THERE have been times in all our lives where fear and uncertainty took control as our world was turned upside down, we dearly hope that you, your friends and family remain well. At the Northern Belle we presented the most exciting array of luxury rail journeys for 2020, and the popularity was evident as our guests snapped up seats.

All that of course was quickly brought to a halt, as the effect of the virus took a hold, like many other businesses we had to adapt and focus our attentions on rapidly unwinding our programme and handling the cancellations received from thousands of our guests, and re scheduling wherever possible.

We introduced our VIP gift voucher programme, offering guests the chance to transfer the full value of their booking to a credit voucher and receive an additional £100 in value free, this can then be redeemed within twelve months of issue. This was very well received and is still available for existing bookings.

We thank all our guests for their continued support, without you none of this would have been possible.

TO celebrate a return to “new normality” after the COVID-19 lockdown, what better way of getting the majestic Northern Belle back on track than to call on the services of the crimson-painted steam locomotive that proudly bears the name PRINCESS ELIZABETH...

This magnificent engine, which once hauled the Queen’s Royal Train, takes us on a regal journey across Britain’s green and pleasant land in pampered comfort while we dine like royalty on the most magnificent seven-course lunch, with the finest wines and champagne, and look forward to brighter days ahead.

Our trip not only embraces the Golden Age of Steam, but also heralds a nostalgic reunion between Princess Elizabeth and Duart – one of our Pullman-style carriages resplendent with its exquisite marquetry motif of the famous castle on the Isle of Mull – which Her Majesty used when it too used to form part of her Royal Train.

Your journey fit for a Queen, starts on the platform at Preston station, with a glass of the finest Champagne, where no doubt the press and media will also gather to witness this royal celebration.

We head out on a circular route via Carlisle where we stop for around an hour, then we travel across the world acclaimed Settle to Carlisle line. You will be served a wonderful light breakfast on the outward journey, and on the return, you will be treat like royalty and relax in comfort with the first of seven courses prepared by executive chef Matthew Green with an abundance of fine wine and champagne.

A RIGHT ROYAL DAY OUT THAT’S FIT FOR A QUEEN

NOW IS YOUR TIME TO LIVE IT UP IN A REGAL FASHION

PRINCESS ELIZABETH LUNCH


STEAM FROM PRESTON TO CARLISLE

EXPERIENCE THE EPITOME OF RAIL TRAVEL WITH THIS FANTASTIC JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME. A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL BEHIND ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST FAMOUS STEAM LOCOMOTIVES, PRINCESS ELIZABETH (NUMBER 6101).

£395 Per passenger

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156

THE ROYAL CARRIAGE

ONE of our most famous carriages, The Duart, served for many years on the Royal Train. It is self-sufficient and could be run alone as it has 24 seats, its own toilet facilities and a kitchen. This beautiful carriage is often privately chartered by guests celebrating a special occasion.

Call 01270 895156 to enquire.

THE ART of TRAVEL

WE are proud to introduce you to some of our skilled artisans who help design, maintain and restore the beautiful interiors of our carriages. Their attention to detail, expertise and passion for their trade is unsurpassed. We have recently commissioned Aimee Harman to design, create and install five new mosaic floors for our cloakrooms.

Aimee said: “There is something very magical that happens when I mosaic … it takes me to a place away from the world and any worries I may be having. It’s like a meditation with your eyes open.”

BOOK TODAY

CALL US: 01270 895156
Monday to Friday 09:30 - 17:30
northernbelle.co.uk
WIN 2 TICKETS!

FREE TO ENTER
Visit northernbelle.co.uk/express-competition

SIMPLY visit our website to complete the online questionnaire, answering all six questions correctly. All correct submissions will be entered into a random draw and the winner will be notified by email and featured in the next edition.

Read through this newspaper to find clues and answers. northernbelle.co.uk/express-competition

HEART OF NORTHERN BELLE
Team Photographer captures the very first outing for the Northern Belle in 2020. (Pre Covid-19)

IT was a cold, wet and windy morning at Carnforth when we pulled out at 6:30am on our way to collect the first passengers of the year for our Valentine’s and Spirit of Travel Lunch.

After arriving at York station, following the 89-mile cross-country jaunt, we rolled out the red carpets on the platform and welcomed our guests on board.

Our friendly stewards wasted no time in popping the champagne corks to serve up a glass of beautifully-chilled Laurent-Perrier to start the day.

