

# Railholiday News 2025

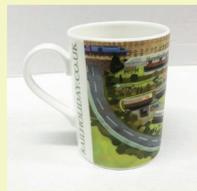


An autumnal November afternoon in Harvey. We took advantage of a gap in bookings in May to paint Harvey's exterior

**Greetings friends, old and new.** We hope you are all well. Since our last newsletter things have been as busy as ever at Railholiday. On the high side we've won an award and done some good work on our next project. We've also had some tough times, losing good friends who have supported us through the years. Our team goes from strength to strength though, and our family are all doing well, so we have much to be grateful for.

**We're not the only ones who have been winning awards;** Hayle beach won the **Sunday Times Beach of the Year** this summer. Read on for more on this story.

We've also ordered a **new run of Railholiday bone china mugs**, so for anyone not able to buy one in the past, we should now have plenty. They are, of course, made in the UK, by a company called Roy Kirkham from Stoke on Trent.



## January Special

25% off all breaks in Mevy, Millpool and Harvey  
Please use the voucher code 25 when booking



**We've got a new team member in St Germans!** Lisa has joined Lizzy and our plant-expert and champion flower-grower Lil on the gardening team. A welcome extra pair of hands, Lisa brings years of experience with her.



We were thrilled in December 2023 to win the **Most Sustainable Small Business Award** at the **Cornwall Sustainability Awards**. These awards cover all businesses from tree growers to architects, so to win this accolade is a real privilege. It was a great honour to share the podium with other inspirational Cornish companies all working to make the world a better place.

**Work has continued in earnest on our Royal coach.** We're learning from past mistakes. When we restored Mevy we invested in the highest quality of FSC marine ply we could find. However it simply hasn't lasted. We've also found maintenance of the wooden body-work on all carriages to be a continual job. So after some head-scratching Dave came up with a plan to use fibreglass instead. This involves restoring an original frame to a high standard, then taking a mould from it. He's very pleased with his work so far. Dave's also made a fibreglass panel for the side of the coach. Fixing it required the assistance of the complete Friday team!



John on window duty

Dave surveys his work - fibreglass mould on floor, panel against the left side, ready for fixing

All hands to the deck!

### **Recommend a friend and get £25 off both your holidays**

Tell your friends to use the code FRIEND in the discount code box when booking for a £25 discount. Please ask them to credit your name in the comments box so we can take £25 off your next booking too.

*Printed on recycled paper by Cornish eco-printers St Austell Printing Company - sapc.co.uk. [www.railholiday.co.uk](http://www.railholiday.co.uk) - Dave and Lizzy Stroud, Haparanda Station, St Germans, Saltash, PL12 5LU - 01503 230783/ 07776 261192.*

As well as making window frames for the royal coach **Dave has been making replacement droplights for Mevy**, one of which can be seen in red here. The mould is coloured, to reduce the task of re-painting. It's a time-consuming task, but hopefully it will be worth it in the long run.



**We're still working towards a target of net zero.** Harvey's air-source heat pump is assisting us in this, as we now no longer use gas. Last year's job of underfloor heating has been complimented by further insulation and thick curtains in the living-rooms and bedrooms, to reduce heat loss.

**Hayle Towans was awarded the Sunday Times Beach of the Year.** We couldn't agree more. Hayle beach is wonderful at any time of the year, and most areas are dog friendly. The judge commented "the beauty is beyond question... there's a sense of nature that lowers your heart rate... The sunsets here are phenomenal"



**On Thursday mornings yoga teacher Siobhan (@wellness.with.siobhan) takes her classes on the beach**, followed by a refreshing sea dip and drinks in Cove Cafe. All are welcome.

**Our carriage Harvey makes a great base for exploring the Hayle area.** The half-acre garden makes the site feel secluded, despite its close proximity to shops, pubs and restaurants.



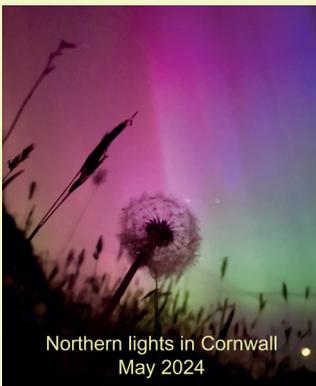
**Railholiday gift vouchers** make great presents. They come with a gift card, are fully transferable with no use-by date and can be cashed in for a £30 admin fee.



**We were treated to lots of special trains in 2024** including Royal Duchy Black 5 44871 and several steam and diesel excursions. We love this aerial view of a special passing through St Germans, taken by Jon Hird (@cornishrailways on Instagram.) Beyond the carriages site, our woods can be seen between the field and to the left of the railway.

**We're continuing to extend our snowdrop walk.** Over the last few years we've transplanted thousands of bulbs and it's really paying off. We're also planting lots more trees and want to say thank you to everyone who has donated to our plant a tree scheme.

**We said goodbye to Andy Patrick, Ben's Dad, this year.** Andy first came down with Ben and his family in 1999 and we've been good friends ever since. Andy was a real character with a fine sense of humour and a great penchant for telling stories. It was with Andy in mind that we designed our accessible carriage Millpool. Always supportive, Andy encouraged Ben to come down to Cornwall to complete his apprenticeship with us. He will be much missed.



Northern lights in Cornwall  
May 2024

**We're as busy as ever with our local community,** volunteering at the village shop and writing eco blogs for the local paper (also at railholiday.uk). Music is a big part of this. Dave was a key organiser of the St Germans **May Tree Fair** weekend, and Lizzy teaches music at **Livewire Youth Project** in Saltash (livewireyouth.com). Livewire offers support, therapy and free music lessons to young people. Dave joins Lizzy on Tuesdays for a post session treat of live jazz and "a half from the barrel" at The Union Inn before catching the last train home.

**[www.Railholiday.co.uk](http://www.Railholiday.co.uk) - 07776 261192**