

## WEARDALE RAILWAY : NEWS UPDATE : No.21

4 JULY 2009

### **No 40 MAKES SUCESSFUL 'SERVICE' RUN TO STANHOPE VOLUNTEER SUMMER PICNIC ANNOUNCED**

- **No 40 : RUNNING IN : SERVICE PREPARATIONS :** The loco made two journeys last week, first on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June travelling light engine to Broadwood and return and then again on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> pulling the 4 Mk 1 coaches to Stanhope and return ( see pictures) .The return run was made at 10- 12 mph with no problems. There are two items still needing attention, completion of some work on the smokebox and de-snagging of the regulator valve. Painting is almost complete. It has taken a long time – and a lot of effort and money to get here but as the pictures show it is a fine sight to have no 40 running again. First definite service date is August 1 but there may be some trial runs in service before then, watch the website. ( M Simpson, S Race )
- **NO 40 : RESTORATION AND UPKEEP :** The locomotive is the Trust's single largest asset and of course has ongoing costs both in maintenance and putting money in a holding account for the next recertification. The appeal for the current and now almost complete restoration has now reached £26,000 for which thanks are due to Trust and Junior Club members and contributors in the North East and around the country. Money has also come in from a source some of you may have noticed – the model loco/ money box in the shop at Stanhope. This was provided by Norman Crockit and has raised a significant amount of money over the last two years. Also John Askwith asks me to point out that if you buy one of the No 40 postcards in the shop the money (35p each) goes to the Trust. ( G M , J Askwith)



**No 40 with coaching stock in Stanhope Station on Monday 29 June 2009  
(Thanks to John Lewins for the photograph)**

**EDITORIAL : MAKING TEA FOR TOURISTS :** One of the follow on effects of building up and extending the Railway is the benefit it can bring not only to the Railway's own financial position but also to the economy and employment prospects in the dale. This was brought into focus by the Northern Echo editorial quoted in the last Update which mentioned that 10 jobs have so far been provided directly by the Railway and by the presence of the BARS Head Office at Stanhope. As a counterpoint to this has been the recent news from Astrum, whose premises are adjacent to our station buildings, that they are anticipating needing 50 voluntary redundancies in their 260 plus workforce. When added to the closure of the Eastgate cement works and the Wolsingham steelworks there has been a dramatic decline in the traditional dale industries in the last decade.

This brings us round to the 'making tea for tourists isn't a real job' argument, which has been heard at times and no doubt will be again, if the railways expansion plans proceed and the Eastgate development gains approval. But is there any other realistic alternative? Hopefully the effects of the recession will diminish in time but the world will have irrevocably changed with an even higher proportion of heavy industries having moved to the far east. There will be some scope for specialised high skill industries but they will go to places that have the necessary facilities for living and leisure to attract and keep their employees.

So what can Weardale offer or build on? First of all it has its scenery, secondly it needs accessibility and thirdly it needs a better developed infrastructure of shops, cafes and consumer services and yes, that will even include tea making. The Railway can help, hopefully alongside the Eco Village, in giving access to the area and bringing in visitors and enticing them to spend time and money in the dale. It was stated that losing the Cement works removed £3million per year from the dale's cash economy. If the Railway can help replace even part of this loss then we can take some satisfaction in that our efforts as volunteers are more significant than just 'playing with trains'

- **EMAIL FROM SUPPORTER : FREIGHT TRAFFIC :** Both directly and via a website Ian Gardner (WR Marketing Manager) and your editor have been asked : "Reconnecting the WR to the network at Bishop will have up-front and continuing costs. Those costs will only be justified if there is through freight traffic. But possibilities for freight traffic on the line have been explored before - without result. I wonder what has changed?" Editors reply : First there is more emphasis and support for moving traffic from the roads and yes negotiations are underway. By their very nature such negotiations are 'commercial in confidence' until signed, plus there are planning hurdles to surmount - so several parties are involved. Suffice it to say the opportunities are real, are moving forward and could be realised in the third or maybe fourth quarter of this year. Hence the effort and investment in getting the track ready.( G M, I Gardner)
- **CLASSIC CAR RALLY : 12<sup>th</sup> July :** Extra help will be needed on Saturday July 11 and on the main day Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> to cover this event – please contact Kevin Hillary or Dave Million if you can come along even for just part of the time. David Million Telephone: 01388-747683. Mobile: 07711-017980 , [david.million@wrjc.org.uk](mailto:david.million@wrjc.org.uk). Kevin Hilary [kevinhillary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevinhillary@hotmail.co.uk) :Telephone 01388 775126
- **WITTON LE WEAR TRAFFIC CENSUS :** As part of our preparations for the level crossing orders required to fully reopen the Witton le Wear crossing WR volunteers conducted a survey in late June , Thanks to Dave Million, Trevor Hewitt, John Armstrong and Kelso Yuill. Average hourly count was 60 vehicles/hour weekdays and Saturdays and 40 / hour Sundays. ( T Hewitt)
- **HELP PLEASE : CERTIFICATED ELECTRICIAN ANYWHERE? :** We have several volunteers who are experienced electricians who are and will be carrying out work at Stanhope station and at Witton le Wear level crossing which will need signing off by an electrician who holds an Inspection and Testing Certificate. Can you, or do you know someone who could, volunteer to do this work to help the railway in its extension plans to reach Bishop Auckland . Contact Graham Lord at [gandp.lord@virgin.net](mailto:gandp.lord@virgin.net) and Steve [steve.raine@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:steve.raine@tinyworld.co.uk) . ( G Mudd)



