



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th April-Survey Meeting at Bedale (see below)
Saturday 18th April-Induction Course 9.30am at Leeming
Saturday 18th April- PTS Course at Bedale (see below)
Tuesday 28th April-Volunteers meeting at The Lodge,
Leeming Bar – starts 7.15pm

FROM RUTH

There is a programme of four different 7 mile guided walks from the train over Easter on Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Monday and Wednesday April 15. On Easter Sunday there is a Families Walk and Easter Egg hunt between Redmire station and Bolton Castle.

PINK BUNNY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The pink Easter Bunny attending the Easter Sunday event (April 12) at Redmire would welcome 2 or 3 assistants to hide the eggs for the Easter Egg hunt between Redmire and Bolton Castle, and to be at Redmire station at 10am (i.e. well before the first train arrives). 2 or 3 more people (who can travel on the train) are needed to walk to the castle with the families and discreetly monitor that all children find at least one egg (extra supplies will be provided!). Each task will only last an hour or so but need to be done by different people.

If you can help, phone Ruth (tel 01969 650349).

Please also note and publicise £3 saving on pre-booked Combined Tickets for rail fare and entry to Middleham Stables Open Morning on April 10 and to the Leyburn Dales Food Festival on May 2, 3 and 4.

NB Extra Early Bird train dep Leeming Bar at 08.00 on Good Friday to give longer morning at the Stables (or longer day out in the Dale).

Ruth Annison

FROM GENERAL MANAGER

Bedale Station - the Local Authority building control surveyor has issued the certificate of completion under the building regulations. There is still some preparation work to be done before the building is open for limited use, such as meetings or training. All bookings for the building should be made through Mr P Harbord who will confirm arrangements and make keys available. The building must be booked in advance and all participants must sign in/out and be made aware of the fire and other safety procedures. Notices for this are displayed in the building. It is the responsibility of the event organiser to make sure that the building is left in a clean and tidy condition. The station support group has done a great job in getting the station ready for use and it would not be fair to leave it to them to clean up after events. For security, please check all doors, from outside the

building, to ensure that they are locked before you leave the site.

Operation Spring Clean – a great deal of work has been done on all areas of the railway to prepare for reopening for normal business on 1st April. Once again, many thanks to everyone involved.

Train Crews - We have had problems getting enough people to put their names down for the train crews, buffet and shop. There have been particular difficulties with guards and crossing keepers. Help in ensuring that these important roles are filled would be much appreciated.

Costs - It is important that costs are kept to a minimum and it is essential that we eliminate waste. An example of waste is the £500.00 electricity bill for Redmire buffet coach for the last quarter. The only way this can have happened is through the heating being left on. We have isolated the coach to prevent further use until some essential work is done. Please make sure that, throughout the railway, everything that is not essential is switched off.

Western Extension - The group continues to meet monthly and is in the process of formulating proposals for the way forward. Redmire station development is part of the group's activity and the WRA has made some funds available to repair the station access road and do some landscaping.

John Ozelton

WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY TRUST Ltd

A General Meeting of Trust members has made changes to the objects of the Trust. In addition to the 'education of the public' in matters to do with the Railway and railways generally, the Trust is now concerned with the advancement and conservation of the heritage of the Railway and railways in general, for the benefit of the public. A further addition to the powers available in pursuit of the objects will enable the Trust to deal with locomotives and rolling stock. These changes should give the Trust much more flexibility and enable it to play a more significant role in the development of the Railway.

David Haxby

UNIFORMS

Those requiring orders should contact:-

Michael Mitton - Tel. 01609 748326

Email:- uniform@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

Post - Rose Cottage, Great Fencote, Northallerton

DL7 0RX

HELP NEEDED (for new section on WR website)

We are planning a new section for the Wensleydale Railway website (www.wensleydalerailway.com), in which staff, volunteers and local people reveal their favourite Wensleydale places and attractions - pubs, views, shops etc. We would like to have photos of people who are featured, together with details of their connection with the railway, and photos and descriptions of the places and attractions. This will add some human interest, and provide a lively view of the dale to the visitors to the website. And every website visitor is a potential passenger on the trains!

If you would be willing to be featured in this new section, please contact me using the Webmaster link on the website.

