

## **WEARDALE RAILWAY: NEWS UPDATE : No. 4**

### **11 NOVEMBER 2008**

- **Trackwork** : With the completion of the initial vegetation clearance along the track to within sight of Bishop Auckland station and the return of the motorised flail to its owners , work has commenced on some urgent repairs in the neighbourhood of Parson Byers on the existing open line. This area has been subject to flooding in the recent bad weather and the track teams have concentrated on completing the work, which involved removing the track and reballasting, prior to the Christmas season. Work will resume on repairing the track between Wolsingham and Bishop Auckland shortly. (GL)
- **2009 Timetable** : The timetable for 2009 has been agreed by the Railway Management and is being submitted to the printers as of the date of this news update. The pattern of services will be similar to last year, but with the intention to utilising steam haulage regularly from Easter onwards. (JA)
- **Stanhope Station:** The availability of new storage space at Stanhope has enabled volunteers (and Junior Club members) to clear out the Waiting Room and 'Old Shop' . It is planned to reopen the Old Shop as an overflow area for the Cafe-much needed at busy times such as the Santa season. (GL)
- **First Aid Training** : The first of these courses was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November. A second course is planned on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am – if you are a Trust member and can attend, contact Graham Lord on 07918 777 933 for further details. We have to increase the number of volunteers who have a first aid certificate . (GL, AT)
- **Santa Season 2008** : Bookings are continuing ahead of last year. 3 trains are now fully booked up. There are also 10 extra trains scheduled for private groups during the midweek period in December. (DM)
- **Morrisons Donation:** If you have ever sat in the café at Morrisons in Bishop Auckland and admired the large framed photo prints of steam trains and locomotive nameplates that adorned the walls. During the recent Junior Club bag packing session, Morrisons donated these items to the Junior Club for use on the Weardale Railway. The only stipulations were that they must not be sold and should remain on display on the line, although not necessarily at the same station. The photos and nameplates will be formally handed over to the Junior Club at a publicity event at Morrisons on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008.ay have noticed that following a recent refurbishment that these have now disappeared. However, don't despair! They are coming to a station close to us very soon. (DM)

**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, shop, café 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. plus some midweek trips to be announced shortly :**  
**Contact Dave Million on [david.million@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:david.million@tiscali.co.uk)**  
**or Kevin Hillary on 01388 775 126 (evenings) or [kevinhillary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevinhillary@hotmail.co.uk)**

- **National Express East Coast Donation:** You may already be aware that NXEC recently donated a large quantity of furniture and equipment to the Junior Club and the Weardale Railway which is now in use at Stanhope, Wolsingham and Bishop Auckland Stations and also at Wolsingham depot, however, NXEC have made a further donation of ex GNER crockery and branded glassware for use on the Weardale Railway. The crockery has now arrived and is in storage ready for when we introduce on-board catering, the glassware will arrive on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Newcastle for our collection. The glassware consisting of tumblers and wine glasses is again being donated for use on the railway, however, given the substantial quantity that has been donated, it has been agreed with NXEC that we can sell the surplus stock for fund raising to support volunteer needs.(DM)

**The first phase of the vegetation clearance work on the line to Bishop Auckland is finished, but there is still considerable work to do on the track itself. If you can spare any time please get in touch. The work, as you can imagine, is spread out between Harperley and Bishop Auckland.**

**If you can work on weekdays please contact [Steve Race on 07918 777932](tel:07918777932), or if you can work on Sundays please contact [Kevin Hillary on 01388 775126](tel:01388775126)  
**Help the railway to reach Bishop Auckland by Christmas!****

- **Remembrance Day:** Members of the Junior Club attended the Remembrance Day service in Stanhope where they laid a wreath at the cenotaph.(DM)
- **Christmas Preparations:** Junior Club members have worked extremely hard during the last weekend clearing out the General Waiting room and old shop, both of which were been used as a storage / dumping ground. The work involved moving everything out of the rooms into the new storage container then cleaning them and laying / replacing the floor tiles making them both ready for use.

**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](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)

