

WEARDALE RAILWAY

NEWSLETTER No.46 5 OCTOBER 2010

WEARDALE RAILWAYS OWNER ANNOUNCES NEW ACQUISITION

MORE BBC TV FILMING ON THE RAILWAY

EASTGATE PROJECT LOSES FUNDING

- **WEARDALE RAILWAY ON TV :** As previously mentioned the ‘George Gently’ detective series episode featuring the Weardale Railway was shown on BBC 1 on the 3rd October. It was filmed near Bridge 32 west of Stanhope station (see Newsletter No 38 for details). Although the loco was in use from 6am to 7pm – it travelled as far as Eastgate, the segment in the programme lasted only about 15 seconds, it did however show Norman Swindle, the driver, looking ahead for dead bodies.
- **WEARDALE RAILWAY ON TV, AGAIN :** On the 27th September the BBC were out again filming on the Railway. This time it was for the ‘Countryfile’ programme. Again a special train was commissioned utilising the Class 73 and the Mk1 coaches running to Stanhope. Steve Race was the driver and he was interviewed in the cab of the Locomotive, further filming took place on Stanhope station. The theme of this item is centred around the former mining industry of Weardale, The filming crew visited Killhope as well. The Weardale item will appear in the ‘Countryfile’ programme on Sunday 10th October at 6.30pm on BBC 1.



Julia Bradbury from the BBC's Countryfile programme speaks to the camera on Stanhope station platform on September 27th.
(Photo : Ruth Carroll)



No 40 on Bridge 34 during the filming session for the ‘George Gently’ programme. It was converted to British Railways 69692 for the day. (Photo : Norman Swindle)

- **BARS ACQUIRES HANSON TRACTION :** Weardale Railways majority shareholder, British American Rail Services has just announced the acquisition of Hanson Traction, Garcia Hanson, Hanson Traction's managing director and principal owner, will become British American's Commercial Director for all business units, with particular responsibility for rail freight, locomotive hire, and locomotive maintenance operations. Hanson Traction is based at Washwood Heath near Birmingham and currently owns seven locomotives (Classes 56, 31 and 50). Mike Fairburn is now appointed as Operations Director. Ed Ellis, president of British American, said that *“Adding Hanson Traction to the portfolio of our rail-related operations will substantially enhance our ability to serve the market. It will support British American's goals in rail freight and simultaneously increase the company's ability to maintain and repair its locomotives in-house. In addition, we are particularly excited about having Garcia Hanson join our management team, as he brings a wealth of commercial expertise to the company.”* The full Press statement and some details of the fleet are attached to this Newsletter.

- **WAR ON THE LINE 2010** : The event this year was held on the 18th and 19th of September. The Saturday was a reasonable day weatherwise but on the cool side, but Sunday, normally the busiest day, was misty early on and cloudy with showers later in the day. This resulted in lower attendances than last year and also meant that the Red Arrows flying display team were not able to carry out the fly past on their way from the display at the Great North Run. The steam loco hired in for the weekend, a Peckett 0-6-0, No 2000, performed well pulling four coaches on four separate return trips. The 5th and final trip on the Saturday was hauled by the Class 73, as the Peckett had developed a warm wheel bearing – this on the downhill run-which may seem counter intuitive, it seems that the constant forces on the bearing are more prevalent in downhill mode and cause the problem. It was a busy day for the railway and General Manager, Malcolm Dean, wishes to thank the principal organisers (Kevin Hillary. Clive & Wendy Elsdon and John Askwith) and their many volunteer and Junior Club helpers for making it a successful weekend.



War on the Line 2010 : The Peckett No. 2000 hauling the Heritage coaches on Saturday 18th September, seen passing Rogerley on its Way to Stanhope. (Photo:; John Lewins)

- **COAL PROJECT UPDATE** : Since the last Newsletter the ‘No’ group have initiated the Judicial Review process over Durham County Council’s approval of the Coal Loading Depot at Wolsingham. The first stage of this process is for the initiator to convince the Judge that there is a case to review, only if he decides there is a case will the review go ahead. Meanwhile the Project team, under Manager Dave Million are proceeding with all the preparatory detailed implementation plans and obtaining the various consents required under the planning approval. Work is also underway on clearing the ground so that work on the depot can commence.
- **EASTGATE PROJECT** : Prior to the formalisation of the pending Budget cuts, One North East has announced a series of project cuts which includes £1 million for the Eastgate Eco village Project. As it now seems unlikely that the project will continue, at least in its presently planned form, the Company is exploring other possible alternative options to utilise all or part of the site

