



Supporters Newsletter for the



Heritage Railway Trust

March 2014

Now, after a very wet winter, we are at last starting to see an improvement in the weather. Despite all the rain however, volunteers have been carrying on throughout the last three months working towards the development of the Waldersea site. Work on the Victorian carriage continues, also ground clearance work for the further extension of the siding under construction, and, the arrival of a box van body kindly donated by Antingham Parish council, has all been going on since our last newsletter. The grounded body from Antingham, in Norfolk, as well as being in keeping with part of the era of the lines operation, will serve as a very useful store facility for basic materials used by our volunteers. It arrived on a hiab crane lorry on the 30th December, enabling our members to get it safely positioned during the Christmas period. The transport was very kindly arranged and financed by Roger Gregory of the Mid Suffolk Light Railway.



The box van body arriving at Waldersea.

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

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Roadshow dates.

Richard Dixon and Dave Nugent continue their busy work with the Bramley line roadshow stand. Future venues booked at the moment are:

The Clacton Classic Car Club Show – 18th May.

The Hornby Collectors Fair – 10th August at the Mid Suffolk Light Railway.

The Mid Suffolk Railway Steam Gala – the weekend of 13-14th September.

Other dates are currently being booked, so if you find one near you, why not go along and meet up with them, they're always ready to talk about railways.

The Bramley Line AGM.

This year the AGM is being held at Waldersea on Saturday the 12th of April at 2pm (1400 hrs). It will be an excellent opportunity to see the depot development, meet other members, hear about the current status of the line, the Trust, and the future plans and potential.

Membership.

As always at this time of year, March is the time when many memberships fall due for renewal.

As has been the case for several years, annual membership remains at £10 per person, or £15 per couple.

There is now the opportunity to take up a single membership for five years at only £45. We are pleased to report that our membership numbers remain quite buoyant despite the recent years of difficult financial pressures for many people, so do please renew if your membership is due to expire this month. Remember that you can now renew on the website through Paypal, or use Bacs, or cheques by post.

'Your Railway Needs You'.

Latest News.

Local MP, Stephen Barclay held a 'summit' meeting on Tuesday 11th March in the House of Commons, to further the growing local impetus to reopen the Wisbech-March Bramley line.

Widely reported on the local news channels, the meeting was scheduled to include the Minister of Transport, Stephen Hammond, with representatives from Network Rail, the Atkins Rail Consultancy, train operator Greater Anglia, the leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, and the leader of Fenland District council, along with various other rail experts.

The Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership, also attending, has responsibility over the Regional Growth Fund, which is often used to fund such ventures. Any actual funding allocation is in turn determined by a committee headed by Lord Heseltine and the cabinet office minister, Greg Clark MP.

There is no doubt that the Bramley line Trust has done a great deal to keep this eight mile line alive in the mind of the local community over recent years since the last train ran over the track. It will continue to do so irrespective of the inevitable lengthy discussions, negotiations, hopes, promises, set backs etc., that go hand in hand with any potential large spend project of this kind. The local economics are being shown and agreed by most parties, including now local government, to prove the case, that reopening the line is a commercial proposition, and would inevitably be a great boost for Wisbech.

We will continue to support this initiative, running side by side with our own goals to establish a heritage rail link, and heritage museum centre with the further development of Waldersea.

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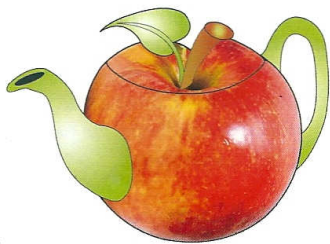
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BACK ON TRACK

The Orchard Tea Room

The Orchard Tea Room have very kindly offered to actively promote the Bramley Line by means of their website, Facebook page and forthcoming blog. They already display our flyer and membership forms. As a way of reciprocating and demonstrating our appreciation, members are encouraged to patronise this delightful tea room. Pop in for a cuppa and slice of cake when you are in the area. Details are shown below.

The Orchard Tea Room



& Farm Shop

*“Unwind & Chill
Where Time Stands Still”*

Set within the heart of rural Fenland. The Orchard Tearoom is a working fruit farm passed down through the years of 3 generations.



With a wonderful view of the historic orchard it boasts Bramley apple trees in excess of 100 years old.

This makes for a tranquil setting while you relax and enjoy a bite to eat from our range of fresh sandwiches, home made cakes, cream teas, afternoon tea and of course our very own Orchard Tea Room Apple Pie!

Farm Shop

Most of our produce is grown on our fruit farm. We also support other farmers locally.

We pride ourselves on the finest quality and freshest produce, with staff who are passionate and knowledgeable about food.

Some of our produce includes:
Strawberries, Raspberries, Plums, Apples, Pears and Vegetables. Free Range Eggs & Apple Juice.



