



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday and Monday 4 and 5 April – Book Sale, Leyburn – see below

Tuesday 13 April – Volunteers Meeting, Bedale – see below

Saturday 17 April – 9.30am at Bedale Station – induction course for new volunteers

PTS course for New Volunteers and those requiring re-certification 24 April 2010. Book with John Thompson through office or email to John.Thompson@isofthealth.com

A NEW SEASON

The start of a new season always feels like the start of New Year to me as we prepare for the first train of the season on Good Friday. For those who have been having a bit of a break I would like to welcome you back to the beginning of what should prove to be an exciting year with several new developments in the pipeline including a new timetable which will see two-train working and a bus connection to Aysgarth Station for the first time. I would also like to say thank you to all of you who have worked during the close down to ensure that trains can run again including those who have worked on the track, trains, property and in the offices but not forgetting Northallerton Kiosk which is our constant presence on a main line station. Let's look forward to what could be our best season ever. I am sure with your help and dedication it can be.

General Manager

I am pleased to be able to announce the appointment of Nick Wood as our new General Manager. Nick joined us on Monday just in time for a meeting with the Railway Inspectorate and the Office of the Rail Regulation. He comes with a railway background in station operations and management having been at Charing Cross and North East area manager based in Middlesbrough. He will be around over Easter getting to know the people and how the railway operates.

Accounts Department

Sterling work is being done in the accounts department mainly by Chris Thorpe who is in most days. However with the start of the new season she would like some additional help in the mornings with floats or afternoons at the end of services counting the takings. This would suit someone with previous experience. Contact the office at Leeming and ask for Chris Thorpe for a chat.

Angus Maude – Chairman, Wensleydale Railway plc

FROM WRA CHAIRMAN

Volunteers Meeting Tuesday 13 April, Bedale Station

Start time 7.15. Nick Wood, the new General Manager will attend the evening and will give us his insight into how he would like to take the railway forward. Please attend and give our new GM your support.

Help our Heroes - On Saturday 27th March Ken & Robynne Monkman, Paul & Judy Warren, Rob Williamson and Angus Maude presented The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes a cheque for £754 each. This was raised on 21 Feb at our Heroes day. The cheques were presented at the National Railway Museum as part of their Help for Heroes celebration. Thanks to museum director Steve Davies MBE.

Easyfundraising and Easysearch - I would like to remind everyone about this fundraising opportunity. If you shop on line then use one of the 2000 shopping sites available at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/wra You can also raise money by searching the internet at www.wra.easysearch.org.uk If anyone has any questions about using these sites email me at fundraising@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com

So far we have raised £1375 from these sites, we have not reached our potential earning power yet so please help us to raise money by telling friends about these sites.

Fundraising and Membership Recruitment - If anyone would like to help me raise funds for various projects on the railway or would like to help recruit more members will they please get in touch by email chairman@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com or give me a ring 01325 251204 (evenings please)

Ken Monkman, Chairman WRA

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's volunteer of the month is **Chris Thorpe**. Without a functioning accounts department the Railway would quickly grind to a halt. Chris, under the guidance of Val Fox, has been working tirelessly for the past few months often six days a week to reconcile the accounts for the year end and get ready for the new season. This has been at the same time as learning a completely new accounts system. Well done Chris and let's hope the new season proves easier than the last. Congratulations and our thanks to Chris. Why not nominate someone for next month's volunteer of the month? Just send your "citation" to the Editor

NORTHALLERTON KIOSK

A volunteer is needed to provide occasional relief for those who run the Northallerton Kiosk. Although fully staffed at present, sickness or holidays means that a further volunteer is needed to step in occasionally. This could be for the early shift – starting at about 6.30am, though help at other times would also be welcome; full training will be given. Please contact Audrey Heathcote on 01609 778851 or the Leeming Office.

Mark 1 Mini Buffet Coach: The WRA has recently purchased a Buffet Coach, this will be restored in due course. It is intended to form part of a 'steam consist.' It is dual braked, will 'mate up' with mark 2's.

Mini Tower: On recent examination a part (clamp) of the tower was found to be broken. Would users please note that the various clamps on the tower are cast aluminium and thus easily damaged. Would ALL users please examine the tower before and after use and any faults reported to me asap. Any NEW would-be users must be trained; contact me.

Insurances and 'out side' events: The Brokers assure me that if we use a gazebo at an outside event we are covered for third party liability in the event of an accident. Our insurance covers the UK. It would be helpful if organisers of outside events would forward me a program of proposed activities.

John Mazzucchi

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UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE

The 2010 season is now with us and it is the first time that we have an office staffed at least 5 days a week with telephone cover most weekends. I would like to introduce you all to these wonderful volunteers. Monday + Thursday we have Mike Alexander, Tuesday Judith Sykes and Marilyn Milner, Wednesday + Friday we have Colin Randolph and of course Tubby Booth comes in at least twice a week. Along with the usual office tasks Tubby and Mike deal with group/event bookings, Colin deals with day to day office and cleaning supplies. Charles Hickson takes the phone at the weekend.

