



## Heritage Railway Trust

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### Supporters Newsletter- December 2012

Welcome to our pre-Christmas newsletter for 2012. Again, quite a bit has been going on since our last newsletter in October. Work at Waldersea continues, the Carriage Restoration Project is attracting quite a bit of interest, and fund raising is always on the agenda.

On Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup>, some members of the Mid Suffolk Light Railway came over to help our volunteers to move some rail in preparation for continuing the siding construction at Waldersea. Very heavy work, but all completed without incident, and our grateful thanks to Roger Gregory and Rob Murray from Mid Suffolk.

On the subject of track working, we now have a number of volunteers whom live away from the local area, and it has been proposed that we have a monthly track working day, probably a Saturday, or even a Sunday. This will enable more planning and more progress, as all potential volunteers will be able to have a fixed day of the month when they know a team will be working on site. If you have volunteered, or are thinking about it, please let us know if this would be helpful, and advise any preference for Saturday or Sunday, and any 'no go' weekends so we can maximise support for either the first, second, third or fourth Saturday or Sunday of each month. We are hoping to start this in February or March, but would still be weather permitting. The current Wednesday and Saturday working days will carry on as normal.



A new siding under construction at Waldersea.

A short extract from a recent article in the Fenland Citizen 21 November 2012:

**Members of the Bramley Line Heritage Railway Trust are appealing for help to restore a 136 year old railway coach that used to operate on the Wisbech Branch at the end of the 19th Century.**

**The coach, built in 1876 in Peterborough for the Great Eastern Railway, is number 20 of a type called a Brake Third. Historical research by the Trust has established that it used to operate on the March-Wisbech-Kings Lynn line. It is the aim of the Trust to restore the coach to full working order so it can once again carry passengers on the Bramley Line.**

This article carries on expressing the need for volunteer craftsmen, donations for initial transport to Waldersea, etc. It has found considerable interest, as we have had a number of calls from potential volunteers, and also the promise of donations towards the transport costs. This project will be a major boost to the firm establishment of a heritage centre at the Waldersea depot.



Fundraising is something all heritage railways and other charities have to do – even the big ones, but being a small railway it is even more important for us. A members’ lottery is one fundraising activity that is quite often used. Friend of the Bramley Line, Sue Dockett has come up with a lottery idea, - A Bonus Ball Club - and we are asking for your views. This is how it works:

It is totally legal for members of a club or charity and family members to form a club for the purpose of running a lottery. We invite members and their immediate family to form a Bonus Ball Club. No license is needed.

Twice a week the National Lottery chooses its numbers and the last one out is the “Bonus Ball”. This can be one of 49 numbers. If 49 members and/or members of their family join the bonus Ball Club they are eligible to take place in a monthly draw. Each chooses a number between 1 and 49. On say the first Saturday of every month the person with the same number as the Bonus Ball in the National Lottery wins. The winner takes half the money and the other half goes to the Bramley Line funds. If we set the amount at £1.50 per month, that would mean a monthly prize of £36.75. This would raise £441 per year for the Bramley Line funds. Members would be asked to put in a year’s subscription in advance i.e. £18. This makes administration easier and saves postage for members.

As it is possible the bonus ball could be the same number more than once the chances of winning are less than 1 in 4, however it still means it is a way of making a regular donation to the Trust with a very good chance you will at least win it back within two years.

£441 does not sound a lot but it would help us with certain expenses. We already pay around £300 for insurance. As we bring in rolling stock that figure will increase. On the other hand it would buy 40 tons of ballast or a range of track laying tools or wood to restore a door or two of the coach for example. It also has the advantage that the Treasurer knows that he has £441 income for that year with which to budget on top of membership income.

**Please let us know if you would be able to support this.**



**Neil Harries with the Bramley Line Roadshow at Peterborough**

# BRAMLEY LINE

Wisbech - March Railway

## Bramley Line 2013 Calendars, Cards and Fridge Magnets

**Ideal for those small gifts for family and friends.**

**Calendars only 75p each plus postage**



G15 0-4-0 Tramway locomotive No 131 hauls an Upwell to Wisbech train past the entrance to Inglethorpe Hall Estate

Wisbech and Upwell Tram No 129 at the Elm Road Tram Stop, Wisbech with a tram for Upwell

Both photos are taken from Postcards which have been hand tinted and date from 1903/4. The calendars have been produced to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Wisbech and Upwell Tramway on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1883. The calendars are printed on card and laminated plus a ribbon loop is added for hanging. Calendars cost 75p each plus 50p p&p per order, eg: 2 calendars 75p x 2 + 50p costs £2, 4 calendars £3.50 including postage etc.

The photos are also available as jumbo sized fridge magnets at a cost of £1.50 including postage and as A6 size greeting cards cost £1 per pack of 4 (2 of each per pack) plus 50p p&p per order.