



## Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

9 December – Volunteers Meeting at The Lodge  
7.15pm

10 January - Shared Supper & Social evening in  
Bedale Station (details in next newsletter)

### FROM RUTH Santa Leaflets

If you can help by distributing some of the leaflets remaining in the office - especially in and around Bedale, Northallerton, Newcastle and Teesside – it would be very helpful. Pubs, fish and chip shops and staff notice boards all back up the message of our recent advertising campaign in local papers.

### Guided Walks

There were 32 walkers for the event on November 29, which was held on a day of blue skies and brilliant sunshine, with a trace of snow on the hilltops. Walkers came from Morpeth, Bradford, Wetherby and elsewhere, in spite of fog early in the day, as well as from Snape, Middleham and Askrigg. A fantastic day out, with the bonus of a special menu festive lunch instead of the usual picnic. The icing on the cake was that two of the walkers asked before they left for WR to arrange the event all over again for groups they belong to in their own areas, which will bring more passengers to the railway. **From Boxing Day to January 4** there will be a guided walk from the train every day – why not join one of the walks for an enjoyable day out in the fresh air with a friendly group and moderate exercise? Catch the 10.05 train from Leeming Bar; wear suitable footwear and clothing and bring a picnic lunch and drinks.

### Greetings

On behalf of the directors of the plc, may I thank all volunteers (and often their family members too) for their support and work for the railway during the year. Let's hope for a successful Santa season ahead – meanwhile, greetings for a happy Christmas and New Year.

**Stop Press:** A study by Ove Arup for Richmondshire District Council calls for action to facilitate "the connection of the Wensleydale Railway to the East Coast main line and westward to Bolton Castle and Aysgarth." This formal support from the district council will be of real assistance as we seek to extend the line in both directions.

*Ruth Annison*

### CALL FOR HELP!

The two Santa trains will be decorated on Wed 3rd and Thurs 4th December between 10.00 and 15.00. Please come along and help - many hands make light work. Santa Specials booking are looking good,

presents wrapped and labelled, mulled wine waiting, mince pies almost cooked and the engineers have promised that the train heaters will all be working. So all we need now to make them go smoothly is more help on the following days please:

1 person on all days to sort the presents to go in Santa's sacks at Leeming Bar (not on train)  
Sat 6th - 1 person                      Sun 7th - 2 people  
Sat 13th - 3 people                      Sun 14th - 5 people  
Tues 16th - 1 person                      Sat 20th 1 person

Sun 21st - 3 people                      Wed 24th - 4 people  
Departure times from Leeming Bar are hourly between 11.15 and 14.15, except Xmas Eve when the first train is 10.15 (you will need to be at the station at least 40 mins earlier). If you can help on any of these trains be it one or all please do get in touch. This is a FUN event. Between Christmas and New Year we have Guided walks every day and expect these to be well supported. We would like to serve refreshments on every train and again I am appealing for help to serve these. Please let me know if you can help. These again are FUN trains. A Huge \*Thank You\* to all those who have helped this year. Happy Christmas and I hope you have a peaceful                      New                      Year!

*Amanda Pearson* 01677 425805

### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's nomination is **Gill Thornton**. Gill has been a stalwart member of the WRA for many years. Unlike many, she does not specialise in one activity and spreads her talents wide. She is a member of the Marketing Group and she works in the Northallerton Station Kiosk at least one day a week. She is also a very regular volunteer in the Leeming Bar Buffet and often serves in the Shop and the on-train buffet. She can always be relied on to help with the planning and preparation of special events, when her artistic talents come to the fore, particularly in the areas of table and floral decoration. When not actually at the railway, she spends much of her time making small items for sale in the shops and, at the right time of the year, she produces a steady stream of marmalade and jam often using fruit she gathers from trees and bushes alongside the railway. Many thanks Gill for all your efforts, if only we had ten of you!

Why not send in your nomination for January volunteer of the month?

### EXTENSION OF THE LINE

Please see the WRA website to take part in a survey about possible extension of the line. Make your views count!

