

The Annual West Somerset Railway Association Steam Fair and Vintage Vehicle Rally is one of the major events of its type in South West England and will take place this year on Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th August.

On Saturday August 4th and Sunday 5th a special diesel railcar train will depart from Minehead to the rally site, allowing passengers to alight at the platform adjacent to the rally entrance gate. The departure time from Minehead will be at 09.00 on Saturday and 09.20 on Sunday. The train will call at Blue Anchor, Watchet, Williton and Bishops Lydeard . Tickets for this train, which include admission to the Rally, can be purchased for £25 (adult and senior) and £7.50 (child). These can be purchased in advance online from www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk or via 01643 704996.

On Saturday, the diesel railcar will leave Norton Fitzwarren at 17.00 to run back to Minehead after shuttling between Bishops Lydeard and Norton Fitzwarren during the day. On Sunday, the shuttle will connect into the last train back to Minehead, leaving Bishops Lydeard at 16.15 and calling at all stations on the way.

On arrival at the Rally, visitors will be able to view a wide range of exhibits including the steam powered showmen's engines and road rollers, vintage cars, buses and two-wheeled transport of yesteryear. Over 700 exhibits will be on site and heavy horses will be at work. For younger visitors there is children's entertainment and a miniature railway.

Also featured are craft stalls, a refreshment tent and a real ale bar. Steam will also power fairground organs. Throughout the day, there will be arena displays. Profits from the Vintage Vehicle Rally will go towards the overhaul of steam locomotives for future use on the West Somerset Railway.