



Heritage Railway Trust

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Supporters Newsletter - Autumn 2012

Since the last newsletter was published, quite a bit has been going on with Network Rail, community interest, a possible project for restoration, roadshows, and the development of Waldersea Depot.

Network Rail have now signed and issued The Bramley Line licence to occupy the land from Whitemoor Junction, March, through to Wisbech, just over the Weasenham Lane crossing. This includes permission to develop Waldersea sidings depot allowing rolling stock, office and picnic area.

Cambridgeshire County Council have commissioned a survey by Atkins into the viability of bringing the line back into use, possibly prompted by the growth of Wisbech, increasing pressure on the road network, fuel costs, and the general increased popularity of rail travel.



The Bramley Line Trust has been offered a coach body, pictured above, built in Peterborough around 1876, for possible restoration. The 135 year old body is currently in a garden in the local area, and the owner has generously offered it to the trust as a possible restoration project. Having looked into it's history, it appears that the coach was in use locally, and would have been used on the Wisbech to March line during it's working life.

You may recall from the last newsletter that a quantity of infrastructure, sleepers and rail chairs, had been secured by a member. Thanks to the efforts of several local members, we are now well on the way to creating a siding at Waldersea to take

BRAMLEY LINE

Wisbech - March Railway

rolling stock. Once a suitable length of track is available, this will enable us to start restoration work and give the site a working presence.

Also, we are very grateful to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway for very generously restoring a crossing gate for us. This is currently in safe store in Wisbech awaiting a coat of paint.

Fenland District Council recently held a survey for their 'Vision2020' project, looking for community views on their future needs. Transport links featured as a topic in the survey, and we look forward to seeing the feedback from this.

Andy Young, a committee member, has most generously gifted to the Bramley Line Trust a very heavy, full size replica brass engine nameplate 'MALLARD'. It has been given to assist fund raising efforts, and we are extremely grateful for this gift. The most effective way of utilising this item is under consideration, but if anyone fancies making a 3 or 4 figure offer, feel free.



Roy Miles, treasurer, the Mallard nameplate, and David Bunting, joint vice chairman.

Richard Dixon and Dave Nugent, in between track clearing work, have visited several events this year with the roadshow stand, successfully raising some useful funds for the Trust's work. The next event is at the National Festival of Railway Modelling at Peterborough on 20th and 21st October. Maybe see you there.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As already stated, much progress has been quietly made by a small group of Trust members. Please do come to the line and see what is happening as many working members are putting in a lot of time and effort to initially create a heritage site for the railway. To ensure that someone will be on the line please phone 07591 769180. An organisation is only as good as its members. With a few more volunteers to assist our willing band, this newsletter will make more interesting reading for any true rail heritage enthusiast.