

NEWS UPDATE FROM HNGRT NOVEMBER 2018

Our final running day of the season at The Brickworks is 25th November, The Christmas Event. Cloister is on site at present and should be in steam on the day.

It has been a busy year for Cloister. In October she was in steam at The Brickworks for the Halloween Steam Up hauling passenger trains with diesel Ashby. Prior to this she had been on a short visit in August to Richmond Steam Fair to join other locomotives for a charity event and photo charter which proved very successful.

Following her annual inspection and renewed certificate, Cloister had operated passenger trains again with Ashby for the July Open Day at The Brickworks. All went well in the fantastic weather, with visitors queuing for rides!

Prior to the Bursledon event, Cloister had returned to the Ffestiniog Railway in June, having previously visited in 2000. This time she was in Wales for the Hunslet 125 event, celebrating 125 years of Linda and Blanche, both Hunslet Engine Co locos acquired early in the formation of the FR from the Penryhn Quarry. The special birthday event was well planned with 19 guest engines attending from all parts of the country for the three day event. This created much publicity in the national railway magazines. Thanks are due to the FR for their hospitality.

Our other steam loco Bagnall No. 2091 Wendy has also been busy. She returned from Hayling Seaside Railway in February and a number of maintenance issues were rectified before she went on loan to Hampton and Kempton Railway. This was to operate services while their own loco 'Darent' is undergoing its 10 year rebuild. We expect to see her return during December.

It will be Wendy's 100th Birthday in 2019 and it is hoped that she will be visiting several railways around the country next year, to celebrate. Watch this space!

As always there are plenty of jobs to do during the winter months, including the inevitable leaf clearing from the running lines!

Recent work on both Wendy and Cloister has shown the need for more members willing and able to get involved in one of our core aims: 'promoting and operating our steam locomotives'. Why not come and join us, to help keep these lovely workhorses from the past alive!