



## Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December - PTS course 0930 at Bedale Station. Names to Leeming Bar Office or John Thompson on [John.Thompson@isofhealth.com](mailto:John.Thompson@isofhealth.com)

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Induction course at Leeming Bar Station 9.30-11.30am. Contact Phil Smith [Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com](mailto:Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - Volunteers meeting (for all volunteers) – 7.15pm at Bedale Station

### FROM PLC CHAIRMAN

**Christmas gifts** - If anyone is thinking of giving the railway a present, my list would include not just generously giving of your time which so many of you do already but also to give your understanding and respect to colleagues across the railway perhaps by finding out what other departments are doing and uncritically discovering how they play their roles in the railway.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas; Wensleydale has a stunning Christian heritage which we should make much more of in tourist terms.

**Grant news from Yorkshire Forward** - We submitted four of our priority needs as an Expression of Interest to the Rural Enterprise Investment Programme and the good news is that the initial view is that our schemes for improvement to facilities at Redmire, covered locomotive accommodation and infrastructure (and possibly some investment at Bedale Station) would be eligible for between 50 and 80% grant.

The next stage is developing the schemes, getting permissions such as planning permission (where needed) and submitting a full application. Nothing is guaranteed but this means that we may be able to double some of the funds raised through the proposed share offer in February.

We may also be able to double funds raised through the track appeal too. All match funding for this scheme has to be private funding (so we cannot use lottery funding or other public grants as match funding).

### News from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

I am pleased to say that thanks to the work of our Company Secretary, Malcolm Lynch, the Wensleydale Railway plc has now been accepted as eligible for the Enterprise Investment Scheme. I won't even attempt to document what this means other than to say that people who purchase £500 or more of shares in the Wensleydale Railway plc may become eligible for a range of tax reliefs. This can be backdated to the financial year 2007/8 and so Peter Harbord as Share Registrar will be writing to people who may be eligible

to inform them that if they have made £500 worth of share purchases in that period, or increase their share purchases now to reach the £500 total they could become eligible.

Needless to say the main benefit of this will be in making the proposed Share Offer launch in February 2010 even more attractive. Please don't base any financial decisions on this note as those eligible will be directly informed and advised to ensure that they equip themselves to make fully informed decisions.

**Christmas Cards** - If you wish to send Electronic Christmas cards this year you can use

[www.everyclick.com/christmas](http://www.everyclick.com/christmas)

For a £5 donation to your favourite Charity you can send up to 100 e-cards. The Wensleydale Railway Trust is one of the charities that you can choose to receive your donation.

Don't forget also that you can buy your Christmas presents via <http://easyfundraising.org.uk/> and nominate the Wensleydale Railway Association as the cause that receives a commission on your purchases from over 500 stores.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas; Wensleydale has a stunning Christian heritage which we should make much more of in tourist terms. We will be talking to the Churches Conservation Trust about some joint marketing ideas.

May I offer thanks in advance to everyone who will be working on the railway over this vital season including all those involved in the Santa Specials the walks programme and of course all the regular work that never ceases across all departments.

*Ian Sesnan*

### FROM WRA CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work this year, and to wish you all and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The Prize Draw took place on Saturday 28 Nov and was drawn by Kevin Powell

The first prize winner is J Spaldin of Hartlepool. A full list of winners will be published on the website and Relay in due course.

I will be celebrating my 50th birthday on the 1205 departure on Sunday 27th December. I will have one coach booked for my family and work colleagues; all volunteers are invited to come along and join me. It has been agreed to allow volunteers to travel at a reduced rate of £4.

Please come along and celebrate with me.

*Ken Monkman*

**FROM GENERAL MANAGER**

After a successful summer we continue to build revenue at a vastly better rate than last year. Santa trains are taking bookings at 25% better than last year to date and we have had a good October. Control of costs is ensuring we spend prudently on necessary items. As we stand now, we are looking good to at least break even by year end [end of March].

The new structure is steadily building. Tim Williamson's Fleet team is robust and strong and we have added to the Infrastructure team's management structure.

