

ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM RAILWAY

An unforgettable adventure
through time

VOLUNTEER & STAFF NEWSLETTER

A round up of news for the Isle of Wight Steam Railway team - Edition 39, DECEMBER 2024



Ajax Departs



Santa specials run throughout December



Father Christmas awaits...

A Message from the CEO

Marc Morgan-Huws

We're now beginning our run of Santa Specials through December. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped with the set up - volunteers and staff. What has been achieved is amazing - we can all be really proud of what we've created for 2024.

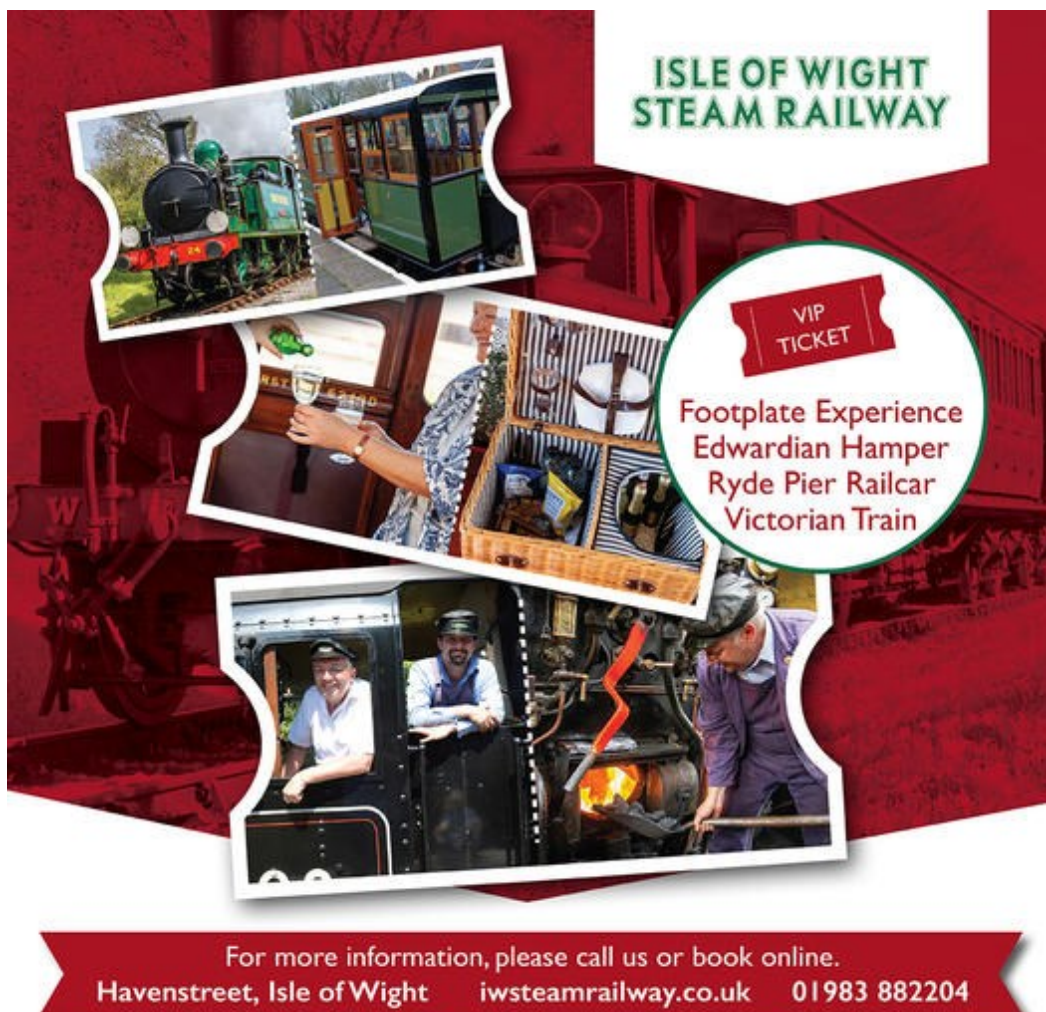
Thank you too to everyone rostered as volunteers or staff for the next 10 working days. I know it's a relentless event and your commitment and enthusiasm is hugely appreciated.

Despite the current economic climate our sales have been strong - our sales for 2024 as of today are already within a whisker of the total sales for 2023 - and still going strong.

This weekend is looking like dismal weather so if you're working please prepare for the cold and rain.

I'll look forward to seeing you!

