

RH&DR
**ROMNEY, HYTHE
& DYMCHURCH**
RAILWAY

Dear supporter

What a busy winter it has been at RH&DR! Following a record-breaking, sell-out Santa Special season we strode into 2015 with a comprehensive "to do" list. Some of the improvements you will clearly be able to see when you next visit us. For instance, the toilets at New Romney and Dymchurch stations have been completely refurbished and now look very smart. The front and rear of the car park at New Romney station has been tarmacked creating much needed extra parking space for our visitors, some of our station shops have been repainted, as has our café at New Romney which now boasts a new chiller unit and kitchen equipment.



"Phyllis" the new wheelchair accessible coach.

Talking of Cafes, one of the most significant developments this year has been the acquisition by the railway in early February of the land and buildings alongside our station at Hythe known as the Light Railway Café and Restaurant. Our General Manager Danny Martin has said that this has been the largest single investment that the railway has made in the 15 years that he has been GM. Watch this space for news of all the exciting developments that are planned for the land and buildings but in the meantime, do call into the café for a hearty "Big Breakfast" or a slice of cake and a hot beverage!



Platelayers busy packing the track at Black Hut curve.

Some of the improvements are a little harder to see. Before Christmas the Permanent Way team undertook the first re-railing project of the winter, installing nine new 40' lengths of 35lb rail between Dymchurch and Burmarsh. Then just over a quarter of mile of track at the Willop (Hythe direction) was replaced with 92 lengths of rail and hundreds of sleepers. During December, between the Santa Specials, the team re-railed part of the platform at St. Mary's Bay as it comes off the road crossing, creating a vastly improved ride. Before February half-term they continued the hard work and re-railed over half a mile of track at "Black Hut Curve" which is between Romney Warren and St Mary's Bay. So your next ride on the railway should be a tad smoother!



Typhoon and Northern Chief in the overhaul workshop. "Typhoon" ready to re-enter service and "Northern Chief" arrived for

"Northern Chief" - work already underway to remove the boiler for separate work as part of the overhaul.





Platelayers relaying between Burmarsh & Botolphs.

If you are a fan (and who isn't?) of No.2 Northern Chief, you will be pleased to know that our skilled team of engineers are now getting on with its overhaul. I will go into more detail in my next newsletter but here is an image or 2. As you can see, No.7 was in the workshop at the same time but with its overhaul now complete is now back in service. Our clever team in the Coach Works department have also built two brand new Wheelchair Accessible Coaches. Phyllis is the first, and a gem as you can see.

As we hurtle towards Easter, we hope that you and your family will be able to visit us over the Bank Holiday weekend or indeed any time during the school holidays. We have an Easter Egg Hunt this Sunday and Romney Bear will be out and about "high fiving" all our young railway supporters. Trains are running every 45 minutes on the 4th, 5th & 6th April and of course our Model Railway Exhibition (which has also seen improvements) and our 1940's Museum will be open. Jade, our Retail Manager has stocked the shops with lots of quality goodies and RH&DR branded items, so do have a browse. Oh and if you visit our website www.rhdr.org.uk, you can download our KIDS EAT FREE voucher (please do take a moment to read the terms & conditions). Every little helps, as they say!

THE LIGHT RAILWAY CAFÉ AT DUNGENESS STATION IS NOW LICENSED TO SELL ALCOHOL SO WHY NOT ENJOY A BOTTLE OF LOCALLY BREWED ALE OR A GLASS OF WINE WITH YOUR FISH & CHIP PLATTER THIS EASTER?

If you like taking photographs whilst out and about on the railway, especially of the locomotives, why not drop jade.ashton@rhdr.org a line and ask her to send you details of a photographic competition that she has just launched?

WITH OVER 3,000 FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER, LOTS OF ACTIVITY ON FACEBOOK, EXCELLENT REVIEWS ON TRIPADVISOR, WITH EACH OF THE LAST 11 REVIEWERS AWARDING US A RATING OF 5, THERE IS MUCH FOR OUR RAILWAY COMMUNITY TO BE PROUD OF. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS AND OUR WONDERFUL RAILWAY WITH YOU IN THE COMING WEEKS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND RESTFUL EASTER AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON.

Lesley Maxim