



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4th July – COSS Course at Bedale Station; starts at 9.30am and lasts all day

Tuesday 7th July – Induction course for new volunteers – 9.30 to 11.30 at Leeming Bar Station

Tuesday 7th July – Volunteers meeting (for all volunteers) – 7.15pm at Bedale Station

FROM OUR NEW WRA CHAIRMAN

Saturday 4th July 2009 will see the railway celebrate its 6th birthday. The first job I would like to do is to say on behalf of all the WRA Board Members, **thank you** to all volunteers past and present for your hard work and commitment. Without you we would not be here today.

We now need to look forward and embrace the changes in management and working practices which are coming. Please give the new management team your support.

Summer steam is looming on the horizon and we must make every effort to maximise revenue. It is not just train crew we require. Consider helping on another job if you are available.

Also, please help in our fundraising efforts. We have 5000 raffle tickets to sell. I have sold over £200 worth on the trains so far, so pick up a couple of books and sell them to friends and work colleagues and make some money to invest in the railway. WRA pin badges are on sale in the shops at Leeming and Leyburn; show people you support the railway by buying a badge.

Let's make this the best summer we have had so far. I hope to see you all on the railway soon.

Thank you all.

Ken Monkman

OPERATION DALESMAN /STEAM SERVICE

The volunteering opportunities for Leeming Bar & Redmire Station, and the Train Buffets are now on display in the Main Ticket Office at Leeming Bar. Betty Ackrill is also looking for volunteer support at Leyburn.

This year we are advertising both events widely and it is essential that you give us your support. Please either enter your names on the LB/ Leyburn lists, or contact the LB office who will enter your names or inform Leyburn. Please do this soon so that we know our manning position.

Operation Dalesman 18/19 July

Volunteer Refreshments - To reduce the workload on the staff in the LB Buffet and Arthur's Bar at Leyburn, free refreshments for volunteers will not be available during the event. However, there will be facilities for DIY hot drinks at both locations.

Leeming Bar Station Car Park

For Operation Dalesman, the entire car park at Leeming Bar has been reserved for the use of exhibitors and re-enactors, except for one parking space for the Duty Ops vehicle. Alternate parking for volunteers, and the disabled, is in the Vale of Mowbray Visitors car park, which is adjacent to the level crossing on the opposite side of the road to the station. Please do not park on the road or the verges between the level crossing and garage.

Mike Sheehan

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Cath Cooper, Geoff Dalby, Judy Warren, Dave Kellett, John Peters and Adrian Hodgson, who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

Also, a welcome back to Adrian Lazenby, who has returned to the railway and is looking forward to taking up level crossing duties.

THANKS FROM CUSTOMERS

A fantastic letter of appreciation was received from Aiskew, Leeming Bar Primary School, together with letters from the children, following their visit in June. Some extracts – “all the staff and volunteers were helpful and informative”; “one pupil remarked she had had the best day of her life”; “some of the children had never ridden on a train before”; “the excitement continues...”.

Also, from Bradford Retired Teachers Association – “thanks for the superb meal and... thanks to all who were helping; everyone enjoyed it very much”.

Well done to all involved (letters available at Leeming Bar).

HAVE YOUR SAY

Want to get something off your chest? Then why not share it with other members at WRA's new Yahoo! discussion group at

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/wensleydale_railway_association/. You'll need to have your WRA

Membership Number to hand when signing up but we want this to be a forum for frank and meaningful discussion and a platform for exchange of ideas, information and photos. Inappropriate content will be removed, so please don't attempt to post anything likely to bring the Railway or the Association into disrepute or to use the group as a soapbox for personal criticism. Look forward to hearing from you!