The Finance team is now up and running. Welcome to our new Finance Manager Val Fox and Financial Assistant Christine Thorpe. Both ladies have a solid background in banking / finance. Much work has been done to enhance integrity of systems and to clear invoice backlog.

The next team to develop is marketing. We must get this right for next year. I am pleased to say we have tremendous help in the guise of Peter Williams and he has introduced a Marketing Manager to the railway. She will assist us from afar with advice and strategy. I still need a marketing manager and a marketing assistant at Leeming Bar. Please come forward. Become part of an exciting human fleet !!

Next year's timetable, running days and fares are finalised. We are not going to print yet as I wish to run the operating procedures past the HMRI in mid December and we want to get the leaflet right first time.

We have 3 timetables. Winter - November 2010 and February 2011 - Leeming Bar to Leyburn and return 3 times from 1030 hrs to approximately 1530. Off peak - Give or take 5 minutes, it is what we run now. Peak - 4 return trains Leeming Bar to Leyburn [2 of which run through to Redmire] and 7 return top and tail services Leyburn - Redmire.

A real bonus is that next year the vintage bus will pick up at Aysgarth falls on both return journeys! The peak time table operates School Holidays, weekends late May, Bank Holidays, Weekends in June, September. All days July & August.

Finally our foray into special services continues and we ran our Jazz train last Saturday. I am glad to say we made a profit and thrilled the audience. We will do more of these next year and I will be introducing a volunteers discount at popular request.

Thanks for all your support. It is clear with your much needed help we are going places! All the best & a massive thank you

*Kevin Powell*

**WELCOME**

A warm welcome to Colin and Christine Randolph, Mike Brittlebank, Des and Beryl Robinson who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

**END OF THE SEASON**

Fewer than 10% of the 2009 season's operating dates remain as this newsletter goes to press - and the bulk of the business will be on Santa Specials. But there eight very useful trading days from Boxing Day onwards, with trains and guided walks every day until January 2, when many people are looking for something to do during the rest of the holiday. Most of the walks will be around five miles and the full programme will be on [www.wensleydalerailway.com](http://www.wensleydalerailway.com) before Christmas. New Year's Day is special, traditionally a day for a family day out in the countryside and so there will be a choice of two routes on Jan 1: (4 miles/alight at Leyburn and 8 miles/alight at Redmire). There's no need to book for any of these walks - just bring a friend, use your WRA membership card to 'buy one rail ticket, get one free' and enjoy some fresh air and a day out in beautiful Wensleydale! And if you don't want to walk, how about offering to serve the mulled wine and mince pies on the trains - that's quite a fun day out too!

Very grateful thanks to all those who have helped this year with the walks and special events programme.

*Ruth Annison*

**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? You can find a link to the poster on the home page of the Wensleydale Railway website ([www.wensleydalerailway.com](http://www.wensleydalerailway.com)) in one of the blue boxes in the right hand margin

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

This month's volunteer of the month is *Marilyn Milner* for the magnificent work she has been doing in the office, in the Bedale Station Group, Relay packing, etc etc. She has not been a volunteer for very long but she seems always to be there, with unflinching good humour and enormous commitment. Congratulations and our thanks to Marilyn.

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

**WEBSITE "EXTRA"**

An online "Donate" facility has been added to the WRA website. It is now possible to support the WR Link of Track Appeal from anywhere in the world - and all volunteers are encouraged to make this known to friends and family. Please see the website Support and Fundraising Page for details and wording, at [www.wensleydalerailwayassociation.com/Support](http://www.wensleydalerailwayassociation.com/Support)

*Sandra Ward*

**Safety /PTS Reminder**

May I remind ALL staff who may work both “Lineside” and “On or Near the Line” that they must be in possession of an in-date PTS (valid for two years) certificate.

Team leaders / Managers are also responsible for ensuring all staff working under them are in possession of valid competency certificates where necessary and that steps are made to ensure that all work is conducted in a safe manner.