*Sandra Ward*

## **ROLLING STOCK GROUP**

Work on the PLC's 117 TSLT 59509 included rectifying faults on 2 opening door windows and, taking advantage of a brief mild spell, painting the coach ends black and fitting the data panels. The FSDG's 117 DMS 51400 also had a door window fault rectified and small tables were fitted in front of the 4 locked-out doors. A new volunteer was introduced to our team and Ops group. David from Northallerton plans to work 2 days a week, which immediately makes him our most regular volunteer. The present team of 4 work a total of 5 1/2 man days per week.

*Barry Wetherell*

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

As many of you working in Ops and infrastructure will know Metro kindly donated a quantity of obsolete PPE to the WRA. This was on the condition that any Metro logos would be removed or covered up. If you wear any of this PPE please make sure this is complied with. If you fail to follow this instruction you seriously jeopardise the reputation of the Railway and future donations by this and other companies.

*Angus Maude*

## **WANTED – SHOP and STOCK MANAGER**

After 3 years, I am looking for a volunteer to replace me as the Manager of the shop at Leeming Bar so that I can concentrate on the maintenance of the station facilities and rolling stock. The position includes responsibility for ordering all stock for Leeming Bar and Leyburn. The task is not onerous and full records for the last 3 years are available. However it does require reasonably regular attendance at Leeming Bar. Contact me for further details.

## **Leeming Bar Station Support Group**

The end of mid-week operations has enabled the LBSSG DIY gang to resume repairs and improvements at the station. Joe Skimming has started Phase 2 of the Loo refurbishment with modifications to the plumbing and a new heater in the Ladies and repair of the 'Anti-frost' heaters in both sides. Other areas that will be receiving attention are the roof of the buffet coach, the drain system from the buffet, lighting in the Ladies toilet, and a complete clean and paintwork refurbish in the shop and buffet during Operation Spring-clean 2009. We would welcome any help you wish to give us, initially any Tuesday, but also on Sundays and Thursdays in the New Year.

*Mike Sheehan*

## **RECEIVED BY EMAIL**

Although I retired from voluntary railway campaigning after 20 years in September 2007, I am now registered as a Sole Trader/Self Employed and have an on-line shop doing select sustainable transport/lifestyle first hand books and second hand. If you or WRA have anything suitable which they would like selling for 15% (15p in every £1 sold after costs), please do

contact my webmaster Paul Ebbens who manages that side. Likewise even a web-link exchange between our [www.stse.co.uk](http://www.stse.co.uk) and WRA or whatever, would be appreciated to drive footfall both ways hopefully.

*Richard Pill*

## **EASYFUNDRAISING**

Support *Wensleydale Railway Association* for free, shopping online with over 500 brand-name retailers including Amazon, NEXT, M&S, John Lewis, Debenhams, HMV, The Body Shop, Vodafone, DELL, Woolworths, PLAY.com, Interflora and Comet amongst many others.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/wra](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/wra)

*Ken Monkman*

## **NEW VOLUNTEER**

Alan Cassells has joined us in the past few weeks and completed his induction. A warm welcome is extended to you Alan and we hope that you enjoy volunteering with the WR.

## **FROM GENERAL MANAGER**

### **The Folk Night**

The folk night at the Londonderry Lodge was a great success with £460 being raised for the track appeal. Many thanks to the musicians and the Lodge for providing the music and venue free of charge and to the volunteers who helped organise the event

### **The Western Extension**

The first meeting of the Western Extension Steering Group (WESG) was held in November. We will keep everyone informed of progress through the monthly newsletter and Relay.

### **Operations**

As this is the first month as Acting GM, I don't have a great deal to report in detail. I have been impressed at the commitment of both the volunteers and employed staff and look forward to working with them in the coming months. We are now preparing for operation Spring Clean and for next years events. The big event at the moment are the Santa Specials and I would like to thank all those who are working hard to ensure its success. I will report in more detail each month and in Relay.

*John Ozelton*

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline for contributions (welcome from anyone) for the next newsletter is 31st December. Send to:-**  
*Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733*

### **Email**

[induction@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com](mailto:induction@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com)

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