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Edition 62

August 2009

Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Induction courses for new volunteers Thursday 13th August 9-11am and Saturday 15th August 9.30-11.30am at Leeming Bar Station

Tuesday 15th September – Volunteers meeting (for all volunteers) – 7.15pm at Bedale Station

Saturday 12th September – consultation meeting for all volunteers – see below

PTS Course - There will be a Personal Track Safety (PTS) course on Saturday 29th August at Bedale for new volunteers and re-tests. The course will start at 09.30 and will be followed by test and certification. It should take around 3½ hours and is based upon Railtrack Personal Track Safety Handbook RT3170 Issue 6; if you require a copy, call Leeming Bar office. These are free to Volunteers, however they cost the Railway £1 each (donations welcome). Relevant pages: 3, 10-14, 23, 25-33, 38, 40-44, 47, 48, 51-53. Names to Leeming Bar office or John Thompson john@airborneit.co.uk

COSS Course - There will be a Control of Site Safety course on Saturday 26th September at Bedale for both Current COSS trained personnel, requiring a re-certification, and anyone else requiring this qualification. The course will start at 09.30 and will be followed by test and certification. It will last all day and the content is based on Rule Book modules T2 T7 and T12. Names to Leeming Bar office or John Thompson john@airborneit.co.uk

FROM WRA SECRETARY

WR TRUST - Phil Smith has taken over from David Haxby as the Company Secretary. David remains on the Council of the Trust, and will be dealing with membership, fundraising and forward planning.

AGM of the WRA. Please note that the AGM for the Association will next year be on Saturday 5th June. Next year marks 20 years since the establishment of the Association, and we hope to have a programme suitable for this landmark. The venue will again be the Golden Lion in Northallerton.

Development Plan for the Railway. A Development Plan for the next five years is under discussion in the Railway Council. This will shortly be sent out for consultation, and the hope is that everyone actively involved with the Railway will have a chance to comment, though the Council realises that in the end it will not be able to please everybody. The consultation process will include a meeting on 12th September for any volunteer who wishes to attend. Details and venue to be announced, but if you are interested in this kind of forward planning, put the date in your diary.

David Haxby

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Barbara Barwick Nicholson, Mary Cooney and Andrew Turner, who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

OPERATION DALESMAN

A big thanks to all of you who were involved in the planning for Operation Dalesman, and especially to those who helped over the weekend in any capacity. Despite the atrocious weather on the Friday, which prevented many of the Re-enactors from travelling, and the closure of the Northallerton/Leeming road all day on Saturday, the weekend was a great success. The longer trains allowed us to carry many more passengers in comfort, and the new operating techniques that we had to use should be useful for any other special event.

The comments from both the public and the re-enactors were universally favourable, with 'twice as good as last year' not uncommon, so very well done to you all.

Finally, a date for your diary - Dalesman 2010 will be over the weekend of July 17th/18th, so let us make next year even better!

Op Dalesman DVD - a DVD is in production of the Op Dalesman 2009 Event. It will be approximately 30 mins long, in colour with sound and should be priced at approx £5.00 in the shops and £6.50 by post.

Mike Sheehan

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The volunteer of the month is **CLAIR HEYES**. Clair has been operating the kiosk at Northallerton Station for several weeks, opening up at 6am on most days, as Audrey Heathcote is unwell. She has been well supported by other members of the kiosk team, who also share in the credit for keeping things going at this difficult time. Life at the kiosk is not easy first thing in the morning, with papers to handle and to deal with the early morning rush. The kiosk can be taken for granted as it has been so well run by all those involved. Congratulations to Clair (and to all members of the kiosk team).

Why not nominate someone for next month's volunteer of the month? Just send your "citation" to the Editor.

WANTED FOR RETURN!

Amanda & I have over the last few weeks lost all our stock of carriage keys (about 5 or 6). These have not been actually stolen but have been borrowed & not returned, in some cases, taken without our knowledge from the office, in my case from my desk drawer. We would like them returned when finished with them.

Tubby Booth

IS THERE ANYBODY THERE....?