Peter Williams

MAJOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY

(news for internal use only)

We have needed to undertake a major study of the actual and potential social and economic benefits of the Wensleydale Railway as it is now, and as it could be with the potential Eastern and Western extensions. This is another essential part of the overall assessment of business case for expanding the railway. The stumbling block was the cost of £40,000 which was the minimum needed to commission a study of this size and complexity. I am delighted to be able to say that we have been able to benefit from some funding at short notice from Yorkshire Forward and the three local authorities. This is strictly limited funding which would not have been available to us for anything else. We have raised the full £40,000 and were able to put the socio-economic study out to tender. Along with the local authorities, we interviewed and appointed Arup to undertake the work. They are very knowledgeable about the area, having recently conducted the Upper Wensleydale study and are already working with many parts of the railway industry. I am also pleased to say that they have now agreed to my suggestion that if volunteers can undertake some of the survey work they will donate part of their fee to the Wensleydale Railway Association. *See separate article in this edition.*

The full study proposal is available from me at ian.sesnan@wensleydalerailway.com. It is currently for internal use only as clearly there is a very good story for us to tell the media. We are bound, by the funders, to do this in a co-ordinated way with them so it is essential that this is kept internal only for the time being. Perhaps the most significant thing about this study is the fact that we are conducting it as Northallerton to Aysgarth study. This is possible now that the Western extension group has got underway. The railway is going to be coming under detailed scrutiny from now until late June, in particular very detailed analysis of the numbers of passengers, their satisfaction, how much they spend on and off our railway etc.

Ian Sesnan

BEDALE STATION GROUP

With much help from our landlord, Hambleton District Council, the various deficiencies in the building relating to fire safety and disabled access have now been corrected and it has been passed fit to use by the building inspector. This means that the big downstairs room can be available again for WR internal purposes. Because there is still a lot of work going on, this *must* be by prior arrangement and on occasions it may not be possible to accept requests. Please phone 01609 761059 or 07974 412593 or email to bsg@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com stating dates, times, numbers and nature of event. Toilets and limited hot-drink-making facilities are available.

Now that this first main hurdle is overcome, attention is turning to other projects, including improving the power supply and heating, building the shop, creating a café and making a doorway from the Waiting Room to the platform. Progress is bound to be very slow because of the lack of funds. We are working towards providing a limited service to passengers on at least some days within the next few weeks.

Peter Harbord

MARKETING GROUP

Distribution of posters and leaflets – how it works:-

A substantial proportion of our timetables are delivered to Tourist Information Centres, visitor attractions, hotels, guest houses etc throughout Yorkshire, parts of Lancashire and the NE by a locally based distribution company - Around & About. They of course can only deliver to establishments who have agreed to display their clients' literature which means, that within the tourism industry alone there are numerous outlets that do not receive our publicity.

The only way we fill this gap is by us, the volunteers, distributing within our own local areas. Local knowledge is invaluable so whilst plugging the holes in the tourist industry we can also take the opportunity to inform an equally important audience, the residents within daily travelling distance of Wensleydale Railway. During the winter break we have been working to build up a data base of nursery schools, playgroups and primary schools within and on the fringes of North Yorkshire; this will be particularly useful when advertising events such as Santa Specials. The next stage of the exercise is to update and expand the record of volunteers who are willing to assist with the distribution of leaflets and posters. Our aim is to have a large map with names in every town and village throughout the catchment area. Please, can you help? Even if you are already on a list somewhere, please re-submit your details in order that we might achieve our aim of having **all the information in one place.**

This is what we need to know:

Your name, email address and telephone number. The name of the town, village or section of an area you can cover and the type and quantity of publicity you **know you can use** i.e. posters, leaflets. Finally, please say

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where you would intend to collect the items – Leyburn, Leeming etc.

Email your details to:

FOLS@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com

or

Post or leave at Leyburn/Leeming, clearly marked for

BETTY, MARKETING DISTRIBUTION .

Thank you.

