



Apple on Track

The official Newsletter of the Apple Express



Circular 4, 15 May 2014

The last few weeks have seen a dramatic increase in work being done at the depot with regard to our coach refurbishment plans, and we are well on our way to have a presentable consist of narrow gauge coaches for use on our train.

This month's newsletter will therefore focus on our coach refurbishment projects, looking at specific coaches in detail.

These coaches had to suffer the elements as well as vandals for almost 3 years, as they sat waiting to be saved...

NG 94, Class K-2, "Apple Tuckshop" built in 1905 by Bristol Carriage and Wagon



↑ NG94 on an Apple Express trip in 2010

This coach looked like one of the worse coaches in the fleet when it was first inspected in early 2013, all the paint was peeling off, and all the door handles were smashed off. The interior was in a good condition, with all the original fittings still in place. After relocating the coach indoors stripping began, and the wood work was actually found to be in a good condition.



↑ During the preparation process for painting.

Painting then began with the undercoat. The Apple Express uses two undercoats on their coaches, a primary white undercoat, and then a pink undercoat as an undercoat for the Gulf Red paint.



After days of hard work and dedication NG94 looked completely refreshed, The interior was cleaned and restored to how it was.



NG 2813, Class V-15, Built 1969

NG 2813 is our wheelchair friendly coach and also the first coach that our team began to refurbish. The weather had had its toll on this coach, and there was much wood rot to be found.



When it was relocated inside much of the rotten wood was removed and replaced, and the coach was sanded down for the undercoat.



Then the makeover began, being our first coach we were all filled with pride to see the fruits of our labour. We had to learn many new skills ourselves, and from this coach our skill were refined.



And the completed coach...



The interior even though found to be in a good condition also got a spruce up, with a new coat of white paint.

NG 82, Class S-5, Built by Metropolitan Amalgamated in 1907

NG82 is one of the larger passengers coaches for the Apple Express seating 19 passengers. This coach suffered some rust, as well as wood rot. Many window sills were replaced.



The metal plates were all removed to expose the frame of the coach which was treated, and rotten pieces of wood removed. All metal plates were sanded down and treated.



Once all was back where it belonged, painted could begin. We use red oxide as our under coat on the metal coaches.



This coach is close to being completed, just needing a second coat of Dove grey along the windows, and door and window fittings re-attached.

NG83, S-5, Built by Bristol Carriage and Wagon, UK in 1907

Sister coach to NG82, NG83 has the same interior layout. NG 83 is still in the early stages of restoration. This coach was found to be a good solid coach.

Below is a before and after shot





As one coach is completed so the next one begins, and with 19 coaches in our fleet we still got plenty to keep us busy.

All the undercarriages of the coaches still need to be checked and given maintenance by a professional.

If YOU want to become a part of the exciting *Apple Express* initiative, please contact the our Membership Secretary: Justin Wood by email to: justinmarkwood@gmail.com

The **APPLE ON TRACK** Newsletter is compiled by : Justin Wood

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