



LYNTON & LYNMOUTH

1888

CLIFF RAILWAY

PRESS PACK

www.cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk



WHAT IS THE LYNTON AND LYNMOUTH CLIFF RAILWAY?

The Cliff Railway is a historic Victorian railway, which opened in 1890 and has connected the idyllic twin towns of Lynton and Lynmouth ever since. The railway is the steepest and the highest fully water powered railway in the world and a fully working testament to Victorian engineering, with no need for electricity, gas or diesel the Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway remains the UK's only fully water powered railway and one of only three examples left in the world. We're also proud to be environmentally friendly, with a number of sustainability and other awards to our name, such as the Engineering Heritage award from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Tourists flock to our unique attraction to enjoy the spectacular views across Lynmouth Bay and the Bristol Channel offered by the 862 feet of track, which rises 500 feet. Perched high on the cliff top we have the Cliff Top Cafe inside a Grade II listed building, where visitors can also enjoy food, drinks and traditional Cream Teas.

LOCATION

The Esplanade, Lynmouth,
North Devon, EX35 6EQ





ABOUT US

MISSION STATEMENT

To run and preserve the heritage of the Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway as a vibrant visitor attraction, an environmentally friendly mode of transport, and an essential link between the twin towns.

PURPOSE

Promoting the area and supporting the vital economic role of transporting tourists and residents while they are visiting or going about their daily business.

FUTURE

As part of our plan for the future we have obtained approval from the National Park Authority to erect a glass canopy over the bottom station.

KEY POINTS

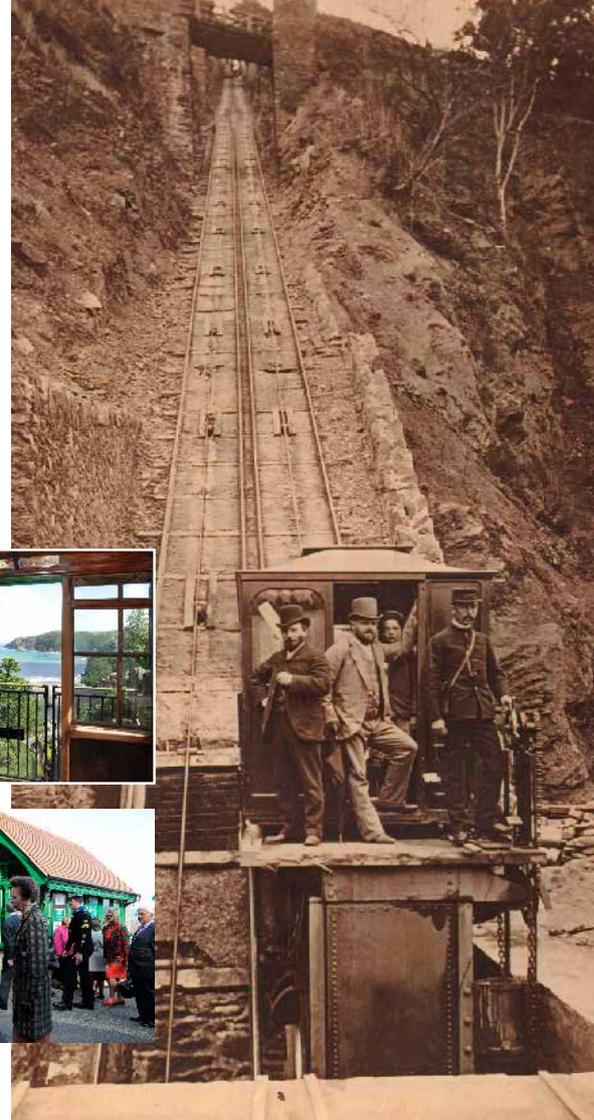
- Steepest fully water powered railway in the world, and the UK's only fully water powered railway.
- Sustainable, environmentally friendly heritage attraction.
- Significant part of Lynton and Lynmouth's history, and an important role in the area's tourism industry today.
- Major all year round employer





LYNTON & LYNMOUTH CLIFF RAILWAY TIMELINE:

