

WEARDALE RAILWAY: NEWS UPDATE :No. 5

17 NOVEMBER 2008

DETAILS OF SANTA LOCO HAULAGE ANNOUNCED AGM: NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

- **Class 31 for Weardale Santa Trains** : British American Rail Services, our new majority shareholder, has announced that a Class 31 diesel locomotive has been arranged to haul the Santa specials this year. It is no. 31452, currently located at RVEL in Derby, it is being prepared for use and should travel north on or about 27th November. A Class 31 passed driver/ trainer will also be made available. Steam heating will be covered by portable equipment already obtained.(EE)
- **Other Loco News, Class 73 – 73139** : Materials are being obtained and installed to return this loco to service. Once it is serviceable it will be the reserve locomotive and the Class 31 will be returned to revenue service elsewhere.(EE)
- **Trust Tank Engine N0 40** : Work is proceeding on schedule to have this engine ready for service early in 2009. Most of the boiler lagging is now in place and work is well advanced on restoring the smokebox and on the frames and running gear. (Photo below – Dave Scott). Most of the work is being carried out by the ‘gang of four’: Norman Swindle, Keith McInally, Reg Kemp and Graham Richardson to these and the other occasional volunteers we owe our thanks. (S Rc)



Junior Club, with Leader Dave Million, prior to attending the Remembrance Day Service at Stanhope



No 40 in Wolsingham depot, boiler back in the frames and restoration work underway

- **Junior Club Remembrance Day tribute:** Junior Club members represented the Railway at the Remembrance Day commemoration in Stanhope - all wearing their new uniforms, funds for which they raised themselves. They have deservedly received significant positive feedback for their turn out on this occasion. “ Impressed and pleased to see young people involved.” “ Pleased to see them and how smart and well turned out they were.” Congratulations to the Club members.(IJ, DM)
- **Junior Club, Morrisons Presentation** : At a ceremony last Saturday at the Morrisons supermarket in Bishop Auckland the Junior Club were presented with 5 large photographic prints, two cast head boards (“The North Britton” & “The North Eastern”) and two cast direction signs “Café” & “Enquiries”. The plan is to display two of the photos and the two head boards in the café / new waiting room at Stanhope. The directional signs will also be used at Stanhope.(DM)

TO : all Trust Directors/ Volunteers : For this update to have any value it needs your input . We all work in different areas at different times so information exchange tends to be intermittent and haphazard. So please send it any bits and pieces of news, information or whatever might be if interest to the email address below.
Thanks , Gerry Mudd – gemudd@ntlworld.com

URGENT : SANTA (and others) WANTED

Although the roster is filling up we still need more volunteers to help out at this busy time. There are a few days where we still need a Santa volunteer but other jobs at the station and in the shop and café still need covering. This is the Railways biggest revenue earning event – please help out if you can. Days involved are Nov 29,30 and Dec 6,7,13,14,20,21,22,23,24. plus several midweek trips. Contact Dave Million on

david.million@tiscali.co.uk

or Kevin Hillary on 01388 775 126 (evenings) or kevinhillary@hotmail.co.uk

- **Trackwork :** The last update mentioned the commencement of work on the severely washed out section of track at Parson Byers which has necessitated a speed restriction for some months. This work has now been completed, and the line restored and re-ballasted (GL. Photos Dave Scott)



Parson Byers from the east showing work underway to rebuild the track profile View from the west with the track restored and re-ballasted

- **AGM NEWS – existing Trustees :** For those of you who could not attend here is a brief summary of some key points. The Chairman (Ian Gardner) announced his intention to stand down due to personal circumstances. He will still remain an active volunteer and Trustee. His replacement will be elected at the next Board Meeting. Likewise after 5 years the Trust Treasurer (Trevor Hewitt) will not offer himself for re-election and will stand down, he will also remain an active volunteer.
- **AGM : New Board Members :** There were seven candidates for the six vacant positions on the Board. Brian Cox, Graham Lord and Steve Raine were re-elected. Fred Ramshaw, Peter Shields and Malcolm Simpson were elected as new Board members.
- **AGM : British American Railways :** Ed Ellis in his overview mentioned that his target is to have trains running to and through Bishop Auckland in 6 months, achieving this target will be heavily dependent on the speed of response from Network Rail. He confirmed that discussions are underway with potential freight customers in the Dale.
- **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

CAN YOU HELP ? : Trust Treasurer needed : Trevor Hewitt has acted as the Trust Treasurer for the last five years and now wishes to hand over the Treasurer post to a new volunteer. Can anyone help, either directly or by (gently) twisting someone's arm. Please ask them to contact James Lynn (j_a_lynn@hotmail.com) or if they wish to talk about what is involved in the job first, to contact Trevor Hewitt on 01388 746 223 or on trevor@hewitt2.eclipse.co.uk