The route took passengers on a scenic round trip, via the East Coast, passing Selby, Hull, Goole, Hatfield & Stainforth and Church Fenton.

With it being Valentine’s, romance was most definitely on track.

WHO DUNN IT?

WHAT do Buckingham Palace, the Titanic and the Northern Belle have in common?

The answer: all featured exquisite marquetry by the expert craftsmen at Dunn & Son Essex, who use traditional methods that have barely changed since the 19th century.

WHO DUNN IT?

Each carriage is unique with its own specially designed interior. One named Duart, decorated with beautiful marquetry motifs of the Royal Castle on the Isle of Mull in Scotland, was even used by the Queen as part of her Royal Train.

Who Dunn It?

In the heart of the Northern Belle

WHAT do Buckingham Palace, the Titanic and the Northern Belle have in common?

The answer: all featured exquisite marquetry by the expert craftsmen at Dunn & Son Essex, who use traditional methods that have barely changed since the 19th century.

JOURNEY TO THE JURASSIC COAST IN ULTIMATE STYLE AND GLAMOUR.

TORQUAY AT LEISURE

Your day of discovery begins as the train glides into the platform and liveried stewards show you to your plush armchair seats. Your table laid with pristine, crisp white linen and adorned with sparkling glassware and fine china is ready for your moving feast. Enjoy a Bellini brunch and the ever-changing views from your window as we travel to the English Riviera.

£315
Per passenger
15 SEATS ONLY

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156
FEATURING the finest seasonal ingredients from the British Isles, classic and innovative dishes are crafted by our Executive Head Chef Matthew Green.

Matt joined the train as Junior Sous Chef in 2006 and worked his way up the ranks to become Head Chef in January 2019.

“I love my job,” he says. “Every day while cooking I look out of the windows and see a different view of the beautiful countryside. It may be the rolling hills of the Lake District today, the mountainous Scottish Highlands tomorrow and then next week I’m off to London. That’s my inspiration.

MEMORIES flooded back as Britain’s oldest identical twins Lilian Cox and Doris Hobday, 95, boarded the Northern Belle at Chester station one Saturday, last November.

The trip, organised by gift company ‘Red Letter Days’ as part of their #NoMoreSlippers campaign, took them to Morecambe Bay to watch an amazing fireworks display.

On the way, they tucked into a seven-course dinner and were reminded of how glamorous train travel used to be during the 1930s when they were young girls.

Excited Doris, reflecting on the trip later, said: “We thoroughly enjoyed reliving the excitement and glamour of making a journey by rail.”

The #NoMoreSlippers campaign aims to treat older people over the festive period and encourage them to make the most of their lives and not let age become a barrier.

#heartofnorthernbelle

AGATHA CHRISTIE WOULD APPROVE OF THESE INTRIGUING JOURNEYS THROUGH THE BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO BRING OUT THE SUPER-SLEUTH IN YOU. LET THE PACE OF LIFE SLOW AS YOU GAZE AT THE SCENERY AND ENJOY THE DELIGHTS OF TRAVEL.

- Round-trip travel aboard the Northern Belle luxury train
- Seven-course British seasonal table d’hôte lunch
- Bottle of wine per couple from a selection of fine wines
- Murder Mystery to solve hosted by costumed actors

£275 Per passenger

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156
WE RETURN TO THE LINE ON A SCORCHING FRIDAY

MANCHESTER Victoria Station on a scorching first Friday in August, the champagne is flowing ... and after nearly five months waiting impatiently in a siding, the Northern Belle is finally back on track.

Milling around on the platform, dressed in their summer finery and excited at the prospect of a wonderful day out in Edinburgh after the long Covid-19 lockdown, are our first 165 passengers of the new season.

The trains 1930s-style Pullman carriages are gleaming in the dawn sunlight and the heritage locomotive, proudly bearing the name Windsor Castle, has been given an extra shine of polish. Then, bang on time at 6.40am, the guard waves his flag and we are on our way, picking up more passengers at Wakefield and York en-route for the Auld Reekie, the Scottish capital.

Well, what an exciting year 2019 was for us all at Northern Belle – especially with Flying Scotsman pulling two of our special excursions during the summer.

Newspapers and TV stations gave massive coverage, describing it as a “historic day” with “the world’s most famous steam engine hauling one of the world’s most luxurious trains”.

