



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 6th February – 10am at Bedale Station – induction course for new volunteers

Thursday 11th February - 2pm - afternoon tea train (private booking) – volunteers wanted to help on the day and on Wed 10th to clean and set up (1030am at Leeming Bar) and on Fri 12th in the morning to help clear up. (Contact Amanda at Office)

Thursday 11th February – 7.30pm at Scruton Village Hall – open meeting on Scruton Station restoration.

Sunday 21st February – Special day of train services in aid of Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion.

Tuesday 2nd March - Volunteers meeting – 7.15pm at The Lodge, Leeming Bar (please note venue)

4th and 17th March – Open meetings for all volunteers associated with retail or catering. 1030am at Leeming Bar. (Contact Amanda at Office)

Thursday 25th March – Coffee Morning at Richmond – see below.

Wensleydale Railway plc Share Offer.

The Prospectus and arrangements are well advanced for this and it is hoped that it will be launched late in February. Everything concerning the share offer is bound by complex law and we will receive a script from our solicitors (Wrigleys) which we can use to deal with any enquiries re the share offer. I will circulate that as soon as it is available. In the meantime, if asked, the best thing is simply to say “the launch is expected at the end of February”. Plc shareholders and WRA members will, of course receive direct notification. We are developing a company information section on the web-site and as soon as we have the formal go ahead we will have the launch date etc on there – so by mid-February people will be able to update themselves by looking at the web-site.

Please communicate!

In my 4 years serving on the plc Board by far the biggest element of my “postbag” is colleagues frustrated at not having replies from other colleagues for what they regard as an unacceptably long time. This causes a lot of upset, extra work and misunderstanding; ultimately we do lose volunteers too because we don’t communicate (we also lose some because we do communicate inappropriately sometimes!).

I am no great model of good practice myself (as some of you will know!) but I would suggest that both parties could help. The recipient could try to always to respond even just with an acknowledgement within x number of days and if they are struggling to respond to let the other person know. Some companies have standards for responding to communications because they realise how important it is to the business to keep information and

decision making flowing. The person sending an email, or other communication, needs to be courteous and realistic in expectations. Everyone involved in the railway is balancing what they can do for the railway with the rest of their lives so may not be able to respond straight away. More importantly they may be dealing with urgent critical safety issues that have to come first.

We can all also help by keeping communications short, to the point, courteous and copied only appropriately. For those that use letters or the telephone there are well established practices but for email the etiquette is still developing; there are web-sites such as <http://emailreplies.com> which might help. I won’t repeat their 32 guidelines here but suggest one of my own; *email should never be used for criticising colleagues’ performance or behaviour to others – these are personnel issues which should be treated as such whether someone is paid or unpaid.* I hope these thoughts help and hereby apologise to anyone still waiting for a reply from me!

Ian Sesnan

WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY "HELPS OUR HEROES"

On Sunday 21st February 2010 Wensleydale Railway will be running our normal 3 train service from Leeming bar to Redmire. All the profits from ticket sales and collections on the day will be donated to **Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion**. Please help us to make this a huge success; if anyone would like a copy of the poster to display please email me at chairman@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com or give me a ring (after 6pm) and I will send a poster to you. This will be a diesel locomotive running day so we will be expecting our usual crowd of enthusiasts, plus we have invited troops from the Garrison and RAF Leeming. Supporters of the two charities have also been invited to attend. There is also the general public who wish to support our armed forces as well.

The day will see all six MK2 coaches in use, thanks to the volunteers who have cleaned the graffiti from one of the coaches. Volunteers have also been working to get the heating and all the toilets working in the stock. A cleaning party will take place at Leeming Bar on Wednesday 17 Feb from 10am and on Saturday 20 Feb. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to make the day successful. Please spread the word.

