

**WEARDALE RAILWAY : NEWS UPDATE : No.23**  
**8 AUGUST 2009**

**No 40 BRINGS IN THE CROWDS**  
**TRUSTS OLDEST MEMBER ON THE FOOTPLATE**  
**RECONNECTION WORK STARTS AT BISHOP AUCKLAND**

- **NO 40 : FIRST WEEKEND IN REGULAR SERVICE A SUCCESS :** The Trusts locomotive completed its first weekend back in regular service over the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The weather forecast for Saturday was poor but the better weather on Sunday, both forecast and actual, brought out the crowds. Passenger numbers are building up on target and takings in the shop and café are now representing 40% of the total income. Post overhaul snagging continues, as each fault is ironed out reliability will be built up. Thanks to Steve Race for his tremendous contribution towards keeping on top of failures. ( A Gregory , G Mudd )
- **96 YEAR OLD WILF HUME RIDES THE FOOTPLATE OF NO 40 :** Wilf Hume of Frosterley as well as being one of the longer term members of the Trust, he joined in 1993, is indisputably our oldest member achieved his long term ambition of riding on the footplate of No 40 on the first day of its return to regular service. As this story was covered in the press we have attached some self explanatory photos below. Wilf afterwards said he felt honoured by his reception on the day “I was treated like Royalty” Wilf thanked all those at the station, on the footplate and also those who supplied the cream tea on the train. (G Mudd)
- **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY :** Earlier this year the Weardale Railway Trust issued its Child Protection Policy which is a vital document to have in place given that we have a Junior Club, young people on school work experience and young visitors to the railway and I am now able to report that Weardale Railway CIC has agreed to support this by covering the cost of CRB checks for volunteers. (D Million)



Wilf Hume on the footplate of No 40 on Saturday August 1.  
(Photos : I Gardner)



Wilf with his daughter, Margaret Gibson, and her husband Joe, grandson Alex Gibson, and greatgrandchildren Emily and Noah Gibson.

- **PROJECT CONNECT 1 : TRACKWORK :** A team of five have so far dug out the entire portion of redundant sleepers between Witton-Le-Wear to Wolsingham, this amounts to over one thousand. 500 new sleepers arrive 8am Monday morning and they will be installed next week. Thanks to Trevor Horner for his continued daily input to this project. Possession arrangements are working very well, thanks to staff and volunteers on both sides. ( A Gregory )

- **PROJECT CONNECT 2 : WITTON LE WEAR CABIN :** Work continues on restoring the former crossing keepers cabin with the roof, one set of windows and the doorframes in place ( G Mudd)
- **PROJECT CONNECT 3 : THE BISHOP AUCKLAND CONNECTION :** Network Rail have commenced work on the turnout to the Weardale Railway at Bishop Auckland. All the pointwork is on site and the reconnection should be completed in the next few weeks. ( K Hillary, A Gregory)



Witton le Wear Crossing Keepers cabin as at August 1



Bishop Auckland station east end looking towards Darlington with new point-work on site ( Photo :K Hillary)

- **COMPETENCY REGISTER :** Nic Rafferty and I are auditing all records and will be producing a competency matrix for simple assessment of qualifications for both staff and volunteers. Thanks to Dave Payne and Donald Heath for their assistance in this. ( A Gregory)
- **WITTON LE WEAR, DCC PATH :** Following a site meeting this week, Durham County Council have advised that works there are being resumed on Monday, initially cutting back the weeds and then surfacing and completion. ( A Gregory)
- **GENERAL MANAGERS OFFICE :** The former store room at Stanhope Station( aka the 'General Waiting Room') has been cleared out, redecorated, recarpetted and refurnished at minimal expense. This will now be the joint office of myself and Nic Rafferty. We are both extremely grateful to the Herculean efforts of Junior Club members Jordon, Jack, Jonathon and James who have worked tirelessly to produce such an excellent result. ( A Gregory)



A John Lewins photo of No 40 in action on August 2



A prominent donor to the restoration of No 40 is Fred Leverinck- from Holland seen here with his Son on August 1 (Photo :D Scott)



- **COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY :** As the Acting General Manager, I have taken responsibility for the general running and future operational development of Weardale Railway. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that Weardale Railway is not currently a financially stable organisation, and to help with this situation BARS has appointed Nic Rafferty to liaise with commercial, marketing and volunteer sectors and to oversee all future ventures. This is not an easy task to take on, thanks in anticipation for giving her your full support. ( A Gregory)
- **TO ALL VOLUNTEERS : A MESSAGE FROM ALISTAIR GREGORY :**I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in ensuring the staffing of the railway, especially now 40 is back in action. It is greatly appreciated from all quarters of the company.
- **VOLUNTEER BARBEQUE:** Mark Westerfield has announced that the Weardale Railway will hold an informal barbeque at Stanhope Station on 15 August for volunteers , starting at 6:0pm. Please feel free to bring your spouse/significant other. An RSVP would be appreciated as soon as possible please. RSVP TO : [westerfieldm@iowapacific.com](mailto:westerfieldm@iowapacific.com) or 0792246 812

G C Mudd  
9 August 2009