- **SANTA 2010 :** David Million reports that bookings are continuing to roll in, with now over 90% of the booking being made online. One trip the 13.30hrs on November 27th is already fully booked. So please tell friends and family to book now if they want a choice of dates. To book online or download a form visit :- <http://www.weardale-railway.org.uk/> and click on the Santa icon.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE WORK :** Work has continued in providing lighting at Bishop Auckland WR platform. Steve Raine, John Hargreaves and Trevor Hewitt are amongst the volunteers helping out, assisted at weekends by Junior Club members. A generator and six lighting poles are now installed, some minor switch-work remains to be carried out. Attention is now turning to the cabin at Broadwood Crossing which Paul Allinson of Sherburn Stone, the Quarry owners, have made available to the Railway. It needs some renovation so that it can provide a suitable shelter and base of operations for the Crossing Keepers. Otherwise Jeff Smith and his RMS crew continue with re-sleepering and the Sunday gang have been working on vegetation clearance at various points along the line.



Wartime scene at Stanhope with Mark Woodhams looking after some of the re-enactors (Photo : M Woodhams)

The two Class 31's mentioned in Newsletter 45 en Route to Wolsingham, caught by John Lewins at Eldon Lane on September 15th.

- **DEPOT LATEST : No. 40 -- GOOD NEWS :** The last two wheel bearings have now been re-machined and returned to the depot and should be fitted to the locomotive by the end of this week. This work has been completed by Richard Campbell of Stanley who has also carried out the work on all the other bearings and on reprofiling the axles. Now that all the bearings have been re-machined to the high standards which Richard employs we trust that the Locomotive will be able to stand up to the demands of working the Weardale Line – a much harder task than it faced either in its NCB days or on the short, flat Colne Valley line. Once it has been passed fit to run it is planned to utilise No. 40 on the weekends around the October half term holidays working the Heritage portion of the timetable. Steve Race also reports that he hopes to complete work on the Griddle car after which attention turns to fixing the steam heating on the Mk 1 coaches.
- **JUNIOR CLUB : PARTNERSHIP WITH KING JAMES 1 SCHOOL :** On Thursday this week, Junior Club members are attending King James 1 School in Bishop Auckland as part of the school's year 6 open night. The open night, which is aimed at potential new students for 2011, will be railway themed as part of a partnership link up between the school and the Weardale Railway. Each school department will be given a Weardale station name and the prospective students are invited to “take a train journey” through the school, having their Weardale Railway Day Rover clipped as they visit each station. The railway launch day video will be shown on a large screen in the school reception and the Junior Club members will run a G scale model layout and a promotion / recruitment stand. The long term relationship between the School and the Railway includes a school based WR Junior Club and visits to the Weardale Railway and Iowa Pacific railways within the United States.

- OCTOBER, NOVEMBER FARES PROMOTION : BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE :** After the successful August evening cheap fare promotion the Railway is introducing a two for one voucher promotion. Buy any Community service Return adult ticket and you will be able to receive a second ticket of equal or lesser value for the journey. This voucher will be valid on all community service trains until the start of the Santa season (i.e. until Friday 26th November), The voucher will be promoted in the local press, on the website, on Twitter and Facebook where it can be printed off and a copy is included at the end of this Newsletter. Both passengers must travel together. There is no limit to the number of vouchers a group may use; therefore, a family group may present more than one voucher, however, only one free ticket is to be issued against each voucher presented. The vouchers are acceptable printed in either colour ink or black & white. The Vouchers are not valid on the planned special services for Halloween.



Here is how affiliate railway the Rio Grande Scenic promotes traffic – who says its only steam that sells?

The second DMU -141113 gets a day out on September 12th on an afternoon Train from Stanhope. (Photo : John Lewins)

- FROM THE INTRAY :**

Dear Sir,

I visited Weardale Rly earlier this year and would just like to say how impressed I was. I have some involvement with preserved railways myself and to my mind most of them have entirely the wrong ethos. That is to say they have a piecemeal attitude towards development and seem mainly motivated to recreate the atmosphere of the 1950's when they were boys (or girls). As such what they end up creating is full size toy trains which do not provide a transport service. They also charge far too much such that they can only ever be used as special treats on days out. Weardale is I suppose lucky in that it goes from "somewhere" to "somewhere" and travel is more likely to be generated by members of the public wanting to get from A to B rather than merely experience a train journey. You do seem to have the right idea in encouraging community use with realistic fares. A recent check on your website does appear to reveal that you are achieving that aim. Thanks to you and colleagues for all you have achieved.

John

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a cheque for membership of the Trust. My son and I travelled on the line last week and were greatly impressed by the following : -- The extent of the line – an 18mile line is a huge undertaking. The potential of the line to serve the communities along its length. The value offered by the fares. The plans to introduce freight. The friendliness and cheerfulness of the staff. We travel on many Heritage Railways but have to limit memberships. In this case I think it is deserved.

