

# WEARDALE RAILWAY

**NEWSLETTER NO 41 : 14 JUNE 2010**

**SECOND 141 UNIT ARRIVES IN WEARDALE**

**STILL SOME SEATS ON THE CHARTER FROM DARLINGTON TO STANHOPE  
ON SUNDAY JUNE 20 - £19 return**

- **JUST ARRIVED – A SECOND 141 DIESEL MULTIPLE UNIT :** The Weardale Railway acquired a second two car 141 unit on Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Alistair Gregory oversaw its removal from the Midland Railway Centre at Butterley and the safe arrival at Wolsingham depot the same day. It was out on the line the same night and met our own 141 on its return from the Community Service. The unit is in full working order and will provide back up for the increased services we are now running as well as being able to work in multiple with the other unit at times of increased demand. Our existing 141 has the original Leyland engine and transmission, the new unit (141113) has a Cummins engine and Voigt transmission



The newly arrived 141 standing beside its partner at dusk on the 10<sup>th</sup> June at the entrance to the Depot ( Photo : Alistair Gregory)



141113, in Metro livery on an initial trial run to Stanhope. (Photo : Alistair Gregory)

- **GENERAL MANAGER POST RESPONSIBILITIES :** WR General Manager , Malcolm Dean has to leave us for a few weeks because of a pre existing work commitment. During the period of his absence David Million will once again assume the responsibility of Acting General Manager. Graham Isom from Dartmoor Railway will be joining Alistair Gregory to help support the ever crucial role of maintaining the service.
- **TEMPORARY PLATFORMS FOR DALE SHOWS? :** In response to press queries, General Manager, Malcolm Dean said the plans were just ideas at the moment but were being actively considered. Richard Mews from the Stanhope show committee said the railway could provide visitors with an attractive alternative to get to the show. It's another travel option especially from Bishop Auckland. Stanhope show is on September 12 and 13th and Wolsingham September 4 to 6th.
- **NEXT HMRI INSPECTION – AUGUST :** At the time of his last visit the Inspector gave us a list of less critical items which he wanted to see completed before giving his final approval. This visit is due in early August. Steve Goodwin and his team from RMS, assisted on occasion by the Sunday Gang, are working through this list which involves work on the track, drainage and general infrastructure tasks.

- **BISHOPFM COVERAGE OF WR : Terry Ferdinand of Bishop FM was one of the guests at the reopening ceremony and writes “as one of the media there on the day, I took photos and have video of the full speeches on the platform by Lord Forster, Wilf Hume and Ed Ellis. I also recorded interviews and video on the train, and hope to make a radio programme from what I have, for broadcast on Bishopfm.”**
- You can hear Bishopfm (locally) on 105.9. <http://www.bishopfm.com/>



So near and yet..... The view from the east end of the Weardale Railway platform at Bishop Auckland looking towards the Network Rail station. Transfer passengers have to make a 5 minute walk around the building on the left. The distance between the ends of the two platforms is 330 feet (100 metres).

( Photo : Terry Wansbury )

- **JUNE 20 : CHARTER FROM ALNMOUTH, NEWCASTLE, DURHAM AND DARLINGTON – STILL SEATS AVAILABLE** : Want to travel on a through train from any of these stations to Stanhope? Some seats should still be available on the day . The operator ( North East Railtours) only has indicative timings as Network Rail has, of the date of this Newsletter, not provided the operational timings. A standard class return from Darlington will cost £19 where the train should depart between 11.30 and noon. The tour will be Class 47 hauled, top and tailed, Mk 1 stock with a Buffet Car. Return from Stanhope should be around 15.45 – 16.00 hrs. More details in the box below :-

**NORTH EAST RAILTOURS : 0191 252 3774 : [billmiller@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:billmiller@tiscali.co.uk) : FARES : From Alnmouth (circa 10.00hrs), Newcastle, Durham, 1<sup>st</sup> Class: £39 ( Child £30) Standard: £29 (Child £20)**

**Return fares from Darlington : Standard Class : £19, (Child £10), 1<sup>st</sup> Class : £29 (Child £20).**  
**Final Darlington departure times still to be finalised – between 11.30 and noon most likely.**

- **SUNDAY JUNE 20 : SERVICES TO BE REVISED** : WR services on the 20<sup>th</sup> June will need to be revised to accommodate the incoming Charter from Northumberland. At the moment we do not have the handover times at B Auckland from Network Rail, but it will most likely be between noon at 12.30 hrs. If this is the case the most likely scenario is that the 11.43 ex Wolsingham to B Auckland and the 12.40 return from B Auckland will not be operated (either as Heritage or substitute DMU services). It should still be possible to run the remaining four community services to and from B Auckland and also two round trips of Heritage stock and haulage between Stanhope and Wolsingham . It is unlikely we will be able to confirm the operating timetable until Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.