Ken Monkman - Heroes Train Organiser

250 CLUB

January winners- 1st John Wrigley- £78; 2nd Tom Clift - £39; 3rd Rick Beardmore £21; 4th Harry Foster £13

Peter Blakey

CONGRATULATIONS

To the staff of both Richmondshire TICs for their results in the *2009 VisitEngland Mystery Shopper* awards. Richmond came out top of all the tourist information centres in Yorkshire and 4th nationally (a fantastic result!) and Leyburn came 4th in Yorkshire, 16th nationally. Staff in these (and other local TICs) answer many questions about the Wensleydale Railway and display WR timetables and posters so we have a lot to thank them for. Our own Betty Ackrill (FOLS) has been a member of the team at Leyburn for some years so perhaps she will be able to pass on our congratulations to all those concerned.

25% DISCOUNT! There is a 25% discount on rates for winter breaks at the Aysgarth station cottage for *any remaining vacant dates* between now and the beginning of March (i.e when the next Relay reaches readers). As I write this, the three nights of 11, 12 and 13 February are among the dates still available so, if you fancy taking someone special to stay in a warm and cosy cottage in the middle of a Yorkshire wood - and waking up there on the morning of Valentine's Day, Sunday 14th February! – just phone me on 01969 650349. *(The advertised all- inclusive rate for a three night break at the cottage before the end of February is £160 so the discounted rate is £120, payable in full by cheque or credit card to secure the booking).*

Ruth Annison

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's volunteer of the month is a threesome! **Rod Morris, his wife Janet and son Colin**, who together organise the WR stands at a wide variety of events near and far. They work together and the events they plan and attend go like clockwork. They also prepare, maintain and regularly update the WR display in Mitchell's Newsagents in Northallerton High Street. All these events take place far from the Morris family home in Peterborough, and all involve booking local accommodation so they can attend events; long mileages (often early or late in the day); correspondence with organisers; compliance with Health and Safety requirements and its documentation; preparation and transport of displays and posters; records and post-event reports. Moreover, they have also added one day WR stands staffed by his team at various branches of national supermarkets in the area - a very successful innovation to the programme. Their hallmarks are the marketing professionalism of what they do for WR and their enthusiasm, contributing a huge number of paying passengers to us. Congratulations and our thanks to Rod, Janet and Colin.

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

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Ian Kippax, who has joined us as a volunteer and has completed his induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

FUNDRAISING IN RICHMOND

The last issue included a report on the recent coffee morning in Richmond. Maureen Stockbridge, who wrote the report and organised the event, wrote a slightly longer piece for insertion in Relay. Unfortunately, through an error of mine, this did not reach the editor; I have offered her my apologies. Maureen is a modest person who makes a great contribution to the Railway. She says, 'Normally I look after the crossing at Wensley, a job I really enjoy – watching the wild life etc. in all weathers'. She adds, 'I have also driven the train! – cleaned it, inside and out, when covered in graffiti, and several other jobs'.

The 'other jobs' include her organising of the Richmond coffee mornings. She needs more local help with the next one, on 25th March, so if you live in the area and can contribute a few hours please phone her on 01748 822267.

David Haxby

ID CARDS

A good number are still in the Leeming Bar office and awaiting collection. All volunteers are expected to carry their ID card when on duty. A lanyard is available for those who wish to display their card, but this is not a requirement.

UNIFORM

Uniforms ordered recently have been held back pending a decision on a new logo for the Wensleydale Railway. It is not expected that these will be ordered through the suppliers until March or April. For new orders please contact me as follows:-

Email uniform@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com or tel 01609 748326

Michael Mitton

HELP!

We have a couple of parties booked for next weekend 7th Feb and the coaching stock needs a freshen up. Could someone or two or three come and undertake this task during next week please. It would be a good idea to bring your own cloth as they disappear quickly here. RSVP to admin@wensleydalerrailway.com

Amanda

BUMPER SALE OF BOOKS

FOLS will be holding a mega sale of books in "Arthur's" tearbar (Leyburn Station) in aid of the WRA Track Appeal on **Easter Sunday and Monday 4/5 April 2010**. Please spread the word! As mentioned in the December "Rail Link", the display of books in the Leyburn shop has been significantly enlarged recently by a very generous donation of transport and military themed items (including aircraft, cars, ships). Don't forget to browse these during your next visit and to check out the pre-owned OO gauge model railway while stocks last (going fast!).

