



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 10th March – Volunteers meeting at The Lodge, Leeming Bar (please note change of original planned date)
Saturday 7th February – Induction Course for new volunteers, 9am -12 at Leeming Bar

Wednesday 25th February – Relay Packing, Crakehall (see below)

Saturday 28 February – PTS Course (see below)

Weekend 18th/19th July – Operation Dalesman 40's event

Thursday 12 November – Coffee Morning at Richmond (see below)

IMPORTANT! *Leaflets and posters advertising Operation Dalesman will be ready in about a week. Please assist the publicity by distributing these – see Amanda Pearson (Leeming Bar) or David Collins (Leyburn) for stocks.*

Ruth Annison

PTS COURSE 28th Feb 2009

There will be a Personal Track Safety (PTS) course on Saturday 28th Feb at Leeming Bar/Bedale (depending on numbers) for new volunteers and re-tests. The course will start at 09.30 and will be followed by test and certification. Course should take around 3 ½ 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). Names to Leeming Bar or john@airborneit.co.uk

John Thompson

BEDALE STATION GROUP

We have submitted a detailed proposal to the plc Board about the future use of the building, primarily the ground floor, and at the time of writing are awaiting their response. Meanwhile we have carried out various small maintenance jobs and started work to recreate the garden on the embankment opposite the platform. We would welcome more members and (anticipating that fitting the catering area will be next big task) would like to find someone with plumbing and joinery skills. Please email bsg@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com or phone 01609 761059. Also, in these tough times, if anyone becomes aware of a café going out of business and selling equipment, please let us know. There are still several safety and security issues to do with the inside of the station building and there is no access at present except by prior arrangement with me or John Ozelton.

Peter Harbord

HERITAGE RAIL PASSES

Active WRA volunteers may apply for a HR Rail Pass; this enables holders, plus one other, to travel on heritage / independent railways (not all participate in the scheme) either

at a reduced rate or in many cases free of charge. However, they are usually NOT usable at 'special events.' If you visit these railways three / four times year they are well worth considering. The cost for 2009/10 is £22.

If you are a current holder and wish to renew please forward a cheque for £22 made payable to Heritage Railway Association Ltd, if you are new please fill in an application form (available from Signing On Room at Leeming or contact me 01423 866725. Cheques and completed application forms may be left in my tray at Leeming.

John Mazzucchi / Treasurer WRA Ltd

LEEMING BAR MESS ROOM

Users of the Mess may have noticed we have been having difficulty in obtaining hot water even when the fire is lit. One of the causes has been an air lock in the system. The ball cock in the tank feeding the primary circuit has been found to be faulty. This has been replaced by Mike Pack, a rather difficult job, since due to limited head room in the loft Mike had to undertake the job by laying down on his side. Thanks to Mike.

John Mazzucchi

VACANCY

We need someone to be the focal point for the ordering and distributing of items of uniform (Rachel, who did the job previously, now works full-time). It involves receiving and collating the orders, collecting and handing-in the cheques to the Office, ordering the new stock and ensuring it is distributed (or left for collection) by the owners. Not a heavy task, but will relieve the office staff of a useful, self-contained job. Please contact Amanda Pearson at the Office.

FEEDBACK FROM SANTA SPECIALS

We have had many complimentary comments about the Santa Specials. A letter from Sitelink Communications is an example:- "The trip can be summed up by the following – well planned, well organised, well executed, child centred, well thought out, age appropriate presents". (There was more in that vein!)

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's nomination is **Brian Ledger**.

Brian, who lives in York, is a regular at Leeming Bar, where he frequently operates the on-train buffet and, perhaps as importantly, seems to be ready to fill any breach at a moment's notice! He also organises and runs the regular fund-raising events at St Crux in York and has recently branched out to other events such as table top sales. If you have noticed the pictures which decorate the trains, this is Brian's work and he is a man of many talents in that he produces and sells items on behalf of the railway such as notelets and cards and even knits jumpers for sale in the station shops!

Congratulations and our thanks to Brian!

