



EDITOR

You now have a new Editor! I feel that it is very important that the very valuable work of John Young (over 4 years, with an edition of Rail Link every month) is continued. In the absence of anyone else stepping forward, I will do my best to keep up his good work.

It is proper that this edition should record the grateful thanks of us all to John Young for his sterling work. It is also relevant to point out that I am a fairly new volunteer myself and not too knowledgeable about the technical aspects of railways! I will therefore be relying on you, the readers, to supply me with material with which to fill each issue. The Newsletter is for you; please express your views, use it to publicise any relevant activities and, not least, let me know if anything about the Newsletter production does not meet your needs.

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. Contact me on Induction@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com or tel 01609 774733

Philip Smith

DATES FOR THE DIARY

(In addition to those in Relay)

26 July- COSS Training at Bedale – reserve places through Colin Brown

5 August - Volunteers' meeting at The Lodge, Leeming Bar. Open to all volunteers; why not come along? Starts at 7.15pm.

20/21 September – Diesel Locomotive Gala

SPECIAL WALK

MARK REID, author of the 'Inn Way' walking books, is to lead a special walk on Friday August 22, route tbc nearer the time, but approx 8 miles and based on the 10.35 steam departure from Leeming Bar, returning from Redmire at 16.05. Numbers are strictly limited to allow for talks to the group as the walk progresses so **booking is essential, with priority booking for WRA members until July 18**. The price is £20 per person including steam train rail fare (bring drinks and packed lunch) – phone Leeming Bar to book (08454 50 54 74)

Note: This event is not in the timetable as it has only just been arranged.

BEDALE STATION GROUP

Following the official inauguration of the station building at Bedale on 20 June 2008, it is proposed to set up a Station Group on the lines of those already functioning at Leyburn, Leeming Bar and Aysgarth. A first meeting will probably be held during July. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact

Peter Harbord: 01609 761059
peter.harbord@lincoln.oxon.org .

Many Extra Volunteers Needed

July 2nd saw the start of our main operating season, with 7-day working from now until 30th September. We have been doing everything we can to attract visitors to our railway, but these efforts will be wasted if we do not have sufficient staff to ensure all our facilities are open, and bringing in income. This will be particularly important during the steam service from August 15th to September 7th and especially for 'Operation Dalesman' (30th/31st August) and the 'Diesel Locomotive Gala' (20th/21st September. We will be publishing a list of the staff needed shortly, so please make that extra effort, particularly mid-week, to ensure our success.

Mike Sheehan

RECENT EVENTS

On 27 June, about 38 people went on the trip to Castle Hills and had tea while having up-to-date news re the line extension into Northallerton. A valiant effort by the speakers, a few volunteers and even a passenger prepared the tea/coffee, loaded the train, served the tea, cleared up and unloaded the train at the end!

On 20 June, 150 ladies from the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Society came to have a trip. They came by car and coach, boarded the 4 carriage train pulled by the main line engine 'Posiden', and left at 10.30 (another group also boarded). Soft drinks were served on the way to Leyburn and a super two-course cold lunch with more drink was served at Redmire. They were then taken to Leyburn where they detrained.

We then came back to Leeming, unloaded, reloaded with afternoon tea, back to Leyburn, picked up the ladies, back to Redmire, served the tea, a slight delay for engine repair, back to Leeming and they left at 18.30. They were a super bunch of ladies and were full of praise for our hard work and even had a collection for the railway (which raised about £150!) and say

they will come again; they have about 4000 members and many were disappointed not to be able to get on the trip this time.

Tubby Booth

ROLLING STOCK GROUP.

RSG report - 19 March to 27 June 2008.

As planned, the 101s were blue undercoated on the Redmire side in time for Easter. The already cleaned down Leeming Bar side looks reasonable, even when raining!

Attention has turned to the renovation of the mk 2 coaching stock which will be used, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, for a loco-hauled special with Poseidon. The 'reds' are having windows cleaned and bodies sanded ready for repaint into cream over red (a shade of 'blood and custard'!) Ops group are installing a bar facility in one of them.

The second 117 trailer, no 59500 is being rubbed down prior to painting it Brunswick green to match the new arrival - the 117 DMS no 51400. The former owner has 25 litres of paint and a spare Oleo buffer at his home in Cranfield, Beds - can anyone arrange for collection? Or do you know someone who might? A train formation can be completed with the 110 DMBC 51813. This will then be the back-up service train to support the 101 unit.

The 101 unit was out of action for just one day to be serviced. The 110 unit was used after the 3 locked-out doors on the Leeming Bar side were repaired and returned to use.

Reflective safety strips were fitted to 3 of the Dogfish hoppers in readiness for late working ballast trains.

Barry Wetherell

INTERIM TEAM LEADER

Amanda Pearson has been appointed Interim Team Leader until the end of October, to deal with the delay in appointing a General Manager by providing a focal point for management of the railway's day-to-day activities this summer. The GM post will be re-advertised later this year and meanwhile your co-operation is requested to ensure the new arrangements work smoothly. (A Notice, giving more detail, is displayed at signing on points at the two staffed stations)

QUALIFICATIONS

NVQs for Heritage Railway Volunteers and Employees are available (free in some cases) from Train'd Up Railway Resourcing Ltd. Relevant NVQs for Wensleydale Railway include some in Permanent Way Maintenance, Business Administration and Customer Service. View the website at www.traindup.org for details.

REVENUE PROTECTION

The co-operation of everyone concerned with tickets, sales and cash handling is very important. Please adhere to the railway's standard security procedures - and, if in doubt, ask!

STEAM TIMETABLES

To help with distribution, please phone David Collins on 01969 622775

DISCOUNT FOR WRA MEMBERS

WRA Members who book accommodation at the Lodge at Leeming Bar may now claim a discount on the cost of B&B. The reduced WRA Member rates are single room £45 (rack rate £70); twin or double £60 (rack rate £80). This reduced charge includes a full English breakfast, VAT and service charges. To claim the discount, please mention the WRA WHEN BOOKING and give your WRA membership number and postcode as well as your name.

SUMMER DUTY ROSTERS (all departments)

More than half the year's scheduled trains run between now and the end of October (112 days out of an annual total of 212), including 24 steam dates from Friday August 15 to Sunday September 7 inclusive. This period is critical to the railway's ability to earn income towards the whole year's expenses. PLEASE volunteer as soon as possible for duty rosters - and consider whether you can do extra this summer to make things easier for all concerned.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

There have been several new volunteers joining us in the past few weeks and a warm welcome is extended to them. If any new volunteer (or anyone else for that matter) is wondering what they should be doing or where they can be of most help, please contact Phil Smith (01609 774733 or email induction@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com) who will do his best to make sure that their talents are put to good use!

THANK YOU - to everyone who has helped in any way with services during the first half of 2008 - it is all much appreciated and helps the railway to look good, perform well- and earn income.

WANTED!

Travelling Ticket Inspectors, to sell and inspect tickets on trains and also (very importantly) to talk to passengers. Sometimes this role is combined with serving in the on-train buffet, so some experience in the station buffets is desirable.

Contact Phil Smith for advice as to how to start.