



Wensleydale Railway Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR THE DIARY

May

- 12 Steam Excursion ex Newcastle tbc
- 19 Steam Excursion ex East Anglia tbc
- 30 Hog Roast at Leyburn

June

- 7 Coffee Morning
- 9-10 Day Out With Thomas

August

- 1 Yorkshire Day
- 16 Hog Roast Leeming Bar

WRA SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SOCIAL EVENTS

Date TBA Trains Boats & Planes trip to York - £20 each (min 20 people required) Train from Northallerton to York, boat trip up the Ouse, ride on the York Eye or shopping in York if you prefer, the price will be adjusted accordingly

7th June Coffee Morning - Richmond Town Hall 9am - 12noon helpers, raffle / tombola prizes cakes etc welcomed

4th July Evening social for Volunteers and Staff following the day's celebrations for the 4th Birthday of trains running.

29th Sept Ceilidh, venue TBA

17th Nov Annual Dinner venue TBA

Date TBA Social at Leyburn

For tickets, further information or offers of help at events please contact Diane 01677 426600 / 426877 or email Social@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

Raffle / Tombola prizes for any event always welcome, leave at Leeming office or give to one of the team. *Many thanks for your support*
Diane Sykes

NEWSLETTER 36

This edition marks the 36th Newsletter since this series began. Many thanks to all those who contribute to this publication whether regularly or occasionally. Your support is much appreciated, and has enabled us to get a Newsletter out **every** month. Well done!!

30 MARCH CHARTER TRAIN

Although it was a chilly day on March 30, our customer (the charter operator) and their customers (the passengers) seemed well pleased with their visit to the Wensleydale Railway.

This email is to say thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful operation, including many who were not present on the day but whose earlier work through the winter ensured a safe and tidy railway. All who were front of house on Friday had the interest and satisfaction of meeting many passengers in person and those who were at the lineside were able to view the train but, as always, we also owe thanks to everyone 'behind the scenes' or working remotely. Thank you all.

Ruth Annison

THE SOUTH CURVE

Good news, Volunteers will be pleased to see that the Castle Hills South Curve is in Network Rail's new business plan as a "Route enhancement aspiration" to give "new journey opportunities from Wensleydale Railway" to a "separate bay platform at Northallerton".

This is great news as far as seeking external funding is concerned as it makes clear the policy position though we are identified as the people who are trying to find the funding- It is important evidence for shareholders, WRA members etc. Of course it is still down to us to do it!

WARNING - SCRAP MAN VISITING

There is a lot of scrap in and around Leeming Bar shed that needs removing. There will be a clear out at the end of May. If you are aware of any item in or near the shed that is worth retaining but could be mistaken for scrap, please paint or label it clearly with the name of the owner or, if it is WR property, the name of the responsible person. Otherwise there is a danger of it disappearing after 23rd May.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Update Report

Works have continued at a hectic pace over recent weeks and months with a determined focus upon a number of key areas. These have included the two-yearly maintenance focus at Aiskew level crossing spread over four busy Wednesday evenings, and the continued clearance of lineside vegetation ahead of the nesting and growth seasons.

A big thanks to all volunteers (up to 12 each week) who assisted at Aiskew, this is heavy, physical work which must be completed on the night, it cannot be left unfinished. The crossing was sequentially dismantled and the rubber decking re-bedded on a rapid-setting concrete base. This should ensure the surface remains compliant for at least another 24 months.

Vegetation clearance has also continued, particularly at locations such as Harmby cutting, and Newton Grange farm. Like a number of locations, Harmby cutting has been completely cleared to allow sunlight and air to the track in order to dry out this waterlogged area, as well as to provide increased places of safety for track staff.

The recent works at Newton Grange farm have seen the approaches to the level crossing completely cleared to improve both rail and road user sighting distances and to therefore reduce risk.

Tremendous benefit has been derived from the hard work by our chainsaw-trained volunteers and their equipment funded through the WRA. To compliment this activity, more recently use has been made of the woodchipping machine kindly funded by a volunteer. The machine can instantly shred trees up 4 to 6 inches in diameter and thus makes the job of clearing cut trees so much quicker than lineside burning.

Because we now have the woodchipper which works off track, usually in an adjacent field, we could accept support from any non PTS trained volunteers with the feeding of cut vegetation. These volunteers would have no requirement to go on or about the line, but would greatly assist the infrastructure team and further speed up the clearance works.

Other works have included the commencement of gate replacement at Scruton level crossing, on-going signalling and track inspections, minor works and drainage clearance etc.

Engineering Director

Many of you will be aware that Phil Kirkland has had to stand down as Engineering Director. A separate announcement from Phil is enclosed [Website version edit : Phil's announcement can be viewed on the Home Page at www.WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com]

MARKETING

Leyburn Food and Drink Festival

Volunteers are needed to staff the WR stand
Sat 5 May 10.00 - 17.00 3 people required.
Sun 6 May 10.00 - 17.00 5 people required.
Mon 7 May 10.00 - 17.00 3 people required.

If anyone would like to work for part of the day / please list hours available.

Details to Rod and Janet Morris

Telephone: 01733 331658

Mobile: 07724121355

email: rodney@rmconsultants.freereserve.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE SPRING

May 2007 will be the busiest month yet for special events on the Wensleydale Railway.

Details are given on the website www.wensleydalerailway.com and in the printed timetable (available from Tourist Information Centres in Hawes, Aysgarth, Leyburn, Bedale, Reeth, Northallerton, Richmond, Sedbergh and elsewhere).

There will be extra train services morning and late afternoon for the three days of the Dales Festival of Food and Drink in Leyburn (May 5-7) and extra afternoon trains for the Millenium Trust woodland event and Guided walk from Redmire to Aysgarth (May 19) and the Swaledale Festival Guided Walk (May 31). There are scheduled train services on all Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in May, and every day in half term week (May 28 - June 3). Special events include Community Rail week-end (May 18-20), the Kilburn White Horse 150 Anniversary (May 25), and a Hog Roast (with special connecting trains) at Leyburn on Wednesday evening May 30. Regular train services also serve local events such as the charity cream teas in Redmire village hall (May 6 and 28) and Finghall Barrel Push (also May 28). **May 14 is the deadline for claiming the Early Bird discount on bookings for Day Out With Thomas on June 9 and 10.**