With thanks and best wishes



**ISLE OF WIGHT
STEAM RAILWAY**

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Havenstreet, Isle of Wight iwsteamrailway.co.uk 01983 882204

/TeamAdmin Page Reminder

Please remember we've set up iwsteamrailway.co.uk/teamadmin to be a resource for all the day-to-day information you might need. It's a 'one stop shop' for useful information. You can access the latest Newsletters, enter prize draws or apply for opportunities, renew expired or lost Staff Cards, find the current Hovertravel discount code and much more throughout the year on this regularly updated page.

Volunteering News

The latest from Volunteer Development Manager Doug Alldred

New Wightlink Discount for all IWSR Volunteers!

We're thrilled to announce that thanks to our partners at Wightlink we are now able to offer all Volunteers a discount on their cross-Solent travel (including foot passenger, car, and motorbike crossings). This offer gives all volunteers a significant 20% discount on Wightlink services.

To use the offer, travel must be booked through the /TeamAdmin page of our website, and volunteers must have a current IWSR Staff Card. If you have never been issued with a Staff Card, or need a replacement, you can also arrange this through the /TeamAdmin page.

As always, Ts & Cs do apply, and these can be found alongside the offer details.



VOLUNTEER CLOTHING NEWS

The way you order volunteer clothing has changed.

The railway will supply polo shirts and showerproof jackets to volunteers as required for their roles, along with red ties for the Operating department. Operating volunteers should continue to wear as a minimum a white shirt, black trousers/skirt and black shoes whilst on duty.

New clothing items supplied by the railway will now be the same across all departments, and include railway branding. These new items are intended to gradually replace the clothing already in circulation

rather than be immediate replacements, so please **wear out any clothing you already have before requesting new items**. Volunteers requiring polo shirts or jackets should request them from their Department Manager or Supervisor, who can approve the request and pass the information to me to fulfil the order. We will now hold a stock of most standard items, so you should be able to collect any clothing much quicker than previously, usually as soon as your request is approved.

PPE can be requested from your Department Manager or Supervisor as before. If your role requires safety boots the railway can make a contribution towards these up to the cost of a standard pair of boots (£35) on production of a receipt via your Department Manager or Supervisor. As ever we ask that you are mindful of costs to the railway and only request items of clothing or PPE for which you have a genuine need.



Race the Train

How did the runners do?

The results are in:

Race 1

1st Place No.20 Micheal Thompsett 19:02

2nd Place No.47 Charlie Whyter 19:30

3rd Place No.19 Lee Thompsett 21:20

1st female runner No. 65 Rosie Upton 23:22

Train Took 32:32

Race 2

1st Place No.113 Jack Elton Walters 20:05

2nd Place No.153 Geoffery Wroath 21:29

3rd Place No.128 Matt Ward 23:35

Train Took 33:00

The train didn't have a chance!



Battery Disposal

Please ensure you dispose of all waste correctly!

Battery disposal bins are available at several points around the railway.

It is extremely important that spent batteries **are not** placed into general waste or recycling bins. Please use the battery disposal bins supplied for railway-related battery waste.

If you have batteries to dispose of from home **do not** bring these to the railway. These can be placed in a clear plastic bag on top of your household general waste bin for collection, or taken to a disposal point at several local supermarkets.

For more information please see the [IW Council's Website](#).

Rail Infrastructure Update

The latest from the Rail Infrastructure Team

DECEMBER 2024 WORKING WEEKEND - SAT 7th / SUN 8th

With a full service of Santa Specials operating over the weekend, activities upon the running line will be forgone for the time being, the worksite shall be the area around Bridge Nine (this being the Bridge that carries the railway over the main road through Havenstreet).

For a variety of reasons this area hasn't been cleared as often as other parts of the lineside and so needs a good cut to get it back under control. Given the nature of the sloping ground and the size of the material to be cleared, hand tools will be required for the majority of the work. An added bonus will be the proximity to Havenstreet station, allowing the gang to enjoy the festive celebrations in the station yard.

Look forward to seeing everyone over the weekend, in the hut in Griffins Yard at 8.30am on Saturday and Sunday.

NOVEMBER'S WORKING WEEKEND

Just for a change, sleeper changing didn't form the main activity over the weekend.

Saturday was a gappy day job wise as "Race the Train" was being held during the morning. The first task took place in Griffins, lining out the wagon that was to be used for transporting the brick rubble from Bridge 12 back to Havenstreet. Recycling plywood sheets previously used at Wootton, the team set about fixing the sheets to the floor and three sides of the wagon.

While this was going on, participants in "Race the Train" passed through the yard on route to the finish line where they were met with cheering (and some jeering to one or two well known runners) from the team as they passed by.

