

## WEARDALE RAILWAY : NEWS UPDATE : No.14

### 14 MARCH 2009

#### **BISHOP AUCKLAND CONNECTION TO BE REINSTATED** **No 40 : RESTORATION AND APPEAL PROGRESS REPORT** **VOLUNTEER NUMBERS GROWING**

- **Network Rail commitment for Bishop Auckland connection :** The link between the Weardale Railway and the Network Rail line to Darlington was put out of use some years ago. The reinstatement of this connection has been high on the list of priorities for the new owners. Mark Westerfield has confirmed that the Railway has received an undertaking from Network Rail that the necessary work will be completed before July 31 this year. This will facilitate through running and the transfer of stock to and from the network. (M Westerfield)
- **A Royal Auction :** As reported previously, the Junior Club attended York station as invited VIP guests to the Royal naming of 60163 Tornado. During the visit David Million was lucky enough to be able to briefly board the Royal Train and during the visit obtained a selection of rare Royal Train ties bearing the Royal Train "RT" & crown logo. One such tie is now available as an auction lot in support of the Junior Club model railway display. **The auction runs until 13:30 on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009** and anyone interested in bidding should submit a sealed bid clearly marked "Royal Auction" to Stanhope station. The bids will be opened in the Education Centre at Stanhope station at 13:30 on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009 the highest bidder will win the opportunity to purchase the tie for the amount bid.



After seeing the picture of the deep snow drifts in the last update, Ed Ellis sent this photo of a rotary snowplough in action at the Mid-Continent Railway Museum in Wisconsin



The Royal Train tie ; now being auctioned to support work on the Junior Club model railway layout.

- **No 40 Restoration Appeal :** Donations to the Appeal are still being received. So far a total of £24,000 has been raised. Together with the contributions from the Trust reserves we have covered most of the cost. Only another £6,300 will be required to finance finishing the restoration and recertification. So if you can help please consider a further gift. **All gifts over £10** will be acknowledged and the donor will receive a colour print of the loco in action in Weardale. **For gifts over £100** you will receive the above benefit plus recognition as a premium donor in the Trust magazine 'Between the Lines' **For gifts over £500** you will receive the above benefits, recognised a Silver donor and. receive a voucher for a footplate ride on No 40 **For gifts over £1000** you will receive all the above benefits, recognised as a Gold Donor and receive a pass valid for one year allowing free travel on the railway for yourself and three accompanying passengers

- **No 40 Restoration continues** : The team has made good progress over the last two weeks. Work on the slide bars and realignment of the motion has been completed, the side tanks replaced and the cab sides installed. This coming week should see the cab roof put in position. The Boiler Inspection for recertification of No 40 is scheduled for Mid April . ( G Mudd)



No 40 : tanks and cabsides in place 11 March ( D Scott)



Caritas – a private hire coach owned by High Iron Travel, an associate of Iowa Pacific, with bedrooms, kitchen, diner and saloon/lounge at Los Angeles Union station.

- **NER Crockery & Glassware Sale** : The recent sale of surplus GNER branded crockery and glassware was a resounding success with over £1,500 being raised for the Junior Club and the Trust's No 40 appeal funds. GNER wine glasses continue to be available via Ebay and further station sales are planned for later this year. Added to the sales made at Christmas and online sales, a total of £2318 has been raised. An initial cheque has been issued to the WRT for the No 40 appeal. ( D Million)
- **Model Railway Display** : Last weekend saw the opening of the Junior Club's model railway display at Stanhope, or should that be "Stanham". During the last five weeks junior members have been working tirelessly on the layout and whilst the layout is still a work in progress, they were very keen to open it up to the public. The juniors intend to display and run the layout as frequently as possible within the Education Centre at Stanhope Station. Signage will be displayed when the display is open. Entry is free; however, donations towards the maintenance and development of the layout can be made. Please feel free to pop in. (D Million)



WRJC Members ready for the Saturday morning rush  
There was a queue waiting for the opening ( D Million)



Junior Club members with the model in the Education Room ( D Million)

- **First Aid Course : reminder** : We still need more volunteers who have had first aid training:- the next course will take place on Saturday 28th March 09:30 - 16:00 at Bishop Auckland Station.