- **JUNIOR CLUB SUMMER PROJECT :** Now that the Summer has finally arrived (better not say it too loud!) the WRjc are busy with their first “Summer Project” which this year is dedicated to tasks that improve the look of our stations. The first task, repainting the platform white edge at Stanhope has just been completed with Wolsingham and Frosterley stations to follow, other jobs include repainting the luggage trolley and fence painting at Stanhope. If there are any other (minor) jobs that you think the Junior Club could tackle, please let me know, [david.million@wrjc.org.uk](mailto:david.million@wrjc.org.uk).



Witton le Wear crossing keepers cabin – roof repairs started  
(Photo : T Hewitt)



Vehicle parking at Stanhope Station on Fathers Day  
( Photo : J Askwith)

- **WITTON LE WEAR CROSSING CABIN RESTORATION STARTS :** A two man team has started on the job of restoring the cabin so that it can be used as a base for the crossing keeper and potentially also could in future act in the dual role of being the Control Office when regular operations start between Wolsingham and Stanhope. Trevor Hewitt and John Wardell both stalwards of the station canopy at Stanhope and the office / shop at Wolsingham are now restoring the roof structure before setting to work on the windows, doors and the interior. ( T Hewitt, G Mudd )
- **JULY 4<sup>th</sup> :** This was the day Network Rail had targeted to restore the connection at Bishop Auckland. Unfortunately we have just learned in the last few days that they have not been able to assemble all the equipment needed and the work is delayed – no new date yet received. We are assured that this is unconnected in any way to them wanting to make a point on this day to our American owners, to whom we wish a happy Independence Day.
- **TRUST VOLUNTEER AWARD : SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS :** By way of thanking volunteers for their efforts the Trust Chairman, Kevin Hillary asks Trust volunteers to nominate a volunteer who they think has gone beyond of what is asked of them. “All I need is a small note saying why you think the named volunteer should be thanked. I know I can think of one or two who give that little bit extra. Can you please let me know who and why, and I will pick a couple of winners who will be given a footplate ride on the locomotive of their choice. The award will be presented at the BARS picnic” ( see below ) Send to : Kevin Hilary [kevinhillary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevinhillary@hotmail.co.uk) :Telephone 01388 775126
- **VOLUNTEERS SUMMER PICNIC AUGUST 15 :** BARS management have notified us that they intend to hold a volunteer picnic as a way of thanking WR volunteers for their ongoing commitment. The event will take place at Stanhope station commencing at 6pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Full details will follow in due course. ( M Westerfield)

- **NO 40 AGAIN : HISTORY :** Below are two photos of no 40 which were sent to us by Neil Anderson in its a workaday habitat at Ashington colliery. The loco was built in 1954 for service in pulling passenger trains on the Ashington area NCB lines. We have one colour photo of No 40 with coaches which we will reproduce here once we are sure of any copyright issues. But, do you know of anyone who can share memories or photographs of No 40 in the decade or so since it worked at Ashington? If you do please put them in touch with the editor : [gcmudd@ntlworld.com](mailto:gcmudd@ntlworld.com)



No 40 –two photographs from the collection of Neil Anderson – taken at Ashington Colliery, date unknown, ? late 1950's

- **JUNIOR CLUB AWARD TRIP TO LONDON :** The Junior Club's second award scheme trip to London took place last Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The lucky group consisting of James Percy, Mark Parnaby and Ben Riley who travelled to and from London in 1<sup>st</sup> Class with National Express East Coast and visited the Science Museum followed by sightseeing including, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament. The trip was rounded off with a journey on the Docklands Light Railway.
- The Junior Club award scheme rewards members with points for various reasons including attendance, test results and good feedback from customers or volunteers. Points are lost for negative feedback. Each month the member with the highest score receives a trophy and certificate; additional special prizes such as trips away are occasionally presented. The NXEC trips were as a result of David Million, WRjc Training Officer, donating some of his personal annual free travel passes to the club.
- **USA GROUP NEWS :** Here is a thought for our marketing team when they sit down to plan next years events. From our 'sister' railway the Rio Grande Scenic Railway : **Michael Martin Murphey's Mountain Music Show :-**
- Starting on July 10th, the biggest country music festival west of the Mississippi is headed to Colorado, and the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad is your exclusive ticket to this very special event! Starring Michael Martin Murphey and featuring guest stars such as Fred Hargrove and Lisa Bell, the [Mountain Music Show](#) takes place in an incredibly unique and breathtaking natural amphitheatre in Fir, Colorado. Take in the beauty of the surrounding aspen and pine groves, enjoy our Western Chuck Wagon style BBQ, and get ready for some of the best Cowboy and Country singers in the country!



