

NOTES FROM THE 3RD WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST OPEN MEMBERS MEETING
HELD 3RD DECEMBER 2005 AT WITTON PARK

The meeting was attended by;

Dave Butler
Chris Wilson
John Lambard
C. Glenn
Bob Budd
Graham Lord
Steve Raine
Trevor Hewitt
Kevin Hillary
Robin Wallington
Mike Wood

Steve Raine gave a brief update on the position of Weardale Railways, he stated that there had been an informal creditors meeting held on the 1st Dec, and at this meeting the creditors had agreed reluctantly to accept 25p in the pound, they were also concerned that the railway could be asset striped in the future and would expect to see some safe guard against this happening. It was stressed that this was only a preliminary creditors meeting

Steve Raine also reported that there had been some progress in the Wolsingham Castings dispute, Mr Les Graham had signed an agreement in principle in an effort to settle the differences between the two parties; Steve went on to say there is still a lot of issues to sort out, one being a full survey on the site to determine where the problems lay. At this point John Lambard said he would be willing to help in this matter; Steve thanked John for his offer and stated that all offers of help would be gratefully accepted.

On the subject of the depot Bob Budd asked when could we expect to see the problems with access to the depot would be resolved, Steve Raine replied that he could see no change in this being resolved until the Company was out of administration. Bob Budd then asked about security in the Wolsingham depot. Steve Raine replied that security was constantly being reviewed.

Still on the subject of the depot Dave Butler stated that was a sleeper coach available to the railway.

Dave Butler asked about how much the yard of track appeal had raised, Trevor Hewitt replied that in the region of £7½ k has been raised so far.

Robin Wallington suggested that we should ask the membership to donate £40 each to cover the £30k pound we need to raise to help bring the W.R.L. out of administration. This will be discussed at the next trust council meeting.

John Lambard said he might be able to source a loadall to assist with the unloading of the next batch of sleepers from B.O.C. at Birtley

Trevor Hewitt gave a brief update on fundraising in

In 2003 10 applications were made and 7 were successful totalling £80k

In 2004 15 applications were made again 7 were successful totalling £25k

In 2005 8 applications were made 3 were successful totalling £25k

He stated that 2005 proved to be a difficult year because of the association with W.R.L.

The fund raising team consist of Arthur Temple, Tim Hall and from the start of 2006 Gerry Mudd with the latter performing a dual role between the new W.R.L. and the Trust

Kevin Hillary highlighted some of the tasks that lay ahead

WE WILL IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS HAVE THE NEED FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS, AS THE WORKLOAD INCREASES IN THE RUN UP TO REOPENING THE RAILWAY. THERE IS

ALREADY A LARGE AMOUNT OF WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE THE RAILWAY IS INSPECTED PRIOR TO REOPENING.

SOME OF THE WORK TO BE DONE IS:

A LARGE AMOUNT OF FENCING TO BE REPAIRED

ALL OF THE VANDALISED SIGNS HAVE TO BE REPLACED

TIDYING UP AND REPAIR OF THE STATIONS THIS YEARS WORK YOUR PUD OFF DAY IS TO TAKE PLACE AT STANHOPE STATION ON THE 28TH OF DECEMBER START TIME APROX 10AM

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE TASKS TO BE COMPLETED

WE SHOULD BE QUITE PLEASED WITH THE TURN OUT OF VOLUNTEERS THIS YEAR THERE ARE ABOUT 5 REGULAR MEMBERS WHO TURN OUT IN THE DEPOT

THE SUNDAY TRACK CLEARING GANG CAN VARY FROM 3 UP TO 12, ON MOST SUNDAYS THERE IS 6

THERE ARE ALSO THE REGULAR TEAM, WHO MAN THE SHOP AT STANHOPE

THEN THERE ARE THE TEAMS THAT NO ONE EVER SEES, GOING ABOUT THEIR WORK; I AM TALKING ABOUT THE MARKETING, ADMIN AND FUNDRAISING TEAMS.

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY PLEASE CONTACT ANY TRUST DIRECTOR THEY WILL POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

He also stated that it is now time to try and recruit new volunteers and bring back the ones we have lost over the year, and that it is up to all members to new volunteers. He also reminded everyone that all volunteers must be trust members so they are covered by insurance when they are on trust business. He reminded everyone that if new volunteers are not members they could become day members.

The next meeting is to be held on the 4th March - details in the next edition of Between the Lines.