Teddy bears were sighted at Stanhope station on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Also entertainment was provided in the car park. (Photos : Terry Wansbury)

- TEDDY BEARS PICNIC DAY : MAY 30 :** Clive and Wendy Elsdon report : It was very busy both on the train and at Stanhope Station. The new marquee recently purchased by the company was used to great effect for the entertainment. This asset is now available as required for future events. We decided to move the event onto the car park instead of the field due to the possibility of inclement weather. This seemed to improve the event, keeping it very tight to the station. We now plan to repeat this location in future Teddy Bears Picnic events. This was the first event where we used St. John Ambulance who have offered to provide our First Aid Cover at events free of charge if they are allowed to promote themselves. We are hoping to continue this new relationship at future events. The introduction to St. John Ambulance was made by Jordan Parker of the Junior Club. We would like to thank ALL the Adult Volunteers and Junior Club Members who helped us out with this and other events!
- COMMUNITY TRAIN SERVICE :** Trust Chairman David Scott comments : Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 saw the start of the Commuter service. What a start to this train with large numbers of people flocking to the new station to take advantage of some good weather to see the “new line”. Around 90 people were on the 141 on some of the trains over the last two weeks! How wonderful the line looks as well! I would rank our scenery and route amongst the best of the preserved railways!



The new community service passing Witton Park station, unfortunately the platform which was rebuilt by DCC in the late 1980's was subsequently removed ( Photo : John Lewins)



Captions are invited for this photo !  
( Photo ; Terry Wansbury)

- **VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERS** : The newly enhanced service over the extended line has created a huge increase in the demands on our existing volunteers and on the full time staff, many of whom are working very long days. This is an important period in the development of the Railway and in order to make it work we need to get the right balance between volunteer effort and the nucleus of paid staff. This is a unique and pioneering project which can show that a community service can be provided without massive state support and at the same time provide an attraction for tourists which will, in turn, benefit the local economy. So if you would like to help us please see below and get in touch.

## **New Volunteers**

To volunteer on the Weardale Railway you must first become a member of the Weardale Railway Trust so that you are covered by the Trust's insurance. You can download our volunteer recruitment pack from our website [www.weardale-railway.org.uk](http://www.weardale-railway.org.uk). The recruitment pack includes both the Trust application form and the volunteer application form. If you are unable to download the pack please email your name and address to [weardale.railway@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:weardale.railway@tiscali.co.uk) and we will send one to you.

Once we have received your completed volunteer application form you will be invited to attend an induction session after which you can start your volunteering.

If you are between the ages of 10 and 17, the Weardale Railway Junior Club and Youth Team offers volunteering opportunities for our younger members. Please visit the club website [www.wrjc.org.uk](http://www.wrjc.org.uk) for full details or email [join@wrjc.org.uk](mailto:join@wrjc.org.uk)

**If you were previously a volunteer but have had a break, we would be very interested to hear from you and welcome you back to the Weardale Railway family of volunteers.**

**We are looking for volunteers to help with the following roles:-**

**Guard**

**Driver**

**Crossing Keeper**

**Controller**

**Booking Clerk**

**Travelling Ticket Inspector**

**General Station Duties**

**Special Events (e.g. Father's Day, War on the Line, Santa Specials etc)**

**Café**

**Buffet Car**

**Gift Shop**

**Track Maintenance**

**Track Clearance with our very busy "Sunday Gang"**



Rush hour at Stanhope on the 21<sup>st</sup> May. Newly arrived 141113 on the left in Metro livery and our existing 141 on the right. (Photo : David Scott.)