- **HEALTH and SAFETY COURSE Late July. :** We have been offered 2 x 1 day training courses on Heath & Safety by Bishop Auckland college. The training is free (funded) and needs to be provided by the college by the end of July. Those attending only need to attend one of the two dates that will be set. If any volunteer is interested in attending this course could I ask that you contact me as soon as possible along with weekend availability dates between now and the end of July 2009. **David Million** Telephone: 01388-747683. Mobile: 07711-017980 , [david.million@wrjc.org.uk](mailto:david.million@wrjc.org.uk)

- **STANHOPE STATION : JULY 5<sup>th</sup> SALE :** On this day the Junior Club will again be running a fund raising stand offering ex GNER branded crockery and glassware which were donated to the Junior Club by National Express East Coast, also available are a number of redundant station name signs from York station which NXEC have donated for auction. The York station signs will be available via auction bids either on the day or via email [admin@wrjc.org.uk](mailto:admin@wrjc.org.uk), the highest bidders by the end of the event will get the opportunity to purchase a sign, approx 13 signs will be available. (D Million)



The former GNER station signs from York Station – now available for auction ( D Million)



No 40 again on 29<sup>th</sup> June just after crossing Keilder Bridge (J Lewins)

- **HERITAGE LINE RECRUITING COMMUNITY RAIL OFFICER :** If you know someone interested in railways and is looking for a part time job please draw their attention to this post – here is the link and see summary below :
- <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Working/Jobs+At+Darlington/Recruitment.htm?VacancyID=2063>

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#### Community Rail Officer

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This post is Part-Time, 18.5 hpw (£13,786 - £15,273 pa)

Fixed Term contract for 3 years Post No: D08054

For an informal discussion, please contact Paul Salveson at Northern Rail on 07795 008691.

Application packs are available online at:

[www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs) or phone (01642) 526992.

Closing date: Wednesday, 15th July 2009 at 12 Noon.

Interview date: Wednesday, 5th August 2009.



**DARLINGTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- **WAR ON THE LINE : 18,19, 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER : ADVANCE CALL :** We are again looking for help with one of our biggest events of the year. The War on the Line event offers volunteers the opportunity to help in so many ways, from setting up on Friday right through to setting down on Sunday. The following areas all require volunteer help:- Cafe, Shop, Griddle Car, Car parking attendants, Money takers (Showfield), Setting up on Friday, Setting down on Sunday, meeters & greeters Sat & Sun, bookies runner, odd job man, twelfth man, Man Friday. Think of a task, we need to cover it and have cover for the cover! Forward your availability and the area(s) you would like to be involved in, to me as soon as possible please. For information any volunteers wishing to work over the weekend, a free camping area will be available, please let me know if you require a space reserving! **David Million** : Telephone: 01388-747683. Mobile: 07711-017980 , [david.million@wrjc.org.uk](mailto:david.million@wrjc.org.uk)



- **STANHOPE CAFÉ** : Now that we are approaching the summer peak holiday period we need additional help from a second part time paid employee to supplement the voluntary assistance over the summer. I have been interviewing candidates and will be contacting the successful candidate shortly. Proposed start date will be July 9 after which the person will work a rota with Nigel (Kath Wood)
- **WEST AUCKLAND CARNIVAL : JULY 18** : On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009 we intend to run a promotional stall at this event. The carnival runs from 1pm until 4pm, however the stall should be up and running from 12.30pm If you would like to help with this please let David Million know as soon as possible : **David Million** : Telephone: 01388-747683. Mobile: 07711-017980, [david.million@wrjc.org.uk](mailto:david.million@wrjc.org.uk)
- **EMAIL FROM VOLUNTEER : DEPOT ACCESS** : “Thank you for the newsletter and all the information, it has cheered me up. However there is one piece of news that is always missing-- its when will there be road access to the Wolsingham Depot again?” The Editor replies : I understand your aggravation over depot access. It is getting, very slowly, nearer to being resolved. Part of the problem is there are three legal disputes and when such matters are in dispute it is difficult to comment on them or even say what is going on without potentially jeopardising the WR legal position. A lot of management and volunteer effort is going into resolving the disputes and as soon as we can say something useful other than "depot access is being worked upon "
- **AND FINALLY :-**



Two more photos of No 40 on June 29<sup>th</sup> On the left standing at Frosterley. You can see the lining out on the cabside, Since then the WR crest has been added ( Photo F Holmes) On the right the classic Broadwood Bridge viewpoint. (photo : J Lewins)

Edited by G C Mudd : 4 July 2009

Please send your contributions, comments, questions, photos etc to : [gcmudd@ntlworld.com](mailto:gcmudd@ntlworld.com)