We are sure none of you who were fortunate enough to travel on those two sold-out services from Crewe and Manchester would argue.

Nor were the thousands of eager train-spotters and railway enthusiasts aged from eight to 80, who crowded station platforms, bridges and level crossings to wave at the train.

WE RETURN TO THE LINE ON A SCORCHING FRIDAY

WHEN THE FLYING SCOTSMAN MET THE NORTHERN BELLE

Saturday 29th November 2020

FIREWORKS DINNER
Liverpool, Manchester & Preston

Join the Northern Belle luxury train for an exciting evening of fine cuisine and themed entertainment. A dazzling firework finale completes the fabulous evening.

INCLUDES
• Welcome champagne reception on board
• Seven-course British seasonal table d’hôt dinner
• Bottle of wine per couple
• Tea, coffee and petits fours
• Musical entertainment
• Firework display

£285
Per passenger

24 SEATS ONLY

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156

YOUR WELFARE IS OUR PRIORITY

LET’ address the issue...

The health and well being of our guests and crew is of paramount importance to us. In view of the Covid-19 outbreak we would like to take this opportunity to share with you the measures that are in place.

Our train undergoes a thorough clean before it departs our home depot by a team of experienced cleaners. Once out on the rails the on-board team follow comprehensive opening and closing down procedures which involve wiping down all surfaces including but not limited to tables, door handles and grab rails. A housekeeper travels on all of our trips to ensure that our cabins are regularly replenished and public areas are kept clean and tidy. On our busier departures we plan to have an additional housekeeper to provide extra reassurance for our travellers.

Our Lead and Second stewards have accredited qualifications over and above the mandatory requirements and have recently received infection control awareness training in response to the recent outbreak. The on board crew are temperature tested before departing the home depot and understand that they must not report for duty if they have any symptoms or have been in contact with anybody that has been diagnosed or being tested for the virus or has recently returned from a restricted area. Crew members returning from overseas travel are not permitted to resume their duties without clearance by a Manager.

CROWDS GATHER AS HISTORY IS MADE

Join the Northern Belle luxury train for an exciting evening of fine cuisine and themed entertainment. A dazzling firework finale completes the fabulous evening.

INCLUDES
• Welcome champagne reception on board
• Seven-course British seasonal table d’hôt dinner
• Bottle of wine per couple
• Tea, coffee and petits fours
• Musical entertainment
• Firework display

£285
Per passenger

24 SEATS ONLY

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156

WE RETURN TO THE LINE ON A SCORCHING FRIDAY

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2020

YOUR WELFARE IS OUR PRIORITY

LET’S address the issue...

The health and well being of our guests and crew is of paramount importance to us. In view of the Covid-19 outbreak we would like to take this opportunity to share with you the measures that are in place.

Our train undergoes a thorough clean before it departs our home depot by a team of experienced cleaners. Once out on the rails the on-board team follow comprehensive opening and closing down procedures which involve wiping down all surfaces including but not limited to tables, door handles and grab rails. A housekeeper travels on all of our trips to ensure that our cabins are regularly replenished and public areas are kept clean and tidy. On our busier departures we plan to have an additional housekeeper to provide extra reassurance for our travellers.

Our Lead and Second stewards have accredited qualifications over and above the mandatory requirements and have recently received infection control awareness training in response to the recent outbreak. The on board crew are temperature tested before departing the home depot and understand that they must not report for duty if they have any symptoms or have been in contact with anybody that has been diagnosed or being tested for the virus or has recently returned from a restricted area. Crew members returning from overseas travel are not permitted to resume their duties without clearance by a Manager.

CROWDS GATHER AS HISTORY IS MADE

Join the Northern Belle luxury train for an exciting evening of fine cuisine and themed entertainment. A dazzling firework finale completes the fabulous evening.

INCLUDES
• Welcome champagne reception on board
• Seven-course British seasonal table d’hôt dinner
• Bottle of wine per couple
• Tea, coffee and petits fours
• Musical entertainment
• Firework display

£285
Per passenger

24 SEATS ONLY

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156

WE RETURN TO THE LINE ON A SCORCHING FRIDAY

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2020

YOUR WELFARE IS OUR PRIORITY

LET’S address the issue...

The health and well being of our guests and crew is of paramount importance to us. In view of the Covid-19 outbreak we would like to take this opportunity to share with you the measures that are in place.

