



Supporters Newsletter for the



Heritage Railway Trust

August 2015

## Latest News on the Line.

The longer term future of the Bramley line continues to attract a lot of interest in the local press. Both the Fenland Citizen and the Wisbech Standard recently published an account of what was described as an 'overall very positive' report following the latest stage in the 'Governance for Railway Investment Projects'.

The 'Grip' process involves eight stages of investigation to establish the need and economic viability of any new railway proposal. The first two, shown below, have been completed.

1 Output Definition	Establishes the scope of the investment in terms of the incremental network capability required by the investment's "client". This is described in terms such as journey time, capacity, loading gauge etc. It may also require the scoping of asset renewal.
2 Pre-feasibility	Ensures that asset condition, safety or standards requirements are identified and included in the scope of the investment. Ensures that investment is aligned with organisational strategy and contributes to targets. Identifies the constraints on the network that prevent the delivery of the client's outputs and defines the incremental capability that must be delivered by the investment. Provides confirmation that the outputs can be economically delivered by addressing the identified constraints.

Waldersea Depot, Long Drive, Waldersea, Friday Bridge, Wisbech, PE14 0NP

Website: [www.bramleyline.org.uk](http://www.bramleyline.org.uk)

Email: [office@bramleyline.org.uk](mailto:office@bramleyline.org.uk)

Phone or text: 07591769180

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The Grip 3 stage, the next to be addressed, looks at the business case in much more detail.

In terms of results so far, the government set a minimum benefit to cost ratio of £1.50 for every pound invested. The study to date is showing a benefit of £2.27, well above the minimum required. It is thought that when the wider economic benefits are taken into account, the cost ratio will be well over £4 per pound invested in the reopening. This study result has therefore 'unlocked' a further £400,000 of funding for the next Grip stage, Grip 3.

<b>3</b> Option Selection	Develops options for addressing the identified constraints and delivering the required incremental network capability. Assesses the options and selects the most appropriate one, together with confirmation that the outputs can be economically delivered.
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The benefit ratio figures published so far, are dependent on improvements to the Peterborough-Cambridge line at Ely, as this area currently creates a bottleneck for additional train services. The ideal service level is suggested as two trains per hour from Wisbech to Cambridge.

## But What about the Heritage?

Whilst both of Wisbech's stations have long since disappeared, the line, it's crossings, part of Coldham station, Waldersea sidings and March station have much to be considered. The Friends of March Railway Station are doing a lot of work to retain and enhance the heritage of the station buildings and platforms.

Also, behind the scenes talks are going on about the possible creation of a heritage centre at either Wisbech or March to complement the increasingly likely railway reopening. As regular readers will know, the Trust currently has some major restoration projects underway, and any 'fresh blood' interested in joining and getting involved would be very welcome. All such work is currently centred at Waldersea depot.



**Next working day at Waldersea: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 1000am.**

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## March Railway Station

This year, March Railway Station celebrates its 130th anniversary. The Friends of March Railway Station are celebrating this with a special day on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, from 10am- 2pm. There are various attractions planned to interest all ages, so come along and join in the fun. Details below.

**F O M R S**  
FRIENDS OF MARCH RAILWAY STATION

**CELEBRATE  
MARCH STATION  
130 YEARS**

**12th September 2015  
10am - 2pm**

*Free admission*

**Model Railways** **Railway Themed Displays**  
**1940's Display**

**Special Prizes  
Donated by GBRF**

**CAB RIDE** **TOUR OF WHITEMOOR YARD**

**Childrens Games** **Tombola**

**Refreshments**

**Heritage Rooms Open**

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## Come and meet us.

Some of our members have been out and about this 'summer' holding roadshows at various venues. There are two more scheduled this year, our now regular stall at the National Festival of Railway Modelling in October, at Peterborough Showground, see below, and also at the Shoeburyness Model Railway Exhibition on 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November at Southend Leisure Centre.

**EXCLUSIVE**  
FIRST CHANCE TO SEE  
RUSTON QUAYS  
PHIL PARKER'S NEW OO GAUGE

PETERBOROUGH  
**NATIONAL FESTIVAL**  
OF RAILWAY MODELLING

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100+ QUALITY TRADERS  
PLUS MORE...

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YOUR CHANCE TO SEE THE MOST EXCITING  
LAYOUTS, ACROSS A RANGE OF GAUGES.

Presented By: **WARNERS SHOWS BRM**  
Sponsored By: **EUROPE PIC**

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## Membership

Several members have yet to renew their 2015/16 membership subscriptions. There will be many reasons for this, overlooked, forgotten, thought I had, didn't realise it was due, but please don't let lack of enthusiasm in the future prospects be one of them. This line and its heritage have everything to go for, especially if and when it reopens as a fully operational link between Wisbech and March. If you have yet to renew, do it now. If you're in doubt, email the office to check if you're membership is in date, we'll be pleased to hear from you.

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