

WEARDALE RAILWAY: NEWS UPDATE :No. 7

6 DECEMBER 2008

NEW ARRIVAL 31452 HAULING SANTA TRAINS ***SANTA BOOKINGS UP ON 2007***

- **Class 31 loco now operational :** As mentioned in the last update BARS had arranged for a Class 31 loco from RVEL to provide haulage over the Santa season. The loco eventually arrived on Wednesday 3rd December after some layover due to mechanical problems with the trailer. It arrived at Wolsingham on the Thursday and after completing the Fitness to Run certificate and Class A exam, driver training commenced on the Friday and as this report is compiled the loco is moving out with the coaching set plus Griddle Car to haul the first Santa train on Saturday.(G L)



31452 in a layby on the A68 en route to Wolsingham , 2cd December (J Askwith)



Thursday 4th December, 31452 on test, running round at Stanhope (M Wilkinson)

- **Trust Loco No 40 : Appeal Fund Contributions :** Work continues in the depot to complete the restoration of No40, meanwhile the fund to finance this restoration remains open to receive donations. The No 40 Appeal fund has so far raised £21,436 (including Gift Aid) – of particular note in recent donations has been a total of £2,030 from the Junior Club and £2,564 from Mr R Enticott . Both amounts including Gift Aid. Ron Enticott (a former WR Treasurer) also made a substantial contribution to the purchase of the Loco in 2006, we are grateful for his continued support, as we are for all donations received. (G Mudd, T Hewitt)
- **Santa Specials have started :**The Santa season started in fine style at the Weardale Railway on November 29th, with the 141 in use, it was full to capacity with eager children and their families wanting to be first in line to see Santa and his helpers. With Stanhope renamed for the festive season as ‘Lapland’ the heavy frost gave a somewhat seasonal feel to the occasion. With most trains now fully booked up we can look forward to a very busy next few weeks, and then Santa can have a very well earned rest, along with ALL his helpers. (K Hillary)

No 40 Appeal Fund is still open : The Trust still needs to raise a further £12,000 to cover the costs incurred in restoring the locomotive and repayment of the loan. As a reminder everyone donating over £100 receives a colour photo montage of No 40, those donating over £500 will additionally 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

- **Junior Club : Morrisons Donation:** As reported in Newsletter No 5 the Junior Club have now received the donation from Morrisons at Bishop Auckland comprising 5 large pictures, two metal headboards and two direction signs. Two of the large pictures are now proudly on display at Stanhope station, one in the café and the other, along with the two headboards, in the new waiting area (formerly the old shop).(D Million)

- **Junior Club : GNER Glassware Donation:** As mentioned earlier part of the ex GNER glassware that National Express East Coast donated has arrived. An initial batch of glassware was dispatched so that we had them for fund raising over the busy Christmas period. The remaining items are at London Kings Cross and should arrive soon. The glasses (tall tumblers and wine glasses) all bearing the GNER Crest, will be on sale at Stanhope station during the Christmas Period priced as follows:- Tumblers £5 or 4 for £15, Wine glasses £7 or 4 for £20 with the proceeds going towards the Junior Club, volunteers and the No 40 Appeal. We believe that there will be significant interest in the glassware, therefore, if you would like to reserve some please email admin@wrjc.org.uk , (D Million)



The selection of GNER glassware donated to the Railway via the Junior Club. Some is being retained for Railway use, the remainder is being offered for sale. (D Million)



Santa and assistant Elf at Lapland Station awaiting the first train on a sunny but cold November 29th (J Askwith)

- **Santa bookings ahead of last years figures :** By December 3rd with ticket sales for the normal runs and one school trip, bookings were already over 25% up on 2007 in terms of passengers. If we project the numbers from school parties yet to visit and potential ongoing sales for the normal timetabled runs the marketing group estimate that the final figure will be an increase of between 40 and 50% on 2007. (I Gardner).
- **Track work and Maintenance :** Further work on the track towards Bishop Auckland is in abeyance whilst work is in progress on new method statements and work procedures. Meanwhile staff and volunteers are engaged in maintenance work on the existing track between Stanhope and Wolsingham and on the logistics of providing working stock for the Santa trains – it is hoped to continue work on the extended line shortly.
- **Broadwood Crossing :** A failure of the Broadwood crossing lights on the first Santa weekend required some speedy reaction to order spares and install them so that the crossing was operational for the school special on the 3rd December, this was carried out by John Hargreaves and Steve Raine.
- **2009 Plans :** WR Departmental Managers are submitting their plans and budgets for the 2009 financial year. These will be finalised at a meeting with the BARS General Manager, Mike Fairburn, to be held before Christmas.
- **Thanks – and Help Please :** Thank you to all who have emailed comments and suggestions since the production of the first four updates – putting it together is relatively easy – but I need input from you, the volunteers on what is happening in your area of activity and what is planned. Also, if you have questions I will try to find answers. Just email to : gcmudd@ntlworld.com