This will be Gill Thornton's first full season as our Catering Manager and we have some new and exciting catering events planned for the year. It would make her job so much easier if the static and train Buffet were staffed at all times. Brian Ledger holds the Rota 01904 70 11 70 he has an answer machine and will always get back to you, so if you can help please give him a ring; you do not need to wait to be invited. Another new post holder is Nigel Park who has taken the position of Leeming Bar Shop Manager. Again it will make his life easier if the shop is always staffed, just give Brian a ring with your availability.

On a less positive note all Mugs will be removed from both the Buffet and Mess room on April 13 so if you have your own please collect before then. After this date Mugs left at the end of the day will meet the bin.

Amanda Pearson

BUMPER SALE OF BOOKS - FOLS will be holding a mega sale of books in "Arthur's" teabar (Leyburn Station) in aid of the WRA Track Appeal on **Easter Sunday and Monday 4/5 April 2010**. Please spread the word!

RELAY - Can you help raise funds for the Wensleydale Railway? We are looking for specific Back Issues of Relay to sell to raise funds for the Railway. The specific Issues required are Nos 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 & 12. Either phone Paul Kenyon on 01748 824249 or email

relaybackissues@wensleydayrailwayassociation.com

LEYBURN FOOD FESTIVAL

As this year is our 20th Anniversary the Wensleydale Railway are going to use our marquee tent at the Dales Festival at Leyburn which is held over the Mayday weekend. This is a very popular event which is held at the beginning of our season and provides an excellent opportunity to advertise our Railway to a large audience, both of local people and visitors to the area. In order to get our message to the many visitors to the show, we need Volunteers to help at the event from 10am to 5pm on Sunday 2nd May and Monday 3rd May.

I can promise that you will enjoy working with the rest of the team and there will be time during the day to visit the rest of the show. Please contact Rod or Janet Morris

Tel 01733 331658 or 07724123155

rmcommunications@hotmail.co.uk

250 CLUB - March winners -1st Paul Fuller £78; 2nd Barrie Stephenson £39; 3rd David Turner £21; 4th RD Little £13

Peter Blakey

OPERATIONS / ENGINEERING FEB/MARCH

Infrastructure are working on 3 major sleeper replacement projects at either side of Leeming Bar station and near Leyburn Station. That has required works trains to distribute new sleepers to the work sites and to bring a train load of ballast from Redmire yard to Leeming Bar where we had a tamper working. A work train was also run to worksites at Crakehall and Preston Bank with pipes for drainage work.

Two private charter trains ran on 7th and 11th February for the Heritage Railway Association and a hotel group, both with catering on the train. Both trains were top and tail with 47715 & 20166.

MOD trains have again been running during February.

On 21st February we ran the charity specials for Help the Heros and British Legion, 47715 pulled all 3 train as the promised appearance of the class 47 "Prince William" from NRM was cancelled at the last minute due the failure of the loco on shed at York.

Training meetings have taken place for signallers, train crews and crossing keepers to explain the system of working when passing trains at Constable Burton.

When HMRI last visited one of their comments referred to the operation of our points on the main line around Leeming Bar and at Constable Burton. All these points have now been fitted with hand operated points motors and facing points locks to comply with their requirements.

We are now ready for the start of the running season, the DMU has had a thorough examination, 47715 and 20166 are both in good working order.

Tim Williamson

ROLLING STOCK GROUP

Preparations for the new season continued. Operation of all the doors and windows was checked on the service train (2 blue 101 power cars and the green 110 trailer). A sticking door window on the trailer was rectified. Work on the cream/red mark 2a coaches included replacement of a fibre-glass seat base, replacement of faulty armrests, securing of loose headrests, stripping and repairing 2 sticking door windows and, with the welcome return of the tower scaffold from Redmire, scraping and sanding down the south roofs of Sarah and Madison.

Work on other stock was the refitting of a loose ceiling panel in the green 117 trailer and blanking the holes in the floor of the Strathclyde where ductwork had been removed.

The ' Toad ' brake van is now resplendent (well, almost!) with 2 new full length oak steps on the south side. The arrival on 18 March of the Railway's first mark 1 coach - a Mini-Buffer (RMB) - a converted second open built by BR at Wolverton in 1961 - created a lot of interest and activity. Jobs started to date include scraping and sanding the roof, steam cleaning the upholstery, cleaning windows and light fittings, sanding and staining seat and window frames, repairing and painting damaged ceiling roof panels, cleaning the shelving and buffet counter and freeing sticking side opening windows.

Barry Wetherell

Deadline for the next newsletter is 30th April

Send to:- Philip Smith c/o Leeming Office or Newsletter@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com