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MISSING!

A valued part of the FOLS team has been missing for some time. Can you assist our enquiries? (all information treated in the strictest confidence):-
Description: A large blue mailbag whose mission in life was to carry post and messages from Leyburn to Leeming Bar and back. It happily and tirelessly carried out these duties for months then one day unaccountably failed to return home to its hanging hook. Its absence is a source of much sadness at Leyburn; please check your drawers, filing cabinets, wardrobes, rolling stock, cars, sheds, garages etc as it may have taken refuge there. If found, please reassure it that it will be welcomed back into the FOLS fold with no questions asked.

Sandra Ward

FUND-RAISING

Help required for St Crux (York) fund-raising coffee mornings and sales on Tuesday 18 May and Tuesday 14 September. Please let Brian Ledger know if you can help at any time during the day – tel 01904 701170

PHOTOS WANTED

Does anybody have a photo of a train on the South Curve into Northallerton Station? If so, will you please email a copy to me at jmghraham158@btinternet.com or ring 01642 722596.

John Graham

ELECTIONS TO THE WRA BOARD

This year elections will be conducted under the provisions of the revised Articles of Association. Any member intending to be nominated should note that nominations are now required 42 days before the AGM, which in practice means by the end of Friday 23rd April. If any member requires a copy of the revised Articles, I can supply this most conveniently by email, but for those who do not have access to the internet, I will supply a hard copy if you write to me.

David Haxby, Secretary

BACK ISSUES OF RELAY

Are available for a donation of Min £1 from Leyburn Station Shop. Alternatively contact relaybackissues@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com or telephone Paul Kenyon on 01748 824249

ROLLING STOCK GROUP

The 4 cream/red coaches will see service in February so work has started on toilet and seating repairs. Allan Schofield's 110 DMCL 51842 has been measured for steel casing repairs to a door and the corridor end panel. The 110 TSL 59701 has had a section of missing wooden window frame replaced. Stripping of the 101 Strathclyde has continued and all seating and heaters have been removed. In the December newsletter I reported that the MLV had been entered by vandals. A previously broken hasp on the internal sliding door was replaced then and the door padlocked shut.

Between 9 and 23 January the hasp was broken off again, leaving the still locked padlock in the keep. Strangely, a clear, sticky substance had been sprayed on the lock. The outside doors were still locked and there was no other sign of forced entry. Another new hasp was fitted - this is a frustrating use of time and money. The Ops. Manager has a key for the padlock, as do I. Anyone needing to access the stored items must use this key and report damage immediately.

Barry Wetherell

OPERATIONS

Our running season ended with a Sulzer day on Saturday 2nd Jan, due to the failure of 47703 with a traction motor bearing fault, 47715 pulled all 3 trains, with 20166 acting as station pilot at Leeming Bar. 47703, 47540 and 25313 were positioned in the yard for photographs. During the following week a special school trip and an MOD train were both postponed because of severe weather. Temperatures at Leeming were as low as -7, and Redmire had almost 300mm of snow. Winter maintenance started with overhauls on the 101 DMU forward / reverse air cylinders, this put the 3 car unit back onto 4 engines ready for the start of the 2010 season. 20166 has a long list of minor repairs which we hope to begin in the near future. In mid January we ran the postponed school trip and another 2 MOD trains. During December / January we have recruited a number of very keen volunteers. On recent Saturdays we have had as many as 12 working on various projects. More are always welcome.

Tim Williamson

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.wensleydalerrailway.com) in one of the blue boxes in the right hand margin

VOLUNTEERS TEAM

Very shortly, we will be reorganising the team which looks after the new volunteers; we will have a Volunteer Coordinator, an Induction Coordinator and a number of people who will do induction sessions and mentor new volunteers. This is a positive effort to try to improve the retention of volunteers, as too many new people are put off, for various reasons, from continuing after their early experiences on the WR. More in the next newsletter.

Deadline for the next newsletter is 7th March (the next newsletter will be a little later than usual – contributions will not be acknowledged, as I will not be here to do so!)

Send to:- Philip Smith c/o Leeming Office or Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com