Betty Ackrill

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of this Month should really read "Volunteers of the Month"! Seldom seen, unknown by many, the Leyburn Infrastructure Team under the guidance of **Andy Feather** work all year round in all weathers. Volunteers who work in the 'front line' on the trains and at the stations are there for all to see, colleagues and public alike are aware of the contribution they make to the railway but how many give a thought to all the other people working on the really tough jobs, very often under the cover of darkness? This nomination is for the Leyburn team (and specifically for Andy) but grateful thanks go all the unseen heroes who help to keep our railway in operation.

SURVEY WORK

The WRA has offered to find 15 or so volunteers (more will be even better) to help with the survey work for the socio-economic study, described elsewhere by Ian Sesnan. The WRA will be paid a fee for this work. Each volunteer will be expected to administer 10 to 15 questionnaires. There will be different surveys, for railway users and dales visitors and others. The work will be done during the period from Saturday 11th to Tuesday 14th April, over Easter weekend, but not necessarily on all those days.

If you think you might be interested in doing some of this work, you are invited to a meeting, to be held at **Bedale Station on Tuesday 7th April at 7.30 p.m.** This will be addressed by Paul Wheatley, and possibly a colleague, from Arup, the consultants who are undertaking the study. They will outline the objectives of the study and brief people on what they will be expecting from the volunteers. You can then decide whether to commit yourself. This is a chance to help the Railway move forward to the next stage of its development. Please come to the meeting.

FUND-RAISING

Easyfundraising/easysearch - we have now raised £860.60 of which £200 has been raised in the last 3 months Jan to the end of March. Well done everyone who has used this fundraising tool. Please remember that this is only the tip of the iceberg. Everyone needs to be told of the benefits of this easy to use way of funding projects on the railway. Any questions please contact me 01325 251204 after 6pm please.

The Track Appeal stands at £17,089 as of 20/3/09. Most of this money has now been spent and the sleepers and ballast in place, Thank you to everyone who has donated to the appeal and to all the volunteers who have worked so hard over Op Spring Clean, to relay the sleepers and ballast as well as clearing vegetation. Lets look forward to some more fundraising to improve Wensleydale Railway even more. Remember every penny counts.

Ken Monkman - Fundraising Co-ordinator

250 CLUB: Winners for April draw: 1st Mr P Lerew £66, 2nd Basil Mottershead £33, 3rd Keith Montague £16, 4th David Edmondson £10

Peter Blakey

ROLLING STOCK

New information boards have been made for Leeming Bar and Leyburn stations. User friendly handles have been fitted to the shop and buffet coach doors. On the blue service train a sticking door on the west power car has been repaired and some cleaning of the internal window frames done ; more cleaning and painting carried out in the buffet trailer, which also had some damaged armrests in the former first class compartment re-covered.

Repairs made to the Shark brake van's woodwork and handrails. The Coles crane was in action removing sleepers used to give safe access across the track to the signalbox.

The south roof of the FSDG's green 117 power car has been rubbed down and primed in preparation for the change from black to light grey (the original colour for all green diesel locos and DMUs).

Barry Wetherell

PTS COURSE

The next PTS course is on Saturday April 18th at Bedale station. (Check website for update/confirmation). If you need to gain this qualification or re-qualify the start time is 09.30 and will last around 3 ½ hrs.

Please contact John Thompson

PTS@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

The course is based on Network Rail PTS Handbook RT3170 issue 6 or 7. If you need a copy contact Amanda at the office

COMMUNITY RAIL WEEKEND

This will be on Saturday and Sunday June 6th and 7th. In addition to ticket concessions for the general public, there will be a special effort to attract new Members of the WRA and especially new Volunteers. On each morning, interested persons will be given an introduction to the railway, its history and plans and will travel as an accompanied group (free of charge) on the train from Leeming to Redmire and back. To do this, they must pre-register through the Office or

Email Volunteers@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com

Please try to advertise this event with anyone you think might be interested in joining us