In the month or so since the WRA Yahoo! Group (http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/wensleydale_railway_association/) was formed, only 13 people have taken the trouble to sign up to the forum (many thanks to those concerned). Not exactly a great return given the 3000+ WRA members and 356 registered Volunteers. There are plenty of you out there with plenty to say, so why so coy?! And if public debate isn't your bag, don't forget that you can upload photos to existing albums (including "A Whiff of Steam 2009" and "Operation Dalesman 2009") or create your own. We are already collecting images for the WR Calendar 2011, so if you want your best shots to be considered, join now!

SHOP LOCAL

We are planning on joining the 'Shop Local' scheme. Members first purchase a card and can then use that card to purchase items or services in any participating outlet. Many businesses in Northallerton, Bedale, Leyburn and Hawes have joined the scheme so membership should be of great benefit. More details will be published soon.

Mike Sheehan

250 CLUB

Enclosed with the latest circulation of Relay there was a Renewal/Application Form for the 250 Club. Current Club members are invited to renew their membership for the ensuing year and new members are especially welcome. The Club year operates from the 1st October until the 30th September 2010. The closing date for receipt of applications is 31st August. More members make **bigger** prizes and a **larger** amount for the WRA.

Winners for August draw: 1st, Lt Col. Adrian Tyson-Woodcock £66, 2nd Barrie Wetherell £33, 3rd David Wooton £16, 4th A.V. Pennell £10

Peter Blakey

MONTHLY POSTERS

Each month Peter Williams, our web editor, produces an A4 sized colour poster of the next two months' activities, which is e-mailed to all Yorkshire and Humberside tourist information centres. Could YOU display the poster anywhere, or arrange for a shop or other local business to display it for us? Remember that our business depends upon attracting as many visitors as possible and everyone who sees the poster is a potential visitor. You can find a link to the poster on the home page of the Wensleydale Railway website (www.wensleydalerailway.com) in one of the blue boxes in the right hand margin

HELP REQUIRED

At the Dales Harvest Festival Event at Hawes on Saturday 19th September 10.00 - 17.00 and Sunday 20th September 10.00 - 16.00. Also at The Muker Show on Wednesday 2nd September. It is great fun working at these events and there will be time during the day to have a look around the rest of the stalls and events.

There is also the satisfaction that you will be helping to advertise the railway to the many members of public who visit our stand. Even if you can only help for part of the day please telephone and offer your services to: Janet and Rod Morris - 07724121355 or 07591653316

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. The Issues in question are 3,4,5,7, and 12. Email relaybackissues@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com or phone Paul Kenyon at 01748 824249.

ROLLING STOCK

The repaint of the green 110 trailer 59701 was complete (bar the cream stripes) and gold running numbers applied to it and the 110 DMBC 51813 ready for the steam train service which started on Saturday 18 July. The steam loco - Std 4MTT no. 80105 - was test run on Friday 17 on a short freight train, hauling 3 Dogfish ballast hoppers from Leeming Bar to the Bedale passing loop. It returned light engine. For the 1940's weekend the steam loco hauled all 7 available DMU cars (4 green and 3 cream/blue) and the service train ran with 47715, Poseidon and 47703, (Hermes) topping and tailing the 6 cream/red mk2a coaches. For the rest of the month the steam loco hauled the 4 green DMU cars and the service train ran as a 2 car cream/blue 101 set with the 117 trailer sidelined with spring and bogie faults. The 03 BR shunter had it's repaired spring fitted and was back in use by mid month. The class 20's corroded radiator header was repaired by welding in a complete new panel to the base. The radiator will be tested and refitted in early August. Work began on fitting spare class 47 brake blocks. This should be complete by the time you read this article. The north (platform) side roof of the static coach Beth has been thoroughly rubbed down in preparation for painting with hi-build black roof paint. This will bring it to the same standard as the shop and buffet coaches. Work to replace Beth, which will return to service, with the spare class 101 DMBS (Strathclyde) has begun. The north side of the 101 is being rubbed down ready for repainting and the internal seats, heaters and some partitions will be removed to allow fitting of more conventional tables and seats. The brake compartment will provide disabled access. The green 110 DMCL no E 51842 is being rubbed down in preparation for a repaint. The brown BR brake van has been partly repainted with Bauxite and the new south running boards prepared off site ready for fitting when space in the yard is available.

Barry Wetherell

Deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 31st August. Send to:- Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733
Email

Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com