Our train undergoes a thorough clean before it departs our home depot by a team of experienced cleaners. Once out on the rails the on-board team follow comprehensive opening and closing down procedures which involve wiping down all surfaces including but not limited to tables, door handles and grab rails. A housekeeper travels on all of our trips to ensure that our cabins are regularly replenished and public areas are kept clean and tidy. On our busier departures we plan to have an additional housekeeper to provide extra reassurance for our travellers.

Our Lead and Second stewards have accredited qualifications over and above the mandatory requirements and have recently received infection control awareness training in response to the recent outbreak. The on board crew are temperature tested before departing the home depot and understand that they must not report for duty if they have any symptoms or have been in contact with anybody that has been diagnosed or being tested for the virus or has recently returned from a restricted area. Crew members returning from overseas travel are not permitted to resume their duties without clearance by a Manager.

CROWDS GATHER AS HISTORY IS MADE

Join the Northern Belle luxury train for an exciting evening of fine cuisine and themed entertainment. A dazzling firework finale completes the fabulous evening.

INCLUDES
• Welcome champagne reception on board
• Seven-course British seasonal table d’hôt dinner
• Bottle of wine per couple
• Tea, coffee and petits fours
• Musical entertainment
• Firework display

£285
Per passenger

24 SEATS ONLY

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156

WE RETURN TO THE LINE ON A SCORCHING FRIDAY

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2020

YOUR WELFARE IS OUR PRIORITY

LET’S address the issue...

The health and well being of our guests and crew is of paramount importance to us. In view of the Covid-19 outbreak we would like to take this opportunity to share with you the measures that are in place.

Our train undergoes a thorough clean before it departs our home depot by a team of experienced cleaners. Once out on the rails the on-board team follow comprehensive opening and closing down procedures which involve wiping down all surfaces including but not limited to tables, door handles and grab rails. A housekeeper travels on all of our trips to ensure that our cabins are regularly replenished and public areas are kept clean and tidy. On our busier departures we plan to have an additional housekeeper to provide extra reassurance for our travellers.

Our Lead and Second stewards have accredited qualifications over and above the mandatory requirements and have recently received infection control awareness training in response to the recent outbreak. The on board crew are temperature tested before departing the home depot and understand that they must not report for duty if they have any symptoms or have been in contact with anybody that has been diagnosed or being tested for the virus or has recently returned from a restricted area. Crew members returning from overseas travel are not permitted to resume their duties without clearance by a Manager.

CROWDS GATHER AS HISTORY IS MADE

Join the Northern Belle luxury train for an exciting evening of fine cuisine and themed entertainment. A dazzling firework finale completes the fabulous evening.

INCLUDES
• Welcome champagne reception on board
• Seven-course British seasonal table d’hôt dinner
• Bottle of wine per couple
• Tea, coffee and petits fours
• Musical entertainment
• Firework display

£285
Per passenger

24 SEATS ONLY

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156
Settle into a plush seat in your festively-decorated carriage and look forward to a magnificent seven-course lunch with all the trimmings. Your table is set in lavish style with crisp white linen, sparkling glassware and bespoke china. 

Liveried stewards take care of all your needs as the train journeys through enchanting wintery landscapes. Admire the changing views through your picture window. Take in the sumptuous details of your vintage carriage, evoking the glamour of 1930s “Belle” trains.

Read about the trains history and imagine the famous faces that once passed through its corridors. A convivial atmosphere and entertainment from a table-top magician make this a journey to remember.

It’s the perfect way to enter into the festive spirit, either as an indulgent treat for yourself or as a special gift for loved ones.

**INCLUDES**

- Round-trip travel aboard the Northern Belle luxury train
- Welcome champagne reception on board
- Seven-course lunch: British seasonal table d’hôte menu including Great British cheeseboard, biscuits and chutneys
- Bottle of wine per couple
- Tea, coffee and petits fours

£265
Per passenger

**DATES AND DEPARTURE POINTS ARE LISTED ON THE BACK PAGE**

*Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156*

**HAVE A GREAT DAY**

**THE SAFE WAY**

Three simple words that mean so much “THE SAFE WAY” becomes part of our everyday vocabulary.

We have been working hard over the last two months to make absolutely sure that travelling on the Northern Belle is as safe as possible both for our guests, colleagues and local residents. At the same time not detracting from the enjoyment of the day.

Please see the following pages which set out the processes which we have put in place to ensure our guests have a safe and enjoyable journey.