- **CLASS G5 NEWBUILD MAKING PROGRESS** : The Company formed under the Chairmanship of our own Mike Wood is making steady progress in building a completely new version of this former NER designed 0-4-4 tank engine which was once a common sight on many North Eastern branch lines. The project plan, developed by David Elliott, is ensuring that the various sub-assemblies are completed in the correct order, on time and within budget. The first visible outcome of this process will be that the bogie, including wheels etc., will be completed and painted and put on show at locomotion at Locomotion in Shildon by the end of July. You can read more about the project and how to participate by visiting their website at : <http://www.g5locomotive.co.uk/Newsletter%2004.pdf>  
Thanks to Peter Shields for the Newsletter update.
- **NO 40 APPEAL OFF TO A GOOD START** : The new No 40 Appeal launched in the last issue of 'Between the Lines' has started off very well, with over £1,500 donated in the first few days. The appeal was launched to ensure we have sufficient funds to cover the recertification due in September 2012 and to fund some modifications to the Locomotive. Needless to say any further contributions from readers of the Newsletter would be welcome. Details at the end of this Newsletter.
- **Ed ELLIS LAUNCHES ANOTHER NEW SERVICE** : This time on the Rio Grande Scenic Railway. In addition to the existing service over the La Veta pass to Alamosa, Colorado, Ed has introduced a regular connecting train over the miles between Alamosa and Antonito where there is a across the` platform connection to one of the classic Rio Grande narrow gauge lines – the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. You can join Ed and savour the journey from the viewpoint of the full length dome cars while breakfast in served and hear Ed describe the attractions on Youtube at : - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EEAZBQMYuc&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EEAZBQMYuc&feature=player_embedded)



- **WANT TO TRY WORKING ON THE RAILROAD ?** : Kevin Hillary has a request : 'The Sunday Gang would gladly accept any offer of help now that the work load has increased, but due to the fact that we are never sure exactly where we will be working on any given Sunday, As we have now got an even longer railway to look after, (At times I thought I would never say that) If anyone would like to volunteer please give Mike Wood or Kevin Hillary a call evenings are best. Our work at the moment will be to keep all of the crossings clear of growing foliage and as you are all aware there has been a significant rise in the number of crossings to keep clear of the safety of the public and trains. I would like to thank everyone who over the years have helped transform the ribbon of trees, bushes and weeds, into a railway (The Sunday Gang are certainly proud of) once again. Thanks again to everyone who has helped over the years. Phone numbers are :-
- Kevin : 01388 775 555 and Mike : 0191 373 4317 (You need to be a Trust member – see separate section in this newsletter on how to volunteer)

- **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** : Clive Elsdon reports : We are planning on e-mailing (via David Million) copies of each event poster to all the trust members, so that they can (if willing and able) print out a copy and display it somewhere. We would ask for support in printing and displaying posters from the readership, as getting the information out there is both the hardest and most important element of Marketing! (see later item). As with the Map to Bishop Auckland West the event posters that have been produced to date are available on our website, facebook & twitter. For the War on the Line event we have come to an agreement with the North East Theatre Organ Association to include a jointly marketed 1940's evening at their Howdon le Wear venue on the Tuesday before our event is held.
- **FROM THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ; 6 JUN 2010** : Columnist Sandi Toksvig wrote the following in an article about the joys of train travel : "Last month after a 60year gap, the service between Bishop Auckland and Stanhope in County Durham reopened. It won't amaze you that it took volunteers to get the thing going or that they had to build a new platform for the service after Network Rail and the Rail regulators couldn't agree about using the actual station. Nevertheless for £5.50 you can once more travel through 16 miles of rolling countryside passing villages that glory in names like Witton le Wear."
- **WEARDALE RAILWAY POSTERS** : The Marketing Group draws your attention to the fact that all of our current posters are available on the Weardale Railway Web Site, our Facebook Group and on Twitter/Twitpic. One of the hardest things we have to do is get posters displayed. We would be very grateful of any offers of printing and displaying posters that we may receive. If every reader were to print out one poster and have it displayed somewhere, just imagine how much publicity we would be getting! If you would like to help by displaying or arranging to have a poster displayed but feel that you cannot print a copy out, contact Clive & Wendy Elsdon, hopefully it will be possible to get a copy of the poster(s) to you!
- **BISHOP AUCKLAND JUNIOR CLUB** : David Million reports : The new Bishop Auckland section of the Junior Club is now up and running with 7 members and a further 2 in the pipeline. On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May the new group attended Bishop Auckland and had their first training session, Personal Track Safety, which was followed by an exam which all of the juniors passed.