- 1881** Idea of the Cliff Railway first introduced, in a letter to the Lynton and Lynmouth Recorder
- 1888** Lynmouth and Lynton Lift Company formed through an Act of Parliament with perpetual rights to extract water from the West Lyn River promoted by Sir George Newnes, a wealthy Victorian publisher
- 1890** Railway officially opened on Easter Monday by Mrs Ada Jeune, the local Lady of the Manor and has connected Lynton & Lynmouth ever since
- 1952** The year of the Lynmouth Flood Disaster. The railway's importance in the rescue effort was marked by a visit from the Duke of Edinburgh
- 1979** Chief Engineer and Manager, Ashley Clarke joined the company as an apprentice
- 1990** At the centenary of the Cliff Railway, it was calculated that it had travelled the equivalent of 10 round-the-world trips
- 1997** North Devon Conservation Society Conservation Award for the project of 'Renovation and refurbishment of the railway and its approaches'
- 2000** The start of a complete track refurbishment which was undertaken during winter maintenances. It took 6 years and was completed in 2006
- 2006** Visited by Princess Anne
- 2002** Second visit by the Duke of Edinburgh
- 2011** Extensive carriage refurbishment undertaken during the winter of 2011-2012
- 2014** Engineering Heritage Award from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for the oldest total loss water powered funicular railway in the UK
- 2015** Second visit by Princess Anne to mark the 125th anniversary of the railway
- 2017** Since it requires no type of man-made power to run, the railway has been totally environmentally friendly since 1890





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES THE CLIFF RAILWAY WORK?

The Lift works on a simple balancing system. The two cars are attached by cable which runs around a pulley wheel at the top. Each car has a 700 gallon water tank which is full of water. When the drivers have signalled to each other and the brakes have been taken off, the bottom car discharges enough water to make the top car the heavier one, it then descends pulling the lighter car to the top.

WHY IS THE CLIFF RAILWAY SO ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

Water and gravity are the motive power; the lifts need absolutely no other fuel to operate. Water is taken from the West Lyn River (approximately one mile upstream) and then piped to storage tanks at the top station. It is used as ballast. It is not treated or polluted in any way. After use it is discharged onto the beach at Lynmouth, about 100 metres away from the point where the West Lyn reaches the sea.

What's more, the lifts do not create any emissions. This means their carbon footprint has not changed since the lift opened. We are probably one of the most environmentally friendly tourist attractions in the country and have been for well over a hundred and twenty five years.





HOW MANY PEOPLE VISIT THE CLIFF RAILWAY?

We are one of the South West's most popular attractions, and see huge numbers of visitors each year. The highest number of passengers ever carried by the railway in one year is 470,000.

HOW MANY STAFF WORK AT THE CLIFF RAILWAY?

The railway has 11 full-time, two part-time and up to six seasonal staff.

HOW IS THE RAILWAY MAINTAINED?

The lift closes every winter, when the carriages are removed and all cables and wheels are inspected and replaced as required.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO IN LYNTON AND LYNMOUTH?

Walkers love the area, thanks to its position close to the heart of Exmoor and place on the South West Coast Path, with unforgettable spots of coastal scenery such as the Valley of Rocks. There are also boat trips from the harbour, the Lyn & Exmoor Museum, the Lynton to Barnstaple Heritage Railway, the Glen Lyn Gorge, the Flood Memorial Hall, a putting green, play park, beaches, wooded walks and a wealth of cafes, restaurants and pubs.







WHAT DO YOU CHARGE PRESS FOR LOCATION FILMING?

Nothing! We do not charge for location filming and welcome any film companies or television crews who wish to film or incorporate the railway in their production. We will work to accommodate your needs before we open to the public or while we are open as part of our daily running. We can even recommend local accommodation providers who will charge a discounted rate for press using their services.

ROYALTY FREE IMAGES

We are willing to support you with images of the Cliff Railway for use within associated articles. All images must be credited Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway.

MEDIA CONTACT

if you would like to discuss filming the Cliff Railway or require images for articles, please contact:

The General Manager Ashley Clarke

T: 01598 753486

E: ashley@cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk





KEY STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



ASHLEY CLARKE

Ashley started on December 7th 1979 as an apprentice Engineer to Bob Jones whose grandfather was the builder of the railway. He took over as Chief Engineer when Bob retired in 1990 and later became the On-Site Manager and Engineer in 2002. In 2017 Ashley took on the role of General Manager and Chief Engineer, and is at present the railway's longest serving team member, having been working here for nearly 40 years.