Our guest are asked to wear face coverings whilst boarding and departing the train, also while moving around the train, face coverings are not required at your seat.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The safety of our guests, colleagues and local people is our priority at the same time not detracting from the most wonderful day ahead.

Tickets will be sent electronically to your mobile or tablet, anyone without that facility will receive a ticket via mail in a wipe clean PVC wallet.

Food and drink will be served covered and wine dispensed only by your steward wearing gloves. Cutlery will be sealed and crockery protected by a disposable top shield. Menus will be disposable and sanitised prior to them being displayed.

**ON-BOARD**

If you have had contact with anyone infected with the virus please don’t travel, contact us and we will change your booking charge. Call 01270 907 010 or email reservations@northernbelle.co.uk.

At the station you will be greeted by our host and escorted to the platform keeping a safe distance. Groups of passengers will board separately and seated avoiding close contact with others.

Carriages are fitted with sanitised hand dispensers which we encourage guests to use frequently. Increased levels of sanitation will be visible throughout the journey, with vestibules treated every 30 minutes. Carriages have been fitted with air filtration systems.

**CLEANLINESS**

On-board crew will be temperature checked prior to departure, and will not travel with a high reading. Crew will be wearing suitable PPE relevant to the day.

Seating on board will allow for social distancing, in effect on your date of travel. Your booking party will be seated together.

Please limit movement around the train. On the return you will disembark by invited order, please keep a safe distance on your return to the station. Face protection is advisable especially when moving around the train.
In culinary circles it’s a hot debate that has divided opinion. Mary Berry is a cheese-first kinda girl, while Michael Roux Jr is a fan of finishing with the cheese. A remarkable dichotomy given their respective nationalities.

The French have traditionally served cheese before dessert – this way all the savoury dishes are kept together rather than switching the palate from savoury to sweet and then back to savoury. Le fromage is taken extremely seriously in France from the order of service to the way it is sliced.

In modern times, Britain now unbeliefably produces almost twice as many cheese varieties as our French neighbours. France has around 400 compared with our 750. Indeed the International Cheese Awards are held in Nantwich, the home of our Travel Centre. An 80,000 square foot marquee is erected each year to house the 5,000 entrants from around the world.

So while the above provides a gouda explanation it still doesn’t answer the grate question – why do we do it the French way?

In part it is to do with the history of our train. Originally we were part of the Orient-Express group taking people from the North to Folkstone for a continental journey. Orient-Express – the continental way for a group taking people from the North to Folkstone for their inaugural journey.

The man in the driving seat at the start of this incredible journey was Andrew Overton - the Northern Belle’s first General Manager, who was tasked with getting the carriages restored and ready for their inaugural journey. Andrew and his wife Nicola bobbed into our Travel Centre for a cuppa and a catch up.

What do you remember about the Northern Belle’s first ever journey?
The first journey was a practice run for invited guests taking them to Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire. It was eventful to say the least! We had arranged for the Duchess of Belvoir to do a welcome speech for our guests, but unfortunately she had fallen asleep upstairs and didn’t make it down. We also had the Mayor of York and a brass band assembled on the platform at York but unfortunately the driver forgot to stop and the train whizzed through at 65mph. Fortunately, the day was saved by Jane McDonald, our very first on board entertainer, who dazzled guests.

What’s your favourite carriage?
It has to be Alnwick. I was born and brought up in the North-East and have great childhood memories of the area.

What was your favourite trip?
That’s easy – the coastal lines of Morpeth up to Berwick. The views are stunning. The Dawlish coastal line comes a close second.

Proudest moment?
Probably the Northern Belle being recognised as the most successful launch product in the Orient-Express group – repaying its capital investment in record time.

Best memory?
Gosh, very hard that one. Too many to choose from. OK, the very first time the Belle came into Manchester Victoria hauled by steam – the sound of the whistle echoing around the station was one I will never forget. Former Liverpool football star and TV pundit Alan Hansen dancing in the aisle with ex-Everton captain Dave Watson was pretty special too!

What does the Northern Belle mean to you?
It’s all about delivering happiness and making friends. Andrew is now enjoying his well-deserved retirement but will soon be taking up a new very important role – that of a Grandad!