FROM RUTH

All WRA members should have received a copy of the **Whiff of Steam timetable** with the current Relay (note - the dates of Aug 10, 11 and 12 are DMU days during routine maintenance of the steam loco). This timetable also lists WR's guided walks and special events through to December and the timetable for the Vintage Bus from Redmire until November 1. Senior Citizen bus passes are valid for free travel on the Vintage Bus. The times for its stops in Carperby (in both directions) have been added as these are proving very useful for people who want just a half to one hour walk to Aysgarth Falls and back. Karen's excellent Coppice Coffee Shop is within the YDNP Centre.

Sunday July 26 Charity Walk across Ribbleshead Viaduct (at the end of the 2 week blockade for work on the line). This is our chance to show support for the Settle-Carlisle line. The Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line (FoSCL) recently sent a donation of £1000 towards the cost of the 24 new gates needed for WR's level crossings so it's good to know that we can support their line as well as carrying passengers on our own. For this event, there is a coach transfer between Redmire and Ribbleshead and the number of people who can walk across the viaduct is rationed by Network Rail so book early – you have been warned!

Thursday August 20. An innovation this year is the event to visit some of the places in Wensleydale AND SWALEDALE where the artist JMW Turner paused to sketch the landscape in 1816, in preparation for his paintings of the same scenes at a later date. This event is as described in Whiff of Steam for July 4 (but as it will now be during steam the price has been increased). This means that there is a guided walk on the Wednesday, a 'two dales' excursion on the Thursday and a 'two railways excursion' to Carlisle on the Friday. Again, book early, because when the coach is full, it's full.

Required – we need to strengthen **our team of excursion escorts** so, if you are interested in volunteering to do occasional days out in this capacity, I would be delighted to let you know what is involved (tel 01969 650349). There are three people so far and I would like to get this number up to 5 by the end of this season and 10 during next year. This newsletter gives me the chance to mention and thank **the devoted team of walk leaders** who are doing a great job week after week. The walks with meals are proving especially popular – and there are still some places for Aug 1 and 2 (Yorkshire Pudding Walks). The Bolton Castle event on July 29 includes a half hour walk after the train journey before having a ploughman's lunch in the Great Chamber. **Phone the office on 08454 50 54 74 to book for all these events.**

And whether you can go or not, **please be an ambassador** for all the great days out on the Wensleydale Railway - more passengers means more money for the railway!

Ruth Annison

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The volunteer of the month is **Tubby Booth**. He really needs no introduction as he must be nearly the "most known" person on the railway! For a good number of years, Tubby has manned the office at Leeming Bar for usually two or three days each week and does sterling work answering the many queries which come by phone and dealing with most office functions. He also regularly attends "Relay Packing" and many other events where extra help is needed and, as importantly, is always cheerful and helpful. Thanks Tubby for all you do for the railway.

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

RAGWORT

2009 Ragwort Programme - starting soon to eliminate the further spread of this infestation on our land/property. Track patrollers and others are asked to identify areas where this might be a problem, notably Aysgarth station, Wensley, Leyburn, Leeming Bar and further east. Help and information to help identify the plant is available - contact Ron Healey, c/o LB Station. Local teams to tackle the pulling and burning will also need setting up in next few weeks

250 CLUB

Winners for July draw: 1st Mr K Cooper, £66, 2nd Ms Freda Pickard £33, 3rd Mrs Gaynor Black £16, 4th Mr K Wood £10

Peter Blakey

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? Remember that our business depends upon attracting as many visitors as possible and everyone who sees the poster is a potential visitor. You can find a link to the poster on the home page of the Wensleydale Railway website (www.wensleydalerailway.com) in one of the blue boxes in the right hand margin

MISSING!

An urgent plea for information on a missing 'pop up' which was in a grey/black/white camo bag, and green table cloths last seen after the Yorkshire show last year. Has someone kindly taken them to wash and is now storing them? Also a large camping water carrier last seen in the signing-on room 2 days before steam last year. Please contact me (or the office) if you have any information about these items.