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

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FUNDRAISING

Help required for St Crux (York) fund-raising coffee morning and sale on Wednesday 18 March 09. We require volunteers to be there from 8.30 to help Brian Ledger set up. Please let Brian know if you can help at any time during the day – tel 01904 701170

Richmond coffee morning - Thursday 12 November (To be Confirmed) 9am to 12pm. This is a good opportunity to promote Santa Trains as well as make some money. Please let me know if you are available to help tel 01325 251204 (after 6pm please. Leave a message if I am not in thanks)

Easyfundraising, our internet fundraising site has so far raised £710.55

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/wra

Easysearch, our fundraising search engine is doing well and has raised £131.11. Please encourage all your friends and relatives who have internet access to use this site to raise approximately 1p per search. 1,000,000 searches would give us up to £10,000

www.wra.easysearch.org.uk

The Track Appeal has so far raised £16,394

Ken Monkman

RELAY PACKING

Wed 25 Feb 2009 at Crakehall Village Hall, starting at 7pm. Membership renewals will be included in the posting, so therefore the more hands the better. Refreshments etc provided as usual.

Angus Maude

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. Perhaps you may have copies of the Issues we are looking for and would like to donate them to the Railway. The Issues in question are 1 - 9, 11, 12, 14, 26, 32, 33, 34, and 48. If you would like to help email relaybackissues@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com or phone Paul Kenyon at 01748 824249.

SECURITY (message from Tubby)

You may remember that at a Volunteers' meeting last year I suggested that if anybody was passing the station at Leeming during the night they should do as I do and drive into the carpark, full headlights on, keep to the left and as you progress slowly you can see into the yard and then if you continue on and drive up the platform ramp the effect on any trespassers might scare them away! I do not know if anybody ever does this except me but it cannot do any harm. It could also be of use during our spring shut down at any time of the day or night.

Tubby Booth

ROLLING STOCK REPORT

The group has collaborated with Ops. group on the installation of BR style cast iron stoves in the Shark and BR (TOAD) brake vans. Work has started on the 110 trailer repaint with preparation work carried out on the south (platform side) roof. This will continue in February. We are about to begin a complete sanding down of the north side of the body in

preparation for an all-over layer of body filler when the weather improves.

Following the popularity of the tables added to FSDG's 117 motor unit in time for the December trains, we are now planning to fit 12 tables in the PLC's 101/117/101 (blue) set. 2 are already fitted in the 117 trailer and work will continue in February.

A tall signal post, with a number of fittings, has been recovered from the undergrowth east of Bedale. Cleaning and repairs are underway. For this work the group's acronym will still apply but will stand for Rusty (I nearly said Ruddy !) Signal Gang !

Barry Wetherell

250 CLUB

Winners in recent draws:-

January – 1st John Savage £66, 2nd Anthony Kemp £33, 3rd Miss G Lewis £16, 4th AV Pennell £10

February – 1st Ian Sesnan £66, 2nd Raymond Moss £33, 3rd Mrs G Black £16, 4th Mr R Chambers £10

Peter Blakey

JOINT-WORKING WORKSHOP

A very productive workshop under the chairmanship of Ian Sesnan was held in Crakehall Village Hall on Saturday 31st January. The intention was to explore ways in which the three organisations involved in the running of the railway – ie WRplc, WRA and WR Trust – could improve joint working. A full report will be in the next newsletter; suffice to say at this stage that it was a very useful day.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new volunteers who have recently completed their induction course:-

Michelle Bray, Trevor and Maureen Boning, Bill Simmon, Ian Wetherill and David Wilkinson.

We very much hope that you enjoy working with us.

A further eight new volunteers will be attending the next induction course on 7th February.

WALKS

A meeting of leaders of group walks (linked with WR journeys) was held at Leyburn on 28th January. This was to start the planning of the group walks for 2009.

In addition, a meeting has been held with Di Jolland and Mauram Burner of DInaMO Publications (you may have seen them with Luke Casey on "Dales Diary"). Their leaflets of short and long walks for individuals and families, also encouraging use of public transport, have been sold at Leyburn Station. The plan now is to develop more such walks and to link them specifically with WR train services. Leaflets will be available in 2009 in all of our sales locations.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Deadline for contributions (welcome from anyone) for the next newsletter is 28th February. Send to:-

Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733

Email pandmsmith@galtres.eclipse.co.uk

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.

Philip Smith