



Wensleydale Railway Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR THE DIARY

July

28/29 Open weekend

August

- 1 Yorkshire Day
- 5 Yorkshire Pudding Walk and lunch
- 9 Discovery Walk (Lead Mining)
- 16 Hog Roast Leeming Bar
- 23 Steam Special
- 27 Wensleydale Show

September

- 1 Two Railways Tour (Settle & Carlisle)
- 4 Volunteers Meeting
- 22 Ceilidh

October

- 9 Volunteers Meeting
- 20/21 Days Out With Thomas
- 27/28 Great Days Out (GYS Harrogate)

November

- 13 Volunteers Meeting
- 17 Annual Dinner

WRA SOCIAL COMMITTEE

23rd August Steam Special

- "Working Volunteers" £6.00 for your Hog Roast & Dessert supper, with a free ride on the train. Non-Working Volunteers, Partners, Members, and other guests £13.00. The Hog Roast will be held at Leeming Bar Station starting at around 7pm, followed by a train ride up to Castle Hills, back along the line to Redmire, before returning to Leeming Bar at approximately 10/10.30pm. Dessert will be served on the train, where there will also be a bar for liquid refreshments.

Tickets must be booked and paid for by 13th August latest.

To avoid driving, you can catch the last train of the day to Leeming Bar, (this is included in the price of the Hog Roast ticket) Trains depart Redmire 18.05, Leyburn at 18.16, Finghall 18.31 and Bedale 18.51 then you can then get off at your station as the Steam Special makes it's way back to Leeming at the end of the evening.

Note ** The definition of a "Working Volunteer" is one who is currently actively volunteering.

For Tickets and further information regarding the Steam Special please contact the office 01677 425805

22nd September Ceilidh

Crakehall Village Hall - 7.30pm to 11.30 pm - tickets £8.00 each. A light supper will be provided, bring your own drink (and glasses)

17th November Annual Dinner venue - possibly Queens Head Finghall, TBC

The Trains & Boats & Planes trip will be organised for next May / June time.

For tickets or further information regarding the Ceildih & Dinner please contact Diane 01677 426600 / 426877 or email social@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

Raffle prizes for any event always welcome, leave at Leeming office or give to one of the team.

VOLUNTEERS MEETING

The next Volunteers Meeting will be held at the Courtyard Room, Leeming Bar Lodge Motel on **Tues 4 Sep** - 7.00 pm for 7.15 pm.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

It has been noticed that some of the PPE being worn by volunteers is no longer fit for purpose. Helmets have a life of 5 years (Maximum) from manufacture; the date of manufacture is stamped into the inside of the helmet. Damaged or sun bleached Helmets will not provide protection. Reflective clothing must be clean and highly visible with at least two cross stripes and two over shoulder bands of reflective tape. If your vest/jacket is now slightly orange-ish with a grey and or two. Or it does not confirm to current regulations of "two horizontal bands and brace" design then Contact the office for a Replacement or buy a new one.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Recent work completed

Major work including an overnight road closure has been carried out to replace the decking at Aiskew level crossing with tarmac. The Wickham trolley has recently made its first run from Leeming Bar to Redmire and back on a track inspection run.

8 Week Plan

The 8 week plan has now become the 12 week plan! Work in August will focus on User Worked Crossings (UWCs) including clearance of vegetation and other work. Work in September will focus on maintenance of fish plates and bolts and replacement of the concrete units at Bedale level crossing with rubber units similar to those laid at Yafforth level crossing. Full details of the 8 week plan are available from the Infrastructure Department. An extract of the plan for the next 4 weeks is:

Sat 21 Jul Assemble track at Redmire (Ley)
Wd 25 Jul Prepare for Steam Operations.
Sat 28 Jul Prepare for coach at Redmire(LB)
Wd 1 Aug Prep work UWC Newton Grange
Stop Boards at Constable Burton
Sat 4 Aug Prep for coach at Redmire (Ley)
Wd 8 Aug Timbers to UWC Newton Grange
Sat 11Aug Fit timbers UWC Newton Grange
Wd 15 Aug Signs and vegetation at UWCs

MINOR WORKS GROUP

No – this is not a new group which has been formed – it is a new name for the Northallerton Decorating Group, given to us by Ruth that was formed in 2002. Now, as well as decorating, we are carrying out minor building works.

In recent months concrete steps have been installed leading down in to the inspection pit at Leeming Bar, and concrete bases made for the metal supports of the frame over the pit. This frame is now in place. Also at Leeming a fence has been erected at the end of the shop coach and around the brick engine to create more parking.

Two members have replaced the wall between the No1 Cottage kitchen and the Bistro at Leyburn. This took 124 hours to finish plus 36 hours travelling on public transport! The cottage is now ready to let.

Work started at Bedale last month and the main focus of our efforts is to make the main hall at Bedale station ready for use.

ROLLING STOCK GROUP

Most of the RSG effort has once again been on the Class 117 trailer 59509. External painting of the south side is finished and 2 of the 3 items of the insignia fitted (I have left the difficult one - the long name and logo 'til last!). The south side of the roof is now respectable (leaving 'Sarah' in need of similar treatment) and work on painting the ends of the coach has begun. Inside has seen repairs to panelling and seat squabs, more painting and cleaning and, most importantly, renovation of the passenger toilet and washing facility.

A new headboard was made and fitted to the Class 101 on 22 June as part of the celebration of 100 RAF Squadron's 90th birthday and the members of their association who had booked 120 seats on the 14.35 train that day.

The Coles crane was used to build the walls of the new coal storage area in preparation for the August steamings. A job made more difficult as the 20 tons of coal arrived before all the heavy sandstone blocks were in place.

CLEANING TEAM

The Rolling Stock Group have nearly finished refurbishing the class 117 trailer and it will shortly be back in service. Before this can happen the train needs to be thoroughly cleaned. We need your help to make the inside look as good as the outside. If you feel you could spare a few hours to get this project or the group itself off the ground, please contact Diane Sykes at social@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com or tel: 01677 426600 daytime 01677 426877 evening.

VIDEO MATERIAL WANTED

Barry Wetherall would like to hear from anyone who had filmed the last 4 rail tours, or any other train activity. Can they please send details to either Barry at the WRAL address at Leeming Bar or to the RSG email address shown in the WRA website.