New recruits ; the first group of Junior Club Members from the Bishop Auckland section. (Photo : David Million)



Finally, one more shot of the two units on a sunny day in the station at Stanhope . (Photo : David Scott)

- **EDITED BY** : Gerry Mudd : Comments, suggestions, contributions, corrections all welcomed.  
[gcmudd@ntlworld.com](mailto:gcmudd@ntlworld.com) or 01932 889 811 or 07773 800 554

**WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST**  
**LOCOMOTIVE No. 40 : APPEAL FOR FUNDS**

The Trust owned 0-6-0 tank engine is our single largest asset. It was built in 1954 by Robert Stephenson and Hawthorne to carry passengers on the NCB system in Northumberland. Like all steam locomotives it requires boiler recertification every 10 years and the current certificate expires in October 2012.

After its recent repairs the Locomotive is performing well and hopefully will carry out three more summers of work on our Heritage services. But we do now need to start thinking ahead and planning and saving for the next major expenditure in making the boiler fit for recertification. Additionally there are other modifications improvements and replacements we need to make to the running gear and to improve the performance of the locomotive.

This will cost a significant amount of money and although we keep costs to a minimum with the help of our loyal band of volunteers there are certain parts of the work that has to be done by specialist firms.

So, how much will be needed? Our estimate to cover both the recertification and the modifications is £95,000. The Trust estimates that it should be able to provide £55,000 from its own funds by October 2012, so the objective of this appeal is to raise £40,000 over the next two and a half years.

With the kind help of contributors from the Trust both locally and nationally – even internationally, we were able to raise over £30,000 in the last appeal – we hope we can rely again on your generosity in these more difficult times to keep the sound and sight of a steam engine working in Weardale.

In return for your contributions the Trust and Weardale Railways CIC have joined together to provide the incentives shown below. Foremost is a print of a truly splendid photograph by Trust member John Lewins whose work has also appeared in the Railway press. The harsh winter we have just experienced provided some excellent photographic opportunities and John took advantage of these on December 20 by capturing this scene of No 40 hauling a Santa Special passing near Holbeck 4. It is shown below on a small scale and in low resolution. On the larger scales being offered this photograph really does capture steam, snow and the atmosphere of Weardale to perfection. John has kindly offered to carry out the work of printing and laminating himself, so you can be sure of a quality product.



**No 40 hauling a Santa Special in December 2009 – this photograph, by John Lewins is being offered at various scales to contributors to the No 40 appeal –**

## THE No 40 APPEAL

Contributions should be sent to the following address :-

**The Weardale Railway Trust (No 40 Appeal)  
Stanhope Station  
Stanhope, Bishop Auckland  
Co Durham, DL13 2YS**

- \* Cheques should be made out to :- The Weardale Railway Trust
- \* I enclose a cheque for £ - - - , as my contribution towards the recertification of Locomotive No 40.
- \* I wish/ do not wish my copy of the photograph to be laminated
- \* I wish to make my donation via the GIFT AID scheme. YES/NO – please delete as appropriate
- \* I would like to be kept informed of the progress of the railway and this appeal by email Newsletter,  
- my email address is :- \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Gifts of any amount are welcome, for those of £10 and over the following will apply :-**

**All gifts over £10** will be acknowledged and the donor will receive an A5 ( 5.8 x 8.3 inches) colour print of “No 40 in Winter”

**All gifts over £18** will be acknowledged and the donor will receive an A4 (8.3 x11.7 inches) colour print of “No 40 in Winter” This can be laminated if requested.

**All gifts over £25** will be acknowledged and the donor will receive an A3 (11.7 x 16.5 inches) colour print of “No 40 in Winter” This can be laminated if requested.

**All gifts over £50** will be acknowledged and the donor will receive an A3 (11.7 x 16.5 inches) colour print of “No 40 in Winter” This can be laminated if requested. Plus one Day Rover ticket for the Heritage service

**All gifts over £100** will be acknowledged and the donor will receive an A3 (11.7 x 16.5 inches) colour print of “No 40 in Winter” This can be laminated if requested. Plus two Day Rover tickets for the Heritage service and copies of “Rebirth of a Railway” and “The Nursery on the Line”

**All gifts over £500** will be acknowledged and the donor will receive an A3 (11.7 x 16.5 inches) colour print of “No 40 in Winter” This can be laminated if requested. Plus two Day Rover tickets for the Heritage service and copies of “Rebirth of a Railway” and “The Nursery on the Line” and a **voucher for a footplate ride on No 40**

G C Mudd, T Hewitt, J Lewins.