
STOP PRESS

CARRIAGES AND WAGONS DESTROYED IN WHITEHEAD FIRE

At about 8:30pm on the evening of Wednesday 22nd May a break-in occurred at the rear of the Whitehead site. Despite Dermot Mackie's squad being on the site, the intruders managed to set fire to a number of coaches without being detected.

By the time the fire was spotted and the fire brigade summoned a number of coaches were well alight, Fire crews from Whitehead, Lame and Carrickfergus attended but were hampered by the tarpaulins over each coach. While fighting the fire, two firemen were slightly injured when a steam heating cylinder in 1328 burst. It was not until 4:00am that the last crew left the site.

None of the running set was damaged as these coaches were in the carriage shed which luckily escaped unharmed. The damaged vehicles are:

227	GNR 1949 compartment first - one end destroyed, other end damaged by smoke and water.
231 (NIR 562)	GNR 1948 brake compartment 1 st - totally destroyed.
255 (NIR 526)	NCC 1929 open 3 rd - scorch damage, one end badly burnt.
304 (NIR 532)	UTA 1951 compartment 3 rd - one end badly burnt.
1328	GSR 1935 compartment 3 rd - totally destroyed.
1333	GSR 1936 open 3 rd - totally destroyed.
Goods Brake Van	One end burnt.
Guinness Van	Side burnt.
Open Wagons (2)	One burnt, other scorched.
P Van	Scorched.

WHITEHEAD OPEN DAY PLANNED

On Saturday 27th July, in conjunction with the Whitehead Festival, our site will be open for train rides, with the available locomotives in steam. All members will be welcome to assist. Apart from the usual operating crew, marshals and guides will be required. Please contact Evan Pamely on (01232) 656432.

TRAIN RIDES TO CONTINUE

Despite the lack of response by our members to a plea for help, it is planned to keep the summer Sunday train rides operating. Evan Pamely has agreed to forsake some of his normal Locomotive Department duties to organise the events.

Evan plans to have trains running between 2pm and 5pm on each Sunday during July and August. It is still not too late to offer your help, even if only on one date during the summer. Contact the above telephone number to volunteer your services.