

## WEARDALE RAILWAY: NEWS UPDATE :No. 2

### 22 OCTOBER 2008

**Thanks to all who of you have replied with compliments, comments (and corrections) to the first update. The response was really good – please keep your replies, suggestions, news items and whatever, coming, send to :- [gcmudd@ntlworld.com](mailto:gcmudd@ntlworld.com) – all contributions will be acknowledged.**

- **Witton le Wear Groundframe :** In conjunction with the construction of a new sewer underneath Witton-le-Wear Level Crossing, Northumbrian Water have recovered the Ground Frame and associated counter weights on our behalf. All items were loaded onto the Wickham Trolley on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October and removed to Wolsingham Depot for safekeeping. A new Portaloo will be provided to replace the existing one and the nearby area landscaped. (T Hr)
- **Junior Club, Correction :** The bag packing day mentioned in the last update was at Morrisons not ASDA.
- **Weardale on TV :-** A programme with Weardale and railway associations, ‘Down the Line’ will be shown on BBC One North at 4.25pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October. If you live elsewhere and have Sky, etc you may be able to tune to the North region version of BBC One. (IG)

**CAN YOU HELP ? : Trust Treasurer needed :** Trevor Hewitt, who has in addition to his other volunteer activities on the Stanhope Canopy and the Wolsingham Station building, acted as the Trust Treasurer for the last five years wishes now 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](mailto: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](mailto:trevor@hewitt2.eclipse.co.uk)

- **Track Clearance: Sunday Gang – Latest News :** Last Sunday (19<sup>th</sup> October) there were EIGHTEEN persons ( the 8 members of the Junior Club were assisted by 10 adults !) working on the track over the high embankment southeast of Wear Valley Junction and they managed to clear all the way through to the east end of Witton Park viaduct. Kevin Hillary and Mike Wood send many thanks to all who turned out, and look forward to them assisting again as they all seemed to enjoy themselves. (KH, MW)
- **Track Clearance: Weekdays :** By Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup>, the rail mounted flail had also reached Witton Park viaduct and is now tackling the stretch past Paradise Park towards the station at Witton Park (Etherley to the old hands)(GL)
- **THE PUSH TO BISHOP AUCKLAND :MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** The item below appeared in the previous update : Mike Woods asks me to add him to the contacts to volunteer for the Sunday gang as it works its way through Witton Park towards Bishop Auckland –only 2.8 miles to go. If you can’t contact Kevin you can reach Mike on **0191 3734317**, after 8pm only please.(MW)

**Now that the railway has been given the go ahead to clear the track bed to Bishop Auckland, more volunteers are needed both weekdays and Sunday. If you can spare any time at all please get in touch. The work as you can imagine is spread out between Witton- Le-Wear and Bishop Auckland, If you can work on weekdays please contact Steve Race on 07918 777032, or if you can work on Sundays please contact Kevin Hillary on 01388 775126, Help the Railway to reach Bishop Auckland by Christmas! (KH)**

- **Donations :** The Trust has just received a Donation of £200 from the R W Mann Trust. The R.W. Mann Trust is a Charitable Trust, founded by Dr. R. W. Mann OBE, DCL and his wife Margery in 1957 which supports voluntary groups and educational establishments in the North East. We are grateful.(AT)
- **Facts and Figures : Mileages.** In the last update I gave some Weardale Railway mileages – they were correct except I should have made it clear that they were from Bishop Auckland station to Eastgate station and therefore not the actual Weardale Railway owned distances – the accurate ones are given below. (Thanks to T Horner for this one)

**SANTA SPECIALS : David Million has opened the volunteer schedule lists for this years trains. We still need more volunteers to help out at this busy time –as well as the usual operating jobs we need volunteers to help out at the stations, car parks and on the trains. 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. Contact Dave Million on [david.million@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:david.million@tiscali.co.uk)**

- **Steam up the hills :** We all know that it takes longer to get from Wolsingham to Stanhope than vice versa. But if you want to see Steam working really hard, have a look at the Youtube links below. These are on the Rio Grande Scenic Railway owned and operated by our new majority shareholder Iowa Pacific. It runs steam between La Veta and Alamosa in Colorado during which it climbs 1,700 feet over the La Veta Pass in the Rocky Mountains – amazing stuff – pretty impressive scenery too !

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRWNge6hEc0>  
and

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxbfIq29GRw&feature=related>



**WEARDALE RAILWAY MILEAGES**

Bishop Auckland Station	11.23
Bishop Auckland WR boundary	11.30
Witton Park Station	13.40
Viaduct	14.04
<u>Wear Valley Junction</u>	<u>14.47</u>
Wear Valley Junction	00.00
Witton le Wear	1.14
Harperley	4.41
Wiserley –nr Depot Junc.	7.15
Wolsingham Station	7.40
Broadwood	9.77
Stanhope	12.65
Eastgate Station	15.47
Eastgate Works WR Boundary (est)	15.60
East gate site - end of line	15.79
Thus Weardale Railway owned mileage is	18.77

There is some slight ambiguity in defining the boundary at the Eastgate works as the Railway also owns the land on the old line to Wearhead between the works entrance and the former River Wear bridge.

**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 in any bits and pieces of news, information or whatever might be if interest to the email address below.**  
**Thanks , Gerry Mudd [gcmudd@ntlworld.com](mailto:gcmudd@ntlworld.com)**