Friday 30th November 2020

WINCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Manchester, Crewe & Birmingham

KICK START THE FESTIVE SEASON IN STYLE WITH AN INDULGENT DAY EXCURSION TO THE CITY OF WINCHESTER AND ITS PICTURESQUE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Winchester is often referred to as “England’s Christmas Market Capital” and we are confident that you will enjoy your visit to this medieval city. The location of the market is stunning; set in the inner and outer close of the Cathedral. The stalls offer a wide selection of Christmas gifts, decorations and festive food making it one of the best markets in Europe.

£335 Per passenger

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

ANDREW OVERTON
In an occasional series, journalist Mal Tattersall samples some of the world’s other great train journeys...

**THE Dream Express** ... that’s the proud name of my train which over the next 36 hours will trundle the 1,000 miles from Vietnam’s ancient capital Hanoi to sprawling, modern Ho Chi Minh City in the south.

But there’s not much Northern Belle-style luxury about the diesel-hauled train with its seemingly never-ending line of blue and red carriages snaking down the station platform, which now resembles a giant market stall selling food and drink to passengers.

Paint is peeling from the walls of my “soft four-berth” compartment, the air conditioning grille hangs at a precarious angle and the tattered curtains look like they haven’t been washed since 1975 when the train began running again after the Vietnam War.

Still, I note with gratitude, at least the sheets on my bunk are spotlessly clean.

Finally, just 15 minutes late at 8.25pm and with a long blast of the engine’s klaxon, we start crawling out the station. And to my great delight I find I’ve got the compartment all to myself.

I’m not going all the way to HCMC, as everybody in Vietnam calls Ho Chi Minh City. Just as far as DaNang, from where I will take a cheap taxi to the nearby picturesque tourist town of HoiAn.

If all goes well, I’ll be there in time for a late lunch.

I stare fascinated out the grubby windows as the Dream Express, its horn now blaring a constant warning signal, rattles slowly down the middle of Hanoi’s famous Train Street.

The houses here on either side of the single track line are so close that you feel you could lean out and touch.

After a couple cans of cold Saigon beer, I’m fast asleep when about 11.30 I wake to realise we have stopped at another station.

Then comes the sound of feet tramping down the corridor outside followed by loud, brash American voices.

Is there ever such a thing, despite what Graham Greene wrote in his book about Vietnam, as a Quiet American?

Suddenly the door opens and this rather large lass heaving a giant backpack gazes in at the three virgin berths.

“Hey, anybody using these?” she asks cheerily, quickly adding: “OK if I take one?”

She has booked the fourth berth, numbered 24, and, misreading the numbers on the wall, initially looks accusingly at me as if I am lazing in it.

“Where are you going?” the French lady asks her eventually. “Hughie,” replies the English girl.

“Hughie?” repeats the French lady, looking puzzled.

“Yes, Hughie,” says the English girl, a tad impatiently.

“Hughie Greene?” I, being of a certain age, ask mischievously.

“No,” she replies, with a serious face. “I don’t think it’s Green, just Hughie.”

“Ah, W-h-ey,” explains the French lady, pronouncing it slowly and phonetically.

“I dunno which way,” says the French lady, “but it’s a long way. It’s spelled H-U-E or something silly.”

“Booked one down the corridor,” she explains. “But somebody else is asleep in it. So this will do.”

Half an hour later I spot her again, giggling with a friend down the corridor, as I stroll to the none-too-inviting lavender.

Eventually she shuffles back to the compartment and, after a bit of a struggle, heaves her way into the top bunk above me.

She snores slightly during the night. But not as loud, I suspect, as I do.

In the morning she gets off like a Swiss clock, distressedly at me as if I am lazing in it.

The houses here on either side of the single track line are so close that you feel you could lean out and touch.

After a couple cans of cold Saigon beer, I’m fast asleep when about 11.30 I wake to realise we have stopped at another station.

Then the door opens again. This time two quiet French folk than one noisy English girl. “But it’s a long way. It’s spelled H-U-E or something silly.”

Then she dumps her backpack and scarpers.

Half an hour later I spot her again, giggling with a friend down the corridor, as I stroll to the none-too-inviting lavender.

Eventually she shuffles back to the compartment and, after a bit of a struggle, heaves her way into the top bunk above me.

She snores slightly during the night. But not as loud, I suspect, as I do.

In the morning she gets off like a Swiss clock, distressedly at me as if I am lazing in it.

The houses here on either side of the single track line are so close that you feel you could lean out and touch.

