



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 13 August at 4.45pm - WRA Leyburn Branch Meeting (All Members) at Leyburn Station re Whiff of Steam
- 27 August at 4.45pm - WRA Leyburn Branch Meeting (All Members) at Leyburn Station re Operation Dalesman
- 8 September at 7.30pm - WRA Northallerton Branch Meeting at RAFA Club, High Street (North), Northallerton with Harry Foster : "The Day War Broke Out"
- 20/21 September – Diesel Locomotive Gala

NEWS FROM LEYBURN

Preparations for Steam and Operation Dalesman are well advanced at Leyburn, with a good collection of artefacts accumulating. Work on the new toilets progresses and we hope they will be in operation soon.

It is anticipated that the town will play its part in putting on window displays about WR events. Various local organisations have also shown interest in Operation Dalesman and we look forward to their contributions.

Peggy Blumfield

IS THERE A SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS?

There is certainly a shortage of signed-up names on the rosters (see next item). However, as volunteers come from the WRA membership, it is also important to recruit new members on a continuing basis. Approximately 10% of WRA Members are also working volunteers. If every working volunteer recruited one new member of the Association, past records show that this would also bring in 25 new working volunteers. Does everyone carry the WRA application leaflets? Should passengers be offered these leaflets with their tickets? Are you interested in helping to recruit new WRA members?

URGENT PLEA FROM LEEMING BAR (Lots of Volunteers Needed!)

As far as Whiff of Steam/Operation Dalesman is concerned, ideally we need up to 40 volunteers every day and there is now a master list of where and what every job is. We also need volunteers each day prior to this. The list is on display in the main office at Leeming Bar and now is your chance to try something different. Please add your name to the list if you are at Leeming, otherwise telephone, e-mail, snail-mail or carrier pigeon your details. If you are going to join us on 30th/31st August (Operation Dalesman), please consider some form of period dress.

We could be in trouble! As I sit here typing this, we have names on the roster for Leeming Bar for 2-5th Aug, then nothing. So, unless you heed this plea, there will be no ticket office, shop or buffet after that date. There are a small number of names for steam - mainly for the Steam Buffet, and some of those are new volunteers. Please, please, consider giving just one extra day in order to keep a good service to the public.

Mike Sheehan

COMISERATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Most regulars will know that on Friday 24th July, the DMU was derailed and damaged when it struck a large rock near Harmby bridge. Thanks to a really heroic night's work by the 'Friday Night Gang', the unit was rerailed and recovered to Leeming, and the track repaired by next morning. 47715 then operated a full service until late on Monday when it too succumbed to hard work. More midnight oil burning by our techies, and an incredible amount of shunting on Tuesday morning by most of the Ops Crew, saw a mixed formation DMU (110,117 and 101) leave only 5 minutes late. Hopefully, the damaged power car will be back in service by the time you read this. Very many thanks to 'Dirty Oily', 'Big Ade', the rest of the 'Friday Nighters' and all the Ops Staff.

Mike Sheehan

SPECIAL WALK

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Mark Reid, author of the 'Inn Way' walking books, is to lead a special walk on Friday August 22, approx 8 miles and based on the 10.35 steam departure from Leeming Bar, returning from Redmire at 16.05. Numbers are strictly limited to allow for talks to the group as the walk progresses so **booking is essential**. £20 per person, including steam train rail fare (bring drinks and packed lunch) – phone Leeming Bar to book (08454 50 54 74)

WRA e SHOP

A great way to tell the world about the WRA and that you support its aims. The WRA eShop, in association with Spreadshirt.net offers a range of clothing and giftware personalised with the WRA logo. Each payment benefits the WRA. Items include T-shirts, polo shirts, casual shirts, baseball hats, cooking aprons, tote bags and mugs. Click on the T-shirt on the WRA website for details.

INTERNET

On the subject of the internet, have you registered (free) with easyfundraising.org.uk? This allows you to shop on line from over 500 of the UK's best known retailers and up to 15% of each purchase cost will be donated to the WRA at no extra cost to yourself.

Also, why not make easysearch.org.uk your Home Page when logging on? You search in just the same way as on Google or Yahoo, etc and the WRA benefits.

ROLLING STOCK GROUP.

RSG report 28 June to 31 July

Most of the month has been concentrated on the refurbishing of class 117 TSL 59500 in preparation for the steam train.

Outside - the roof has been scraped, wire brushed, had a couple of holes repaired, painted with red oxide and finally black roof paint. Both gutters were cleaned out and one troublesome leak repaired. The body sides have been filled, sanded and painted in grey undercoat. The carriage ends and the south underframe have been painted black.

Thanks to Tubby Booth, who collected the dark Brunswick green paint from the Northampton and Lamport Railway - a round trip of 380 miles in 9 hours, we are now ready to begin the transformation.

Inside - ceiling cleaning is underway, some seat squabs have been repaired and cleaned and a start made on the repainting of window frames. The design of the warning notices needed on the 5 locked-out doors is about to be finalised. There is still a lot to do, so any help will be welcome.

The Coles crane had pipework defects repaired and was prepared for, and successfully passed, it's annual statutory examination.

Reflective safety strips were fitted to the Tube wagon, leaving only the Salmon rail carrier still to be fitted.

Barry Wetherell

MINOR WORKS

The refurbishment of Bedale Station slowly continues. Some members currently have other Summer interests, hence we are depleted in working personnel.

We are awaiting the release of the scaffolding tower at the end of August to enable us to decorate the ceiling and upper parts of the staircase. The Tower is currently being used by the Signal Box group.

Peter Blakey

250 CLUB

The number of Units that have currently been purchased is fast approaching 250. Members have until 31st August to make a purchase of Units. The cost is £12 per annum with a monthly draw and four prizes. The 1st prize will be, for example, currently estimated to be about £60; the more Units purchased, the prize value is increased.

So, come on and become a member!

Peter Blakey

REVENUE PROTECTION

The co-operation of everyone concerned with tickets, sales and cash handling is very important. Please adhere to the railway's standard security procedures - and, if in doubt, ask!

STEAM TIMETABLES

To help with distribution, please phone David Collins on 01969 622775

SPONSOR A LINK OF TRACK

Support the new track appeal and receive a certificate about YOUR piece of track.

Just £30 will provide one full link of track. As at 21 July, 69.7 links have been sponsored and £2,092 raised.

COFFEE MORNING AT YORK

9 September 2008 - York Coffee Morning and Bric-a-Brac Stall - WRA Fundraiser - at St Crux Hall, York.

If you can offer suitable bric-brac in advance or help on the day then please contact Brian Ledger via the Leeming Bar office.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

There have been several new volunteers joining us in the past few weeks and a warm welcome is extended to them. If any new volunteer (or anyone else for that matter) is wondering what they should be doing or where they can be of most help, please contact Phil Smith tel 01609 774733 or email induction@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

Any volunteer who currently receives this Newsletter in hard copy but who now has access to e-mail is asked to forward their email address to me. This helps reduce the number of copies sent out by post. Similarly if your e-mail has changed please let me know. Contact me as above.

Deadline for contributions (welcome from anyone) for the next newsletter is 31st August.

Philip Smith