The PTS course is this Railway’s minimum level of safety training. We would encourage all volunteers to undergo this training course. Next course is 5 Dec at Bedale station, starting at 09.30 and lasts 3 hrs. Courses are conducted throughout the year.

*John Thompson*

**HELP!**

It is the festive season once again. Bookings for Santa have never been so good so early in the season and Chief Elf asks could she have help to decorate the Santa Train (Loco hauled stock). Leeming Bar on Wednesday 2nd or Thursday 3rd starting about 10.

If anyone has festive wrapped boxes or spare decorations she would be very grateful to have them as the train is larger than our normal one. These could be left at Leeming any time.

We still need staff for all sites over the Christmas period especially in the Office, Buffet and on Train Buffet and Crossing Keepers. Please ring Brian Ledger 01904 701170 (he has an answer phone and does listen to it daily) to help in either Buffet or Santa trains and ops for train and crossing duties 01677 427999.

Office help 01677 425805.

Thanks. Happy Christmas to all I won't see.

*Amanda Pearson*

**BEDALE STATION**

Bedale Station is fast becoming a popular venue for meetings so we need to rule out any possibility of double bookings and confusion. The Bedale Station Group usually work in the building every Tuesday morning and it can be very noisy!

We politely request that you avoid using the downstairs room at this time if at all possible. However, we can be flexible if there is dire need.

In the very near future we hope to provide a contact telephone number but for the time being please contact the BSG via email on

[bsg@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com](mailto:bsg@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com)

stating the date you wish to book, which room (board room upstairs or large meeting room downstairs), the nature of the event and the numbers of people you expect to attend. We will confirm as soon as possible. Teas and coffees are available. Thank you!

**IDENTITY BADGES**

It is a new policy, required by HMRI, that all volunteers and paid staff are to have “identity” badges. Separate inserts will also be issued for each qualification held. A wallet is being supplied to keep them in and a lanyard is available if desired (pick up from the Office). Badges should be carried at all times when on duty. Distribution of badges is beginning in December.

Obviously it is important that identity and qualification badges are only issued to bona fide volunteers (and staff). The process of producing and distributing the badges is being used to update the volunteers and staff database, so it is essential that everyone responds to the note sent out last month to ensure that you are kept on the distribution lists for newsletters and other communications.

Identity and qualification badges will show the first and surname of the individual concerned. Approximately half of those on the database have not yet responded; if you are one of these, please send in your full name and brief details of the work you do for the railway either to [volunteers@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com](mailto:volunteers@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com) or on paper to the Office at Leeming Bar, marked “for Volunteer Coordinator”.

Please note that “Welcome” badges are NOT being issued at this time; responses showed that the requirements differed for various categories of worker.

*Bob Whitehouse*

**250 CLUB**

The first year of operation for the 250 Club has now been completed. Overall it has been a successful one both in the number of Association Members that joined the Club and the financial help that has been given to the WRA. The Committee wish to thank those who became Club Members for their support during the first year of this Fund Raising Project.

During the year the Committee have made two donations to the WRA. In March £750 was presented to help with the repair and refurbishment of Aysgarth Cottage. Then in October a further £750 was presented to be used in the Track Fund specifically towards the purchase of Sleepers.

As a bonus for Club Members, forty eight of you have received a prize. For eleven months there has been a Draw consisting of four amounts; £66 ;£33;£16; £10 and at Christmas these amounts increase to £100: £50: £25: £15. The names of these prize winners have been published in the monthly Newsletter and on the Web.

Owing to circumstances beyond our control this information has only once been published in Relay. For the ensuing year this situation has been rectified.

Thanks go to Ken Monkman for assistance at the monthly draws by the provision of the Computer based “Random Selection Programme”.

*Peter Blakey*

**LINE-SIDE UPDATE**

Clearance of ragwort from the lineside was completed before autumn this year again, thanks to the sterling efforts of a few volunteers. Richard Hornsby worked at Redmire and also east of the A1, while Brian and Judith Clouston helped me tackle the weed at a number of tough locations each side of Leyburn and around Leeming Bar. Among others involved were Maureen and Margaret while manning the Wensley LC and the Aysgarth work group dealt with their patch.

