

Hammy News



Issue No 6

December 2010

The purpose of the Hammy News is to keep visitors, volunteers and staff informed of developments with the continued restoration of resident Hampshire Unit 1125 which is an example of what provided passenger services on the railway between 1957 until the railway was closed in 1973 by British Railways. Unit 1125 first worked the line in April 1960 and formed part of the penultimate service the day the line was closed. The design life of these units was just 15 years but those units that have made it into preservation are now over 50 years old.

The 2010 season was the best season so far for the unit in preservation with passenger numbers and serviceability. The Unit conducted six days of Heritage trips and five days of service train duties including the Alton Bus Rally, the mixed traction weekend and an additional heritage service on Members and Shareholders day. The unit also operated on some private bookings.

Work has continued within the motor coach including the replacement of the gouged/etched droplight windows. At time of going to print there where 4 side windows and 3 drop light (Door) windows in the whole of the unit still needing to be replaced! For those eagled eyed people who say what about the boarded up engine compartment window, this has been boarded up since at least 2001 and has proven awkward to get glass to fit. Which is possibly the reason for it had been boarded up in the first place.

Within the Trailer coach has seen the seat ends along with the corridor to the toilet sanded back to remove the gouges that occurred during network service. These will be re-stained prior to the unit returning to service for the 2011 season on Sunday 06 February 2011.

Efforts made earlier in the year to help with maintaining the unit internally dry seems to be paying off as the unit has remained dry inside and no damage through damp conditions has occurred at the time of publishing this newsletter.

For 8th December saw the unit taken out of its winterized state as it was used to convey members of the Ropley Wednesday gang and members from the loco shed/yard to their Christmas dinner which was prepared by the West Country Buffet and a good time was had by many. Following the dinner the unit returned the diners back to Ropley.

The services for the 2011 season have been published and although it will appear the unit will not be conducting as many heritage trips as last year, it will be running more service trains. See full programme opposite.

Sunday 06 February 2011 (Service train)
Sunday 13 March 2011 (Service train)
Sunday 22 May 2011 (Heritage Run)
Sunday 17 July 2011 (Service train)(Alton Bus Rally)
Sunday 31 July 2011 (Heritage Run)
Saturday 24 September 2011 (Service train)(Members & Shareholders Day)

All running dates and availability of all stock is subject to change.
Heritage trips will *only go to Alton on the first return trip and as far as Medstead & Four Marks on the second return trip from Alresford.*



Hampshire Unit 1125 in the sidings at Alresford on 24 November 2010 having been prepared for winter. Photo by Wayne Addy

Hampshire Unit 1125 is owned by the Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society (MHRPS) which is a registered Charity (Numbered 284406). The object is to preserve, operate and exhibit for the public benefit for educational and instructional purposes, and to stimulate and encourage interest in all kinds of railway transportation systems, vehicles and equipment and to foster and support railway preservation. If you would like to make a donation to help preserve the Hampshire unit there are collection boxes that can be found in the West Country Buffet or at the Information Office, both at Alresford Station or if you would like to make a generic donation to the society this can be made in the Information Office at Alresford Station.

DRIVER EXPERIENCE – CAN YOU HANDLE A THUMPER?

There is nothing quite like the sound and power of the Hampshire Unit thumping. Thanks to the steep gradients of the line, you can work the unit in the manner it was designed and appreciate the skill required to keep to time and maintain a smooth ride efficiently. For further details of driving packages available for the Hampshire Unit or to have a tailored experience made for you, contact the Watercress line Reservations on 01962 733810.