

Dear All,

CHRISTMAS TRAIN SERVICES - NEWS AND A THANK YOU.

This is to thank all those who were involved in any way with the preparations and running of services over the Christmas holidays, and especially the busy Santa Specials period and every day from Boxing Day to New Years Day when so many other people were away. Whether you were behind the scenes or very visible, it all helped to ensure a smooth-running operation and good customer service - thank you.

For those who were away, or live too far away to help at this time of year, you will be interested to know that the volume of Santa bookings led to the provision of extra trains. There were six Santa Specials on Christmas Eve (in addition to the normal service trains)! In 2007, there will be an extra day's trading before Christmas after most people finish work on Friday December 21 so an even larger team of helpers will be needed. - please make a note in your 2007 diary for October or early November to sign up on the rotas if you would like to be involved in this seasonal activity.

The Guided Walk on New Year's Day attracted 80 walkers (yes, eighty). Many thanks to Rodney Mills, Peter Fowler and Mike Sheehan for their commitment to a new idea, which made this event such a profitable success, and to Peter Williams who kept updating the WR website over the Christmas holiday with new information to interest potential passengers, including the extra Guided Walk arranged at short notice for New Year's Eve. There were also many other passengers on both days so we are considering providing Guided Walks every day from Boxing Day through to New Year's Day - when there are many two and three generation family groups visiting the area and staying with relatives or in holiday cottages.

One of Phil Kirkland's holiday projects was some urgent re-decorating at Leyburn station. After one day working alone, he was joined by five more volunteers and they are going to have a repeat event on SATURDAY JANUARY 13. If you can offer help for this one day, please contact Phil via the Leeming Bar office (please speak to Tubby) and saying whether you can bring your own brushes. (Gifts of paint would also be helpful). One of the advantages of working at Leyburn is the new Teabar run by the Friends of Leyburn Station, with a nice coal fire to sit by when you have a break from painting!

With best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year.

Ruth Annison