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PRESS RELEASE

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POLAR BEAR ON ICE

at Amberley Museum

Amberley Museum's locomotive "Polar Bear", from the Groudle Glen Railway on the Isle of Man, is a firm favourite with all the Museum's visitors, especially the younger generation, and is probably the locomotive most associated with Amberley. But, with expiry of the boiler certificate at the end of this season, Polar Bear will no longer be able to entertain our visitors and is in danger of becoming "stuffed and mounted" if the funds cannot be found for essential repairs to the boiler and to the motion to be undertaken.

The Museum's railway volunteers are spearheading an appeal to raise this money and already several of the railway volunteers themselves have pledged sums to get the fund started. This is where we hope you will be able to help. For example, you could sponsor a boiler tube for £40.00, or how about £100.00 for the casting of a new bronze axle bearing? Whatever your means, any amount will help.

There's more - anyone donating £500 or more may, if they wish, have their name added to a roll of honour which will be displayed in our Exhibition Building for the duration of the life of the repaired boiler's certificate once it is issued. Anyone donating £100 or more will receive free entry to the Museum for 12 months.

Please don't let Polar Bear become a frozen asset. Help us get her back to service as quickly as possible.

Donations may be made by cheque payable to "Polar Bear Restoration Fund". If you are a UK tax payer then please go to <http://www.amberleynarrowgauge.co.uk/giftaidform.pdf> and download the Gift Aid form which will enable us to enhance your donation by as much as 28%. Your donation and Gift Aid form (if applicable) should then be sent to Gerry Cork (PB Fund), 4 Lincoln Road, WORTHING, West Sussex, BN13 1BQ.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Polar Bear was built in 1905 for the Groudle Glen Railway near Douglas on the Isle of Man. The locomotive was acquired by the Brockham Museum Association in 1967 when the railway closed, and passed to Amberley Museum with the rest of the Brockham Museum collection in 1982. The Museum operates a 900 yard railway line on which a number of narrow gauge steam and diesel locomotives are used to transport visitors around the 36 acre Museum site.

Polar Bear received a new boiler in 1993 and since then has returned to the Isle of Man on three occasions to run on its home railway which has been restored by volunteers. Sea Lion, Polar Bear's elder sibling, remains on the Island and continues to run on the original line.

For further information please visit: www.amberleynarrowgauge.co.uk
or contact Gerry Cork - gerryacork2@yahoo.co.uk