The Orchard Tea Room
Redmoor Lane • South Brink
Wisbech • Cambs • PE14 ORN

01945 475754

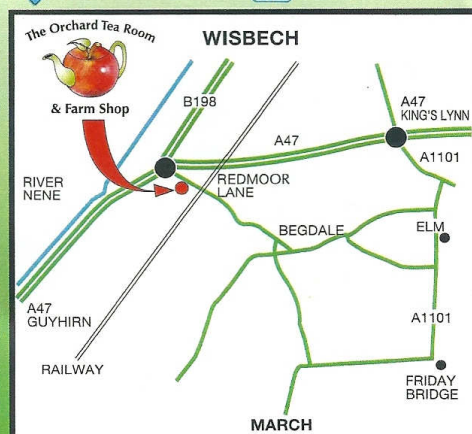
www.theorchardtearoom.co.uk



Dog Walking



Disabled Facilities



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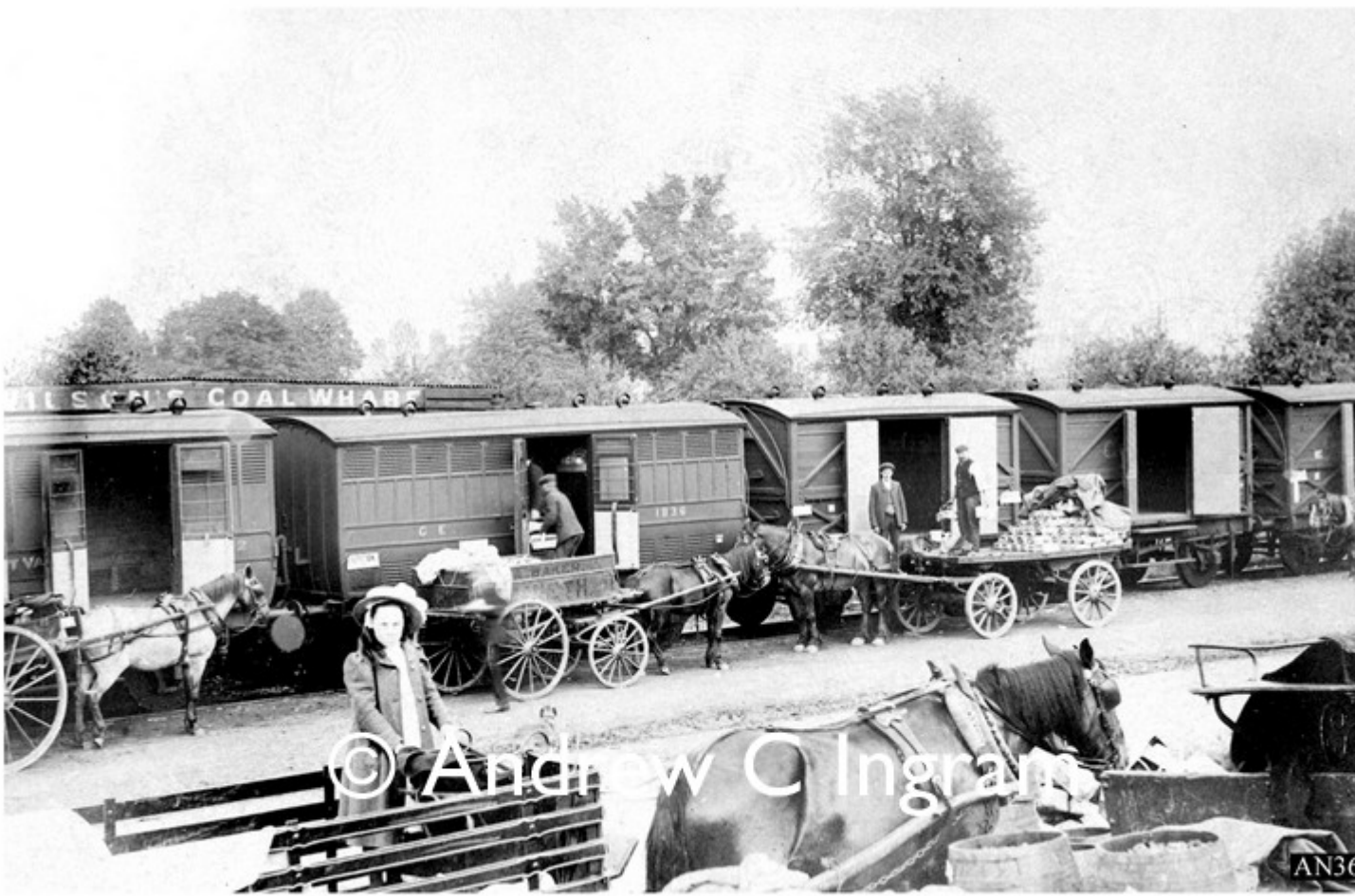
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Photos

If you have access to the website and enjoy viewing historic railway photography, more local area photographs have just been added from Andrew Ingram's extensive collection. Any pictures shown can be purchased at very moderate cost, order form and details available on the website.



Fruit Van no.1836 being loaded with chip baskets of fruit from Mr Baker's cart at Wisbech East Goods Yard

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