



WEARDALE RAILWAY: NEWS UPDATE :No. 8

13 DECEMBER 2008

RECORD SANTA SEASON UNDERWAY

- **Santa Train Haulage** : As well as the 141 hauling the midweek school specials , both the Class 31 and the Class 73 were mobilised to ensure against traction problems when winter arrived – Thanks to John Askwith for photos.



73139 at the head of a Santa Special shortly after Arriving at Stanhope (aka Lapland) J Askwith

31452 hauling the Santa stock J Askwith

- **Santa Season results so far** : Passenger numbers look as if they will be up 50% on last year, with all the remaining seats sold . School visitor numbers for the midweek specials are up threefold. Feedback has been good although the very cold weather has tested the ability of the portable heaters to cope with the conditions.(I Gardner)
- **Call for Volunteers : No 1** : The traditional ‘ **work your Christmas pud off** ’ day will be held on Sunday 28th December – meet at Stanhope station for 10am.
- **No 2 : The Mince Pie Specials** operate daily from Boxing Day up to and including January 1st. These run on the normal 10.30, 12.30 and 14.30 timetable ex Wolsingham. Dave Million would like to hear from you if you can help at the stations, shop, café and on the trains. . **Contact Dave Million on david.million@fiscali.co.uk**
- **Trackwork Volunteers : The Sunday Gang** are back working along the operational section of line over the last few weeks they have been repairing fences at several locations, and doing what the Sunday gang do best, improving the view and making the railway a safer from the sight line point of view for both the public and train crew. One or two members have also been busy assisting Santa and his Elves during their frequent visits the railway. May I take this chance to wish everone involved with the Weardale railway. A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF THE SUNDAY GANG.
(K Hillary)
- **Trust Management Meeting – New Chairman Elected** : At the first meeting after the AGM Kevin Hillary was elected unopposed as Chairman, replacing Ian Gardner who has stood down but remains as volunteer Marketing Manager for WRCIC. At the same meeting Peter Shields was appointed as Director responsible for communicating and liaising with volunteer Trust Treasurer, Trevor Hewitt, who no longer sits on the Board.

- **Message from Trust Chairman,:** Hello I would like to introduce myself as the new chairman of the Trust. My name is Kevin Hillary ,and as a former chairman, it was very nice to hear a number of volunteers ask me to stand as chairman when Ian, decided to stand down from this position. My main aim for this next year, is to build up the volunteer numbers. As we become a more popular visitor attraction, the need for extra volunteers becomes even more important. The other important side the Trust needs to address, is to gain a more frequent access to the depot, I hope with our new partners this issue is not to far off from becoming reality. Of course the most important aim is to continue the improvement of the railway, for all who work and visit it.
- **2009 Timetable :** is ready for printing and awaits ae from Final confirmation of running dates as reported in the last update. _Dates for Special events in 2009 are :-

- Mothers Day March 22nd.
- Easter weekend April 10th to 13th. *Easter Bunny Hunt each day*
- Classic Car Rally at Stanhope Station. April 12th
- Teddy Bears Picnic. May 24th.
- Fathers Day & Big Boys Toys. June 21st.
- Classic Car Rally. 12th July.
- Morris Minor Rally and Charities Day 23rd August
- War on the Line. 19th & 20th September.
- Santa Specials. December 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th.
- Mince Pie Specials December 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th & 31st and January 1st, 2nd & 3rd 2010. (J A)

- **No 40 Appeal :** The Appeal is still open and receiving money, including in the last few days a gift aided donation of £500 – which entitles someone to a footplate ride next year on No. 40 . **As a reminder everyone donating over £100 receives a colour photo montage of No 40, those donating over £500 will additionally receive a voucher for a footplate ride. All contributions, large or small are welcomed –please send them to : The Weardale Railway Trust, No 40 Appeal, Stanhope Station, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 2YS**
- **Iowa Pacific News :** One of the USA companies within the IP group, to which we also belong, is the Arizona Eastern Railway, a freight branch line from the Union Pacific mainline through Arizona, normally a freight line IP has introduced a passenger service making a 15 mile round trip from the town of Globe to the nearby San Carlos Apache Indian Casino. Here are some photos from Company President Ed Ellis.



A & E Railway 2503 pulling a Dome car and open window coach both transferred from IP sister railroad San Luis & Rio Grande



2503 with train at the San Carlos Apache Indian Casino station, trains run Thursday to Sunday, stream haulage id planned in February and March.



Photo taken today by John Askwith – Merry Christmas everyone