAILWAY 64

Steeple Grange Light Railway is an 18" gauge railway just north of Wirksworth. I have driven passed it before, but not found it open - first Sunday of each month says the website. Julie stayed with her book and I went for an explore. A small building with coffee, tickets, books and DVDs (Peter, you are moving house soon, stop buying books and DVDs), and a train ride up to Killer's Quarry.

This branch was built in 1884. It connected the Cromford and High Peak at Steeplehouse to Middleton Quarry and cost £3,700. Limestone was sent out of the quarry until the line closed in 1967.

I don't know when the narrow gauge line was laid, but it is quite a length up to Middleton Quarry. We had a young lad who was helping as guard, so he gave us a short talk about the history of the line and the loco - apparently it served at the BR works at Horwich and therefore appeared in the Ian Allan spotter books - one chap was very happy when he



realized he could finally cross it off! (I wish I had not got rid of my spotter books from my teenage years).



We drove down into Wirksworth to the Ecclesbourne Railway, mainly because we needed the loo, but we also visit the shop with books and DVDs (Peter, you are moving house soon, stop buying books and DVDs). We then went and sat in the sun on the other platform, Julie with a half of cider, and watched the trains.