In the late morning, the gang headed to Bridge 12 for a reck of what tools etc. would be needed for the afternoon's work. While there, the final passenger train to pass under Bridge 12 was waved at.

In the afternoon, with services finished for the day, work could start on getting the plant up to Bridge 12. While most of the gang removed the iron railings from the bridge parapets, a few others helped back at Havenstreet with shunting and preparing plant vehicles. Once back at the Bridge, the gang set about making a temporary crossing from old sleepers to get the digger off a trolley, before placing further sleepers beneath Bridge 12 to protect the track during demolition.

Sunday saw a smaller gang tackle the dip in the track close to Bridge Seven. This was the first time it has had to be attended to this year, so it would seem the remedial work carried out in this area in recent years may be having the desired effect. Jacks and the BLH machine made short work of restoring the

track level. Work on the section to the East of the bridge had to be halted at about 3.30 when the machine developed a fault.

Many thanks to everyone who turned out over the weekend.

OTHER WORKS

The demolition works at Bridge Twelve have been the major activity since the last edition. Following the preparations over the weekend, the remaining plant and Welfare Unit were moved to the site on the Monday. Work started in earnest on Tuesday, with the arch being exposed before attacking with digger fitted peckers. Steady progress over the following two weeks mean that as this is being written, 2.30pm on the 20th, the last of the rubble has been moved (yesterday) and plant etc. is being brought back to Havenstreet.

Many thanks to the Motive Power and Operating Departments for supplying drivers, locos and wagons to run the numerous rubble clearance trains associated with the works.

The Friday Gang continued their efforts on the Wootton Section, the main target being to clear the area around bridge Twelve before the demolition works started.

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STEAM RAILWAY**
An unforgettable adventure
through time

**A WONDERFUL
FAMILY DAY OUT
THIS DECEMBER**

- MEET SANTA & HIS ELVES
- RIDE THE CHRISTMAS TRAIN
- FAIRGROUND RIDES
- MINIATURE WINTER WONDERLAND
- SPECIAL GIFT FOR EVERY CHILD

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Ajax Moves On

A new chapter for the workhorse locomotive

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IWSR) is saying a fond farewell to one of its locomotives, which is going to a new home near Northampton. The 1918 Barclay 0-6-0 T locomotive is to leave the railway to join the Northampton & Lamport Railway (NLR).

It has been on the Isle of Wight for more than 50 years and although it was once used as a working locomotive, in recent years it has been a mainstay of the Train Story Rail Discovery Centre.

The IWSR owns 13 steam locomotives, of which eight are in its operational fleet. Of the others, two are already on loan to other heritage organisations, while the remaining three are available for display. The 13th, Haydock, donated by the National Trust, is a recent arrival, leaving Ajax surplus to requirements and facing being placed into storage.

The trustees decided to look for a new home for Ajax, where it would be returned to operational use.

Following the NLR's visit to the Island and inspection of the locomotive, an agreement was reached for the transfer for a nominal sum.

Its new owners aim to use Ajax on the two-mile heritage line in the Midlands, where it will join the NLR's fleet of heritage steam and diesel engines.

AJAX'S NEW HOME

The Northampton & Lamport Railway is a volunteer-run heritage railway a few miles north of Northampton. It uses part of the former LNWR Northampton to Market Harborough line, which was closed by BR in 1981.

Volunteers have rebuilt the railway from scratch since 1984 and the NLR now operates two miles between Pitsford and Brampton, and Boughton stations, offering steam and/or heritage diesel trains most Sundays, as well as on some Saturdays and Bank Holidays during special events.



The NLR's dream is to recreate the scene of mineral wagons being shunted in Pitsford Sidings, as would have been a daily occurrence between 1925 and 1965, and Ajax will perform a central role in this.

Peter Taylor, chairman of the IVSR, said "We're delighted to have found a new home for Ajax where she will be returned to steam and will operate in service again for people's enjoyment.

"We're looking forward to seeing the NLR overhaul Ajax and are pleased to be able to support another growing heritage railway by transferring Ajax into their care."

Adam Giles, chairman of the NLR, said: "We are very grateful to the IVSR trustees for giving us the opportunity to overhaul Ajax so that it can be returned to operational condition and form a central part of the ironstone train project."

ISLAND VOLUNTEER FAIR

at

THE RIVERSIDE CENTRE

Saturday
11th January
2025



Isle of Wight
Volunteer
Centre

Meet charities and community groups who are looking for volunteers. Find out what they do and how you might be able to help.