His duties include overseeing the daily running, staff and maintenance of the railway and looking after the company's many customers. Outside of work his interests include classic cars, fishing, caravanning and his Staffordshire bull terrier, Ziggy who goes to work with him every day.



CERI ASTON

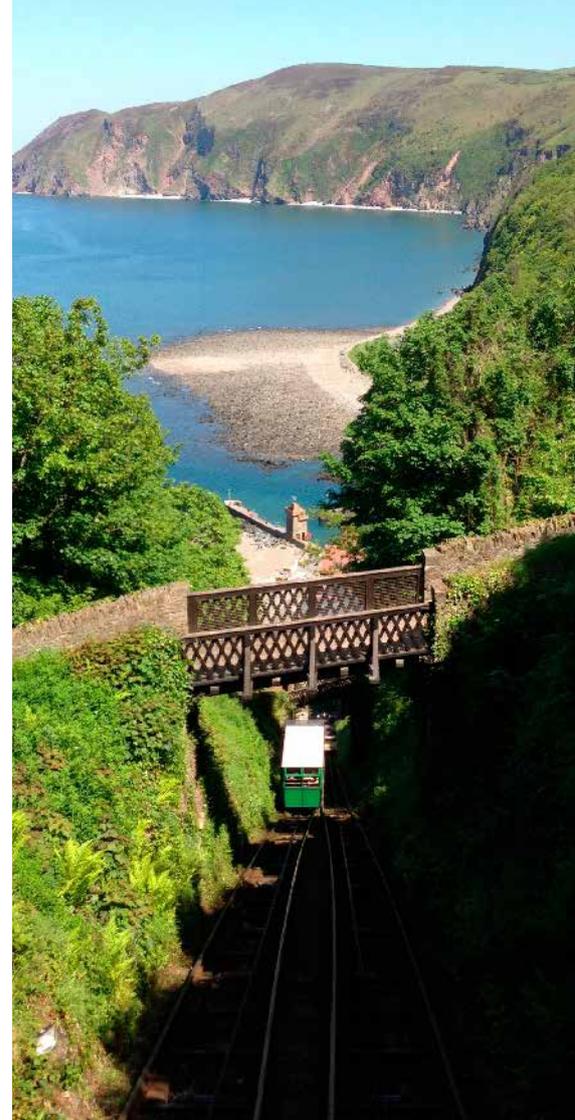
Ceri started with the company as the company administrator in August 2001. In 2002 Ceri was made Administration Manager, later becoming the Company Secretary in September 2009. She has worked for the company for 15 years and is a much valued member of the team, taking care of all company accounts and administration. She loves caravanning, dogs, Sci-Fi, reading and spending time with her grandchildren.



ADAM COLLIER

Adam started in May 2011, quickly becoming apprentice Engineer in September 2011. He has completed a foundation apprenticeship over the course of three years and completed his City and Guilds with distinction at Petroc college. Adam was promoted to supervisor in October 2017 and is a well-liked member of the management team.

His daily duties include opening and closing the railway, driving duties when required and most importantly daily maintenance of the lifts and the site. In his spare time he loves spending time with family, cars, dogs and walking.





TRIPADVISOR TESTIMONIALS

"Amazing piece of Victorian technology connecting Lynton and Lynmouth Beach! Outstanding views! The staff very friendly and helpful."

Edita S, Burntisland

"We were a party of ten, ages were from 80 to 18 months - and everyone loved it. Lynton and Lynmouth are delightful, the views are breathtaking - a photographer's dream! The cliff railway is amazing. Dog friendly. Very nice, well informed, helpful staff. Really worth a visit."

Beverley P, Reading

"As we arrived in Lynton & Lynmouth we stopped at the Cliff Top Cafe for lunch before taking the cliff railway down to Lynmouth. The sun was shining so we sat outside to enjoy the wonderful views and the great food. Two of us had toasties and one had soup. They were all excellent as was the service. By the end of the week we decided that it was the best food we had had all week."

AnitaManchester, Cambridge

"For any transport or engineering enthusiast, a preserved funicular linking twinned towns is a must-ride, and this is no exception."

"Be clear, it's popular too, but queues clear quickly due to frequency of service and the view of the working funicular from the harbour below is equally enthralling as the view from the carriage during the ride."

"This is 120 year old machinery still going strong and ecological as it is powered by a local river and just diverts natural flow to harness energy. Amazing Victorian engineering still relevant today."

APRogers1970, Merstham





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