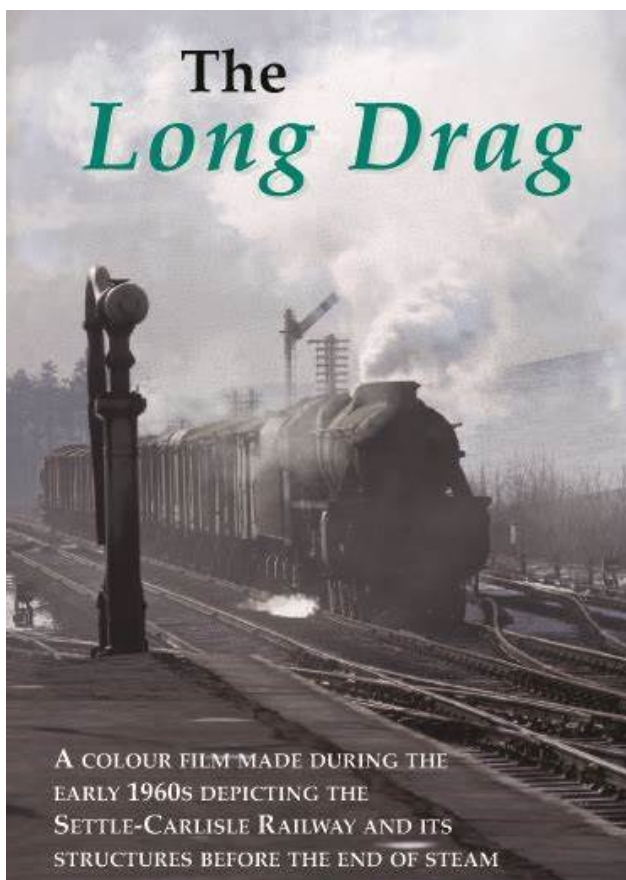


Wednesday 8 February

I was worn out after yesterday, so the furthest I went today was the cattle grid at the start of the drive. We had a leisurely cooked breakfast, then Hannah came over. Everyone else went to Ingleton for an antiques centre and a café - I watched the 1960s film "The Long Drag". Hannah had a zoom call at 5.30, then we all had supper - the catering department doing a grand job. Hannah went home, and then I slept (again).



Thursday 9 February

RAILWAY 56

Settle		1022
Carlisle	1201	1450
Settle	1628	

You cannot have a holiday without going on the railway. We didn't book assistance, just turned up about 0950. "We'll get you over the crossing once the 10 o'clock has gone, and we've got the coffee trolley to take over too." There is a piano in the waiting room, which is a registered "Warm space", a bookshop - thanks to lovely staff and the Friends of the S&C, it feels a real community hub. I watched the Leeds train depart, then we crossed over (we made sure the coffee went first).





It was a beautiful journey north - what a stupid thing to write, this is the S&C. It must be 7 years since I last came this way, why have I left it so long? Viaducts, tunnels, stations, rows of Midland Railway cottages in the middle of nowhere, and stunning views. I wonder how many MR directors and shareholders came up from Derby. Were they impressed with what had been built, or wonder "why"? The Friends coffee trolley was much appreciated - that would be a nice retirement job. I didn't take any photos, just enjoyed the ride.

At Carlisle we walked up to the Cathedral and joined the lunchtime Eucharist. Then lunch in their nice new café, then a stroll back to the station. Same guard, and more tea. Back at Settle we drove home via Giggleswick station in the hope we might get a train trip to Lancaster (in the end we didn't, but we could easily park here and there is a barrow crossing to get to the westbound platform which you can use at any time. At Settle you have to have staff to get you across the track - so after 4 pm you can't arrive from Leeds. Why is it safe to use a barrow crossing at Giggleswick, but not at Settle?).



