

GHOSTLY GHOULIES!

Three true Bluebell Railway ghost stories. Why not write or draw your own spooky railway tale?

Tilly's Top Tip: Add your own pictures around the stories.



The Cruel Station Master

When travelling through the tunnel you will see wisps of steam and smoke in the darkness, but perhaps something else besides? The figure of a man!

This is a story of a Station Master who lived at West Hoathly station, just on the other side of the Sharpthorne Tunnel with his wife and their dog, Spot. He wasn't a very nice man. He shouted, he swore, he was rude to the passengers and was cruel to his wife.

One day his wife told him that Spot had run off into the tunnel and could



he please fetch him out. He moaned and grumbled and asked if there was a train due. His wife told him no, there wasn't a scheduled train for an hour. So, he stomped into the tunnel to look for Spot. What she didn't know (or did she?) was that there was an unscheduled special train on its way!

Spot came out alive, but the cruel Station Master was never seen again!

The Bride and Groom

Here is a cautionary tale of the danger of walking on the tracks. The volunteers who work on track maintenance know to watch their backs. Accidents can happen and here is a particularly tragic tale.

In the middle of World War II a soldier came home on leave to marry his sweetheart. On the 31st July 1943 the young couple, very much in love, married in St Giles Church in Horsted Keynes. That night, after the wedding reception, they waded to family members and chose to take the shortcut home as it was raining.



That shortcut was unfortunately along the tracks between Sheffield Park and Horsted Keynes. It is thought that they put their coats over their heads to shelter from the heavy rain and walked with their backs to the oncoming train.

They were buried by the same Vicar who married them. Their graves are still in St Giles churchyard today. So when you travel on any railway make sure it's only on a train. Always stay off the tracks!

75027 – The Ghost Train

Have you seen our real ghost train? Locomotive 75027 has a dark and spooky secret! If you are afraid of ghosts, you might not want to hang around this engine ... and certainly not at night!

Over the years, staff and volunteers at the Bluebell Railway have reported the sound of coal being shovelled into the firebox. When investigated, nobody was there!

One tale tells that the engine rolled away, crashed and tragically killed some people. Others say that the engine turned over, killing the fireman on board. Whatever the story, it is certainly true that when the engine was first overhauled here at Bluebell Railway in the 1970s, we discovered



the frame had been repaired for damage that could have only be caused by some catastrophic accident – like the engine rolling over!

When working on the foot plate of this train, one volunteer was startled by a face at the window. When he looked out to see who it was, he found he was quite alone! Could it have been the ghost of one of the victims or of the fireman who died? Perhaps this man couldn't leave his beloved engine. What do you think?

These are just a few of the ghostly happenings at Bluebell Railway. When you travel the line, keep a look out for the ghosts in the tunnel and pray the lights don't go out. You have been warned!

WRITE OR DRAW YOUR OWN SPOOKY RAILWAY STORY

