



BYGONE ERA: the steam train that took part in the Country Comes To Town event in Portadown on Saturday

Pictures: **Gavan Caldwell**

Steam travel proves a hit at country fair

IT was full steam ahead in Portadown on Saturday when a fully working steam train rolled into town.

The ninth Country Comes To Town festival promised to offer a little something for all ages – and it lived up to its word.

Older generations were able to reminisce with reminders of bygone days when life was slower and more simple.

And children could enjoy the all-inclusive festival atmosphere at

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Portadown public park.

Meanwhile, all festival-goers seemed to revel in travelling on the luxury steam train from Portadown to Lisburn return – for only £4.

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland – the organisation overseeing the trips – has been operating public steam trains on

the main lines in Northern Ireland since it was formed in 1964.

Spokesman Phil Lockett said: “The RPSI aims to preserve steam trains and use them to educate and delight the public, showing them a mode of transport that revolutionised life here.”

“Portadown has a proud railway heritage and once was a major railway junction where the railway lines to and from Belfast, Dublin, Armagh, Omagh and Cookstown converged.”



HUNGRY HORSE: Rebeckah Johnston from Ballinderry gives lunch to her equine friend



SPINNING AROUND: Lucy and Emma Hazley enjoy a fairground ride