



DATES FOR THE DIARY

February

7 Jan - 29 Spring Blockade
26 Special Work Party at Bedale

March

1 New Timetable starts
18 Volunteer Meeting
21 Middleham Stables Open Day
21-24 Easter Guided Walks

May

3-5 Dales Festival of Food & Drink
16-18 Local Community Rail Weekend
17 Aysgarth Guided Walk
26 Finghall Barrel Push

WRA SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Don't Forget to book tickets for the CIELIDH

This is a fundraising event so everyone is welcome

Saturday 8th March 2008

7.30 to 11.00pm

Crakehall Village Hall

Tickets £8.00 each which includes a light supper. Bring your own drink and glasses

Directions: Take A684 out of Bedale towards Leyburn. Crakehall is the first Village. Over the bridge turn right, the Village Hall is on the corner of the second left turning.

Tickets available from: Diane Sykes on 01677 426877 / 01748 822282 or email social@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com

SPRING CLEAN - THANKS

Very grateful thanks to everyone who helped with Operation Spring Clean - and for the continuing work in this connection.

Inevitably Operation Spring Clean revealed yet more tasks to be done! If you notice something that needs doing, please complete an Occurrence Form and return it to Leeming Bar office with your name and contact details for follow-up information if required. This WRITTEN notification is very important, so that tasks are included in the Rolling Workplan and

also so that urgent repairs can be prioritised and dealt with.

Ruth Annison

CLEANING GROUP

With all the excellent work that has been done during the closure it would be a shame if the trains didn't look in tip top condition. Maureen Stockbridge has taken over the CLEANING TEAM and now meets during the daytime, this would be a perfect opportunity to also give the trains a spring clean. If anyone came spare an hour or two please contact Maureen on 01748 822267 daytime,

SPECIAL WORKING PARTY AT BEDALE Tuesday 26th February

Recently we have become aware of complaints from Bedale residents about the appearance of the area around our signal box, the level crossing and the station. If you pay a visit you will see what the problem is. A working party will assemble at Bedale at 10am on Tuesday 26th February to clear away as much of the mess as possible and it would be appreciated if as many volunteers as possible could make themselves available. Any scrap metal, timber or other rubbish will be transported to Leeming Bar by rail.

VOLUNTEERS MEETING

The next Volunteers Meeting will be held at Leeming Bar Lodge Motel at 7.00 pm for 7.15 pm on Tuesday 18th March

VOLUNTEER UNIFORM COORDINATOR

Please note that the Volunteer Uniform Coordinator is **Rachel White** and not Dave Turner as shown in last month's Newsletter.

HERITAGE RAIL PASS LAST ORDERS

Active volunteers who require the pass for 2009 must contact John Mazzucchi on 01423 866725 asap. I will be ordering these shortly *John Mazzucchi (Treasurer WRA Ltd)*

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

ROLLING STOCK GROUP

Principal activity has been cleaning of graffiti. The 2 First Great Western (FGW) coaches were done in advance of the proposed vinyl stripping. The south (platform) side of the 101s, 50746 and 51210 is now ready for partial repainting. Internal work in 50746 has involved repairs to seat squabs and partial redecoration of the west, former first class compartment.

Opportunity was taken when part of the works train, on a short visit from Half-mile headshunt (that's the walking distance there and back) was at the platform long enough to fit reflective safety strips to 2 Dogfish hoppers and the Tube wagon.

Good news on the rolling stock front. Another FGW coach, a half brake, arrived. There is still a chance that a buffet coach, to make a complete rake, will arrive.

Motive power is the headline news. 2 groups of enthusiastic local members have made a strong commitment to the Railway -47 715 Poseidon (formerly Haymarket) was bought by ' MTT Rail ' from Cotswold Rail. On Thursday 14 February it had on a successful test run to Bedale.(nb. - it is interesting to note that our first item of rolling stock , the buffet coach 69335 , was also bought from Cotswold Rail, in April 2000 !).

51 400, a class 117 Driving Motor Standard has been bought by ' FSDG ' (I just love acronyms) from the Watercress Line at Alresford in Hampshire. It will remain there until mid April to honour a previous commitment.

Barry Wetherall

LEEMING BAR STATION SUPPORT GROUP (LBSSG)

Much has been achieved in the last 4 weeks. Thanks to Rob and Len we now have a paved entrance to the toilet block, which should make it far easier to keep the loos clean. The counter end of the buffet is almost finished, with improved drainage, additional water taps, modified electrics and greatly increased worktop and storage areas and the whole area has been seriously deep cleaned. The seating end is also nearing completion with the removal of several seats to improve access, the repair of all damaged wall panels and the repair and steam cleaning of all the seat cushions. Sue and Malcolm Thompson, Anne and Andy Richardson, Joe Skimming and Gill Thornton have been the regular workforce

throughout. Work on the revised shop layout is also well advanced. Externally Paul Stephens, Paul Clarke and Mike Alexander are rapidly working their way around the station area re-proofing all the fencing and Bob Young has supplied some new station signs to replace the tatty paper versions in use up to now. Despite all the progress, there is still much to do if you wish to join us any Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday

CARPET FITTER WANTED

A quantity of carpeting has been donated and we would like to see it fitted on the landing and staircase in the Leeming Bar Station house. We are therefore looking for a volunteer to undertake the task.

Please contact Mike Sheehan (01609 776518) in the first instance.

Mike Sheehan

TRAIN SERVICES RESUME

SCHEDULED TRAIN SERVICES RUN AGAIN
FROM SATURDAY MARCH 1.

Please see printed timetable or website for times and dates, including Special Events. Please also note the new train departure times, which give a longer day up the dale for walkers, more 'dwell time' at Leyburn in the middle of the day for shopping and refreshments - and also more time for work parties to have uninterrupted access to the track on operating days.

EASTER 2008

North Yorkshire school holidays start with the Easter week-end, for two weeks, whereas schools in several surrounding areas are not on holiday (except Easter W/E) until a fortnight later. Please note that the WR timetable has daily train services to fit in with the North Yorkshire school holidays (only) from March 21 - April 6. There will be Guided Walks from WR stations (Redmire or Leyburn) on each of the four days of the holiday week-end with a special Children's Walk on Easter Sunday.