WENSLEYDALE DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

As some of you are aware there is a new specialist group on the railway; for those who do not know here is a spot of info. The Wensleydale Diesel Traction Group was formed to maintain and operate diesel loco hauled trains on the WR. All our members have an active interest in diesel power and are committed to running nice coaches with loco haulage as often as is possible. We are currently awaiting the arrival of 3 more locomotives. A class 08 shunter, class 20 mixed traffic loco and a class 37 mixed traffic loco. The WDTG are to be custodians for these locos as well as 03144, 47703, 47715 so we will be busy over the coming weeks and months ahead. We are also assisting with the restoration of Allan Schofields Class 110 DMU and are responsible for restoring the Mk2a coaches we rely on. Another part of the groups work is assisting the infrastructure dept with essential track work in order to be able to continue operating heavier trains. You have no doubt read about the work of the Friday Night Gang. This gang is formed almost entirely of traction group members who have recently put on the sunglasses and worked on some daylight projects, namely the resleepering, realigning and ballasting of Bedale curve. This project was a 4 day job which the WDTG provided 3 days of labour for and was backed up by the infrastructure team particularly on the Saturday as we were all on a railtour (yes even we need some time off!).

Particular thanks are due to Tim "Senior Trees" Williamson not only for his labour but his continual support in the shape of his Manitou Telehandler. This machine not only loads ballast but also transports sleepers around the worksite. Thanks are also due to the most regular work party members. Andrew "Husky" Chapman, Rob "Trees" Williamson, Ken Monkman, Adrian Walby and Mick Chester.

The next diesel event is for the Signal Box Opening/Leyburn Food and Drink Festival weekend and is a 3 day event. More volunteers than usual are required for crossings, platform staff, tti's etc etc. If you are available to assist please contact Rob Shirley (Train Crew, Crossings etc) Amanda Pearson (Catering, Tickets etc) Paul Warren (Train Ground Crew and Maintenance).

Anyone interested in joining the group please email membership@wensleydaletdg.co.uk or contact Ken Monkman. Regular meetings are held in the Willow Tree Inn at Leeming Village.

Paul Warren (WDTG Chairman)

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new volunteers who have recently completed their induction course:- Mark Jones, Steve Kowal, Malcolm Streer, Angela Kingsbury, Andrew Fothergill, Malcolm Litherland and Paul Campbell. We very much hope that you enjoy working with us.

RELAY BACK ISSUES

Can you help raise funds for the Wensleydale Railway? We are looking for copies of specific Relay Back Issues to sell to raise funds for the Railway. Perhaps you may have copies of the Issues we are looking for and would like to donate them to the Railway. The Issues in question are 1 - 9, 11, 12, 14, 26, 34, and 48. If you would like to help, email relaybackissues@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com or phone Paul Kenyon at 01748 824249.

GUIDED WALKS

All walks are based on the train departing from Leeming Bar at 09.50 (Bedale 09.56, arrive Redmire 10.44). The return train departs Redmire at 15.50 or Leyburn at 16.03. WR's Guided Walks are FREE to those with same-day WR tickets; others £3 payable at start. On limited occasions, the walk includes travel on a local or vintage bus (fare payable; free to Senior Citizens with valid bus pass). All these require reasonable fitness but none would be described as 'strenuous.' **No booking is required for most of these walks.**

Good Friday April 10 (7 miles) Alight Leyburn and catch today's free shuttle bus from outside the station to Middleham; walk to Coverham Abbey and Church and then over hill and dale to Redmire.

Easter Saturday April 11 (7 miles) Alight Redmire for Circular Walk No 1 via Castle Bolton, Ellerlands Edge, Carperby and Thoresby to Redmire station.

Easter Sunday April 12 (2 miles) Alight Redmire for Family Easter egg hunt and walk from Redmire to Bolton Castle; self-guide return to Redmire station for either 13.10 or 15.50 train.

Easter Monday April 13 (7 miles) Alight Redmire for Circular Walk No 2 via Preston-under-Scar, Wensley Park, Bolton Hall to Redmire station.

Wednesday April 15 (7 miles) Alight Redmire for an 'up and down' walk; good views; walk to Leyburn.

OTHER WALKS

Leaflets are on sale at Leeming and Leyburn stations describing easy to follow walks of various length, some between stations and some suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. The main purpose of these is to encourage people to return for further trips on the railway, by giving them worthwhile activities at their destinations! The leaflets are produced by Diana Jolland and Mauram Burner, whom you might have seen being interviewed about this in the popular "Dales Diary" TV programme.

Deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 30th April. Send to:- Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733

Email

Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com