



## Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - Volunteers meeting (for all volunteers) – 7.15pm at The Lodge, Leeming Bar (please note change of venue)

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Coffee Morning at Richmond – see below.

### FROM PLC CHAIRMAN

The huge efforts by volunteers throughout the year seen and unseen gave us another successful year. The monumental efforts to run the Santa Specials in such difficult conditions were well rewarded by strong uptake and income. I travelled on one with a friend's family and there was no doubt that they are a very good experience. I travelled the next day with family on another railway down South and even though it was steam hauled the experience was not nearly as good in terms of the value for money and the level of customer focus on our train. Our mince pies were home baked and delicious – theirs were obviously standard ones out of a packet - though they did have carol singing.

The success of Santa has helped us for the lean 3 months to come but we must keep a rigid control on spending so that we can start the next financial year with some reasonable budgets. The winter is going to bring more massive challenges as we undertake further intense infrastructure works and many thanks are due to everyone who will be undertaking this work and to the WRA for their practical and financial support.

*Ian Sesnan*

### FROM GENERAL MANAGER

**Operation Pathfinder:- Keeping Castle Hills to Leeming Bar open** - Your railway needs you ! The line between Leeming Bar and Castle Hills needs urgent track repair work undertaken if we are to avoid the closure of this section. The WRA track appeal has provided funds to undertake this work and now we need the people to help us to change 300 sleepers by 31<sup>st</sup> March. It is vital that we get the volunteer labour to do this. The railway really needs you; if we get the volunteers then we are home and dry!

What is involved:-

Working parties:-

every Saturday from 16<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> March

Tues & Weds from w/c 18<sup>th</sup> Jan as required

You do not need to be an infrastructure guru. Paul Warren and the diesel group have volunteered their services and David Walker's Direct works team will also be helping as will other regular volunteers. Myself and other non track people will also be giving time to the

task. We need more hands on deck to help lift and place sleepers, remove vegetation etc as we still need to preserve the gangs who work on the Leeming-Redmire section.

If we complete this work, then we can add trains to Scruton and back to make more of a product of our visitors to Leeming Bar.

This is a serious appeal. Please be part of it. While Andrew Chapman and Tim Williamson are the Leaders for Infrastructure and Operations, the office will coordinate the volunteer roster with them. To give your time, please call

Amanda Pearson/ or the office staff on 01677 425805

Amanda@wensleydalerailway.com

*Kevin Powell*

### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's volunteer of the month is *John Ellis*. He has worked on the railway for a few years now in various capacities including track patroller and crossing keeper which also requires him to attend to the crossings when the army trains are on the line. This involves him getting up at 04.30 in all weathers. He is also a member of the Northallerton Branch committee and volunteers to attend various outside events in order to publicise the railway. John also has a background in electrical matters. All round a volunteer who is credit to the railway. Congratulations and our thanks to John.

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

### WELCOME

A warm welcome to David Dalton, Charles Hickson and Adam Lyle, who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

### RICHMOND FUND-RAISING

At the recent coffee morning held in Richmond Town Hall, we raised £242.75 for the Track Appeal. I am told that this sum will buy 10 new sleepers! Many thanks to all who helped.

Another coffee morning is planned for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March; please put the date in your diary and come along to help.

*Maureen Stockbridge*

### 250 CLUB

November Winners - £60 Brian Ledger; £30 Mr K. Wood; £15 Mrs J. Bishop; £10 Caroline Baxter.

Christmas Draw Mrs M Clacey £90; Mr E Caldwell £45; Sandra Ward £23; Cliff Thorpe £12.

*Peter Blakey*

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### THANKS

We would like to thank Tubby for organising the Christmas Dinner at Scruton, we thoroughly enjoyed the evening and look forward to many more such events. Also would you please include in the next newsletter our thanks to Amanda and team for the excellent evening on the Jazz and Blues and Ale Train. We look forward to another such event in the summer. It was an excellent event and enjoyed by everyone who travelled on the train. Thanks again everyone.

