



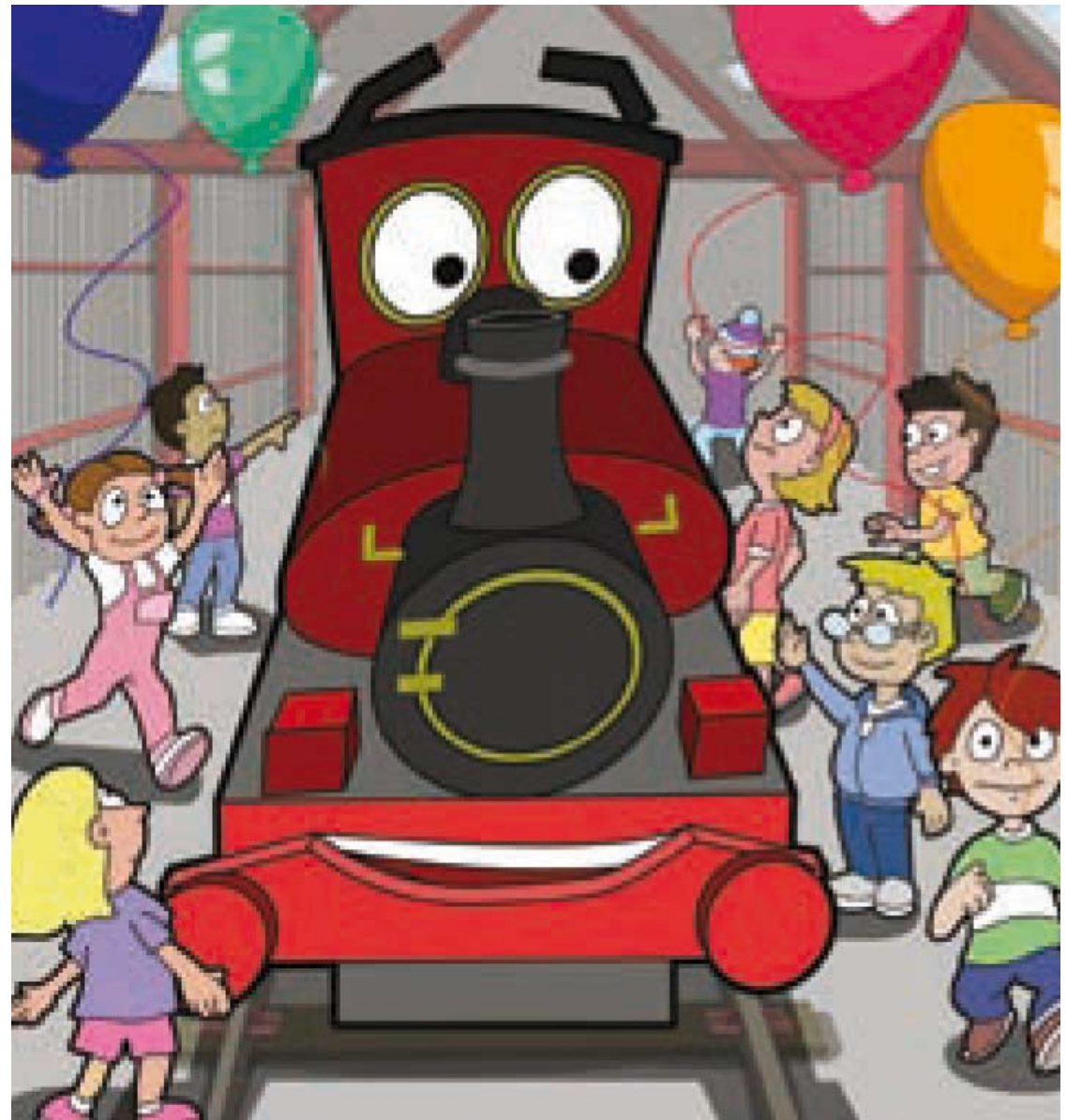
Then BILLY thought about how he could make birthdays very special.

"I know," he said. "On their birthday, children can climb up into my cab and blow my whistle. I'll write their age on my cab, too, so everyone can take pictures of me and the birthday boy or girl to remember the day. I'll give them a copy of my very own birthday book and they can join SMOKEBOX'S special club. And then they can have a ride on FENNY, WOODY, MURRAY or my other friends. What an amazing birthday that would be!"



