



DEVONSHIRE MCF FESTIVAL 2023

The Quantock Belle on the West Somerset Steam Railway

Following the successful Charter last September, I am delighted to be able to offer a further opportunity to turn back the clock and taste (literally) a little bit of that old nostalgia and join us for dinner aboard the steam-hauled Pullman Dining Cars of "The Quantock Belle" along the West Somerset Railway (WSR).

Travelling from Bishop's Lydeard (near Taunton) for 26 miles across scenic Somerset countryside to Minehead, the WSR is the longest Heritage Railway in England. As the train puffs its way gently over the tracks on a return journey, enjoy an elegant three-course dinner, with silver-service, great company and the satisfaction that you are making a small contribution towards the Devonshire 2023 Festival.

I am presently taking bookings for a trip on Sunday 7th April 2019 departing at 1:00 pm (arrival at Bishop's Lydeard required at 12:30 pm). Bookings will be on a "First come, First served basis" and as the maximum number that can be accommodated on "The Quantock Belle" is only 73 people an early response is recommended. There are already a number of "repeat" bookings from those who so thoroughly enjoyed the last Charter.

This trip is for adults only and, regretfully, the age of the railway carriages means they are not suitable to take wheelchairs.

The menu will have a French "twist" and theme and will be;

Starter: *French onion soup with a gruyere crouton*

Main Course: *Coq au vin with a creamy chive mash, seasonal vegetables and a delicious reduction*
OR

Vegetarian wellington with a portabella mushroom, pesto and brie served with a mushroom gravy and a delicious reduction

Dessert: *Classic Tarte au Citron*

Tea / Coffee.

All dishes are prepared to be allergen and gluten free. (Any other dietary issues can be coped with and can be notified on the Booking Form when returned – anything different from the menu must be ordered before the trip.)

The bar on the train is strictly cash only (these old carriages were designed well before credit cards!)



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The cost per head is £75 and will include:

- Exclusive use of "The Quantock Belle" Dining Pullman Service
- Return trip from Bishop's Lydeard to Minehead hauled by a heritage / restored steam locomotive
- Three-course meal, plus tea and coffee (exc. Soft / Alcoholic Drinks)
- Seating in tables of two or four

To reserve a place, please contact Craig Cox PAGDC, Provincial Grand Treasurer who can be emailed via: craig.cox494@btinternet.com with a note of how many places are required. A formal Booking Form will then be sent which will need to be returned with appropriate payment.

Thank you and... "All Aboard!"

