

THE RAG

THE RAILWAY ACTION GROUP

SEPTEMBER 2014



Come and join in...your help is needed:

Revamp the station on Saturday 20 September from 9.15 am. Bring your broom and rake to get hands on with the clean up.

Join the next RAG meeting on Saturday 4 October at 9.30 am and get involved.

NEWS

Back on track! A series of meetings with the School, the Downs Light Railway Trust and parents have proved fruitful and there is now a plan to get the trains back on track as soon as possible. Thank you to all who attended and the enormous enthusiasm and offers of support expressed so far.

Phase 1 - Through The Tunnel...

Some of the trains are ready to run. However, after laying dormant for a significant period of time, the railway track is in a poor state. The Trust has identified that £20,000 is needed to repair the track from the station through to the tunnel for the safe running of trains.

The good news is...this figure can be **greatly reduced** by practical assistance from parents and friends. Already Mrs Larkins, Mr Lloyd, Mr Shardlow and Mr Ingram have made most generous offers to supply excavators, dumper trucks and heavy machinery to get the project rolling and will be meeting with Pete Smith and Tim Pennock from the Trust to firm up the next steps.

Several parents have offered to help move ballast, tidy up the station, fund raise and provide support with media coverage and communications.

If we can tidy and repair the station, the trains could be out of storage in a matter of weeks. Please come and help on Saturday 20th September at 9.15 am. Be prepared to get mucky and bring your cleaning and gardening equipment for a morning of practical work to revamp the station. Bring shears, brooms, rakes, bin bags, flowers & bulbs, flower pots and containers, paint brushes, wire brushes, buckets and sponges, strimmers, leaf blowers... and get stuck in. Sensible shoes essential!

The next meeting of the Railway Action Group is on Saturday 4th October 9.30 am in the Memo Hall. Please do come and join us for an update. All ideas for fund raising and offers of help very gratefully received.



See the trains

- ❖ School Open Day on 10th and 11th October. A train will come out of storage for all to see.
- ❖ Bonfire Night Party. Trains will run from the station to the tunnel and back manned by children who previously took the railway as a hobby.

Hobbies

Saturday morning Railway Hobby will resume by the spring, or possibly as early as next term, with Mrs Carmichael and Pete Smith.

Donate

Donate now online at

www.dlrtrust.btck.co.uk/Campaign

Or leave a cheque made payable to The Downs Light Railway Trust at the Headmaster's office.

More Information

www.dlrtrust.btck.co.uk

The Downs Light Railway Trust

Registered Charity No. 513882

WHAT CAN YOU GIVE?

Time and effort

- A couple of hours to help clean and tidy the station
- A couple of hours to move ballast

Equipment

- The use of a digger/excavator/dumper truck

Materials

- Ballast
- Concrete

Money

No amount is too small and all donations are gratefully received.

You can donate now online at www.dlrtrust.btck.co.uk/Campaign

- £2 will buy a track screw and rail clip
- £5 will buy a sleeper
- £20 will buy a ton of ballast
- £50 will buy enough coal to power an engine for a year
- £100 will buy enough geotextile material to lay under 200 yds of ballast
- £250 will buy two rails to form one section of track
- £1500 will buy a replacement point

CONTACTS

Pete Smith	Trustee	via the school office
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