



Devon Diesel Society Ltd

**Owners and Operators of Heritage Diesel Locomotives
Class 04 D2246, Class 37 D6737 and Class 50 D402**

PRESS RELEASE ** Press Release ** PRESS RELEASE

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Mainline Diesel Locomotive 31 601 to be Named "Devon Diesel Society"



Friday 22nd May is set to be a historic day for the Devon Diesel Society (DDS) when a mainline diesel locomotive is named after the Society at Buckfastleigh Station on the South Devon Railway (SDR).

The Class 31 locomotive, No. 31601 which is operated on the national mainline network by Devon & Cornwall Railways (DCR) and hauls a variety of freight and engineering services throughout the country, is set to arrive on the South Devon Railway in early May. Members of the DDS will then repaint the locomotive, which dates from April 1960, from its present green livery into the latest DCR livery of dark grey prior to the naming ceremony that will take place at the start of the SDR's 1960s Weekend.

The proposal to repaint and then name the locomotive came from DCR driver, and DDS supporter, Rob Scott who worked on a similar repainting project with the Society a few years back.

Following the naming ceremony 31 601 is then expected to haul passenger and demonstration goods trains on the SDR on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd May. This will include some services running into the evening which are being operated to connect into the DDS Spring Real Ale festival, which is being run from the Society's award winning bar at Staverton station from midday Friday through until 18.00 on Monday. Approximately 45 real ales and traditional ciders will be on offer, with the proceeds of the festival going towards the ongoing restoration to working order of the Society's largest locomotive, the 117 ton Class 50 No. 50002 Superb.

more follows

"We are delighted to be able to assist in the repainting of 31 601 into DCR's latest livery, and appreciate greatly the chance for the locomotive to be named after Society" said Society Chairman Andy Matthews.

"Several class 31 locomotives were named after heritage railways in the past, but having one named after a Society such as ours is a great honour and a well deserved reward to our members who have worked hard over the years to help restore, maintain and run heritage diesel locomotives from a bygone age for others to enjoy"

"The naming ceremony and operation of 31 601 during the SDRs 1960s gala will add another dimension to an already great event, and with our Spring Real Ale festival also taking place, there will be plenty for everybody to enjoy"

NOTES TO NEWS/PICTURE EDITOR

For further information about the Devon Diesel Society, the repainting and naming of 31 601 or the Spring Real Ale festival, please contact DDS Chairman Andy Matthews on 07747 530644.

For further information on the South Devon Railway and the 1960s Weekend, please contact SDR PR & Business Development Manager Dick Wood on 07711 552947

www.devondiesels.org.uk

DEVON DIESEL SOCIETY LIMITED
Registered Office: 82 Mariners Way, Paignton, Devon TQ3 1RY
Registered Number: 3299431 England Registered Charity Number: 1060193
Directors: AW Matthews (Chairman), K Atkinson, R Evans, I Mills, JK Morton, SB Squires