

# YOUNG TRAINSPOTTER

Mother and son railway enthusiasts, Stéphanie and Darren Durrant have spent the last few months enjoying the visit of several steam locomotives to North Wales. Darren is perhaps one of the youngest trainspotters in the country.

**D**arren Durrant from West End School, Colwyn Bay took time out of his summer holidays to see the various steam train visits throughout North Wales. At Porthmadog he was ready and waiting on the platform for the Black 5 to chug in, staring at the engine thoughtfully, Darren aged 5 says, "The fat controller will be chuffed, it's on time."

After the engine had uncoupled and ran around the train, Darren never content just to watch, climbed into the cab for a look around, and had a picture taken with the driver. "I would like to do your job when I'm older," he told him.

## *Pictures by Stéphanie Durrant*

His greatest thrill of the year was to ride behind Thomas and Percy at the Llangollen railway during their visit in August. "Even Diesel got 10 out of 10," Darren said.

He was also on the platform when Leander pulled into the station, the last steam excursion booked for the year. That doesn't upset him though: "It will take me a long long time to look through mummy's photos, perhaps another one will come by then." ■



**Above Mum** - Stéphanie happily awaits the arrival of a steam special at Ffestiniog.  
**Photograph by Karl Durrant**

**Top** Darren looks thoughtful as the Jubilee class Locomotive takes on water

**Bottom left** Black five No 76079 arrived at Porthmadog from Shrewsbury, the first steam engine on the line for twelve years

**Left** Loco No 5690 Leander at Llandudno Junction pictured with a Virgin Diesel.