OLD MA BLENKINSOP talked to BILLY that night and thought his birthday treats were the perfect gift for every boy and girl.

"From now on", she said when he had finished, "you will be known as BILLY BIRTHDAY."



Billy Birthday The Birthday Engine



The Middleton Railway Trust Ltd., The Station, Moor Road, Leeds LS10 2JQ

Registered Charity No. 230387

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A Middleton Story by Peter Savage

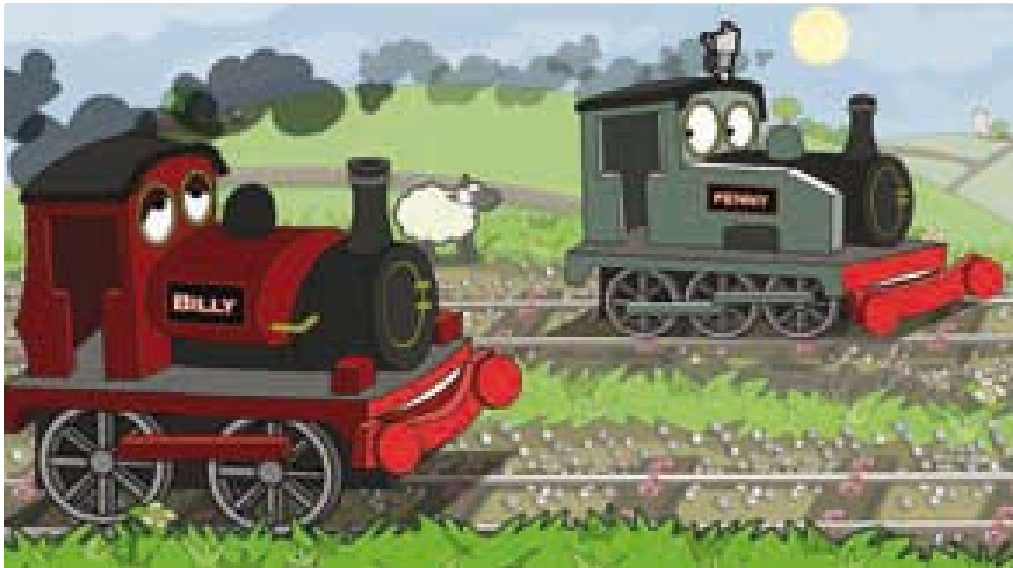
“Happy Birthday to me, Happy Birthday to me, Happy Birthday, dear BILLY,” sang BILLY, “Happy Birthday to me.”

This was BILLY’s favourite song and he would sing it all the time.

Now, it wasn’t BILLY’s birthday every day of course, otherwise he would be hundreds and hundreds of years old!

He just loved birthdays so much, he wished every day was his birthday.

Why do you love them so much?” FENNY asked him one day.



“I love all the fun and the children laughing,” replied BILLY, smiling. “There are the presents, the parties, the cakes...”

“That’s true.”

“...and the games, the excitement, the singing...”

“That’s true, too.”

“...the happy families, the blowing out of the candles...”

“You really do love birthdays, don’t you?” said FENNY.

Suddenly he had an idea and began to chug towards the Engine House

“Oh, yes, I really do,” said BILLY to himself, dreaming about another birthday party.

Later that night FENNY, WOODY and MURRAY were talking in the Engine House. “I think BILLY should celebrate a birthday every day,” said FENNY

“Every day?” asked WOODY, her bright lights flashing

“Don’t be silly,” said MURRAY, “You can only have one birthday a year.”

“No, not BILLY’S birthday. Anyone who has a birthday can share it with BILLY. He’d make every birthday so much fun.”

“OLD MA BLENKINSOP would never let that happen.” said MURRAY with a firm ring of his bell.

“Oh, wouldn’t I?” she said, walking into the Engine Shed with SMOKEBOX at her side as usual.

“Well, I...” said MURRAY, flustered.

“I think it’s an excellent idea,” she went on. “From now on any boy or girl celebrating a birthday can have a lovely time with BILLY in the Engine House.”

OLD MA BLENKINSOP smiled at FENNY.

“And since it was your idea, FENNY, would you like to tell him?”

BILLY was so excited at FENNY’S news he did not know what to say. Except “Thank you very much, FENNY.”

