



DATES FOR THE DIARY

January

- 20 Ceilidh at BASA Bedale
- 24 Volunteers Induction Course Leeming
- 27 Volunteers Induction Course Leeming
- 30 Volunteers Meeting Leeming Bar

March

- 27 Volunteers Meeting Leeming Bar
- 30 Hertfordshire Rail Tours special train.

***CEILIDH ON 20TH JANUARY 2007,
7.30pm. at BEDALE ATHLETIC &
SPORTS ASSOCIATION. TICKETS £7.00
EACH WHICH INCLUDES A LIGHT
SUPPER. THERE WILL BE A BAR FOR
LIQUID REFRESHMENTS.***

Booking forms and cheques should be made payable to the WRA Ltd. For further details/last minute bookings contact Diane Sykes on: 01677 426877 / 426600 or email social@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

CHRISTMAS TRAIN SERVICES A BIG THANK YOU!

This is to thank all those who were involved in any way with the preparations and running of services over the Christmas holidays, and especially the busy Santa Specials period and every day from Boxing Day to New Years Day when so many other people were away. Whether you were behind the scenes or very visible, it all helped to ensure a smooth-running operation and good customer service – thank you.
For those who were away, or live too far away to help at this time of year, you will be interested to know that the volume of Santa bookings led to the provision of extra trains. There were six Santa Specials on Christmas Eve (in addition to the normal service trains)! In 2007, there will be an extra day's trading before Christmas after most people finish work on Friday December 21 so an even larger team of helpers will be needed. - please make a note in your 2007 diary for October or early November to sign up on the rotas if you would like to help next time.

GUIDED WALKS:

A programme of walks has been arranged for each Sunday up to April 1, based on the 10.35 departure from Leeming Bar and 15.35 from Redmire - for details see the website or phone 08454 50 54 74. Most walks are 5-6 miles moderate but the March 25 walk led by Andy Feather will be 8 miles. Please spread the word about these Guided Walks to help establish them as they are a vital means of increasing passenger numbers during the winter. All walkers should wear suitable footwear and clothing, bring food and, especially, drinks.

For this winter (only), walks starting from Redmire station start at 11.30; walks starting from Leyburn station start at 11.50, to allow time for the train to bring passengers from Redmire to join the walk. For passengers with valid same-day WR rail tickets, there is no charge for the Guided Walk; otherwise £2. Walk leaders have been appointed for this period but 'tail-end charlies' are still needed for most Sundays (to close gates, see no-one gets left behind, support the leader etc). If you can help with this by joining the Guided Walk on any Sunday between now and April 1, please ring Ruth Annison

2007 TIMETABLE LEAFLITS AND DISTRIBUTION:

The new timetable leaflet for 2007 and through to 29th February 2008 (Leap Year Day) will be available early next month. This overlaps with the present timetable, which will not be out of date until after April 1 but also contains much new information about events (including Easter), Guided Walks and Driver Experience days etc. Please tell Amanda if you can help, either with initial distribution of the new leaflet or monitoring displays supplies. It is essential that we keep control of the stock of leaflets, so please fill in the record (new system) with your name, contact tel, where you will be taking leaflets and approx how many you have taken.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Leyburn station repair works update:

Works have continued through the festive period to achieve the requirements set out in the property lease for the upkeep and maintenance of the station buildings and property portfolio at Leyburn.

Initially volunteer levels were disappointedly low, but over the weekend of 29/30 December a sizeable number of volunteers turned out and made significant progress against the project plan timeline.

To date the following has been achieved:

Cottage No.2 (internal)

Upstairs northeast bedroom redecorated
100% complete

Upstairs northwest bedroom redecorated
100% complete

Upstairs southeast bedroom redecorated
80%

Upstairs bathroom redecorated 90%

Landing and stairwell

- All paper stripped ready for painting, all woodwork sanded and washed ready for painting.
- All curtain rails, fixtures and fittings removed.
- All upstairs floor boarding resecured.

