



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 22nd December 09

Farmers Aid Railway Restoration

Local farmers are helping Bramley Line volunteers to restore the railway line between March and Wisbech by donating old pallets. These pallets are used by the volunteers to create fencing at the track side and around level crossings.

Working mainly on Sundays, the Bramley Line volunteers have replaced decaying fencing at the Elm Road Crossing in March and at Waldersea so far. One of the Waldersea level crossing gates has also been repainted and wood from the pallets used in replacing the old red circle (target) in the centre of the gate.

An inspection of the other Waldersea crossing gate uncovered serious decay of the wood and it will likely have to be replaced. Once all the work at Waldersea has been completed the volunteers will move on to Coldham to upgrade the crossing gates and fencing there.

Bramley Line Chairman Brian Baylis explained, "We have gradually been improving the railway, working from the March end, by cutting back the vegetation growing over the line and repairing fences. The new fencing makes the railway more secure and improves the visual appearance of the area around the crossings for local residents. We are very grateful for the donations from local farmers that have enabled us to do this work."

The line is still owned by Network Rail but the Bramley Line has a license to access the track. This allows the Bramley Line's volunteers to carry out certain maintenance work while it is raising the funds to acquire the lease and legal powers to operate trains. The intention of the Bramley Line group is to re-open the line as a heritage railway, re-creating a 1960s Fenland Branch Line.

Simon Rudge, Bramley Line Vice Chairman, said "The work we are doing now will reduce the amount needed to bring the line up to standard once we have the lease. We are satisfied with what we have achieved over the last year and are now looking during 2010, to make significant progress towards re-opening the line."

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Bramley Line's progress can attend the next meeting of the group at St Peters Church Hall, Wisbech on 27th January at 7.30pm.

Notes for editors

Contacts for further information:

- Brian Baylis can be contacted on 01366 380224
- Simon Rudge can be contacted on 07799 337283
- The two photographs attached with the e-mail are available for reproduction.
- Further information and photographs of the restoration work can be found on the Bramley Line Website at www.bramleyline.org.uk and click on Bramleyline Blog.

