

WEARDALE RAILWAY : NEWS UPDATE :No.12

13 FEBRUARY 2009

LINESIDE PATH TO BE BUILT AT WITTON le WEAR. WORK CONTINUES ON THE PUSH TOWARDS BISHOP AUCKLAND.

- **Works Train reaches Bishop Auckland :** As mentioned in the Jan 29th supplement, the Wickham trolley ran the length of the line from Wolsingham to Bishop Auckland with a crew of Weardale Railways and BARS employees and volunteers, the first 'train' movement in 12 years. Clearing the track to do this was a superb effort by all concerned and the operations department supported the actual running on the day by providing flagmen for the level crossings at Abattoir and Engineman's Terrace. See Photos below. (D L Heath, photos : Steve Gregory)



New track layout being prepared at Broken Banks



The line after reinstatement

- **Wolsingham – Bishop Auckland inspection :** There is a formal inspection of the railway scheduled for February 16 & 17. The lead Inspecting Officer will be inspecting the line, level crossings etc to define the works required to return this stretch of railway to the standards needed for passenger and freight operations. (D L Heath)
- **No40 : the appeal goes on :** While work continues on the restoration of No40, the Appeal to cover the costs of restoration continues, So far the Appeal has raised £23,300 , there is a further £13,000 in costs still to be covered. If you can help the details are on the box below. Anyone donating £10 or over receives a colour photo montage of No 40, those donating over £500 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**

- **GNER Glassware goes Global :** The sale of the donated GNER glassware that was provided by National Express East Coast has now gone global via eBay and within 24 hours of the sale being posted 6 orders have been received with enquiries received from other potential buyers. So far all the buyers are from within the UK, however, we are looking forward to our first international order. Plans are in hand to hold a sale of GNER glassware and crockery at Stanhope Station within the next month or so – watch this space for details! (D Million)
- **Weardale Railway Junior Club : Crockery and Glassware sale :** As mentioned and detailed in the last update the Junior Club will be holding a sale at **Stanhope Station (10am to 4pm) on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February 2009.** Items will be made available to Trust members and members of the public. For full details and prices go to the Junior Club Website :- <http://www.wrjc.org.uk/3.html> . Congratulations to the Junior club members who also raised £440 for Club and Trust funds by running a Tombola and a Glassware sale during the Santa Season

- **New timetable now published** : Copies are now available and you can see the times in the website. For the first time we are using a commercial distribution Company (Northern Print Distribution) to distribute 40,000 copies throughout the region The leaflets are also available for distribution by WRT volunteers. The next working timetable posters to be displayed at all Weardale Railway stations and trains will be effective from 21st February until 29th March 2009.(J Askwith)
- **Company President Thanks Trust for Their efforts** : In a letter to be circulated to all active (and wired) volunteers, Company President, Ed Ellis, paid tribute to all the work that has gone on : “...everyone at the Weardale Railway Trust should take considerable pride in this record of achievement. Please be assured that the efforts of all volunteers – both at adult and junior levels are deeply appreciated ...”
- **Help Wanted : Café Redecoration : Can you help?** : Kath Wood is looking for volunteers to help with redecorating the café this weekend. If you are available to help with this important project, could you please contact Kath direct, her contact details are as follow:- Home Tel: 01388-450543 Mobile: 07779-571228 Email: kathwood_95@hotmail.co.uk Kath will provide volunteers with full details of the work to be completed. (D Million)
- **Trust Chairman’s message** : I would like to thank everyone involved in the first rail movement from Wolsingham to Bishop Auckland, even though it was the Wickham it shows that the Railway means business and it is only a matter of time we until will see trains run the whole length of the line, I wish I could have been there to witness it. It will happen sooner or later, sooner, if we can get more members involved with all of the tasks that we need to fulfil. (K Hillary)
- **Witton Le Wear – a railside footpath** : The Railway has been working with DCC on a project to build a 1.1 km footpath for walkers, cyclists and horse riders between Witton le Wear level crossing and Bridge 3, where it will link in with a path to the Low Barns Nature Reserve. Trevor Horner carried out a feasibility study last year which showed there was room for a 3m wide path within the railway boundary. DCC now has funding for the project and work is planned to start next week. Both a boundary and a lineside fence will be constructed. A press release giving more details will shortly be posted on the website. (GC Mudd)
- **Witton Le Wear Crossing Gates now being restored** : Work is underway in the depot on the complete restoration of the gates, using new timber but retaining the original metal components. Because the road takes a diagonal path across the railway, these are large gates, one is 21ft and the other 35ft in length, we may need a few volunteers to put them in place!



Yes, more snow at Stanhope, taken first week in February by John Askwith



Partially completed crossing gate, this is the shorter one (Photo : David Scott)

- **Eastgate latest :** It now appears that any decision on the Eastgate Eco Village planning application will not occur until at least the second quarter of the year. However there will be activity on the Eastgate site on April 18th and 19th, namely IROC 2009 – a running, orienteering, cycling and mountain biking event, using the former playing field as a base, with events on the daleside hills. More details on :- www.iroc-race.com
- **David Bellamy supports the Railway extension :** In an interview in the Northern Echo at the Frosterley Village Hall Centenary celebrations he said : Now we have got the railway train running down the length of the dale things really are moving. I have always wanted Weardale to become a wonderful, working dale and these celebrations are going to be good news.”
- **Weardale Railway pioneer dies :** Many members will remember Brian Morris, who was Managing Director in the period leading up to the line first reopening in 2004 and has given expert guidance since that time. His knowledge of the civil engineering side of our line and indeed of the whole North East network was unrivalled. Brian died on January 21st whilst on holiday in New Zealand. We extend our thoughts and sympathy to his family. (T Horner)
- **New Timetable for 2009 :-**

	<i>from Apr 1</i>	Feb 21 to Mar 29	<i>from Apr 1</i>	Feb 21 to Mar 29	<i>from Apr 1</i>	Feb 21 to Mar 29
Wolsingham (dep)	10:30	10:30	13:00	12:30	15:30	14:30
Frosterley (dep)	10:42	10:42	13:12	12:42	15:42	14:42
Stanhope (arr)	10:55	10:55	13:25	12:55	15:55	14:55
Stanhope (dep)	11:45	11:30	14:15	13:30	16:30	15:30
Frosterley (dep)	11:53	11:38	14:23	13:38	16:38	15:38
Wolsingham (arr)	12:10	11:55	14:40	13:55	16:55	15:55

Edited by G C Mudd : 13 February 2009