Some of it has been burned but there are big bags full along the line which will need to be either collected by train or burned where they lie, but recent weather has hampered plans to do this. Thinking of next year, we will need support from appropriate persons to have it sprayed in April or May, but it seems that it is more under control after annual efforts for at least 5 years.

*Ron Healey*

**WEBSITE UPDATES**

If you notice something on one of the WR websites that needs deletion or correction, please let the webmaster know through the Contact Us button on the same website.

**RETAIL CORNER**

The Railway has recently been the very fortunate recipient of a large donation of OO gauge model railway stock and accessories which are to be sold (from the Leyburn shop) in aid of the WRA Track Appeal. A detailed inventory of the principal items is currently being prepared but in the meanwhile, a significant proportion of the stock is now for sale. Call in at Leyburn as soon as you can - first come, first served! The Leyburn shop has also received an extremely generous donation of transport and aircraft/military-related books and journals (including some very collectable items), so please check these out when you next visit.

**ROLLING STOCK GROUP**

With the 101 ( plus 110 trailer ) service train back in action at weekends our weekday cleaning effort increased. Despite the inclement weather, a brief lull gave opportunity to clean all the outside windows. More seat repairs and minor door defects were tackled and some unsightly stains (?) on the ceiling of the east power car were sanded, undercoated and white glossed. The graffitied side of the ' Toad ' brake van was rubbed down and repainted. The Coles crane has had winterisation work carried out - batteries removed and radiator frost protection. The Wickham trolley had damaged brake linkages repaired at Redmire, this enabled it's return to Leeming Bar.

Vandals struck at Bedale, breaking glass at the station building and signal box ( 3 times ). Trespass and breaking in to the 2 mk 2d coaches on the north headshunt occurred - first time entry was through a

missing door window. This was boarded up but the next weekend another door window was broken to allow entry. Inside the coaches was evidence of smoking, drinking and 3 attempts to set fire to the seating. Due to the anti-inflammatory materials damage was minimal. British Transport Police and the civil Police are involved.

The secure fastening to keep the 2 pedestrian gates shut at Bedale crossing was improved, to prevent the public opening them from the outside.

*Barry Wetherell*

**OPERATIONS**

At the beginning of November we provided infrastructure with an all day ballast train. Approx 350 tonnes of ballast were moved from Redmire yard to 4 sites on the line between Finghall and Redmire. We still have a large amount of ballast to transport to the embankment at Westfields when we have another delivery from the Cemex quarry. During October we had a concern over the wear on the DMU wheels. After detailed survey of all our DMU wheels it was discovered that 2 of the wheelsets on the "strathclyde" class 101 were within tolerance. We therefore removed a bogie from the "Strathclyde" and left the body supported on blocks. The 101 service train then had 2 bogies removed and the 2 worn wheelsets exchanged for those taken from the "Strathclyde". Whilst the 101 service train was out of service we also changed a faulty engine replacing it with one of our spare engines. The service train is now a 3 car unit running on 4 engines with all wheels within specification. Further work has been carried out to ensure that all 3 cars have heaters. During November we have had 2 MOD trains, the last of the trains was on the line 18<sup>th</sup> November when the weather was exceptionally wet. The train arrived at Redmire without problems, but when we were taking the train back to Castle Hills the River Swale was in flood and we were unable to allow the train over Morton bridge. The train was stabled at Leeming Bar station and eventually left the line late on 19<sup>th</sup>. Also on 19<sup>th</sup> we have hired a train to a company producing a feature film for the cinema; 3 unpaid "extras" were provided by the Railway; and all this while a MOD train was waiting in the station!

*Tim Williamson*

**RELAY BACK NUMBERS**

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@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com](mailto:relaybackissues@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com) or phone Paul Kenyon at 01748 824249

**Deadline for the next newsletter is 31<sup>st</sup> December.**  
**Send to:- Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733**  
[Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com](mailto:Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com)