Hallway and stairs

- All paper stripped ready for painting, all woodwork sanded and washed ready for painting.
- All surplus materials (magazines) removed.

Downstairs southeast room

- All retail items relocated and stored in this room.

Downstairs kitchen area

- All walls plaster-repaired and fully sanded down
- All woodwork sanded and washed ready for painting.
- Woodwork undercoated 30%
- All surplus retail units and shelving loaded on to service trains and despatched to Leeming Bar for storage.
- Gas boiler and full central heating system inspected, tested, commissioned and restored to working order by certificated Corgi-registered technician (free of charge).

Leyburn station (external)

Platform drainage excavated, down pipe repaired and reinstated (see separate report)

Platform 'low spots' refilled and levelled

Pipe work sanded and painted

Weatherseal refixed to No.2 cottage doorway

Vegetation clearance opposite platform where trees were encroaching into telephone wires

Redundant track uplifted

Redundant tracked graded and tidied

There is much more to do and work will continue over coming weeks, volunteers are much needed for the indoor works in particular. Please give us some assistance; it is unfair to expect one or two individuals to do it all every time, we're all in this together. It's a great social activity, good opportunity to meet and get to know each other - oh, and we're exceptionally well looked after by the Friends Of Leyburn Station (FOLS) with refreshments and a warm fire!

GREAT NEWS!

A local contractor very supportive of our cause, has offered to undertake the external building repairs to the cottages at no labour cost. This includes roof slate repairs, roof timber façade repairs, gutter repairs and pointing of the window frames beneath the lintels etc.

Whilst we shall have to fund the materials, the labour cost savings and obvious professional skills are a tremendous saving to and acceleration of our programme. The need for unskilled volunteers to work at height is also eliminated, a great safety issue.

Further, another local contractor has offered us a JCB 3CX machine complete with driver and supervisor for 8 hours on a forthcoming Saturday work party day at no cost.

This will allow us to complete the regarding at Leyburn on the redundant track bed, uplift the remaining scrap sleepers and extend the crossing at Peter Blacks to allow the HGV domestic gas delivery tanker to safely cross the railway there. We should also have some time to clear drainage under the west (A684) bridge at Leyburn too.

These are both superb examples of local contractors wishing and willing to support our cause with practical provision. We are establishing some good relationships and people do now want to step forward and help us. This can only be good for the future.

PLANNED WORKS for the next 8 weeks:

Sat 20 Jan Leyburn YDCP LXing
Uplift timbers
Resleeper
Fit check chairs
Fit check rails
Vegetation clearance
Leyburn station
Redecoration work party

Wed 24 Jan Yafforth
Remove damaged fencing

Sat 27 Jan Leyburn
Formation grading
Drainage repairs
Level crossing works
Vegetation clearance
Leyburn station
Redecoration work party

Wed 31 Jan Constable Burton
Clean out line side drain
Clean & check all loop points

Sat 3 Feb Harmby cutting
Vegetation clearance
Leyburn station
Redecoration work party

Wed 7 Feb Leeming Bar to Crakehall
Mobile track repairs

Sat 10 Feb Bedale Rand
Vegetation clearance
Leyburn station
Redecoration work party.

Wed 14 Feb Crakehall to Finghall
Mobile track repairs.

Sat 17 Feb Harmby cutting
Vegetation clearance
Leyburn station
Redecoration work party.

Wed 21 Feb Finghall to Leyburn
Mobile track repairs

Sat 24 Feb Spruce Gill
Vegetation clearance
Leyburn station
Redecoration work party

Wed 28 Feb Leyburn to Wensley
Mobile track repairs

Sat 3 Mar Redmire East
Vegetation clearance
Leyburn station
Redecoration work party

DRIVER EXPERIENCE DAYS:

The next dates are February 13 and March 13. If you are interested, or know anyone else who might be, please tell the office so that information may be sent or see the website www.wensleydalerrailway.com