After a couple cans of cold Saigon beer, I’m fast asleep when about 11.30 I wake to realise we have stopped at another station.

“Have you booked it?”

She explains. “But somebody else is asleep in it. So this will do.”

My heart sinks a little. Anarchy on the train. Three hours out of Hanoi and people are in each other’s bunks already.

Just then a French couple appear. They have booked two berths in the compartment, including the one the large American is trying to misappropriate.

“I dunno which way,” says the English girl. “But it’s a long way. It’s spelled H-U-E or something silly.”

Then she dumps her backpack and scarpers.

“IT’S THE BEST HUE TO SEE VIETNAM”
A SELECTION OF THIS YEARS FEATURE TRIPS

SEPTEMBER 2020
Fri 4 Sept Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Newport, Cardiff & Neath
Fri 18 Sept Harrogate, Victorian Spa Town £370
Departs: Birmingham, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 19 Sept Princess Elizabeth | Lunch £595
Departs: Preston
Sun 20 Sept Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Wigan, Preston & Lancaster
Fri 25 Sept Murder Mystery Lunch £275
Departs: Shrewsbury, Chester & Crewe
Sat 26 Sept Murder Mystery Lunch £275
Departs: Liverpool & Warrington
Sun 27 Sept Murder Mystery Lunch £275
Departs: Manchester, Bolton & Preston

OCTOBER 2020
Fri 2 Oct Edinburgh at Leisure £315
Departs: Manchester, Huddersfield & York
Sat 3 Oct Princess Elizabeth | Lunch £395
Departs: Preston
Fri 16 Oct Murder Mystery Lunch £275
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sat 17 Oct Princess Elizabeth | Lunch £395
Departs: Preston
Sat 24 Oct Harrogate Spring Flower Show £370
Departs: York at Leisure
Sat 31 Oct Ladies Day at Royal Ascot £510
Departs: Manchester, Crewe & Birmingham

DECEMBER 2020
Fri 18 Oct Brief Encounter Lunch £255
Departs: Chester, Liverpool & Crewe

JANUARY 2021
Thur 14 Jan Brief Encounter Afternoon Tea £210
Departs: Crewe & Manchester

FEBRUARY 2021
Thu 11 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: York, Harrogate & Leeds
Fri 12 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 13 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 14 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 20 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 21 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: London

MARCH 2021
Fri 12 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: York, Darlington & Newcastle
Sat 13 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sat 27 Mar Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Crewe, Chester & Liverpool
Sat 28 Mar Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Preston, Bolton & Manchester

APRIL 2021
Fri 16 Apr Edinburgh & Royal Yacht Britannia £370
                    Edinburgh at Leisure £315
Departs: Manchester, Huddersfield & York
Sat 17 Apr RHS Cardiff Flower Show £370
                    Cardiff at Leisure £315
Departs: Preston, Wigan, Warrington & Chester
Sat 24 Apr Harrogate Spring Flower Show £370
                    York at Leisure £315
Departs: Birmingham, Derby & Sheffield
Sun 25 Apr Brief Encounter Lunch £255
                    Brief Encounter Afternoon Tea £210
Departs: Chester & Liverpool

FEBRUARY 2021
Thu 11 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: York, Harrogate & Leeds
Fri 12 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 13 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 14 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 28 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 28 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: London

MARCH 2021
Fri 12 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: York, Darlington & Newcastle
Sat 13 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sat 27 Mar Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Crewe, Chester & Liverpool
Sat 28 Mar Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Preston, Bolton & Manchester

APRIL 2021
Fri 16 Apr Edinburgh & Royal Yacht Britannia £370
                    Edinburgh at Leisure £315
Departs: Manchester, Huddersfield & York
Sat 17 Apr RHS Cardiff Flower Show £370
                    Cardiff at Leisure £315
Departs: Preston, Wigan, Warrington & Chester
Sat 24 Apr Harrogate Spring Flower Show £370
                    York at Leisure £315
Departs: Birmingham, Derby & Sheffield
Sun 25 Apr Brief Encounter Lunch £255
                    Brief Encounter Afternoon Tea £210
Departs: Chester & Liverpool

FEBRUARY 2021
Thu 11 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: York, Harrogate & Leeds
Fri 12 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 13 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 14 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 28 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 28 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: London

MARCH 2021
Fri 12 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: York, Darlington & Newcastle
Sat 13 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sat 27 Mar Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Crewe, Chester & Liverpool
Sat 28 Mar Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Preston, Bolton & Manchester