With best wishes for the future.

Rob

AN AMATEUR RADIO EVENT WAS HELD AT STANHOPE STATION ON SEPTEMBER 26th – Ruth Carroll looked after the participants – here is their response :-

I attach the certificate awarded to Matt and yourself celebrating the special event at Stanhope yesterday. All stations who worked over the weekend will get a personalised copy of this certificate from us. Ruth, thank you and the Railway for the great hospitality shown to Matt and I - it was really first rate. Thanks also for allowing us to use your photo. Hope that Weardale Railway will be able to join in again another year.

Bob
G0OCB

EDEN VALLEY RAILWAY and
BISHOP AUCKLAND RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB
RAILWAYS ON THE AIR WEEKEND
25th and 26th of September 2010



THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

GB0WR

For celebrating the birth of the steam passenger railway and the application of amateur radio by successfully contacting or hearing radio stations at preserved railways throughout the world.

Signed on behalf of B.A.R.A.C.

Thanks to The Weardale Railway and Ruth Carroll for permission to use the photograph showing Peckett Number 2000 arriving at Frosterley Station.

Edited by Gerry Mudd : Please send your queries, comments, suggestions , photos and submissions to :-
gcmudd@ntlworld.com or call 01932 889811 // 07773800554

WEARDALE RAILWAY

Buy one get one free ticket promotion



This voucher entitles the holder to one free adult or child return ticket when purchasing a full fare adult return ticket between any two Weardale Railway Stations.

Conditions:- Only valid on advertised regular Community Rail or Heritage passenger services. Both passengers must travel together. Voucher should be exchanged at the Ticket Office or handed to the Ticket Inspector on the train. Voucher has no cash redemption value.

Valid for travel up to and including 26th November 2010 excluding special Halloween services on 29th & 30th October 2010.

Please enter your details below.

Name:

Address:

Post code: Tel:

Email address:

I am interested in becoming a volunteer with the Weardale Railway (tick)

I would like to be added to the Weardale Railway email newsletter mailing list (tick)

Whilst every effort is made to maintain advertised services, Weardale Railway reserves the right to cancel, alter or suspend any train without notice and accepts no liability for loss, inconvenience or delay thereby caused. Trains may be steam or diesel hauled.

PLEASE PRINT THIS VOUCHER AND USE IT OR PASS TO FRIENDS

PRESS RELEASE : OCTOBER 4th 2010

British American Railway Services, Ltd., today announced that it has acquired Hanson Traction Ltd., a lessor of mainline railway locomotives. Hanson also provides locomotive engineering and maintenance services to third parties. Garcia Hanson, Hanson Traction's managing director and principal owner, will become British American's commercial director for all business units, with particular responsibility for rail freight, locomotive hire, and locomotive maintenance operations.

Ed Ellis, president of British American, said that *"Adding Hanson Traction to the portfolio of our rail-related operations will substantially enhance our ability to serve the market. It will support British American's goals in rail freight and simultaneously increase the company's ability to maintain and repair its locomotives in-house. In addition, we are particularly excited about having Garcia Hanson join our management team, as he brings a wealth of commercial expertise to the company."*

Hanson said that *"I am delighted to be able to build on the track record Hanson Traction has established in locomotive refurbishment and hire operations. Our proven record in rail freight haulage will enable British American to provide fully integrated solutions for both new and established customers. My team and I look forward to working with British American's managers and staff to grow and expand the scope of the company."*

Note :-

British American Railway Services acquired the rail operations of ECT Group in September, 2008, and today has operations that include:

- Rail Management Services, Ltd. (RMS Locotec), which provides:
 - o Railway track construction services;
 - o Railway track maintenance services; and
 - o Shunting locomotive hire and maintenance services.

- Weardale Railways, CIC, which provides community rail services in County Durham, and expects to begin freight services in early 2011.
- Dartmoor Railway, CIC, which provides community rail services in Devon.
- Devon and Cornwall Railways, Ltd., which has an application pending with the Office of Rail Regulation to become a licensed train- and freight-operating company

Fleet details : Source – Wikipedia

Number	Location/Home Depot	Notes
56114 -	Washwood Heath AC	Stored unserviceable / Source of spares.
56128 -	Wansford MPD, Nene Valley Railway	Stored unserviceable / Source of spares.
56311	Washwood Heath AC	. Returned to traffic after repairs in April 2010.
56312	Washwood Heath AC	Currently operational.
31190 -	Washwood Heath AC	Currently operational.
31602	Derby RTC	Currently operational, on hire to Network Rail.
50008	East Lancs	Operational, awaiting return to mainline use.