Amanda Pearson

CARAVAN STORAGE

Volunteer worker seeks secure storage/site for 2 berth caravan convenient to line, ideally near western end. Access to elec.supply, water and WC helpful. For use in summer and autumn on a periodic basis, to ensure continuity of work at various sites. Offers/ideas to Ron Healey c/o Leeming Bar office or text to 07896 943429

RELAY BACK ISSUES

RELAY BACK NUMBERS (other than issues 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) are available for sale, Half Price - Min 50p, from Leyburn Shop.

Alternatively contact Paul Kenyon Tel: 01748 824249 or Email:

relaybackissues@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com.

RSG REPORT - June 2009

Not a good month for motive power:- The east blue 101 power car's engine was repaired and passed it's test run on Tuesday 2nd. It ran successfully on Friday 6th but failed spectacularly on Saturday 7th with a fractured piston. The green 117 power car again took it's place and has run for the rest of the month. Repair of the faulty engine is still to be decided. The west blue 101 power car had some water problems causing engine cut-outs, but a thorough clean of the water system last week was successful. 47 703 'Hermes' was failed because of poor batteries so a group went to Long Marston (Stratford-upon-Avon) to get spares from a class 56. Sadly they were no good so diesel hauled trains could not run for the summer solstice weekend (20 and 21st). We are still waiting for the repair of the 03 's spring and replacement of the class 20's radiator. The Coles crane had a new starter motor fitted and it has been shunting stock. Cotswold Rail had a 47 and a 57 on the branch at 21.30 on Friday 12th to remove the last 31, D 5584, sadly going to Thompson's for scrapping and the FGW BSO coach. Work continued on the 2 red coaches, Robynne and Emma, repairing steps, doors and windows. The south side roofs of both were repainted and look very smart. Later in the month the other 4 coaches were connected, giving us a full 6 coach rake for the first time.

The bodywork of the green 110 trailer has been filled and sanded with David Beswick doing the ' lion's share ' of the work. He is to be commended for his patience and care, as it was a major task that we have never tackled before. Repainting has started and it will be ready to run in the steam rake on 18 July. Renovation of the ' Toad ' (BR) brake van started with the woodwork being rubbed down and primed. Wood for the south side running boards is now to hand and work will start, offsite, shortly.

Barry Wetherell

NOTE TO NON-INTERNET USERS

You may be irritated by the frequent references to going on-line. About two thirds of our volunteers have computers with internet access, but this leaves nearly 100 who are not. Do you feel disenfranchised?

One thing you **could** do, if you see something which interests you but which is only accessible on-line, is to go to the public library. All such libraries now have internet access for the public and, more importantly, someone there to help you to do it! They will even do it all for you if you wish.

Comments welcome, especially if constructive!

Philip Smith

LATE NEWS!!

The (Wensleydale) Railway Council

This group met for the first time at Bedale Station on Saturday 27th June. The group agreed that the priority was to facilitate the drafting, consultation on, and production of, a medium term plan for the railway. The proposed process is to produce a draft plan for the Boards of the Wensleydale Railway Association, Wensleydale Railway plc and Wensleydale Railway Trust to consider, and if agreeable, to issue later this summer for widespread consultation. A date has been pencilled in for an "internal" **consultation event on Saturday Sept 12th** details to be announced/confirmed. The target is to have an agreeable plan back to the Boards of the 3 organisations in time for a launch at the start of the New Year of the medium term plan. It can then be updated annually.

The plan is for a period of say 4-6 years ahead and once agreed will give everyone clarity and hope for the tasks ahead. We will all then be much clearer as to how everything we do fits in towards the bigger picture. The Management Team is looking at the shorter term plans and actions and that will be reported separately. This is an immensely complicated task and we will do our best now to propose and run a good process. Please note The Railway Council has no secretariat or officers and is purely an advisory getting together of representatives of the 3 Boards. So if you have any questions etc in the meantime please ask your manager or the most appropriate Board member in the normal way. We will set up channels of communication for the consultation process.

From: Angus Maude, Ian Sesnan and Ken Monkman, the Chairmen of the WRT, WR plc and WRA

Deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 31st July. Send to:-Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733

Email

Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com