APRIL 2021
Fri 16 Apr Edinburgh & Royal Yacht Britannia £370
                    Edinburgh at Leisure £315
Departs: Manchester, Huddersfield & York
Sat 17 Apr RHS Cardiff Flower Show £370
                    Cardiff at Leisure £315
Departs: Preston, Wigan, Warrington & Chester
Sat 24 Apr Harrogate Spring Flower Show £370
                    York at Leisure £315
Departs: Birmingham, Derby & Sheffield
Sun 25 Apr Brief Encounter Lunch £255
                    Brief Encounter Afternoon Tea £210
Departs: Chester & Liverpool

FEBRUARY 2021
Thu 11 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: York, Harrogate & Leeds
Fri 12 Feb Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 13 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 14 Feb Valentine’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Chesterfield, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 28 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sun 28 Feb Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: London

MARCH 2021
Fri 12 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: York, Darlington & Newcastle
Sat 13 Mar Mother’s Day Lunch £265
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham
Sat 27 Mar Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Crewe, Chester & Liverpool
Sat 28 Mar Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Preston, Bolton & Manchester

APRIL 2021
Fri 16 Apr Edinburgh & Royal Yacht Britannia £370
                    Edinburgh at Leisure £315
Departs: Manchester, Huddersfield & York
Sat 17 Apr RHS Cardiff Flower Show £370
                    Cardiff at Leisure £315
Departs: Preston, Wigan, Warrington & Chester
Sat 24 Apr Harrogate Spring Flower Show £370
                    York at Leisure £315
Departs: Birmingham, Derby & Sheffield
Sun 25 Apr Brief Encounter Lunch £255
                    Brief Encounter Afternoon Tea £210
Departs: Chester & Liverpool

MAY 2021
Fri 7 May Historic Roman Baths, Bath £370
Departs: Liverpool, Warrington & Crewe
Sat 8 May Scarborough at Leisure £315
Departs: York at Leisure £315
Fri 14 May Glamis Castle £370
Departs: Castle & Warrington
Fri 21 May Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Wigan, Preston & Manchester

JUNE 2021
Fri 4 Jun Edinburgh & Royal Yacht Britannia £370
                    Edinburgh at Leisure £315
Departs: Manchester, Huddersfield & York
Sat 5 Jun Historic Roman Baths, Bath £370
                    Bristol Aerospace Museum £370
                    Historic Bath at Leisure £315
Departs: Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent & Stafford
Fri 11 Jun Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
Departs: Sheffield, Chesterfield & Derby
Sat 12 Jun RHS Chatsworth Flower Show £370
                    Chatsworth House £370
Departs: Norwich & Ipswich
Sun 13 Jun Great British Sunday Lunch £255
                    Classic Afternoon Tea £210
Departs: Norwich & Ipswich
Thu 17 Jun Ladies Day at Royal Ascot £510
Departs: Manchester, Crewe & Birmingham

JULY 2021
Sat 3 Jul Longleat House & Safari Park £255
Departs: Derby, Birmingham & Coventry
Sun 4 Jul Great British Sunday Lunch £255
Departs: Birmingham & Northampton
Sat 10 Jul Weymouth Harbour | Seafood Festival £315
Departs: Cardiff, Newport & Bath Spa
Sun 11 Jul Weymouth Harbour | Seafood Festival £315
Departs: Coventry & Birmingham

AUGUST 2021
Fri 13 Aug Edinburgh Fringe Festival £315
Departs: Edinburgh & Royal Yacht Britannia £570
Departs: Manchester, Waverley & York
Sat 14 Aug Edinburgh Fringe Festival £315
Departs: Liverpool, Wigan, Preston & Lancaster
Thu 26 Aug Spirit of Travel Lunch £255
                    Classic Afternoon Tea £210
Departs: Edinburgh, Perth & Stirling

SEPTEMBER 2021
Fri 17 Sept Harrogate Autumn Flower Show £315
                    Harrogate Victorian Spa Town £570
                    York at Leisure £315
Departs: Birmingham, Derby & Nottingham
Sat 18 Sept Harrogate Autumn Flower Show £315
                    Harrogate Victorian Spa Town £570
                    York at Leisure £315
Departs: Telford, Shrewsbury & Crewe

Book online: northernbelle.co.uk or call: 01270 895156