

WEARDALE RAILWAY: NEWS UPDATE :No. 6
26 NOVEMBER 2008

RECORD SANTA TRAIN BOOKINGS

- **Santa is Coming** : There are early reports of sightings of Santa at Stanhope – photographic evidence has recently been obtained (see below) Work has also started on preparations to bring Stanhope Station into the festive spirit, the Christmas lights have been erected, the down waiting room cleared for the elves to make a welcome temporary home for Santa, who will be meeting all of the children once again. Santa has asked me to see if there is plenty of staff to keep the families entertained while they wait to see him, because he can remember the large amount of children and their families who visited the railway last year, we don't want to disappoint Santa so if you can help please get in touch. **CONTACT DETAILS BELOW – there are still some places to fill.** (KH, DM)

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



- **Santa Specials – 9 trains fully booked** : 9 of the 20 scheduled trains are now fully booked and only approximately 700 of the 5,000 available tickets remain to be sold. These figures are as at November 24th and are well up on the same point last year and exceed the total final sales of 2007, advertising in the last week in the local press should further add to these totals. Congratulations all round to the sales/ marketing team. (IG, DM.)
- **Santa Extras** : The following extra school specials will be run midweek over five days : Etherley(2), Wolsingham (2), Copton Hill(2), Howden le Wear, Woodland, Villa Real, Ebchester, Shotley Bridge, Crook Stanley. Last year there were 5 extra trains.(IG)
- **Santa Haulage** : As mentioned before a Class 31 (31452) will be coming to Weardale to assist in hauling the Santa Specials. It will be leaving Derby on the 27th November, time of arrival not yet confirmed. Driver training will commence after arrival. The first three trains over the weekend of November 29 and 30 will be covered by the 141 DMU. (GL)

- **Depot News : The Class 73 (73139)** has been receiving attention from a team of volunteers and specialists from RMS Locotec at who travelled to Wolsingham . At the last report they have the diesel engine running and are commencing to work on the electrics. We hope to know soon the full extent of the remaining work needed.(GL).
- **Other Depot News :** Work has also resumed on the restoration on the restoration of a privately owned and funded Mk 1 coach, which on completion will become the property of the Trust. Additionally a lighting system has been installed in the depot pit facilitating work on no 40 and other locos. The temporary wiring originally installed in 2004 to work off the generator has now been removed as the new mains wiring is now operational (GL, FH, S Rn)
- **No 40 :** Work is progressing well on the restoration all the lagging is in place and the cladding over the boiler likewise. Work continues on the running frame and smokebox.(S Rc)



No 40 steaming up the grade in October 2007
 . (J Askwith)



Class 31 – 31452 in action on another
 heritage line (M Atwood /T Farmer)

- **Trust Treasurer : Post Vacant :** Trevor Hewitt our treasurer for the last 5 years gave notice of his intention to stand down at the AGM this month – he will still remain a Trust member and volunteer. We still need to find a replacement, please see if any of you friends or acquaintances could help. The person does not have to be a member of the Board or attend Trustee meetings, contact details below.

CAN YOU HELP ? : Trust Treasurer needed : 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

- **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