*Judith and Colin Sykes*

### VOLUNTEER DATABASE

During this month, I will be amending the database; this is the list and contact details of all our registered volunteers. Those volunteers who have not responded to the call for details for Identity Badges are in danger of being taken off! This will mean that they will no longer receive this newsletter or other communications which are sent out to all volunteers. If you are one of these persons and wish to stay as a volunteer please inform me urgently; persons who have already received their ID badge (some are in the Office waiting for collection) or who have registered within the last 6 months do not need to contact me as they will stay on the database.

Email [volunteers@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com](mailto:volunteers@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com) or leave a message in my tray at the Leeming Bar office.

*Philip Smith*

### UNIFORM

The most recent uniform order has now arrived and items are available for collection from the office at Leeming Bar Station. Please pay any money owed direct to Amanda or other office staff when you collect your uniform. The next order will be submitted slightly later than usual around the 15th January as I shall be away until after New Year, so please send any uniform requirements to me before that date.

Email [uniform@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com](mailto:uniform@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com) or tel 01609 748326

*Michael Mitton*

### ATTRACTING AND SAFEGUARDING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

The future of the railway depends on us developing younger volunteers but the laws relating to children and young people and the various tasks that we undertake are fairly complex and different for different activities. A good starting point would be for someone to research all the legal and other implications. Would anyone like to offer to do this? Guidance will be given and this could be done as a one off task or as an ongoing responsibility. Contact me through Leeming Bar Office or on [training@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com](mailto:training@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com)

*Bob Whitehouse*

### BEDALE STATION BOOKINGS

Please note that the mobile phone number at Bedale Station is **07974 412 593**. The BSG details on the

WRA website remain the same. BSG volunteers continue to work on the premises, to provide a ticket office and shop, with modest catering facilities for coffees, teas and refreshments. The downstairs room can accommodate meetings and events for approx 60 (seated). A pleasant committee-room upstairs can seat about 15.

### ROLLING STOCK GROUP

Further work carried out to restrict the access of vandals to coaching stock parked on the south headshunt. 5 more door windows were blanked off and 3 internal doors locked shut on the 2 mk 2d carriages ; security of 2 external windows on the MLV was improved and an internal door padlocked shut. The internal partitions in the 110 east power car needed repairs to window frame beadings. New wooden beadings were fabricated, fitted and varnished.

Door operation checked and inside windows and frames cleaned in the cream/red mk 2a coaches, which were used for the Leeming Bar Santa Specials. The wooden access steps on 3 of the 4 Dogfish ballast hoppers were repaired. A hole, caused by trespassers, was repaired in the north fence near the ground frame. Seat frames that were removed from the Strathclyde had been stored untidily in the goods shed. They were moved to safe storage in the grey box van, which will not be used in the works train. Three broken cab windows on the north side of 47540 were replaced with black painted wooden blanks ready for the loco to be displayed in the yard on the last day of the season - Saturday 2 January 2010.

*Barry Wetherell*

### OPERATIONS

December started with preparations for Santa Specials. This year the Leeming Bar Santa Specials were planned as 4 of the cream and red Mk2a coaches with top and tail locomotives, and the Leyburn Santa specials used the 101 DMU. All went according to plan until Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> when after an extremely cold night the DMU refused to start. All the Leyburn passengers were contacted by telephone and offered places on the Leeming Bar trains. The fault was traced to a failed battery cell, this was replaced and the DMU was back in service later the same day.

Throughout the Santa season we have experienced extremely cold weather and thanks should go out to the dedicated ops volunteers who have given their time to drain the water from locomotives and coaches every night after the completion of the days services and then to appear early the next morning to refill them and have the coaching stock heated and ready for the first train.

We are now planning the maintenance tasks for the shut down period and looking forward to a good year in 2010

*Tim Williamson*

**Deadline for the next newsletter is 31<sup>st</sup> January.**

**Send to:- Philip Smith c/o Leeming Office or [Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com](mailto:Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com)**