**CONTACT** : [david.million@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:david.million@tiscali.co.uk) ; Tel : 01388-747683 : Mobile: 07711-017980

- **The Track to Bishop Auckland : Weekday work continues :** You will all no doubt be aware that we are progressing towards opening the line to Bishop Auckland later this year and that this will be a landmark event in our railway's history and an accolade to all of the volunteers, past and present, that have worked hard to keep the line running. We are now getting help from an increasing number of weekday volunteers. If you can help with track maintenance and vegetation clearance and play a part in making history **please contact Steve Race on 07918-777932.** who will provide you with full details about the work taking place on a particular date.

- **St Johns Chapel Station : calling all railway modellers :** In 1978 six members of the North Durham 4mm Group of the Scalefour Society commenced building a detailed scale model of St Johns Chapel station. ScaleFour is the accurate version of the well known "00" Gauge where all dimensions are to scale – the equipment for it is not mass produced so this is a hobby for really skilled modellers. Over the next few years the model was built and exhibited at various shows in the North of England as it was gradually completed. In the eighties the Group had to sell the model and it passed into private ownership. In 2007 the owner offered it to the Trust and it was transferred to Weardale. One of the original modellers has agreed to advise on its restoration which we plan to carry out in the Bishop Auckland Station building. **Anyone interested in helping the restoration of this model should contact Dave Million in the first instance: [david.million@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:david.million@tiscali.co.uk) ; Tel : 01388-747683 ; Mobile: 07711-017980.**



The model is amazingly detailed –all the features: buildings, lines, fences, walls, even the trees , are reproduced exactly to scale as it was in the mid thirties. The railway tracks are made of steel and the rail is soldered to each of the chairs on the accurately reproduced sleepers, 5,000 chairs in all. . The model is 30ft long and includes the approaches to the station, the photograph reproduced here includes only a small section near the station and was taken before the model was completed.

- **Witton le Wear Crossing :** Work on the new gates is nearing completion in the Depot, it is hoped to hang them in the next 2 or 3 weeks. The next volunteer project will be the restoration of the crossing keepers cabin and the reinstatement of an electricity supply for use in the cabin and for the crossing lights. This cabin will need to be occupied each operational day. The first crossing keeper training course of 12 people was fully subscribed. Meanwhile the work by DCC on the lineside footpath towards Bridge 3 continues apace, vegetation clearance is now complete.

**If you would like to help with the Project to restore the gates and crossing keepers cabin at Witton le Wear please contact Graham Lord on 07918 777 933 (weekdays)**

- **Welcome to new volunteers :** Dave Million reports 5 new volunteers have just joined our ranks in February, so welcome to : Tony Dykes, Neil Yule, Gerald Hirst, Terry Wansbury, and Ann Wansbury. There are 4 further pending applicants.
- **Trackwork Plans and Projects :** Amongst the next tasks to be tackled is vegetation and re – fencing near Witton le Wear with the help of the ‘Sunday Gang’ and the big project to grease all the bolts and fishplates on the whole of the stretch of the line towards Bishop Auckland – the Junior Club are assisting on this project. ( G Lord)



- **Tornado naming Ceremony DVD** : Dave Million has now produced a DVD of the Tornado naming at York. The DVD is now available for viewing on YouTube, click link - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMLfLLcqFsY>  
There is also a link to the YouTube page from the WRjc website Home and News pages. WRjc members will receive their own copy.
- **Café & Shop and Griddle Car : More helpers needed** : Kath Wood reports she has had a good response to her request in the last update for volunteers to assist on a regular or periodic basis particularly in the café,shop or on the griddle car. However for peak periods of demand such as events and bank holidays she could still do with more volunteers to call on. Full training will be given.

**If you would like to help in the shop, café or on the Griddle Car please contact Kath Wood –we urgently need people trained up for the Easter period and afterwards : Contact her on [kathwood\\_95@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathwood_95@hotmail.co.uk) , or on 07779 571 228**

- **Finally : a sad departure** : The Class 37, 37414, a hangover from the days of ECT and the BREL/Class 37 group has been moved from the Weardale Railway. Here it is being loaded at Wolsingham last week en route for scrapping at Stockton



Photo D Scott

Edited by G C Mudd 14 March 2009