

[www.imechewestcumbria.org.uk](http://www.imechewestcumbria.org.uk)

## **Visit to The Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust, West Shed, Ripley on 20 October 2010**

It was dark frosty 0500 start from Whitehaven for the 9 members and guests, but after pickups at Distington and Cockermouth the day dawned to a cloudless sky when over the Pennines into Yorkshire. After coffee and introductions we spent the morning in the capable hands of the curator Brian Radford for a guided tour of the exhibits.

First, and pride of place, was 6233 Duchess of Sutherland, still warm to the touch after returning from hauling a steam special in the early hours of Sunday morning. She won't be seen working for some time as she is due her 10year major overhaul and boiler certification. Modern standards apply to the old girls. Brian gave an informative tour of the footplate explaining both the original controls and the discreetly fitted modern equipment required for modern day running on the network.

Next was a trip inside 45000 Royal Special Saloon built in 1920 and under restoration. The saloon has sitting, dining and sleeping quarters and was used by Sir Winston Churchill during WW2.

Next came 45050 Dynamometer Car built in 1912 for the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway. A fine example of engineering testing in the early 20th century which lasted through LMS and BR days to finally come out of service in 1970. The car has a central table with chart recorder to record motive force, distance, inclination, water and fuel usage etc whilst on the move. The car is fully resorted and has been used on the local preserved line.

After lunch we had a behind the scenes trip round the workshops to see restoration work in progress. The shed can tackle most jobs except large boiler and wheel repairs.

The trip finished with a tour of the neighbouring Midland Railway shed to view many wagons including two Carlisle built Cowan & Sheldon cranes, more locomotives, and a very early example of containerisation - an 18th century cage for rail and barge use.

We departed at 1530 for return to West Cumbria by 2000. There were many more thing to see but too numerous to mention by name.

The trust has a fine website, [www.prclt.co.uk/index2.html](http://www.prclt.co.uk/index2.html), well worth a hit to catch up on the news.

Event Organiser: Jim Skeen



Presenting a Pit Tankie to Kate Watts and Brian Radford



Dynamometer Car Recording Table





Group in the lounge of the Royal Special Saloon



Dining in style whilst on the move!