

WEARDALE RAILWAY: NEWS UPDATE :No. 9

1st JANUARY 2009

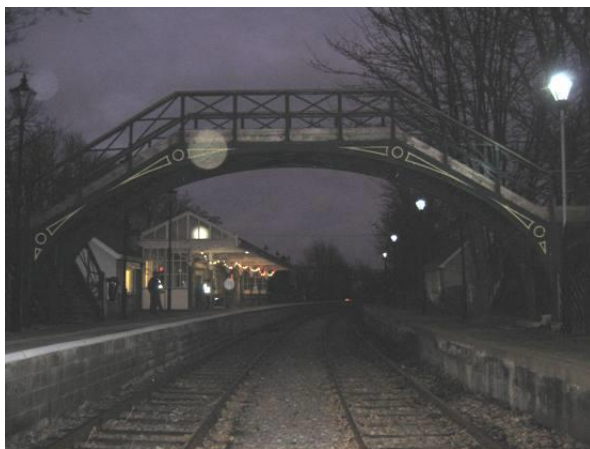
STANHOPE STATION NOW HQ FOR BRITISH AMERICAN RAIL SERVICES UK OPERATIONS

- **British American Rail Services** : Following the move of documents from RMS Wakefield to Stanhope, the former Project Offices at Stanhope Station now have become the headquarters for all BARS activities in Weardale and at Dartmoor and Wakefield. Nicola Wilbraham is in charge of the office. A BARS Document controller, Nicola Rafferty, has been appointed, she will control WR docs as part of her duties. Weardale Railway accounts are now also dealt with at Stanhope, Margaret Sadler has been appointed to this accounting duty, she can be contacted on : msadler@britamrail.com
- **“Work your Christmas Pudding Off” Day** : In a tradition stretching back into the last century, December the 28th was the day a group of volunteers turned up at Stanhope station in an attempt to recover from any overindulgence. It was a good days work which included leaf clearing, strimming and bulb planting, dismantling the grotto (Junior Club) and friendly banter to boot! To misquote a speech also from the last century “never in the field of human endeavour was so much done by so few”. Thanks to Nigel in the café for the soup kitchen keeping the workers suitably fuelled. Thanks also to Carl for coming all the way from Barnsley to help out. Someone will need to have a word with one of the junior members for turning up with a big box of unwanted chocolate bars (from selection boxes) which admittedly went down very well, but seemed to go against what the event had set out to achieve!(Photos below and report : J Askwith)

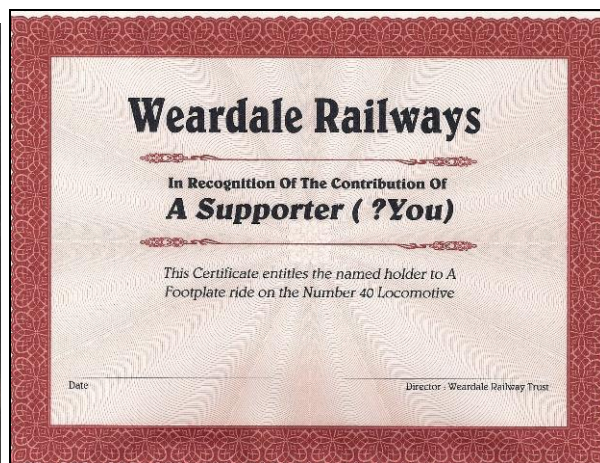


- **GNER Glassware**: The sale of the donated GNER glassware that was provided by National Express East Coast has now gone global via eBay and within 24 hours of the sale being posted 6 orders have been received with enquiries received from other potential buyers. So far all the buyers are from within the UK, however, we are looking forward to our first international order. Plans are in hand to hold a sale of GNER glassware and crockery at Stanhope Station within the next month or so – watch this space for details! (D Million)
- **'Seasons Greetings' from Mike Wood, Trust Deputy Chairman** : A short note to thank all our Members for their loyal support over the past year and wish both you and your families a very Happy New Year. I am delighted to remain as your Deputy Chairman for the next year and look forwards to the prospect of supporting Kevin in his new role as Chairman of our Trust. In particular I would like to especially thank all members of the 'Sunday- gang' who have literally 'slaved away' in often the foulest of conditions, for weekend after weekend, with scarcely a moan or groan, for yet another year. Without them, we would not have a running railway.

- **No 40 Appeal :** At year end the Appeal to complete the restoration of No 40 had reached a total of £22,080, this figure includes the Gift Aid Contribution on the donations. The Trust wishes to thank all those who have contributed. The Appeal remains open – the funding gap is now down to £14,000. **As a reminder everyone donating over £10 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. (GCM)**
- **Junior Tombola & Glassware sale:** Members of the Junior Club ran a tombola and GNER glassware stall during the Santa Special season raising £440 towards Junior Club and Trust funds. (D Million)
- **NEW Clothing for Volunteers :** Dave Million has researched this and located a supplier that can produce good quality WR branded clothing at a reasonable price. You may have noticed the juniors sporting new branded high visibility vests produced by the same supplier. At the moment he would be interested to know how many volunteers would be interested in purchasing clothing, the items available are:-
 - **Premium Fleece Jacket £15.00 each**
 - **Weatherguard Rain Jacket £13.00 each**
 - **Defender 3 in 1 jacket £30.00 each (waterproof jacket with fleece inner jacket which can be worn together or separately).**
- The garments are available in black with the WR Crest and the wording “Weardale Railway” embroidered in gold. If you are interested please let Dave know on : david.million@tiscali.co.uk which item(s) you would like along with your chest size. If there is enough interest he hopes to place an order in early January.



Christmas lights at Dusk at Stanhope Station (J Askwith)



Reduced Copy of the Weardale Railway No 40 footplate ride Certificate

- **Earn money by working as a volunteering for WRT – A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION :** Did you know that the Railway can utilise the monetary value of volunteer hours as a matching contribution when applying for funding to certain grant agencies? However we can only put this into effect if volunteers fill in a Timesheet at the end of every month. **Most volunteers fill in this form, but we need ALL volunteers to fill in the forms to get the maximum leverage.** This can be worth over £150,000 per year to the Railway. There is a copy of the timesheet form attached to this email so please if you are not returning this form please start now in 2009.
- **WRT Directors reappointed to WRCIC Board:** Omitted from our last report on the post AGM council meeting was the following item : - At the last Weardale Railway Trust Council meeting on 9th December 2008 the Directors nominated the following to take up the Trusts memberships on Weardale Railways CIC board : Graham Lord, Gerry Mudd, Steve Raine